



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Boca Grande, Florida

Father Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday	4:15 to 4:45
Online Giving	https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 23, 2023

2023 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL-UPDATE

We are pleased and grateful to announce that the Parish has reached, indeed surpassed its CFA goal with pledges totally \$169,223.00, as of April 17th. This represents 176% of our goal and 37% participation of parish families. Each year we send a substantial amount of over-goal to support four Catholic schools in the Diocese; St. Charles Borromeo, Port Charlotte, St. Catherine, Sebring, St. Martha, Sarasota and St. Mary Academy, Sarasota (a special needs school) Many thanks to those who have sent in their contribution. We plan to do the same with CFA over-goal this year also.

PARISH WEBSITE

Our Lady of Mercy Church has launched its own personal website; URL: <http://ourladyofmercy.church>
Please note that the website includes provision for parish donations to be made online.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Friday Eucharistic adoration from 11:00 A.M. until 12 noon will continue through the end of April.

FOOD PANTRY

For our parishioners who are cleaning out their food pantry before going north, please remember the food pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grove City. They are always in need of non-perishable (and unopened) food items. For those parishioners who are here throughout the year, please take advantage of those BOGO (buy one get one free) items at the local grocery stores. Please place donated items in the plastic bin under the table inside the church.

SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL FLORIDA CATHOLIC

The Florida Catholic e-Edition is FREE! Keep up to date on the latest news from across the Diocese of Venice by signing up now for the weekly digital paper at <https://dioceseofvenice.org/news/>. The Florida Catholic also includes Catholic news from Florida, the U.S., and the Vatican.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Each year, Dioceses throughout the country take part in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This appeal assists remote Parishes and Missions in the United States and its territories, so they are able to provide basic Pastoral care to the faithful. In many cases, it supports the Church's ministry to Catholic populations spread across sizeable geographic areas with only a handful of Priests to serve them.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal makes faith programs possible by providing resources for training of parish catechetical leaders, aid to youth ministry care, and one-on-one assistance to struggling Catholic school pupils to help them succeed in their education. Your contribution to this appeal allows these Dioceses keep their Parishes open to meet the Pastoral needs of their communities and make a difference in the faith lives of people right here in the United States, where nearly 40% of dioceses are considered home missions.

The 2023 Catholic Home Missions Appeal is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice next **weekend, April 29 and 30, 2023**. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this important Appeal and help share the Gospel message with our brothers and sisters in home mission dioceses. Thank you for your generosity!

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Pope Benedict XVI suggests that "Emmaus is really everywhere, the road that leads there is the path of every Christian, indeed, every human being." From the time we develop the gift of reason, our journeys are adventures that seek to understand the past, find joy in the present, and plot the course for the future. We are constantly in dialogue with ourselves, others, and God. We try to put together the pieces of the past so that we can understand how we came to be where we are today and what we need to do in order to face tomorrow. We reach for voices that can help us interpret and learn from events and circumstances that have affected us, helping us make sense of where life has brought us. We need to listen to the right voices as we ponder a pivotal question: where is the road of my life going to end? If we are not cautious, we can easily be deceived.

When we are walking through life with our heads held high, spunk in our step and eyes twinkling bright with glances to heaven, all is right with the world, it is easier to see God's hand. God's glory dances in myriad ways around us and the hand of His loving presence holds ours as we exhale songs of praise. When life's disappointments, challenges, and difficulties are in recession and the warmth of joy's rays are shining on our face, it is easier to see God's love and guidance. Everything is in sync. But, when sorrow, failure, disappointment, and fear weigh us down, our eyes are fixed downward, and we walk through life looking downcast. We carry heavy burdens. We see not what is above but what is below and easily tire from the sacks we carry. It is harder to see God's love when we are hurting and feeling betrayed or abandoned. Finding meaning in life's ugliness can be an arduous task indeed. We need a discerning eye.

God's Word wonderfully keeps it all in balance. It holds together life and death, suffering and healing, grace and sin, joy and despair, justice and injustice, and faith and doubt. The Word, who was with God from the beginning bursts forth into the Word made flesh with creative love, sustaining, and creating all things for all times and in all ages. The Word, captured in the pages of Scripture, is the only thing that can interpret our lives and help us find the presence of God. The Word alone helps us lift our eyes from what is below and fix them on what is above regardless of time and circumstance. It is the Word who helps us walk with purpose and determination reminding us how foolish we are not to believe all that has gone before us. We need to trust that our companions in faith, whose lives of fidelity and witness abound in Sacred Scripture, are here to help us and interpret all that is happening.