



# **OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH**

**Boca Grande, Florida**

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Tuesday Adoration	10:00 A.M.
Parish website address:	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>
Online Giving:	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>

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## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 14, 2024**

All too often we hear words such as these: "I will never forgive him or her!" On occasion, we have probably uttered such words ourselves. They may describe our unwillingness to forgive; they may also describe our difficulty in forgiving. Today we are reminded that we are not isolated individuals. Our Christian calling is to imitate the community to which we belong-the community that experiences the love of Jesus of Nazareth. By belonging to that community, we impose upon ourselves the awesome responsibility of continuing the ways of Jesus. To say "I forgive you" is to say "I love my community and, therefore, I love you." To reconcile an estranged sister or brother is to profess that the Christian community is a forgiving community.

**Parish CFA goal \$105,000 (\$76, 041.00 raised so far).**

The **CFA** Catholic Faith Appeal Donations in action throughout the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Our Parish community is hopeful that 100% of our registered households will respond to the 2024 Catholic Faith Appeal. With the support of our Parish community, we will successfully meet and possibly exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal with a pledge or one-time gift as your means allow. Your support is much needed and will be greatly appreciated! For those who are returning to homes outside of Florida we will miss you and look forward to your return soon. **Please continue to give to the parish through the CFA while you are away so that we can give generously to the schools in our diocese that desperately need our help. We also have online giving and the website for our parish is in the heading of this bulletin. May God continue to bless all of us and our parish.**

### **Parish Accountant Needed**

Chris, our parish accountant, has retired and we are looking to hire her replacement. It is a part time job, in a pastoral setting with the added benefit of working for the glory of God and His Church. Contact Fr. Anthony at [anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org](mailto:anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org). Please pray that we fill this important position in the administration of the church. Have a blessed Easter Season.

## **IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

**Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment  
Vote No on Amendment 4**

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.<sup>1</sup> These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

*Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.*

*Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!*

**Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane**  
Diocese of Venice

**Most Rev. John G. Noonan**  
Diocese of Orlando

**Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado**  
Archdiocese of Miami

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<sup>1</sup> Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(5) which would be invalidated by Amendment 4 and parental *notice* of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(4)), which would be retained.