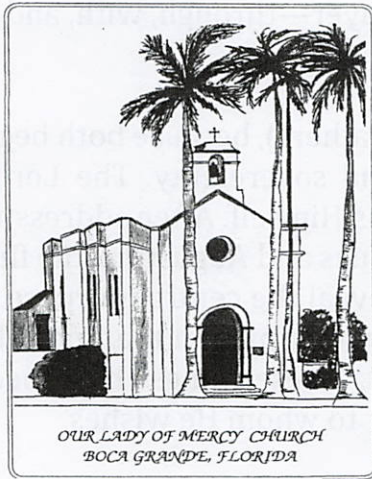




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921
(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Saturday:	5:00 pm
Sunday:	9:00 & 10:30 am
Mon-Friday:	8:00 am
First Saturday Anointing:	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance:	By appointment
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church
Father Anthony email:	anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org
Office Hours, Monday – Friday:	8:00am-4:00 pm
Business Manager Erin Sifrit:	erin.sifrit@olomcc.org

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 5, 2026

Saturday Vigil Mass Time Change

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Saturday July 11, 2026, our Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm due to the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap. The ordination will take place at 2:00 pm that day at St. John XXIII Parish in Fort Myers. This is an extraordinary event in the life of our diocese and a true blessing for us all. By moving the Saturday Vigil Mass from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm this allows me to attend the ordination to concelebrate with my brother priests in giving thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist. Thank you for understanding and please continue to pray for good and holy men to say yes to the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ. God bless. Photo: <https://dioceseofvenice.org/bishop-elect/>
Father Anthony



Gospel of Matthew Reflection

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Matthew 11:25-27

This passage beautifully summarizes the entire Christian life—the life to which we are called and in which we find our purpose, meaning, and ultimate fulfillment. Jesus begins by offering praise to the "Father, Lord of heaven and earth." Though Jesus Himself is fully God, "one in being with the Father"—co-eternal and consubstantial—He nevertheless offers praise to the Father.

In the original Greek, the phrase "I give praise to you..." (exomologoumai) indicates an open, public, and full acknowledgment by the Son of the Father's sovereignty and gracious will. The Father is the All-Powerful Lord of all that exists—everything in the heavens and on earth. Jesus expresses this fundamental stance toward the Father for two reasons: first, because it is eternally true; and second,

so that we might humble ourselves and join Him in praying the same prayer—through, with, and in Jesus.

This prayer closely parallels the opening of the Lord's Prayer (the "Our Father"), because both begin with a direct acknowledgment and praise of the Father's holiness and sovereignty. The Lord's Prayer is the perfect prayer precisely because it was given to us by Jesus Himself. After addressing the Father, it presents seven petitions. According to Saints Thomas Aquinas and Augustine, the first two petitions—"hallowed be Thy name" and "Thy Kingdom come"—reveal the central purpose of our lives: to glorify God eternally and to be caught up in and actively participate in that glory by becoming full members of His Kingdom. In today's prayer, Jesus says, "these things" have been revealed "to little ones" and that the Son can choose to reveal the Father to whom He wishes.

We are drawn into Jesus' prayer and intimate relationship with the Father precisely when Jesus reveals the Father to us: "No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Because Jesus deeply desires that we come to know and love the Father with the same love He has for Him, His prayer continues by gently inviting us—especially when burdened by weariness, weakness, or sin—to lay our burdens down before His merciful power and glory: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

This tender invitation reveals Jesus' deepest desire for us: that we would enter His love for the Father, share intimately in the union between Father and Son, and thus magnify and glorify the Most Holy Trinity—not only in our earthly journey but eternally in Heaven. Indeed, what sublime and glorious calling we have received! Reflect today upon this beautiful prayer, knowing in our heart that Jesus Himself invites us to pray it with Him, through Him, and in Him. He longs for His voice to resonate within our voice, His love to beat within our heart, and His holy desires to shape our own. Turn our gaze toward the Father—He who is both the Source and ultimate goal of our existence—and strive lovingly and humbly to accomplish all things according to His gracious and holy will. Amen.



**250th
Anniversary
1776 – 2026
God bless our country**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$91,200.00 collected as of June 22) Envelopes are available at the front of the church. Please make checks payable to the *Catholic Faith Appeal* and *in the memo write Our Lady of Mercy Parish* so that we receive proper credit for your donation. Every dollar given to the CFA helps us reach our goal. May God continue to bless our generous parish. We are hopeful that 100% of our Parish community will respond to the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal to successfully meet and perhaps exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal 2026, with a pledge or one-time gift.

Safe Environment Training (SET) - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice Requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in SET prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website. To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Senton, at 941-416-6114. [Thank you all for your time, talent, and treasure.](#)