



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

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(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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Matthew 20:1–2

As the parable unfolds, the landowner returns to the marketplace four more times—at nine o’clock, noon, three, and finally at five—to hire additional workers. When the day’s labor concluded at six o’clock, each received the same full daily wage. Was this fair? To those who had worked the entire day, it certainly did not seem so. They grumbled, “These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat” (Matthew 20:12).

God is perfectly just. Yet His justice is never separated from His mercy. Together they form a harmony we may call Divine Equity, a principle that transcends limited human notions of fairness. God gives not merely according to labor performed but according to the wisdom of His eternal love and providence. What appears to us as inequality is, in truth, the generous outpouring of grace from the One who sees hearts, not hours. His ways are not our ways, and His judgments surpass the grasp of reason unaided by faith (cf. Isaiah 55:8–9).

At the heart of this parable is God’s abundant generosity. To better understand Divine Equity, it is helpful to prayerfully place ourselves among each group of laborers. Among those who have labored in Christ’s vineyard, we may find some who have far surpassed us in devotion and sacrifice, as well as others who arrived much later than we did.

Yet God sees each soul individually. He does not measure us against one another. He sees each worker according to his own disposition, his interior response to His call, and the sincerity of his effort. Grace is distributed not based on external accomplishments alone but on the openness of heart and fidelity to His will. For example, when we work for God—meaning we live in a state of grace and are faithful to His divine will—we merit spiritual rewards by His generosity. But even the most devout soul can lose everything through mortal sin. If such sin is unrepented, Divine Equity, which always respects both justice and freedom, demands the consequence of eternal separation from God.

Conversely, a soul that lives much of life far from God, mired in sin, yet sincerely repents near the end—perhaps even in the final hour—can receive an abundance of grace. A genuine, humble, and complete conversion at the end of life opens the floodgates of Divine Mercy. In such a case, God's Divine Equity responds not by withholding grace, but by pouring it out lavishly, in accord with His infinite mercy. Equity is not equality. In modern discourse, the term "equity" is often misused or distorted. But Divine Equity is something altogether different. It flows from God's perfect justice and mercy, distributing grace according to the truth of each soul's interior life—not according to a purely external standard.

Reflect today on our own place among the laborers in the vineyard. Are we tempted to compare our spiritual journey with others? Do we resent the blessings others have received, or do we trust that God sees our heart and will reward us with generosity beyond measure? Rejoice that Divine Equity governs the Kingdom of Heaven; in that justice, perfected by mercy, all things are made right. Amen.



National Rosary Congress on Friday, October 9, our parish will participate. We will begin with Mass at 8:00 am. Adoration will begin at 8:30 am. At the beginning of each hour, we are encouraged to pray the rosary. Benediction will take place at 3:00 pm. All are invited to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on this special day.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$122,364.74 collected as of September 14) 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.



How to use a QR Code to Donate:

1. Open your smartphone camera and hover over the QR Code.
2. Click the pop up on your smartphone to open the giving webpage.

The Call To Mission and Ministry

"The ministries which exist and are at work at this time in the Church are all, even in their variety of forms, a participation in Jesus

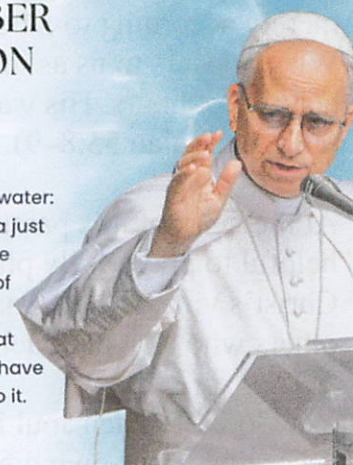
Christ's own ministry as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, the humble servant who gives himself without reserve for the salvation of all."

(Christifideles Laici, no. 21) <https://www.usccb.org/committees/laity-marriage-family-life-youth/called-and-gifted-third-millennium-1995>

POPE'S SEPTEMBER INTENTION

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For the care of water:
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



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.