



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:

Monday-Friday	8:00 am
Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 am
Tuesday Adoration	10:00 am
First Saturday Anointing	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance call the parish office for appointment.	
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

Today's gospel teaches us through a parable about the Hebrew image of God's people as a vine. However, the new Israel is part of the vine (the branches). As the real vine, Jesus brings true life from the Father. Failure to bear fruit means failure to share in that divine life. Sharing in that vine-life means sharing it with others. The Catholic's response, to "abide in me" is essentially a commitment to productivity "because apart from me you can do nothing". And "Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers." Jesus farewell discourse to his disciples, given at the Last Supper, began in John's Gospel. Now that Jesus has basically completed his parable of the vine (himself) and the branches (the disciples), he relates it to the present setting. The disciples will receive whatever they ask so long as they remain wedded to Jesus. It is by that fruitfulness that they are disciples, and it is in that fruitfulness that they glorify God. It is the disciples who continue the mission of Jesus. In reaching out to the hurting and oppressed, we announce that God is the champion of the poor. In comforting the sorrowful, we state that God is the source of consolation.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** takes place every First Saturday after the Vigil Mass.

Parish CFA goal \$105,000 (\$81,991.00 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.**

Renovation Update:

The new flooring has been installed in the sacristy and the storage room. We are still awaiting the new sinks, vanity, and toilet to be installed as well as a tankless water heater. These are much needed improvements to our beautiful church. Hopefully in the coming months we will be able to install new windows and shades in the sacristy and the storage room that will help protect the church from water intrusion in the event of a natural disaster. May God keep us safe from all harm.

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. Please pray that we fill this important position in the administration of the church. Have a blessed Easter Season.

Second Collection This Weekend

April 12, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** supports parishes and missions across the United States. These parishes and missions have Catholic populations dispersed over a wide geographic territory, experience economic hardships, or have diminishing populations because of migration from rural to urban areas. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

Grants from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal cover the costs of basic and essential pastoral programs, such as religious education, evangelization, and seminary formation, and parish sacramental programs. For example, with a grant from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, a qualifying Diocese was able to develop a vocations-team approach to encourage young men to explore priestly vocation. This program heightened interest in priestly life among young men through weekend retreats and dinners where young men and their parents can learn about seminary and priestly life.

This year's Catholic Home Missions Appeal is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice the weekend of **April 27 and 28, 2024**. There is a great need for evangelization and sharing the message of Christ and the beauty of the Church. Your support of this appeal truly makes a difference in the faith lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Thank you for your generosity.

I take this opportunity to assure you and your family of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

Safe Environment Training - 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 Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit dioceseofvenice.org for further information. 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, also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.