



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:

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| Saturday | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday | 9:00 & 10:30 am |
| Monday – Friday | 8:00 am |
| Tuesday Adoration | Suspended for the Summer |
| First Saturday Anointing | After 5:00 pm vigil |
| Sacrament of Penance | Call the parish office |
| Parish website address: | ourladyofmercy.church |
| Online Giving: | ourladyofmercy.church |

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 23, 2024

The boat in which Jesus crossed the sea represents the Cross by which safe passage is obtained to arrive at the shores of Heaven. The other boats that followed represent those who have faith in the Cross of Christ and follow. Though they suffer the waves of temptation and hardship, they press on, relying upon the saving power of the Cross. Jesus being asleep represents His sleep of death, and His wakening represents His resurrection. The pleas of the disciples represent our need to turn to Jesus during the storms and temptations of life. The rebuke of the waves and the ensuing calm reveal the grace won by His death and resurrection, which can silence the demons and disordered passions. The fear that the disciples encountered points to our own fear that results from a lack of faith and trust in God.

God can speak these and many other truths to us through His actions and words contained in the Scriptures. There is no limit to the depth and meaning we can receive through His holy Word. Therefore, though it is useful to reflect upon the saints' various interpretations of the Gospels, it is also very important to reflect upon these passages ourselves, to allow our Lord to reveal to us the message we need to hear.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

June 22, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord, Jesus Christ! As the Church resumes Ordinary Time, may the intercession of the Blessed Mother and All the Saints assist and support you.

Each year on the Sunday nearest to the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, our Holy Father invites us to participate in the ongoing work of the Holy See to help those throughout the world who are most in need. The Peter's Pence Collection unites us with the Holy Father in his works of charity toward those who are suffering around the world including victims of war, natural disasters, and oppression, as well as refugees and the poor affected by illness and disease.

Won't you join Pope Francis and be a witness of charity throughout the world? You can participate through your donation, prayers, and outreach to spread the message of Christ. The Peter's Pence collection in the Diocese of Venice is scheduled for the weekend of June 29 and 30, 2024. Please be generous in your support and help sustain others who are less fortunate. Thank you for your kindness!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers! May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ, + Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

Parish Accountant Needed

Our parish is looking to hire an accountant. It is a part time job (20 hours a week), 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. St. Joseph the Worker, Pray for Us.

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.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster. During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen. [Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1895-1981), Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956-1973), following Hurricane Audrey in 1957]

Prayer to Protect Them Both

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!