



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-Fri

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 17, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

“Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” Luke 12:51-53



Jesus introduces this passage by saying, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” The “fire” of which He speaks is His purifying fire of mercy that He poured forth from the Cross as He offered His life for the salvation of the world. His mercy is given to free us from our sins and to cleanse our souls so that God Himself can come to dwell within us. This is why we exist. God wants to dwell within us, and He wants us to be in perfect union with Him.

One of the glorious effects of uniting yourself to God is that this union also brings about a spiritual bond with others who are united to God. We are made for communion with God, but also for communion with each other. God especially invites family members to share in this unity. Though there are many levels of friendship and unity we can have with each other, the deepest bonds come from two souls each being united to God. For example, two people may both like the same sports team or have the same interests, resulting in a bond or form of friendship. This is good. But when each of those friends also is deeply united to God, the unity comes from God and not from something more superficial.

The challenging Gospel passage above reveals to us what happens when one or more members of a household fail to open themselves to the cleansing fire of God’s love and, therefore, fail to live in union with God. The result is disunity, at least on the deepest and truest level. God is not the cause of disunity; sin is. When one person is united to God and another is immersed in a life of sin, true spiritual unity is not possible. Of course, the two might still share some common interests and might even superficially

get along each day, but there will never be an experience of authentic spiritual friendship and communion if God is absent from one or both hearts.

When Jesus says that He has come to establish division within a household, He is simply pointing out that there will indeed be a division within a household when all are not united to God. Additionally, Jesus is warning us that if someone within our household tries to draw us into a life of sin with them, that person's invitation must be rejected. And when that happens, that rejection is often experienced as a rejection of the person and results in even greater disunity. The bottom line is that it is not possible to be authentically united in sin or any form of lie.

Reflect, today, upon the deepest spiritual desire we have. If we are honest with ourselves, we will discover that this deepest desire in our heart is the desire for love. We are made to give and receive love. First, this desire is fulfilled by opening ourselves to the love of God. When that happens, we will be able to share God's love with others and receive God's love from them. Nothing in life could be more fulfilling than this. Amen.

O.C.I.A.

Have you ever wanted to become a baptized Catholic? Missing the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Communion and you are an adult over the age of 18 then the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the parish program for you. Father Anthony will be instructing the catechumens (non-baptized) and candidates (baptized) this year leading up to the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday April 4, 2026, when the Sacraments of Initiation will be supplied. If you are interested in this, please email Father Anthony at Anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org and he will send you the registration form. Classes will begin on Saturday morning at 11:00 am in the PLC October 4, 2025.

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00. Pledged as of August 9: \$122,615.00



Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church or donations can be made online, designate Our Lady of Mercy Parish

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>

Save the date! Rosary Congress 2025 – The Diocese of Venice will host its annual Rosary Congress October 4-10, 2025, with a growing number of Parishes throughout the Diocese participating. The theme of this year's Rosary Congress is My Soul Magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:46). The Rosary Congress begins with the celebration of daily Mass and ends with Mass at the same time the next day. During these designated 24 hours, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for perpetual Adoration, and the five decades of the Rosary are prayed by the faithful every hour, on the hour. Many Parishes will also have Confession available. Stay tuned for a list of participating Parishes, and how you can be part of this beautiful opportunity to adore and grow closer to our Lord. For more information, contact Jim Gontis, gontis@dioceseofvenice, 941-486-4754.

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, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

Thank you for sharing your Time, Talent, and Treasure!