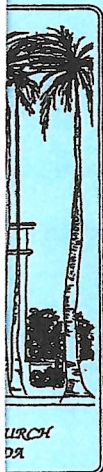


Why vote NO on Amendment 4?

Deceptive language without definitions means:

- No restrictions on late-term abortions
- No doctors required
- No parental consent required



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
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

Learn more at
VoteNoOn4Florida.com

20 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 18, 2024

Jesus said to the crowds: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” John 6:51

Believing in the Holy Eucharist and receiving it with the utmost faith and devotion will only happen when we believe. But believing doesn't come automatically. It first requires understanding. And understanding will only come when we allow our minds to engage the mystery and teaching of Jesus, ponder it, contemplate it, penetrate it and open ourselves to God's gentle and revealing voice. Words do not suffice to explain this mystery. Prayer that opens oneself to the voice of God alone suffices.

How do we approach Holy Communion each week. Start by thinking about the last few times we went forward to receive our Lord. From there, think about how deeply we understand that moment. Is it transforming for us? Are we among those who hunger and thirst for Jesus? Do we notice the spiritual effects that take place within us because of our reception of the Eucharist? If so, then deepen our faith by committing ourselves to a more prayerful participation in the Mass the next time we attend. If not, then try to step back and examine that which we believe, are confused about or do not believe. There is no greater gift we will ever receive in life than the Eucharist. Believe it with all our heart, and the Eucharist will change our life.

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 22

On October 11, 1954, four years after the proclamation of the Assumption, Pope Pius XII instituted the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary with his encyclical letter, *Ad Caeli Reginam* (The Queen of Heaven). This memorial was first assigned the date May 31, which followed the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. However, in 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the date to August 22, eight days after the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary. In large part, this was done to create an octave of anticipation and to show that the Assumption necessarily results in the Mother of God being also the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth.

As Queen, Mother Mary not only intercedes on our behalf, but she also acts as her Son's mediator. From her heavenly throne, the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth is entrusted with the grace of God. She is not the source, but she is privileged to be the instrument of distribution. As a loving mother, nothing pleases her more than to lavish every good thing upon her children on earth. She longs to gather all her children together in Heaven, with and in her divine Son.

Though the liturgical and theological evolution of today's memorial might seem complex, the heart of it is simple. We not only have a mother in Heaven, but we also have a Queen Mother. As Mary is the Queen Mother of God, we must turn to her with childlike faith and simplicity. As a young child runs to a loving mother in time of need, never questioning her love, protection, and care, so we must run to her. She is our protectress, our refuge, our hope, and our sweet delight. Her affection is perfect and her motherly love unmatched.

As we honor the Queen of Heaven today, ponder the Church's ever-deepening understanding of her role. As the Church has increased its comprehension of Mary's exalted role through the centuries, so we must individually make this discovery throughout our lives. Turn to her, seek her prayers, rely upon her intercession, and honor her as our mother and our queen.

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!

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.