



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

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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

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 3, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" **Luke 12:13-14**

Many things in life are not fair. Children are keenly aware of this any time they sense they have been cheated by a sibling. They complain to their parents, just as the person in the crowd quoted above complained to Jesus about his brother. We want justice and can become quite upset when we feel that we have been dealt with an injustice.

The passage above is interesting because Jesus gently but clearly refuses to be the arbiter of justice for this man. It may indeed be the case that he was cheated out of his inheritance by his brother. But it's interesting that Jesus not only refuses to resolve the dispute, but He also then goes on to teach about greed, suggesting that the cheated man was acting out of greed.

If we were cheated out of our inheritance by a sibling, how would we react? If a sibling were to do this, it would clearly be a sin and an injustice. But the question at hand is our reaction to being cheated. Being cheated by another might result in one of two possible responses. The most common response is to immediately seek justice, to fight back. But this is not always what God will inspire us to do. Instead, when we experience injustice, we are given an opportunity to love on a very deep level. And this must be our response. This is why Jesus said we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. In the big picture of eternity, earthly injustices are always an opportunity for grace. This is evident by simply looking at the gravest injustice of the suffering and death of the Son of God. Jesus did not complain about being so cruelly treated. He did not call on the angels of Heaven to destroy the Pharisees and Romans who attacked Him. Instead, Jesus used the injustice inflicted upon Him as a foundation for His gift of salvation.

As we journey through this life, we need to decide whether we are going to live this life or live for eternity. We cannot have both. However, by choosing to live for eternity, we also enhance our lives here on earth in ways that nothing in this world can match.

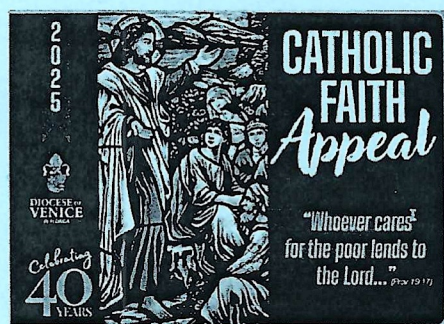
For example, say we experienced the unfortunate situation of extreme poverty. Say we were cheated out of our home and possessions and were left with nothing. Would this make us miserable? It might, but it doesn't have to. Instead, such an unfortunate circumstance has the potential for us to live day-by-day,



trusting in God's providential care and to offer mercy in the face of injustice. And that is good. It is good for our eternal soul. It is good because it will motivate us to trust God on a very deep level and to become a beacon of God's mercy.

By contrast, if we had everything we could ever want in this world, it would be seriously tempting to rely less upon God and more upon the things we possess in this world. But the things of this world cannot save our eternal soul. In fact, they are a serious hindrance to our ability to trust in God alone. So, truth be told, poverty and injustice open the door to an opportunity for much more grace in our lives than material wealth does. But so often we still long to have more and more of the things of this world.

Reflect, today, upon the spiritual and eternal blessings that come from relying solely upon God and not upon material wealth. This is a hard lesson for most people to learn. If this is our struggle, then try to take on the eternal perspective. Try to look beyond the temporary stability and pleasures that come from accumulating earthly wealth, so that we will see the eternal riches that come from seeking God alone. Everything in this world will one day pass away. In the light of that fact, recommit ourselves to the embrace of God's riches by loving others through every injustice we encounter in life. Amen.



Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00

Pledged as of July 26: \$122,315.00

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/>

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!

