

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 31, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

"When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12-14



This Gospel passage goes to the heart of our motivations in life. Because of our fallen human nature, we can easily do what we do for selfish reasons. We want payment for our labor and acknowledgement for our acts of kindness. We want to get ahead in life and try to elevate ourselves over others. But Jesus makes it clear that our motivation for everything we do must only be the glory of God and the love of others.

The poor, crippled, lame and blind in this passage refer to those who need our love. This certainly will include friends and family. When we encounter those in need, we must offer our love, not because we get something out of it, but because it is the right thing to do. The payment we receive in this case comes directly and exclusively from God. It's not a payment of societal recognition or praise. It's not payment of material things. It's not a payment that helps us get ahead in life. It's a payment of grace that makes us holy. This is the only motivation we should have in life—a motivation for holiness by glorifying God through our love of Him and others.

Think about our motivations in life. Why do we do what we do every day? Clearly, we all have certain responsibilities that must be met, such as earning a living, caring for the home and family, strengthening our relationships, etc. But why do we do these things? What is the source of our motivation? Is our motivation based on pure love?

When our love is pure, we are motivated to act in one way or another because we see that it is our holy duty toward God or an act that will benefit another. For example, a loving and holy parent will work hard to earn a living not because they want to get rich to indulge in the things of this world, but because they love and care for their family and want to provide for their material needs. Or a friend will seek to be there and listen to another friend not because it is advantageous for them, but because they love their friend and want to provide a listening ear when they need it.

The good news for us is that when our motivations are pure and selfless, looking only to glorify God and care for others, God will lavish upon us eternal rewards that begin now. We will grow rich in virtue and rich in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We will obtain joy, peace, strength, courage, love, goodness and so much more. These good things are the true riches in life and can only be bestowed by God upon a soul whose

motivations in life are pure, selfless, sacrificial and merciful.

Reflect, today, upon what motivates us each day. Do we think more about ourselves when acting or more about God and others? Hopefully we will discover within our motivation a burning desire to serve others and glorify God in everything we do. But where we do see selfishness, we know that this motivation can never fulfill us. Humble ourselves by turning our attention to the love of God and the needs of others and make serving them our exclusive mission. Doing so will result in God lavishing upon us more than we could ever imagine. Amen.

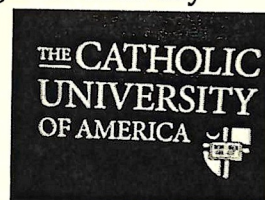
O.C.I.A.

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.

Second Collection Next Weekend

August 29, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., is the national University of the Catholic Church in the United States. The University community works tirelessly to educate over 5,700 students in more than 250 academic programs throughout the year which will prepare them to serve as Catholic leaders of the Church and nation.

The research and training initiatives of the University support dioceses and parishes in addressing the most pressing needs of future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. The Catholic Project initiative brings together clergy and laity to address the challenges that the Catholic Church faces in the U.S.

The Diocese of Venice will take up a collection for the Catholic University of America the weekend of September 6 and 7, 2025. Your contribution helps the University to educate thousands of young people in both faith and reason, while upholding the highest standards of education. May God Bless you for your generosity!

This opportunity is taken to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

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!