



# 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](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

Online Giving:

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

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## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 4, 2024

Jesus tells us, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." What is that food that the Son of Man will give to us? Of course, it is His very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is the Most Holy Eucharist.

This passage begins the lengthy "Bread of Life Discourse" from which we will read over the next three Sundays. Throughout this discourse, Jesus makes it clear that His flesh is true food and His blood is true drink. Eating Jesus' flesh and blood is the only way to eternal life. Some who listen to this teaching find that it is too difficult to accept and, as a result, reject Jesus and His teaching. The discourse ends with Jesus asking the Twelve if they want to leave too. Peter gives the perfect response by saying, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

The foundation is our spiritual hunger. We each experience it. We each are aware of it. We cannot escape it. For that reason, look into our own soul. What do we see? Do we see a certain restlessness and unfulfilled desire? Do we sense the cravings within our own soul? When we see this, know that we have discovered the starting point of the life of fulfillment.

Unless we can see that hunger within, we cannot turn to the source of satiation.

The Eucharist is the source of all that we long for in life; however, too often we fail to see that. We can easily fall into the trap of seeing the Eucharist as an obligation we must meet each week. Sometimes Mass can even be seen as an inconvenience. If this is our struggle, try to use the next few Sundays to reexamine our understanding of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Sunday Mass, more than anything else in life, must be understood as the source of our deepest satisfaction in life. It must be seen as the answer to every interior longing and restlessness we have. It is not money, recognition, status, power, or anything else in life that fulfills us. It is God. And God comes to us first and foremost in the celebration of the Mass.

Do we believe this? Do we understand?

**Low-Gluten Hosts Available Please see Fr. Anthony at least ten minutes prior to Mass to request a low-gluten host.**

**Our Church is equipped with a Hearing Loop Assistive Listening System. Please switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to "T" (telephone).**

### **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 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 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.