



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:

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| 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 | Call the parish office |
| Parish website address: | ourladyofmercy.church |
| Online Giving: | ourladyofmercy.church |
| Father Anthony email: | anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org |

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 29, 2024

Due to the damage from Hurricanes Helene and Milton to the church
Daily and Weekend Mass will continue to be celebrated in the **Parish Life Center (PLC)**.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Holy Day of Obligation
Mary, Mother of God

9:00 am Mass

*Thank you for sharing your time, talent
and treasure, may the Lord continue to
bless you abundantly.*

Monday-Friday 8:00 am
Saturday 5:00 pm vigil
Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am

Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

We see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer

respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

Thank you -I want to thank all the faithful volunteers who came out to serve our parish community, your invaluable service to the Lord is inspiring. May the blessing of the New Year be upon you and your family.

Second Collection Next Weekend

December 27, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice is blessed with dedicated Priests and Religious, and together we pray the Lord to continue to send holy workers into His vineyard. The Diocese is further blessed with vocations, evidenced by the 17 seminarians presently in formation for the Diocese of Venice. With this letter, I kindly invite you to support the educational and formational dimensions of our future priests.

The funds received from the **Annual Seminary Collection** are used to assist the Diocese's seminarians with the cost of tuition, room and board, health care, transportation, and other expenses. Funding from the Collection also helps in the recruitment of committed young men who may have potential vocations and wish to discern that call.

Parishes in the Diocese of Venice will conduct this annual collection for Seminary Support the weekend of January 4 and 5, 2025. Thank you for your continuing support for the Seminary Formation and discernment of Diocesan Seminarians, and for your prayers for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family for the support of our seminarians.

Gratefully yours in Christ, + Frank J. Dewane Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

Anniversary Masses in 2025 - Two Anniversary Masses will be offered in 2025, for married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 30, 35, 40 years, etc.). On February 1, 2025, an Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11:00 a.m., and on March 8, 2025, at St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota, also at 11:00 a.m. Both events will include Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, followed by a reception, and the availability of a photo with Bishop Dewane. Couples must register through their Parish; registration information is forthcoming and will be mailed to Parishes directly.

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 for further information. 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, also notify the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.