



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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Hurricanes Helene and Milton damaged our church, therefore,
Daily and Weekend Mass will continue to be celebrated in the **Parish Life Center (PLC)**.

Ash Wednesday is March 5th

8:00 am Mass

5:00 pm Mass

Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent

8:30 am

in the Parish Life Center

Monday-Friday 8:00 am

Saturday 5:00 pm vigil

Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment \$123,000

Today, I am inviting our entire parish community to come together and support our 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal. The CFA sustains the vital ministries and apostolates sponsored by the Diocese of Venice to help those in need, educate our

children, form our seminarians, evangelize the Gospel, and much more. The word "Catholic" literally means Universal. This means that each parish church works in union with the Diocese, especially in advancing the mission of the Catholic Church. The crux of that mission is to Teach, Serve, and Sanctify.

The CFA supports this great mission. Offering up a gift to the CFA is truly an act of prayer, because every gift helps to support the Good Works done throughout the Diocese - from Boca Grande across to Sebring, from the Everglades to Palmetto, and everywhere in between in our 10-county diocese. All our talents and treasures are gifts given to us by God, and we are called as Catholics to share these gifts in love of God and neighbor and return them with increase to the Lord.

It is in this spirit that Our Lady of Mercy will participate in the Catholic Faith Appeal. Today is a great opportunity for every family in our parish to participate in the Catholic Faith Appeal. I ask each of you to pray about making your own sacrificial gift to the Catholic Faith Appeal. As you pray about your gift, remember that the Catholic Faith Appeal supports three critical areas of our Catholic Faith: **to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to share the Faith through the celebration of the Sacraments and Catholic formation; and to care for the poor, sick, and vulnerable.**

We are blessed to have a faith-filled and generous parish family. Your sacrifice positively impacts our Southwest Florida Catholic Family. All parishes throughout the diocese will be working towards this mission through the CFA. Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the PLC. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Conference - In recognition and celebration of the third and final year of the National Eucharistic Revival, and the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Diocese of Venice will host a third Eucharistic Conference. The Diocesan-wide event will take place **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, at Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center in Punta Gorda located at 75 Taylor Street. The theme of the event is "*Becoming Eucharistic Missionaries*," and will include Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, inspirational talks by Dr. Scott Hahn and Kimberly Hahn, and Spanish breakout sessions featuring Mary Ann Weisinger-Puig and Andrés Arango. The Conference will include opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. Registration is now open! Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. (Clergy and Consecrated Religious are free admittance, but registration is requested.) All are welcome. Embrace the opportunity to reinforce your belief in and reverence for the Most Holy Eucharistic, become a Eucharistic missionary and celebrate the Jubilee Year! Register at: dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way." Luke 6:24-26

Luke offers us a shortened version of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's Gospel. Luke's version of this sermon takes place on a plain, "a stretch of level ground." The teachings in the two Gospels are very similar, despite their difference in length. Luke's teaching on the Beatitudes adds the "woe to you" quoted above, which are not found in Matthew's version.

When your spiritual life is strong and you are consistently avoiding serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect regularly upon the blessings found in the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of drawing you into greater perfection as the desire for the reward of holiness becomes the object of your hope. When your spiritual life is weaker and you are regularly struggling with more serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect upon the woes of the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of deterring you from the cycle of sin you struggle with, on account of the fear of the consequences of those sins.

In the end, the Beatitudes and their subsequent woes are meant to point us interiorly to the desires of our hearts. We must become more and more aware of what occupies our thinking and desires. Ultimately, wealth or poverty, hunger or satisfaction, worldly praise or persecution do not matter. What matters is that our hearts are detached from the desires identified in this sermon so that we more fully desire only God and His holy will, regardless of the circumstances of life we find ourselves in.

Do you need to ponder the rewards of seeking even greater beatitude in life so as to grow deeper in holiness? Or do you need Jesus' clear condemnations to help you break free from the cycle of sin with which you are struggling? Humbly identify that which is most helpful to you right now in your spiritual life and allow this full sermon of Jesus to help you on your journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.