

# 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](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Online Giving:**

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

**Father Anthony email:**

[anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org](mailto:anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 1, 2026



Tuesday is the feast day of St. Blaise. The Blessing of the Throats takes place during the 8 am Mass.

**Ash Wednesday Mass Times:** 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

### Fridays of Lent

**3:00 – 4:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

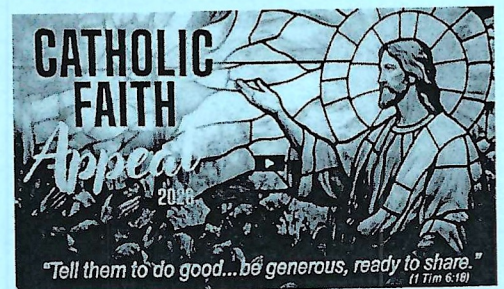
**4:00pm Stations of the Cross**

### Mardi Gras Parish Family Potluck Dinner February 17, 2026

RSVP today for the Parish Mardi Gras potluck dinner on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:00pm in the Parish Life Center. Plan to bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Last name is A-J plan to bring an appetizer or salad, last name is K-Z plan to bring an entrée or dessert. Iced Tea, water, and paper products will be provided (BYOB if additional drinks are desired). Reserve a seat today by emailing Anne Scoronski at [askoronski@mac.com](mailto:askoronski@mac.com). Please indicate "OLM Mardi Gras RSVP" in the subject line. In the body of the email please indicate the names of the attendees in your party and the item you plan to bring for the potluck. If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, please indicate it in the email and a committee member will call you back.

**The weekend of February 7 and 8 is commitment Sunday for the annual Catholic Faith Appeal. Our parish assessment this year is \$144,000.** Envelopes are available at the front of the church. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal and in the memo write Our Lady of Mercy Parish so that we receive proper credit for your donation.

Last year 67 donors out of 250 contributed to the CFA. I am grateful for their generosity. This year we hope for 100 donors to give to the CFA. Every dollar given to the CFA helps our parish meet its goal. More will be shared about the CFA and the tremendous work that our donations provide for the various ministries of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Online Giving links below -Select Our Lady of Mercy



#### One time gift

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/one-time-gift/>

#### Recurring monthly installments

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/recurring-monthly-installments/>

May God continue to bless our generous parish. Fr. Anthony



### **Gospel of Matthew Reflection**

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:1-3*

The Beatitudes reveal the culmination of God's moral teaching and the highest revelation of the Christian life. To fully appreciate their significance, it is helpful to understand the history of moral revelation. Doing so is more than a history lesson on God's deepening revelation; it also reveals the path for our spiritual journey toward perfection.

Morality begins with the Natural Law—the innate understanding of right and wrong written on the human heart. This Law is from God and is often described as living in accord with right reason or common sense. All people have access to this moral law within their own consciences, enabling them to recognize God as the Creator, honor Him, respect human dignity and the common good, and refrain from acts such as murder, theft, and deception. Though universally present in all people, sin and our fallen human nature cloud our ability to clearly see and follow that law.

In the Old Testament, God slowly revealed Himself and called His people to greater holiness and moral living by adding to the Natural Law through revelation. From Abraham and his descendants, God raised up Moses through whom He revealed the Ten Commandments—a concise moral code rooted in Natural Law but explicitly revealed by God that called His chosen people to right worship, justice, and love for one's neighbor. Through the prophets—such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel—God called Israel to move beyond mere external observance of the law to an interior conversion of heart. Isaiah emphasized the virtues of justice and mercy, Jeremiah prophesied a new covenant in which God's law would be written on the hearts of His people, and Ezekiel promised that God would give His people a new heart and a new spirit, enabling them to follow His statutes. The wisdom literature—Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, Sirach—deepened the understanding of moral life by revealing moral gifts, such as the Fear of the Lord, the blessedness of righteousness, and the call to trust in God's providence and live a virtuous life.

The Beatitudes elevate all laws of the Old Covenant. Jesus not only calls us to profound holiness, He also provides the means to achieve it through His Sacrifice, transmitted through the grace of the Sacraments. To live the Beatitudes is to live in imitation of Christ, who perfectly embodied all virtues in His life, Passion, and Resurrection. Hence, the Beatitudes are not only a moral code we must follow, but they are also a participation in and union with the Son of God, who lived the Beatitudes to perfection. Reflect today on the Beatitudes and their high and glorious calling, as well as their rewards. Sometimes, reading the Beatitudes can leave us discouraged, as we are aware of how far we are away from perfecting them. Dispel discouragement and know that these new divine precepts are attainable by grace. Set your eyes on the heights of perfection and open yourself to the abundant grace offered. Doing so will not only result in glorious spiritual rewards in this life, but it will also result in the greatest eternal rewards in Heaven. Amen.

### **Holy Hour of Peace**



**Saturday February 7 at 11:00 am we will hold a Holy Hour of Peace.** Bishop Dewane has asked all parishes in the Diocese of Venice to hold this special hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and to pray for healing, for peace, and for hope in our lives and the lives of those throughout the world. Please make every effort to spend this time with Jesus in prayer.

**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 all for your time, talent, and treasure!