



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Our church is still under repair due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton damage, 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 \$123,00.

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:35-36

It is certainly difficult to be "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." But doing so is exactly what our Lord commanded us to do. And His command is not a command in the sense of being a burden. On the contrary, it's a command that frees us from the ingratitude and wickedness we encounter. Oftentimes, when we encounter ingratitude from another, or any other form of wickedness, we tend to react in kind. Our fallen human nature lures us into cruelty when faced with cruelty. We criticize, condemn, attack and get angry. But Jesus is very clear that this is not how the "Most High" acts toward the wicked. And it is not how He acts toward us. In the end, the wicked who fail to repent will endure the consequences of their rejection of God's mercy. But until that final judgment, hope of conversion must always be present. And for that reason, we must never give up on another, no matter how difficult. Kindness shown to everyone, in every circumstance, goes to the heart of the mission we have received as children of God.

Think about the person in your life who seems unworthy of your kindness and generosity. Why are they undeserving? Are they truly undeserving? The truth, according to our Lord's teaching, is that these are not questions we should even ask ourselves. Instead, we must fully commit ourselves to loving everyone who appears to be our enemy and do good to them and to everyone whom we encounter. Though this is difficult, it won't be if we understand the goodness that God has shown to us. God has shown us perfect goodness, not because He expected anything back, but simply because He has willed to love us. If we want to be children of God the Most High, then we must reciprocate the love given to us. That's the nature of God's love. It cannot be contained. It cannot be selfishly received without also allowing it to pour forth from our lives. When we understand this, we will understand the reason Jesus instructed us to be "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." It is simply because this is how God has treated us.

Reflect upon the great benefit there is in opening yourself to God's perfect love, kindness, generosity and mercy. The benefit is that you can be filled with that which you receive. And as you receive this love of God, it necessarily overflows into the lives of everyone you encounter, the good and the wicked. Everyone must always be offered this love. Do not hesitate, for God does not hesitate with you. Amen.

Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.