



# 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:	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>
Online Giving:	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>

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## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 21, 2024

From the subsequent passage in Mark's Gospel, we learn that when Jesus finished teaching them many things, He performed the miracle of the multiplication of fish and bread and fed 5,000 men, not counting the women and children. Given the fact that the estimated ratio at that time of adult men to women and children was at least 5:1, the crowd could have been as large as 25,000 people. For a spontaneous gathering of people in a remote area by the Sea of Galilee, that is a huge number. This is especially the case, since it is estimated that there were only about 1,500 people living in Capernaum at that time. People had flocked to our Lord from very far away.

This vast and spontaneous gathering reveals to us the hunger that Jesus instilled in the hearts of very many people. Some of these people had already heard Jesus speak and had witnessed His miracles. Others were those to whom the Twelve had just preached in the surrounding villages. The Twelve had spoken clearly and convincingly by the power of the Holy Spirit about Jesus, and many people responded, wanting to know more about our Lord.

As you ponder the enthusiasm of so many people, try to compare that with your own enthusiasm for Jesus. Are you driven to seek Him out with the same passion and zeal that consumed these first followers? Or do you find that your zeal and enthusiasm are lacking at times? This vast crowd, with their zeal and determination to seek out our Lord, should be a source of inspiration and self-examination for us all.

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

July 12, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church in Africa continues to grow even as it faces truly difficult challenges. It is daunting to sustain such growth and still maintain essential pastoral outreach when confronted with unemployment, inadequate healthcare, poverty and political unrest.

Due to the steady and marked growth of the Church in Africa, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports our brothers and

sisters living in this region by providing grants to finance pastoral projects including workshops, retreats, religious education and youth ministries that engage the next generation of disciples. This is parallel with efforts to address basic human needs.

The Diocese of Venice will take up the Collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa the weekend of July 20 and 21, 2024. The Church in Africa needs your help to build lasting foundations of missionary discipleship. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the growing Church in Africa. Please also continue to pray for our African sisters and brothers.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers! May God bless you abundantly.

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

**Safe Environment Training** - 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 Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit [dioceseofvenice.org](http://dioceseofvenice.org) 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.

#### **Upcoming Saints of the Week**

Monday July 22: St. Mary Magdalene

Tuesday July 23: St. Bridget, Religious

Wednesday July 24: St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

Thursday July 25: St. James, Apostle

Friday July 26: SS. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### **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!