



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:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 28, 2024

Reminiscent of the gift of manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16.4-31) and of Elisha's feeding of a hundred men with twenty barley loaves (first reading), Jesus' sign also pointed ahead to the gift of himself as bread at the last supper and ultimately to the gift of himself on the cross. Readers of John will realize that the evangelist has omitted the institution of the Eucharist from his last supper narrative and chose instead to incorporate all his Eucharistic theology into John 6. As the synoptics did before him, John related the sign of the loaves in distinctive Eucharistic language. By using the same terms, viz. Jesus took, gave thanks, passed the bread, the evangelist underscored the significance and preparatory character of this event.

In addition to the soteriological and theological overtones, there are also social implications inherent in this sign. Notice that Philip asked Jesus, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" (v. 5). Jesus sensed the many hungers with which the people pursued him; no doubt, he wished Philip to be similarly sensitive to the needs of others. As this sign is proclaimed today, Jesus poses his question to each of us. "Where shall we buy bread to satisfy the hungry?" All who eat and are filled by the bread of life and who truly perceive the sign in faith... all who are gathered by that sharing... all of us become responsible for one another as well as for those whose hungers have yet to be satisfied. Practical Conclusion We are called to be bread of life. Satisfying the hungry is the task of every disciple of Jesus. We are the Eucharistic people who live sharing our lives for the glory of God.

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 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 29: Ss. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

Tuesday July 30: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Wednesday July 31: St. Ignatius Loyola, Priest
Thursday August 1: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Friday August 2: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop

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!

July 29: Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus—Memorial First Century

Martha—Patron Saint of cooks, butlers, dieticians, homemakers, innkeepers, maids, single laywomen, servers, and travelers

Mary—Patron Saint of spiritual studies and lectors

Lazarus—Patron Saint of gravediggers

All three of today's saints appeared in the 1749 (updated in 1916) *Roman Martyrology*, the Church's official list of saints. Of them it says, "At Tarascon, in France, Saint Martha, virgin, the hostess of our Savior, and sister of blessed Mary Magdalene and Saint Lazarus." However, only Saint Martha appeared on the General Roman Calendar as a memorial until 2021 when Pope Francis added Saint Mary and Saint Lazarus to the July 29 memorial and clarified that Mary of Bethany was not the same person as Mary Magdalene, although either of them might be the sinful woman.

As we honor these sibling saints, ponder the real, personal, and human friendship that the Savior of the World had with them. He loved them as God and as a man, with a pure, perfect, and holy love. In so many ways, this is exactly what Jesus wants with you. He wants you to know Him, spend time with Him, converse with Him, worship Him, and trust Him in good times and bad. Today's sibling saints are not much different than us. Seek to imitate them, learn from their holy witness, and even from their mistakes. Become a friend of our Lord by inviting Him to dine in the home of our soul.

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, you befriended Jesus as your Lord and God, and as the Son of Man, to Whom you opened your home and lives. Please pray for us, that we will also open the home of our soul to befriend Him Who is our God and is the Resurrection and the Life. Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, pray for us.