

# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

**Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor**

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(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)

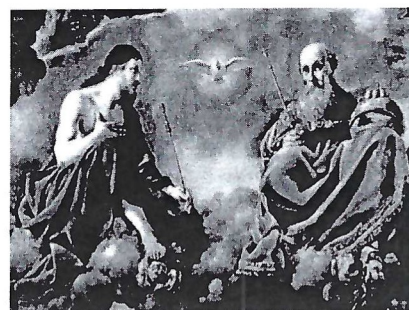
**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

**JUNE 15, 2025**

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Reflection

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20

Of all the great feasts we celebrate within the Church throughout the year, today's Solemnity presents us with a Mystery that is so deep and transcendent that our eternity will be spent in perpetual contemplation. The Trinity, the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will never get old, never be fully understood, and will be the cause of our everlasting adoration and joy. Though the Church has used philosophical concepts to explain the Trinity, no human concept or description will ever fully explain Who God is. Though we can point to some general truths about God, we will never be able to fully depict the inner essence, depth, beauty and omnipotence of the Trinity.



As we consider that fact, it's important to understand that the Trinity is not *first* a theological mystery we try to define. Rather, the Trinity is *first* a communion of Persons we are invited to know. We do not primarily come to know God through intellectual deduction. We come to know God through prayerful union with Him. Though theology is exceptionally useful and important, the essence of God is beyond any and every philosophical concept we can define.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Persons. And as Persons, they want to be known. And they want to be known primarily through a life of deep and intimate prayer. Praying to One Person, of course, is praying to all, since they are One God. But we are, nonetheless, called to a relationship of love with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And though our feeble minds may not be able to fully comprehend the essence of God, He will draw us deeper and deeper into a knowledge of Him if we let Him.

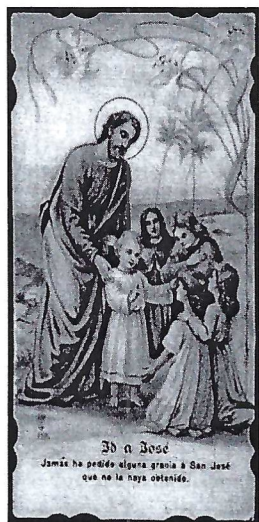
Prayer often begins by saying prayers, by meditating upon Scripture, and by listening. But true prayer is something much deeper. True prayer is contemplative prayer that ultimately leads to divine union. Only God can initiate this form of prayer in our lives, and only God, through this deep form of prayer, can communicate Himself to us as He is. Some of the greatest mystics of our Church, such as Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Ávila, explain in their mystical theology that the deepest knowledge of God does not come through concepts or images. In fact, if we wish to obtain a knowledge of God in His essence, we must allow Him to purge every concept of Who He is so that the pure light of His essence can be poured forth upon our minds. This knowledge, they say, is beyond knowing “about” God. It's the beginning of a knowledge “of” God.



Reflect, today, upon the Most Holy Trinity. As we do, say a prayer to God asking for a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Him. Ask Him to communicate to us His divine love and to open our mind and heart to a deeper understanding of Who He is. Try to humble ourselves before the great Mystery of the inner life of God. Humility before the Mystery of God means that we know how little we know about Him and how little we know of Him. But that humble truth will help us move closer to the deeper relationship of love to which we are called. Amen.

## Happy Father's Day

As we celebrate Father's Day, the Catholic Church invites us to reflect on the sacred vocation of fatherhood as



projected through the embodiment of St. Joseph. In Joseph, we find a timeless model of fatherly virtue — humble, steadfast, and selfless, putting Mary and Jesus first. His life offers a profound example for fathers today, showing how quiet strength, obedience to God, and sacrificial love define true fatherhood. Joseph's role as the guardian of the Holy Family was not marked by grand speeches or public acclaim.

The Gospels portray him as a man of few words, but deep action. When the angel instructed him to take Mary as his wife despite the mystery of her pregnancy, Joseph obeyed without hesitation (Matthew 1:24). When Herod's threat loomed, he rose in the night, leading his young family to safety in Egypt (Matthew 2:14). In these moments, Joseph teaches all fathers that true leadership is rooted in trust in God's plan, even when the path is unclear or daunting.

Catholic fathers today face their own challenges — balancing work, guiding children in a world often hostile to faith, and nurturing a family grounded in love. Like Joseph, they are called to be protectors, not just physically but spiritually. Joseph ensured that Jesus grew in "wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Modern fathers, too, are entrusted with fostering their children's faith, teaching them to pray, and modeling virtues such as patience, integrity, and forgiveness. Joseph's carpentry also reminds us of the dignity of work. His labor provided for his family, but it was his presence — steady and faithful — that shaped Jesus' early years.

Today's fathers can draw inspiration from this, recognizing that their daily sacrifices, whether in the workplace or at home, are acts of love that echo God's providence. A father's attentive presence, whether through a shared meal, a bedtime story, or a moment of discipline tempered with mercy, builds a foundation of trust and security.

This Father's Day, let us honor Catholic fathers by encouraging them to emulate St. Joseph's quiet strength. They need not be perfect but faithful, not loud but loving. As St. John Paul II wrote in "Redemptoris custos," Joseph's life was "a concrete expression of the mystery of the Incarnation." Fathers, too, participate in this mystery by raising their children for God's glory. To all fathers: May St. Joseph intercede for you, granting you the courage to lead, the humility to serve, and the faith to trust in God's guidance. Amen

## Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00

Pledged as of June 7: \$101,815.00

*Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church.*

**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 for sharing your Time, Talent, and Treasure!*