



# 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)

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**JUNE 1, 2025**

## Second Collection This Weekend

May 23, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) offers a unique way to help our neighbors, and people across the country, connect with Christ. Know that half the funds raised by the CCC support the collective communication programs of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States, and the other half stays here in the Diocese of Venice.

The Catholic Communication Campaign supports the catholic media through the Catholic News Service Network's broadcasts of worldwide events that allow us to behold the joy and unity of our faith. During this Jubilee year, they will also be able to share the stories of the millions of Catholics who will travel to Rome as "Pilgrims of Hope" and be witness of our faith to others. At home, in the Diocese of Venice, this campaign partially funds TV Masses to the homebound who are unable to attend the Holy Mass, as well as the "Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" radio show, and various social media channels.

The collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign allows us to tell both the world and our neighbors about our experience of faith, worship, and witness. Please support this important work in the upcoming collection which will take place on the weekend of May 31 and June 1, 2025, in the Diocese of Venice. Thank you for your generosity!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

## Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Reflection

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:46-49*



And with that, the earthly mission of Jesus was completed, and He ascended into Heaven. Or was it? Was His mission completed? Yes, but only in the sense that our Lord's work of destroying death and offering



new life was accomplished by His life, death and resurrection. Human nature was now invited to share in a new life of grace.

Prayerfully imagine standing on the mountain of the Ascension with our Lord. As we gaze upon Him, imagine that we were also present with Him throughout His public ministry. Imagine witnessing His many miracles, the way that He converted the hardest of hearts, the authority with which He spoke, His arrest, torture, death and then His Resurrection. Imagine seeing His hands and feet, once pierced, now radiating glory from those wounds. As we see our Lord in this way, imagine Him looking at us with love and saying to us that He has chosen to send us forth to the world to be a witness to Him and to all that we have seen and encountered. We are to go forth sharing the Good News of His life, death and resurrection with all whom we come in contact with.

First, our Lord has, indeed, shared His entire life with us. By reading the Gospels, we become a firsthand witness to all that Jesus did and accomplished. His Word is alive, and it reveals His very Person to us, just as it did to His first followers. Second, Jesus does call us to go forth and to share this living Gospel with the world. Therefore, it is important to ponder how we can do such a thing. How can we give witness to the Resurrection of Christ? How can we change lives? How can we continue the mission of Jesus Himself? The promise given by our Lord to the disciples on the mountain of the Ascension is also a promise given to us. He is promising to send the Holy Spirit upon us to clothe us "with power from on high." Only by receiving that power and using it fully will we be able to accomplish the mission that our Lord has given to us. Therefore, will we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and commit ourselves to the continuation of Christ's mission? If we were to fully understand the mission we have received from Jesus, it would fill us with a holy fear. But too often the realization of what God wants of us fills us with an unholy fear instead. We think about evangelizing others, sharing our faith, witnessing to the truth by our actions, loving our enemies and living for the Gospel alone, and it can appear overwhelming. If that is the case with you, then know that this form of unholy fear can be dispelled so that the gift of holy fear can take its place. Holy fear is a gift of the Holy Spirit that inspires us to sense the awesomeness of God and the mission we are given by encountering it firsthand. It motivates us, encourages us and leaves us with wonder and awe. From there, this and every other gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to fulfill the unending mission of Christ.

Prayerfully let Jesus reveal to us not only His very Person but also our sharing in His ongoing mission of sharing the Good News to the ends of the earth. Receive that mission with courage, joy and holy fear. Reverence it, savor it, ponder it and accept it. Commit ourselves to this glorious sharing in the life of Christ by committing ourselves to become a witness to Christ until the end of our life on earth. Amen.

### **Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025**

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

Pledged as of May 24: \$88,815.00

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.** *Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure.*

**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!***