



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
Sacrament of Penance**

After 5:00 pm vigil

By appointment

Parish website address:

ourladyofmercy.church

Online Giving:

ourladyofmercy.church

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THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

JUNE 22, 2025

The Most Holy Body and Blood Reflection

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." Mark 14:22-24 (Year B Gospel)

At the holy Mass, as soon as the priest pronounces the words of the consecration, transforming the bread and wine into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord, he genuflects, rises, and then says, "The mystery of faith." What is "the mystery of faith?" Oftentimes, when we say that something is a mystery, we mean that the conclusion is hidden but that there are certain clues to help solve the mystery. And once the mystery is solved, everything is clear and it is no longer a mystery.

**"Take; this is
my body"**

—Mark 14:22

The presence of
Christ in the
Eucharist is real, true,
and substantial.

"Jesus awaits us
in this sacrament
of love." (St. John
Paul II, *Dominicae
cenae*, no. 3)

"The mystery of faith" is much different. Those words are spoken at Mass immediately after the consecration as a way of drawing the faithful into a holy awe and amazement of what just took place. But this mystery can only produce wonder and awe if the reality of what just took place is understood through the gift of faith. Faith is knowing and believing without perceiving reality before us with our five senses or through logical deduction. In other words, faith produces true knowledge of a spiritual reality that can only be known, understood and believed through spiritual insight. Therefore, if we attend the Mass and have been gifted with the knowledge of faith, then as soon as the consecration of the bread and wine takes place, we will cry out interiorly, "My Lord and my God!" We will know that God the Son is present before us in a veiled way. Our eyes do not perceive, nor do any of our senses reveal to us the great reality before us. We cannot rationally deduce what just took place. Instead, we come to know and believe that the Son of God, the Savior of the World, is now present before us in His fullness, under the veil of mere bread and wine.

"It is called: Eucharist,
because it is an action of
thanksgiving to God."
(CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist "makes
present the one
sacrifice of Christ the
Savior." (CCC, no. 1330)

In addition to the divine presence of our Lord and our God, the entire Mystery of our Redemption is made present. Saint Pope John Paul II tells us that in this moment there is a "oneness in time" that links the *Paschal Mystery*, that is, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, to every moment that the Eucharist is celebrated and made present through the words of consecration. And that unity between each Mass and the *Paschal Mystery* "leads us to profound amazement and gratitude" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, #5). Do we sense and experience this profound amazement and gratitude each time we attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? Do we

realize as we attend the Mass and as the words of consecration are spoken that the entire Mystery of our redemption is made present before us, hidden from our eyes but visible to our soul by faith? Do we understand that it is God the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity Who descends to us to dwell with us in that moment of time in this glorious Sacrament? Allow ourselves to be drawn into wonder and awe at what we are privileged to attend. Let our faith in the Most Holy Eucharist grow by being open to a deepening of this gift of faith through spiritual insight and belief. Behold this great Gift of the Eucharist with the eyes of faith and we will be drawn into the wonder and awe that God wants to bestow upon us. Amen.

Second Collection Next Weekend

June 20, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; it is my prayer that you will always be strengthened and nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

The Peter's Pence Collection began as a way for Catholics around the world to express their unity with the Holy Father by supporting the Church's mission of evangelization and charity by giving to this annual collection. Funds collected will benefit our brothers and sisters who are victims of war, oppression, and disasters. By participating in this collection, you join Pope Leo XIV's efforts to show your support for the ongoing work of the Holy See and show kindness and mercy to those who suffer worldwide.

The Diocese of Venice is scheduled to hold the Peter's Pence Collection on the weekend of June 28 and 29, 2025. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of charity and a sign of support for Pope Leo XIV. Join the Faithful from around the globe to ensure the Successor of Peter is able to respond to those most in need. Thank you for your generosity!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers for you and your family.

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



The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

JUNE 2025

THAT THE WORLD MIGHT GROW IN COMPASSION

Pope Leo XIV releases his first monthly prayer intention for the month of June, inviting the faithful to pray "that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from His Heart, learn to have compassion on the world."

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
Assessment: \$123,000.00
Pledged as of June 14: \$104,315.00
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!