



# 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)

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**SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

**JUNE 29, 2025**

## **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles Reflection**

*“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* Matthew 16:17-19

Saints Peter and Paul are often referred to as two of the great “Pillars of the Church.” They each played an incredibly essential role in the establishment of the early Church. And though each of their roles was essential and foundational, their roles were as different as they were different as people.

Peter was a family man, a local fisherman, uneducated and quite ordinary. From what we know about him prior to being called by Jesus, there was nothing that made him uniquely qualified to become one of the pillars of the new Church to be established by the Son of God. Jesus simply called him, and he responded. Jesus got into Peter’s boat, ordered him to lower the nets, and produced a huge catch of fish. When Peter saw this miracle, he fell down at Jesus’ feet and acknowledged that he was “a sinful man” who was unworthy of being in Jesus’ presence (See **Luke 5:8**). But Jesus informed Peter that he would from now on be catching men. Peter immediately left everything behind and followed Jesus.

Paul describes himself as “a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day” (**Acts 22:3**). Paul was well educated in the strictest interpretation of the Jewish law, understood philosophy and was quite zealous as a young man. Recall, also, that prior to becoming a convert to Christianity, he “persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it” (**Galatians 1:13**). In many ways, Paul would have been seen as the most unlikely person to be chosen to be a pillar of the Church, because he so vigorously opposed it at first. He even supported the killing of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Though each of these men would have been considered by many as very unlikely founders of the Christian Church, this is exactly what they became. Paul, after his conversion, traveled far and wide to preach the Gospel, founding several new Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe. Eventually he was arrested in Jerusalem, brought to Rome for trial and was beheaded. Over half of the New Testament books are attributed to Paul and half of the Acts of the Apostles detail Paul’s missionary journeys. Paul is especially known for his missionary activity to the Gentiles, those who were not Jews.

Peter’s role was truly a unique one. His name was changed from “Simon” to “Peter” by Jesus. Recall Jesus saying, “And I tell you, you are Peter (*Petros*), and on this rock (*petra*) I will build my church...(Matthew



**16:18).** “Peter” in Greek is *Petros*. However, the Greek word *petra* means a rock as a solid formation that is fixed, immovable, and enduring. Therefore, Jesus chose to make Peter a solid foundation of immovable rock on which the Church was to be built.

Reflect, today, upon these two holy and unique pillars of our Church. As we do, ponder how God may want to use us to continue their mission in this world. Though Saints Peter and Paul are among the greatest and most consequential Christians within our world, their mission must continue, and we are among the instruments that God wants to use. Commit ourselves to this mission so that the preaching of the Gospel and the rock foundation of our Church will remain strong within our day and age just as it was of old. Amen.

### **Second Collection Today**

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

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

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

Pledged as of June 21: \$104,515.00

*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!*