



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
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church
Father Anthony email:	anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org
Office Hours: Monday – Friday	8:00am-4:00 pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST JUNE 7, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray your summer is going well. I would like to share with you some great news regarding our beautiful parish campus. As you know, our rectory building has long served both as a residence for our pastor (and other priests) as well as the location for the administrative functions of our parish. Over the time, we have grown to now have a full time Business Manager - Erin Sifrit - and the requirements of the Diocese of Venice have evolved to require parish administration functions to be located separately from any residence and the realities of society and insurance dictate that we cannot leave our beautiful church unlocked to allow our parishioners the opportunity to pray, reflect and engage in Eucharistic Adoration freely and at all times. In the last few years, we weathered the effects of multiple hurricanes washing away our beautiful confessional, any functionality of our former pre-school building, as well as the bathrooms we have relied on for parishioners and visitors to use during Mass time in that building.



Sometime after the last of the hurricanes (please pray for our parish during this hurricane season), we have come to realize the former pre-school building cannot be re-utilized in its hurricane damaged current state, and the wonderful planning team at the Diocese of Venice - many of whom worked so closely with the parish on our exceptional Parish Life Center - started examining potential use of that land to bring our parish in line with Diocesan requirements by building an administration building to house the parish offices and functions. In these discussions, we emphasized our pastoral and community needs for a proper reconciliation space, a perpetual adoration chapel available to our parishioners every day for prayer, reflection and Eucharistic Adoration and an inviting space for the sacrament of confession behind a screen or face to face, with the proper privacy afforded this beautiful sacrament of healing. Conference and meeting facilities, bathrooms for our parishioners attending Mass, a desire for covered parking for golf carts off the streets of Boca Grande, and secure storage for not only our parish records, but other items used in our day to day as well as the spiritual life of Our Lady of Mercy.

The team of planners and architects at the Diocese paid careful attention to these desires in

addition to building requirements and Diocesan requirements to create a plan and rendering of a building that will not only meet the needs of our parish, but also suit the campus we occupy on the island as a center of faith and community. As part of that process, the Diocese, on behalf of the parish, must go through several approvals to proceed with any actions to demolish the existing structure and then commence with rebuilding what the hurricanes took from us.

The first hurdle is the review by the Boca Grande Historic Preservation Board. This Board is charged with an architectural review of any building proposed for demolition to confirm it is not of such historic value or other significance as to prevent demolition of the structure. To make that review, the applicant must share the existing plans for the structure to replace the proposed demolition. That application has been made, and there will be a meeting of the Boca Grande Historic Preservation Board on June 10 to review and vote on their architectural approval. I note that, even with approval of the Historic Preservation Board, there are several further steps the Diocese must go through prior to proceeding that may take several months and may affect the overall design of the proposed building.

For now, however, I am very pleased to share with you the current plans and renderings of the proposed administration building, which are included in the Hearing Packet from Lee County. Those items will be available on our parish website at <https://ourladyofmercy.church/> as the size may be too large for some email programs. We will also update the website with additional information as it comes through - particularly renderings that illuminate the wonderful spaces we hope to enjoy as a parish community to continue living our faith. This is a phenomenal project, and I look forward to sharing more details with you to include our entire parish community in the process of bringing this gift of rebuilding to our church and our community.

Know that you are in my daily prayers and please continue to pray for me and for vocations to the sacred priesthood so that we may always have a sacramental church to call home. God bless, Fr, Anthony

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$88,575.00 collected as of June 1) Envelopes are available at the front of the church. Please make checks payable to the *Catholic Faith Appeal* and *in the memo write Our Lady of Mercy Parish* so that we receive proper credit for your donation. Every dollar given to the CFA helps us reach our goal. May God continue to bless our generous parish. Fr. Anthony. We are hopeful that 100% of our Parish community will respond to the 2026 Catholic Faith



SCAN TO GIVE

How to use a QR Code to Donate:

1. Open your smartphone camera and hover over the QR Code.
2. Click the pop up on your smartphone to open the giving webpage.

Appeal to successfully meet and perhaps exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider Annual Catholic Faith Appeal

giving to the 2026, with a pledge or one-time gift. Thank you all for 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.