



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
Monday – Friday	8:00 am
Tuesday Adoration	Suspended for the Summer
First Saturday Anointing	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance	Call the parish office
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 9, 2024

In the crowd, there were scribes who had come from Jerusalem. They accused Him of being possessed by Beelzebub saying, "He casts out demons by the power of the chief of demons." These people hated Jesus. They considered themselves to be experts in religious matters. But fundamentally, what annoyed them was that they saw in Him a power and a wisdom that they could not comprehend or equal. They were very envious of Him. They felt threatened and they took a defensive stand.

Because of this, they could not recognize the good works, the kindness, and all of the good that He was doing for others. They preferred to criticize Him. In a word, they were envious of His powers. The same thing that happened then happens now. There always are, and there always will be, people who distort other people's kindness turning it into evil. When Jesus heard the scribes, He did not get upset.

He reacted as He always did, calmly. He invited them to approach Him and asked them, "How can Satan drive out Satan?" Any mind that is not sick with the need for power or with arrogance will clearly comprehend the answer that Jesus gave. We know that the Devil cannot do good works. He does not cure the sick nor, much less, cast out demons. To attribute the things that the Lord did to Satan, the prince of demons, is blasphemy against God, the true author of all good works. Humanity is threatened by the power of the Evil One, of Satan. And there are even some who when they sin say that the Devil is at fault. They excuse themselves, not wanting to recognize that everyone is responsible for his or her own actions. Sometimes, when we see that we have fallen into sin, we are discouraged, especially when we see how easy it is for Satan to trap us. But it is clear that this attitude does not help us at all. We have to continue on our path to God. If we believe in the Resurrection of Christ, we are certain that one day we will share in His triumph over death and over sin. In the Second Reading, Saint Paul says to the Corinthians that our hope, as Christians, is in knowing that if we can avoid the evil that we find in our path, if we are faithful to God, when we die, when the earthly dwelling that is our body is destroyed, "we have a solid building built by God, a dwelling not made with human hands and that will endure forever in heaven."

Please continue to give to the parish through the CFA while you are away so that we can give generously to the schools in our diocese that desperately need our help. We also have online giving and the website for our parish is in the heading of this bulletin. May God continue to bless all of us and our parish.

Parish Accountant Needed

Our parish is looking to hire an accountant. It is a part time job (20 hours a week), in a pastoral setting with the added benefit of working for the glory of God and His Church. Contact Fr. Anthony at anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org. Please pray that we fill this important position in the administration of the church. St. Joseph the Worker, Pray for Us.

Safe Environment Training - 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 Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit dioceseofvenice.org for further information. 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, also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Ushers,
Money Counters, and Lectors Needed**

If you have ever sat in the pew and wondered, what can I do for my parish? Well, there are a few opportunities available that not only assist the parish in the liturgy but also helps to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. If you feel compelled to proclaim the very Word of God to your brothers and sisters at Mass there are openings especially at the daily 8:00 am Mass. If you feel that giving the Body and Blood of Christ to your brothers and sisters is where it is at then we have openings for that as well. If you feel that counting the generous donations of the faithful every other week is something that you are good at then we can accommodate you as well. We are looking for anyone over the age of 18. We will train you, we will support you, and you will thrive in any of these opportunities. Contact Father Anthony at Anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org for further information and to schedule an interview. Thank you for being active parishioners. God Bless.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster. During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen. [Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1895-1981), Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956-1973), following Hurricane Audrey in 1957]

Prayer to Protect Them Both

Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state, and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety. Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, protector of the unborn, pray for us!