

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

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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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 16, 2025

Our church is still under repair due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton damage, therefore, **Daily and Weekend Mass** will continue to be celebrated in the **Parish Life Center (PLC)**.



Stations of the Cross
Fridays in Lent
8:30 am
in the Parish Life Center

Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Feast of the Annunciation Novena: March 16 -March 24

On Tuesday, March 25th the Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated. Nine months before the birth of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate the Feast Day Mass in the morning and then we will have **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3-4 pm** in the PLC. All are welcome to spend an hour with the Lord.

Novena Prayer Day 1-9

Let us begin, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I greet you, Ever-blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Throne of Grace, miracle of Almighty Power! I greet you, Sanctuary of the Most Holy Trinity and Queen of the Universe, Mother of Mercy and refuge of sinners! Most loving Mother, attracted by your beauty and sweetness, and by your tender compassion, I confidently turn to you, miserable as I am, and beg of you to obtain for me from your dear Son the favor I request in this novena: Obtain for me also, Queen of heaven, the liveliest contrition for my many sins and the grace to imitate closely those virtues which you practiced so faithfully, especially humility, purity, and obedience. Above all, I beg you to be my mother and protectress, to receive me into the number of your devoted children, and to guide me from your high throne of glory. Do not reject my petitions, Mother of Mercy! Have pity on me, and do not abandon me during life or at the moment of my death. Amen.

(Mention your request here...)

Say 1: Our Father... Say 1: Hail Mary... Say 1: Glory Be...

Lenten thought for this week:

A clean heart create in me Lord, give to me the gift of salvation.

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

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

Pledged as of March 8: \$25,040.00

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.**

We are blessed to have a faith-filled and generous parish family. Your sacrifice positively impacts our Southwest Florida Catholic Family. All parishes throughout the diocese will be working towards this mission through the CFA.

Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the PLC. 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.

The **Transfiguration of Jesus** is presented in the Gospel this Sunday.

It is our opportunity to cry out to the father, that the sleeper has awoken and now we are ready to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

After becoming fully awake and encountering the incomprehensible brightness of the divine nature, Peter says, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." The Gospel writer then goes on to say that Peter "did not know what he was saying." Peter's experience is commendable because he not only had earnest feelings but also took the initiative of good deeds. He wanted to build three tents so that Jesus, Moses and Elijah would remain with them. But Peter "did not know what he was saying" because he did not, at that time, realize that it was indeed his mission to build a dwelling place for Jesus, the Law and the Prophets. It was his mission to build the Church, which was to be the future dwelling place of God on earth and the place in which we will encounter God throughout life.

We are entrusted with the responsibility of building up the structure of the Church on earth so that many may encounter the full glory of God. This will only happen if we seek to become fully awakened to the glory of God as He reveals Himself to us and, in the joy of that encounter, go forth to build up God's Church by our earnest desire and intentional acts of charity. Prayerfully ponder the disciples asleep as Jesus was transfigured in glory. Consider them waking up and beginning to realize what was taking place. Consider Peter's excitement and amazement and the effect that had on him. And then ponder how these disciples eventually did go forth to build the Church, the house of God, so that they and many others would come to meet Christ. Pray that the witness of these disciples will inspire us to follow in their footsteps. Amen.