



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921
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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 1, 2026

SECOND COLLECTION THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 7 AND 8 FOR BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

Fridays of Lent

3:00 – 4:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

4:00pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY WEEK 2026

	<p>Palm Sunday, March 28-29 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass 9:00 and 10:30 am Sunday Masses</p>
	<p>Tuesday, March 31 - No morning Mass 10:30 am Diocesan Chrism Mass at St. Leo the Great Parish</p>
	<p>Thursday, April 2 No morning Mass 6:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration until 8:00 pm</p>
	<p>Good Friday, April 3 No morning Mass 12 noon Community Way of the Cross 3:00 pm Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Communion</p>
	<p>Holy Saturday Vigil 8:00 pm</p>
	<p>Easter Sunday 7:00, 9:00 and 10:30 am</p>

Gospel of Matthew Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. Interestingly, Jesus allowed the disciples to reflect on His prediction of suffering for six days before taking Peter, James, and John up a mountain for prayer and solitude. Jesus, aware of their confusion and struggles, was transfigured before their eyes. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him" (Matthew 17:2-3). Peter exclaimed in this moment of glory, "Lord, it is good that we are here." It was another good day for Peter.



We all have good days and bad days. But what defines a good day versus a bad day? Was the day of Jesus' Crucifixion a bad one for Him? Certainly not. Though filled with intense suffering, it was the most glorious day in history because His perfect obedience to the Father's will was fulfilled. Similarly, Peter's good and bad days can be understood in terms of his willingness to obey Christ, especially when the demands were great.

In our lives, we must also define our good and bad days through the lens of obedience to God's will, especially when His will calls us to bear the Cross and practice sacrificial love. It's easy to love God when we are consoled, but it becomes much more difficult when we face trials. Peter's declaration, "Lord, it is good that we are here," is the perfect prayer for us to echo in every circumstance. When we are consoled, as Peter was at the Transfiguration, we must pray this prayer. But unlike Peter's earlier missteps, we must also say, "It is good," when we encounter opportunities for sacrificial love, even when difficult.

Reflect today on our own good and bad days. Use the lens of holy obedience and our call to live a life of sacrificial love. Do not hesitate to cry out to the Lord, "It is good!" Consider whether we view every cross and every invitation to love sacrificially as something good. This is what God desires for us; embrace His desire with determination and joy. Amen.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000. 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

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) Prayer

O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom. We know that all we have is received from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously with those in need. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship be a witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



We are hopeful that 100% of our Parish community will respond to the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal to successfully meet and perhaps exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal 2026, with a pledge or one-time gift. Every parishioner is invited to participate in the future of the Church by helping form our future priests. The Catholic Faith Appeal supports the Office of Vocations which promotes priestly and religious life formation by raising awareness of God's

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

calling at Parishes, religious education classes, and Catholic schools.