



# 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:

<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 & 10:30 am
<b>Mon-Fri</b>	8:00 am
<b>First Saturday Anointing</b>	After 5:00 pm vigil
<b>Sacrament of Penance</b>	By appointment
<b>Parish website address:</b>	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>
<b>Online Giving:</b>	<a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>
<b>Father Anthony email:</b>	<a href="mailto:anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org">anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org</a>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 22, 2026







Friday, March 27

3:00 – 4:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
4:00pm Stations of the Cross  
Confessions in the Church: 4:30-6:00 pm

Saturday, March 28

Confessions in the Church: 10:00 am -12 noon

## HOLY WEEK 2026

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

## 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

### Prayer

*O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom.*

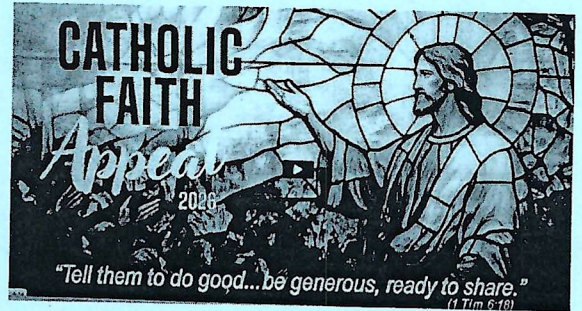
*We know that all we have is received from your hand.*

*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*



Please consider the following options when deciding upon the best way to support the CFA this year:

- Make a pledge and spread out your payments over 9 months
- Donate on-line by going to the Diocesan website, [www.dioceseofvenice.org/cfa](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/cfa) or find the CFA link on our Parish's website.
- Check if your employer will match your gift through the Corporate Matching Gift Program.
- Donate a one-time gift.
- Contribute a gift of appreciated stocks or securities. Whatever you decide, your gift will be greatly appreciated and make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

### Gospel of John Reflection

Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He "became deeply distressed and troubled" and eventually "wept." The Greek word for "deeply distressed," *embrimaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as "He snorted in spirit," indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death because of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present. Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means "to shed tears" or "weep silently." His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek word *klaió*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion.

We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do—He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and "cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (John 11:43). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion. Amen.

**Second Collection this weekend for Catholic Relief Services**

**Save the Date – Thursday, April 16**

**BBQ Dinner in the PLC**