



# 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 Sacrament of Penance</b>	After 5:00 pm vigil Call the parish office
<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>

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARCH 2, 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)**.

## Ash Wednesday - March 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Mass

5:00 pm Mass

### Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent

8:30 am

in the Parish Life Center

## REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and Good Friday, April 18, 2025, are **days of fast and abstinence.**

**All Fridays of Lent** are also days of abstinence from meat. **Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but

liquids are allowed.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is to continue until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday. **Note:** If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

A generous gift to the parishioners for Lent is the book **Lenten Gospel Reflections by Bishop Robert Barron**. This excellent book provides daily reflections from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. I pray that we use this book to enter fully into the season of Lent and to be prepared spiritually for Easter. The book will be on the table at the entrance of the PLC.

### 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.



## Collection on Ash Wednesday for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

February 21, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice, as well as other dioceses throughout the United States, participate in the **Ash Wednesday Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. Funds raised for this Collection support programs and ministries in countries which endured years of communist oppression and occupation and help renew aspects of Church life.

One such outreach has provided aid to Catholics in the Republic of Georgia, who kept their faith during years of persecution. Now, since their independence from the Soviet Union, and with assistance from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Catholics in Georgia are able to rebuild churches, provide medical care for the poor, and pass on the faith to the next generation so that the Church can once again thrive.

You can participate in their success, as well as support other Catholics who strive to learn and live their faith, by donating to this special collection on **Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025**. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your blessings with the Faithful of Central and Eastern Europe. May God continue to bless you for your goodness.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+ Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

### **Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025** **Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment \$123,000.00**

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 your continued support to Our Lady of Mercy Parish!*

**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.