



# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

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(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>	ourladyofmercy.church
<b>Online Giving:</b>	ourladyofmercy.church
<b>Father Anthony email:</b>	anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 9, 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

## REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Good Friday, April 18, 2025 is a **day of fast and abstinence**.

All **Fridays of Lent** are also days of abstinence from meat. **Fasting is to be observed on 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 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.

## 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.

**Lenten thought for this week:** Do I spend my free time, throughout the day, connecting with God?

## Second Collection today for Black and Indian Missions

March 1, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Black and Indian Mission Collection, established as the first National Collection in 1874, has proven itself to be a successful vehicle to provide for the needs of our African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native brothers and sisters.

This Collection historically has assisted diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the groups identified. Funds are used to support parish-based Catechetical programs, training and placement of good teachers, fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life, as well as supporting ministries that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways.

**The Black and Indian Mission Collection is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice the weekend of March 8 and 9, 2025.** Your generosity, as regards this outreach of the Church to help form children in the faith, educate young people and build hope, is appreciated. Why not make a difference in the lives of these African American, Native American and Alaskan Native families?

This opportunity is taken to assure you and your family of my continued consideration as well as my prayers. Thank you for your generosity!

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**

**Pledged as of March 1: \$19,040.00**

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.