



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
Office Hours, Monday – Friday	9:00am-4pm

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 10, 2026

Gospel of John Reflection

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." John 14:18-20



The feeling of being an orphan—of longing for belonging—reflects a deeper spiritual reality Jesus addressed with His disciples in today's Gospel. Those with close families are truly blessed, as a supportive family fosters personal growth and a sense of identity. When one is orphaned, the absence of these natural bonds can leave a lasting sense of loss. Yet even the strongest earthly family relationships point to a greater truth: our ultimate belonging is found in God's family.

Jesus understood the sense of loss His disciples would feel after His Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension. When He said, "In a little while the world will no longer see me..." He was preparing them for His physical departure through the Ascension. But He reassures them: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you...you will see me, because I live and you will live."

Initially, the disciples struggled to grasp the meaning of these words. Only after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit did they begin to understand. The same promise Jesus made to them applies to us today. Though we were not among those who witnessed His earthly presence, we too have a longing for His nearness—a longing to belong, to be loved, and to find our place within a family. This longing is fulfilled supernaturally through the gift of faith and our incorporation into God's divine family, the Church.

Faith is the key to this relationship. It is more than intellectual belief; it is the acceptance of a personal revelation from God and a choice to live according to that revelation. Jesus promises that those who love Him and obey His commandments will experience His presence and that of the Father. This experience begins through faith, which is a gift by which God communicates Himself to us, revealing His love and will. It is both certain and mysterious, a knowledge that leads us to divine hope and sustains us in the pursuit of God's will.

Faith also unites us with one another. Through faith, we are no longer orphans but brothers and sisters in Christ. Our natural longing to belong finds its ultimate fulfillment in God's glorious family, which begins on earth and is perfected in Heaven.

Reflect today on the desire in our heart to belong, to be loved, and to be part of a family. Recognize that this longing finds its ultimate fulfillment in the family of God. Though we await the fullness of this communion in Heaven, we can experience it even now. Commit to responding to Jesus' invitation by embracing our place in His family through prayer, the sacraments, and daily acts of love. Recognize that He is in the Father, we are in Him, and He is in us. Allow the gift of faith to draw us more deeply into the divine family to which we are called. Amen.

Prayers and Blessing for Mother's Day

For our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord.

For mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them, we pray to the Lord. For mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom, we pray to the Lord.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$61,375.00 collected as of May 4) 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.



SCAN TO GIVE

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

How to use a QR Code to Donate:

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

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.

Thank you all for your time, talent, and treasure!