



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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025

"HABEMUS PAPAM!"

On Thursday, May 8, 2025, the world was blessed to have a new successor of St. Peter, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed to the world, "Peace Be with You All." And with that his pontificate began. Below is the prayer

for our pope:

*O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on your servant Pope Leo XIV
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 Christ our Lord. Amen.*



The month of May is the month of Mary

Mary has a unique place in salvation history and in the Church. Because she responded yes to becoming the mother of God, she is our first model of discipleship and our model of grace and trust in God. Among Catholics, May is most well known as "Mary's Month," a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ancient Greek and Western cultures view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before "Mother's Day" was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to honor mothers during the spring months.

In the early Church there is evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year, but it wasn't until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary. It was a Jesuit priest in Italy who asked his students to make a vow to devote the month of May to Mary. This practice spread to other Jesuit colleges and to the universal Church.



In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22nd, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

The Month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our heavenly mother. Here are the Marian Celebrations and Feast Days: *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1st)* *Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11th)* *The Annunciation (March 25th)* *Our Lady of Fatima (May 13th)* *The*

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Day after Pentecost) Our Lady of Mount Carmel (July 16th) The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th) Our Lady of Knock (August 17th) The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7th) The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (November 21st) The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8th) Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th)



Prayer for Mother's Day

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter Reflection

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is an endearing image. Many artists have depicted the gentleness of Christ as He leads His sheep or carries a straying lamb on His shoulders. We are given this image today as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday.

In our short Gospel passage today, Jesus addressed some of the Jews who were trying to trap Him in His speech. Prior to this passage, they asked Him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." To that, Jesus responded, "I told you and you do not believe." Jesus answered this way because the people questioning Him were not interested in knowing whether He was the Messiah. Instead, they wanted to accuse Him of blasphemy. But Jesus tells them that He already told them Who He was through His works: "The works I do in my Father's name testify to me."

Do we see the works of God in our life? God certainly speaks to us through His Word as it is revealed in the Scriptures and in the teachings of the Church. But He also speaks to us through His works. Among the many works of God in our life is the work of grace by which God enables us to grow in virtue. It is important to look for the ways that supernatural virtue grows in our life. Do we see courage in the face of fear? Do we see a supernatural ability to forgive another? Do we see an increase in the virtue of piety, by which our life of prayer becomes more important to us? If so, what is God saying to us through the increase of these virtues?

The discernment of the will of God enables us to hear His voice and follow Him. And one of the best ways to discern the will of God is to look for the ways that God is touching our life. Where we see virtue increase, the will of God is present and is calling us to grow in that area. Conversely, if there is something in our life that leads us to sin, and, thus, a decrease in virtue, then this is also God's voice telling us to avoid these things. Amen.

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00

Pledged as of May 3: \$77, 165.00

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.** *Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church. 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.