



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-4:30 pm

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026



Gospel of Matthew Reflection

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20

What a monumental task the Apostles were given! These are Jesus’ parting words as He stands on the Mount of the Ascension, the final words recorded in Matthew’s Gospel. They are powerful words by which Jesus entrusts extraordinary responsibility to eleven of His closest companions. Their mission was not merely to gain new followers but to proclaim the Gospel to every nation. Additionally, they were to baptize all nations and teach them everything Jesus had commanded.

This incredible task would have seemed daunting, if not impossible. Yet it is grounded in divine authority: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore...” These are not mere words of encouragement but a divine command, rooted in the authority entrusted to Jesus by the Father. With this declaration, Jesus equips the Apostles with the grace to fulfill their mission, knowing they act under His authority.

Ascension marks a fundamental transition in salvation history. Before the Incarnation, God established covenants with His people and sent prophets to call them to fidelity and prepare them for the coming of the Messiah. With Jesus’ Incarnation, a new era of salvation history began. Through His Passion and Resurrection, Jesus opened the floodgates of grace and inaugurated the final phase of God’s eternal plan. This phase continues today and will only reach its fulfillment when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead and establish the new Heaven and new Earth.

Because we live in this final phase of salvation history, Jesus’ words to His Apostles also apply to us. We are not only among the “all nations” called to be disciples, but we also share in the Apostles’ mission to evangelize the world. While the Apostles, as the first bishops, had a unique role, every baptized person participates in Christ’s mission through the priestly, prophetic, and kingly offices conferred at baptism.

The recently canonized Saint John Henry Newman beautifully illustrates this shared mission in a prayer he wrote: “God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission...I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons....” Each of us has a unique role to play, and we can be certain that God has given us some definite service to act as a link in a chain and a bond of connection between God and others.

Newman continues: “If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.” This reminds us that Jesus, the all-powerful God who holds “all power in heaven and on earth,” can use every aspect of our lives for His glory and mission—if we let Him.

Reflect today on two truths. First, consider your place among the “all nations” called to become disciples. Second, reflect on our duty as a disciple to share in Christ’s mission to evangelize the world. As we celebrate our Lord’s Ascension, hear His commission spoken to us. Embrace the privilege and responsibility of His command, allowing His authority and presence to guide our life and our mission. Amen.

Second Collection this weekend May 16-17 for the Catholic Communication Campaign

Bishop-Elect Emilio Biosca Aguero

Welcome to Bishop-Elect Emilio Biosca Aguero, our new shepherd here in the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Bishop-Elect Aguero was named on Wednesday, May 13 by Pope Leo. We pray for our new Bishop, and we give thanks and praise for Bishop Emeritus Dewane who served the diocese for these past twenty years. May God continue to bless us all during this monumental transition. Photo <https://dioceseofvenice.org/bishop-elect/>



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is \$144,000 (\$70,375.00 collected as of May 11) 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.

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



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

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

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!