

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:

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:

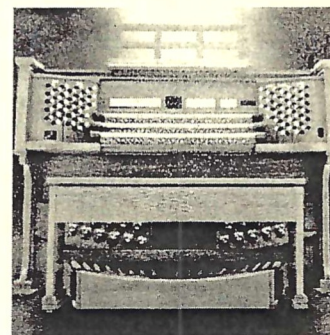
anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 2025

Church Restoration Update

Great news! Our pews will be returned to us this Friday May 30th to be reinstalled. These have been deep cleaned, sanded, stained, and sealed. The kneelers have new hardware, pads, and coverings. The repair and restoration of the pews took place in North Carolina and the work has taken the better part of four months. We look forward to seeing these pews back in place. The artwork in the church has been returned cleaned and restored after the damage from the flood waters splashed up and all around. The *redos* above the tabernacle, has been cleaned as well. I invite you to take some time after Mass to really look at our magnificent art that depicts key moments of our Catholic faith, particularly the stations of the cross paintings and the crucifix that hangs next to the ambo. We have new altar candles that burn beeswax candles. This will help reduce the damage to the artwork in the church. Many of the liturgical items were damaged by the flood waters and they have been polished and brought back to life. And finally, our new organ is ready for the first payment of **\$134,165.70** due and waiting for the diocese approval and payment which begins production. This represents 65 percent of the total \$218,915.00. If you would like to donate to this much-needed instrument for the enhancement of our liturgy in our historic church, please do so and include in the memo line: New church organ. My prayers and deep gratitude to those who have already donated towards the new organ and hurricane repairs. God bless.



Second Collection Next Weekend

May 23, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) offers a unique way to help our neighbors, and people across the country, connect with Christ. Know that half the funds raised by the CCC support the collective communication programs of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States, and the other half stays here in the Diocese of Venice.

The Catholic Communication Campaign supports the catholic media through the Catholic News Service Network's broadcasts of worldwide events that allow us to behold the joy and unity of our faith. During this Jubilee year, they will also be able to share the stories of the millions of Catholics who will travel to Rome as "Pilgrims of Hope" and be witness of our faith to others. At home, in the Diocese of Venice, this campaign partially funds TV Masses to the homebound who are unable to attend the Holy Mass, as well as the "Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" radio show, and various social media channels.

The collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign allows us to tell both the world and our neighbors

about our experience of faith, worship, and witness. Please support this important work in the upcoming collection which will take place on the weekend of May 31 and June 1, 2025, in the Diocese of Venice. Thank you for your generosity!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Reflection

As children, perhaps we were taught about the mystery of the Trinity by being shown a three-leaf clover. Each petal represents one of the divine Persons, but the whole leaf represents Their unity. We benefit from this simplistic imagery to help us begin to understand Who God is. But there is only one thing that will help to fully reveal God's very Self to us. What is that one thing? It is exactly what Jesus spoke about: Loving obedience to the Word of God.

Obedience to the Word of God is the best expression of love we can offer to God. This is because God's Word is Truth in its fullness. When we understand this Truth and live by it, then this is love. Furthermore, this form of loving obedience will result in something that is unimaginable. It will result in the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls: "...and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."

Though this language is cloudy and mysterious, when the Most Holy Trinity comes to dwell within a person, the cloud begins to be lifted, and the mystery begins to become known. Therefore, the only way to begin to discover this incomprehensible mystery of the life of the Most Holy Trinity is to allow the Trinity to dwell within us. And the only way to invite God to do so is through love of Him. And the only way to love Him is through obedience to the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God. We especially come to know Him as the Word of God through our reading of the Scriptures and by living the message it proclaims.

This is the most central calling we have been given. The mission is to become a dwelling place for God. And that is only accomplished by our love of God which is expressed through obedience to His Word. Ponder obedience. Tell God we will obey His every command of love. Look at our actions and consider any ways that we fail in obedience to all that our Lord has commanded. Where we see any deviation, know that correcting that deviation is the pathway not only to a deeper love but also the pathway to a fuller unity with the Triune God Who seeks to unite Himself to us from within. Amen.

Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

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

Pledged as of May 17: \$87,265.00

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.