

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

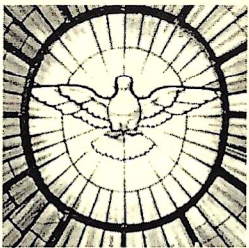
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 4, 2025

On **Wednesday, May 7**, the conclave will begin for the election of our new pope. This is a very important and historical time in the history of our church. On Sunday May 4, we will have completed our nine days of Masses for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and now we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to inspire and lead the cardinals of election age to find our new shepherd to lead our church into this new world. Below is the prayer for the participants of the conclave and the prayer for the election of a new pope.

Prayer for the Conclave

Heavenly Father, we pray in union with the whole Church for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Cardinals. May the Princes of the Church listen attentively to Your Spirit during the conclave. Almighty God, we pray that the conclave brings us a Pope who pleases You by guiding Your Church to grow in faithfulness to You. We pray together with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints. Please Lord, protect and guide your Church during this time of transition. Amen.



Prayer for the Election of a New pope

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Easter Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, some three years later after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples from the shore and instructed them to cast their nets "over the right side of the boat." They did so and caught 153 large fish. Are we among those 153 large fish found on the right side of the boat? Do we allow the ministers of Christ within the Church, represented by the disciples in the boat, to draw us to Christ through preaching and the Sacraments? Though all of us might quickly answer "Yes" to that question, we should never fail to be attentive to the fact that salvation requires action on our part. It requires that we accept Christ Jesus by following His Commandments and live by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as it is dispensed by the Church.

Have we listened to the Word of God as it is preached by the Church? Do we immerse ourselves in the grace given through the Sacraments? Do we follow the Ten Commandments faithfully? Seek to be among that catch of fish caught on the "right side." Never doubt that hell is real and possible. For that reason, never waver from our fidelity to Christ, so that we will remain firmly grounded in His grace and share one day in His Resurrection. Amen.

Second Collection on May 3-4, all parishes in the Diocese of Venice will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Below is the letter from Bishop Dewane.

April 25, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal support mission dioceses, which are dioceses in the United States which cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside assistance. Grants from this Appeal provide pastoral programs, religious education, ministry training and support to schools in the poorest communities.

One of many examples is a Catholic School in southern Illinois which provides the only alternative to a troubled public school system. Ninety percent of families whose children attend this Catholic elementary school fall below the poverty line and the children know the realities of poverty, violence, and crime. Yet, despite these challenges, 100% of its graduates enter high school, and 95% of its graduates are enrolled in college or university. This program, and many others, give testimony to the great benefit of the Catholic Home Mission Appeal.

On the weekend of May 3 and 4, 2025, the Diocese of Venice will take up a collection for the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. On behalf of your brothers and sisters whom you will be helping, thank you for your support and generosity!

I take this opportunity to assure you and your family of my continued consideration as well as my prayers in this Easter Season.

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 April 24: \$75,465.00

I ask each of us to pray about making our own sacrificial gift to the Catholic Faith Appeal. As we pray about our 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.**

Our 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 bench near the front door of 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.