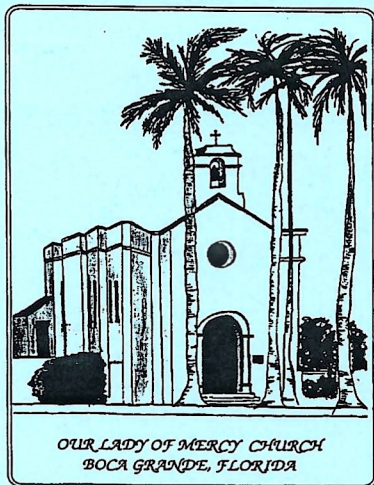




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Second Collection Next Weekend November 22-23

November 15, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we approach Thanksgiving, allow me to assure you of my prayers for a blessed and happy holiday. During this time when we recognize and appreciate all that we have been given, it is important to also remember those who are less fortunate.

Many seniors within the Diocese of Venice live on a fixed income and have strongly felt the impact of the current economic environment. As a result, many lack basic needs, such as food and shelter, particularly in the rural areas of the Diocese. This year, the Diocese of Venice will be taking up the Elderly Care Collection on the weekend of November 22-23, 2025, to support this often-overlooked population.

Funds raised by your generosity towards this collection will assist the Diocese in providing charitable outreach for the elderly, both through Catholic Charities and housing initiatives. Pope Leo XIV has said, "The elderly are a gift, a blessing to be welcomed." Please prayerfully consider contributing to this collection. Your support can make a real difference in the lives of our senior brothers and sisters in need.

May God bless you for your kindness and generous response!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida



Annual Thanksgiving Drive

Our parish will be collecting monetary donations for the purchase of Thanksgiving baskets for 120 families in Lee County. Any donation amount is welcome. In the memo line of your check please put turkey donation. For the past thirteen years, through the generosity of the faithful, the parishes where I have been pastor, funds have been donated to purchase turkey and some of the trimmings for the neediest families during Thanksgiving. Pope Leo in his recent encyclical *Dilexi Te* spoke of our responsibility to the poor among us. *"We Christians must not abandon almsgiving. It can be done in different ways, and surely more effectively, but it must continue to be done. It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts. It will not solve the problem of world poverty, yet it must still be carried out, with intelligence, diligence and social responsibility. For our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor."* (119). We are blessed to have St. Francis Xavier Parish in Fort Myers generously provide Thanksgiving baskets for an additional 50 families. Providing for 170 families this year. A team of volunteers who have worked with me conducting outreach, some for the past 25 years will coordinate the distribution. Thank you.



Gospel of Luke Reflection

"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute." Luke 21:12-15



Though these words might not, at first, seem all that consoling, they were inspired words and, therefore, must be inspiring. We must hear Jesus' words today as His battle cry, spoken to encourage us. He is warning us that the secular and unchristian world will be hostile. The leader of the kingdom of darkness, the devil, is very active and, with his legion of demons and followers, is seeking to destroy us. For our part, we must decide whether we will retreat and hide or enter the battle for the salvation of souls. Because Jesus said that people will not be able to "resist or refute" the words He inspires us to say, we must know that our words can make a difference in the battle for souls. We must engage in the battle with courage and love and rely upon our Lord to lead. Amen.

Called By Name Pew Cards

The Diocese of Venice, with the full support of Bishop Dewane, is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 16-30) who demonstrate lives of virtue and faith, and hearts of service, and who may be open to the priesthood. Those whose names you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Dewane, invitation to discernment events, and support from the Vocations Office. Thank you for participating in this important initiative.

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

