



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
Monday – Friday	8:00 am
First Saturday Anointing	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance	Call the parish office
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Due to the damage from Hurricanes Helene and Milton to the church
Daily and Weekend Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Life Center for the foreseeable
future.

Mass Schedule

Monday- Friday 12 noon

Saturday 5:00 pm vigil
Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am

The Second Collection today is for the Hurricane Relief Fund for the Diocese of Venice in
Florida.

Thursday November 28, 2024
Thanksgiving Day Mass
9:00 am

Jesus said to his disciples: “In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.” Mark 13:24-25

The “tribulation” of which our Lord speaks, refers to a great persecution of the Church and of those with faith. Regarding this tribulation, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the “mystery of iniquity” in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. (#675).

Is this “final trial” happening today? Though it is impossible to apply Jesus’ prophecy and the *Catechism’s* teaching to one specific moment in time, the fact remains that this trial and tribulation will take place. That is for certain. But how and when it will take place we do not

know. It might be that it already has taken place or that it is taking place right now. Only God can properly interpret these prophetic words.

With that said, this final trial and “mystery of iniquity” does take place in all our lives in various ways. When we devote ourselves to the love and service of God, we can be certain that our faith will be tested, and that persecution will be experienced in one way or another. Knowing this, however, should not frighten us. On the contrary, it was spoken by our Lord to prepare us and to help us endure whatever trials we experience in life. Jesus’ words must instill hope within us when we endure the suffering caused by evil.

Jesus also said that when we see persecutions, trials and tribulation, we must “know that he is near, at the gates.” In other words, the greater the suffering one endures for their faith, the more present God is. He is there, at the gate of your heart, waiting for you to run to Him in trust and hope.

As we approach the end of our current Church year, most of our readings at Mass will focus upon the end times. We will read about Jesus’ glorious return in glory, the end of the world, and the establishment of His permanent Kingdom as Heaven and earth are united. It could take place today or tomorrow, or it might not take place for thousands of years. But it will happen. On that day, the day of the final judgment, the only thing that will matter is our fidelity to God. For that reason, we must daily strive to live as if that day were today. We must diligently prepare for that day and live for that glorious moment alone. If life is easy right now, we should work to be more selfless and sacrificial to be prepared. If life is challenging right now, we must enter those challenges with hope and trust, uniting every suffering to Christ’s sufferings as a sacrifice of love.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus’ prophecy that “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.” As you do, know that these are words spoken not only to the Church as a whole, but also to you. Jesus wants you to know that any suffering and tribulation you endure, every “darkening of the sun” or any way that you feel “shaken” are opportunities for you to turn to God in trust. Invite our Lord into these experiences and know that they are signs of His closeness to help purify you and prepare you for the glorious day of His return.

Street Evangelization- Pope Francis stated that it is the responsibility of every Catholic to share their faith. St. Paul Street Evangelization will lead a one-day Basic Evangelization Training in December. The training will be held in two locations on two consecutive days to give more opportunities to attend. You can choose either Saturday, December 7, at St. Andrew School, Cape Coral or Sunday, December 8, at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Arcadia. Registration is required and costs \$25. It includes a light breakfast and lunch as well as all materials, including the full handout book and evangelization supplies. Please register online at stpaulse.com/venice. Learn how to talk about Jesus Christ in a non-confrontational joyful way!

**Monday December 9, 2024
Holy Day of Obligation
Immaculate Conception
12 noon Mass**