

# 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](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Online Giving:**

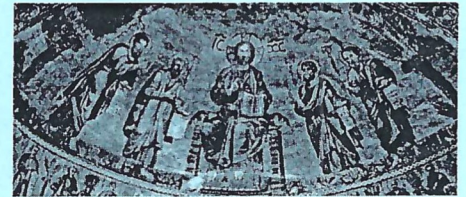
[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

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## THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE NOVEMBER 23, 2025

*Second Collection - This Weekend for Elderly Care  
in the Diocese of Venice*



### 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 our 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.

**Thanksgiving Day Mass  
on Thursday, November 27 at 9:00 am**

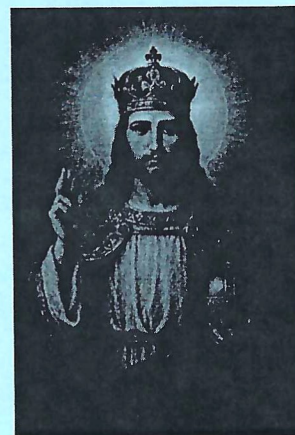
### Gospel of Luke Reflection

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*  
He replied to him, *"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."* **Luke 22:42-43**





What powerful words these were. As Jesus hung dying on the Cross for the salvation of the world, He hung between two thieves. These thieves represent all of us. One of them wanted Jesus to save His earthly life by coming down from the Cross and saving him at the same time. The other thief made a prayer for eternal life, asking Jesus to remember him when Jesus entered His Kingdom. To the latter, Jesus granted his request.



Oftentimes we pray for earthly goods and pay little attention to eternal ones. Today, as we celebrate the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. On this day, we are invited to pray this prayer with the good thief, acknowledging that we are sinners deserving death, but hoping and praying for mercy and a share in the Eternal Kingdom of God.

Nothing makes the soul of our Lord more joyful than saving His children. He endured suffering and death out of love. He knew that His death would destroy our death if we clung to Him in hope. On the Cross, Jesus' gaze was on eternal, not earthly, redemption. He beheld the glorious throne that He mounted. It began with a cross but would end with glory, power and splendor beyond imagination.

As we honor Jesus as the great and glorious King of the Universe, we are encouraged to invite Him to establish His kingship in our lives more fully. Though Jesus' permanent, lasting and visible Kingdom will be established only in the future when He returns at the end of time, His Kingdom must begin now.

The Kingdom of God is established here and now every time you allow Him to exercise His kingship in our life. As a King, Jesus desires to order our life. He demands perfect submission of our will to Him. He demands complete obedience. And He demands that we embrace this kingship of His freely, of our own choosing. These are demands of perfect love that bring about sharing in His eternal Kingdom. How well do we do this?

Throughout our world, there are many forms of governments. Democracy is thought by many to be the best form of government because not one person is capable of being the perfect king. Therefore, democracy is more of a safeguard against tyranny and abusive leadership. But when it comes to the end of time, the governance of humanity will take place by a King—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the only one Who can govern humanity with justice and love. He is the only one under Whose leadership we will all flourish. He is the only one Who will be able to establish universal peace and harmony.

Reflect, today, upon the glorious end of the world when our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, will return in splendor and majesty to judge the living and the dead and to establish His permanent and unending Kingdom. Though we cannot comprehend what this Kingdom will be at this time, we must believe in it with faith and have supernatural hope that we will share in it. Reflect, especially, upon our mission to allow that Kingdom of grace and mercy to begin now, within the depths of our own soul. Surrender all to Him. Invite Him to reign over our thoughts, will, body and soul. Do not hesitate. Trust in this one and only glorious King who is worthy of our total obedience. Amen.

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