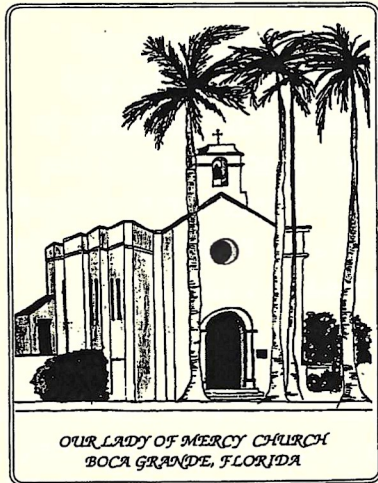




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

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

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOUL'S DAY) NOVEMBER 2, 2025

In the morning of November 1st, the Church celebrated those men and women who have gone before us who now see God face to face in the Beatific Vision. Whether they are officially canonized or not, everyone in Heaven is a saint and will remain so for eternity, living lives of perfect communion with God and with everyone else in Heaven. There will be perfect order, knowledge, joy, love, and happiness forever. Too often in this life we lose focus on eternity. We easily become overly concerned about the here and now and fail to turn our eyes to Heaven, seeking to prepare ourselves fully for the day we die and come before God for our judgment.



Today, as we commemorate All Souls, we turn our eyes to those men and women who have gone before us in death but died before being fully purified of every venial sin and all of sin's effects. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains it this way: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (#1030-31). All Souls' Day should have a twofold focus for each of us. First and foremost, today's commemoration is a call to prayer for those who have died and are being purified in final preparation for their entrance into the Beatific Vision. Though God has no need of our prayers, it is His divine will that we participate in the distribution of His grace. For that reason, He chooses to solicit our prayers and then answer them, making us active instruments of His purifying grace so needed by those in this world and in Purgatory.

A second focus to have on All Souls' Day is upon our own soul. Today's commemoration reminds us of the importance of our ongoing deepening conversion. We are all called to be saints. Ideally, our central focus in life is to become a living saint and not wait to be fully purified in Purgatory. Becoming a saint today requires not only a lot from us, it requires everything. Absolutely everything! Becoming a saint here and now means that we diligently seek out every sinful attachment within our souls and annihilate them. It means we continuously seek God's mercy, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and then change our lives completely. This is no small task!



Saint John of the Cross wrote extensively of the same process of purification, using different terminology. He described two main purifications a soul goes through on the journey toward perfection. The first is the dark night of the senses, by which every bodily sense and appetite is purified. The second is the dark night of the spirit, by which the intellect, memory, and will are fully purified by the perfection of infused faith, hope, and charity. Prior to the first purification, the soul is in the purgative way. While in between the two purifications, the soul is in an illuminative way. After completing the second purification, the soul enters the unitive way, or mystical marriage, which is the same as Saint Teresa's seventh dwelling place.

The reason for painting this very broad overview of their detailed writings on the journey of a soul toward perfection is to emphasize the fact that perfection is, indeed, a long and difficult process, but a necessary one that must take place either in this life or in the next. Every person must come to the realization that personal sanctity must become not only one's first mission in life but the exclusive mission. When personal sanctity is a person's exclusive mission, every other part of that person's life falls into place. Virtues grow, love for family and friends increases, duties are perfectly fulfilled, and God is fully glorified.

As we participate today in this Commemoration of All Souls, commit yourself first to praying for those who have died and need final purification. Purgatory is God's act of final mercy for those whom He loves with a burning and purifying love. Your prayers open the floodgates of God's love on those who need it the most. As you pray for those who have died, pray also for your own soul and ponder how fervently you seek to become transformed into a living saint. Though the journey to divine union is not a quick and easy one, it is a journey well worth it. Make it your exclusive mission in life, and know that if you do, you will never regret it. Amen.



The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

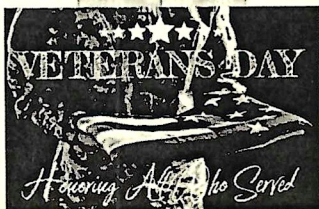
NOVEMBER 2025

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Dilexi te - All are encouraged to read and embrace the first apostolic exhortation from Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi te*, which invites all the faithful to renew their commitment and closeness to the poor. "God's love is vividly demonstrated by his protection of the weak and the poor," the Holy Father writes. Pope Leo goes further, reminding us of a simple truth: "... love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God."

Catholic Mass on Veterans Day at Sarasota National Cemetery - An invitation is extended to all to attend a Catholic Mass on Veterans Day. Come to worship and also to honor USA Veterans on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, Sarasota. Opening ceremonies begin at 2:45 P.M. Ample parking and plenty of seating.



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