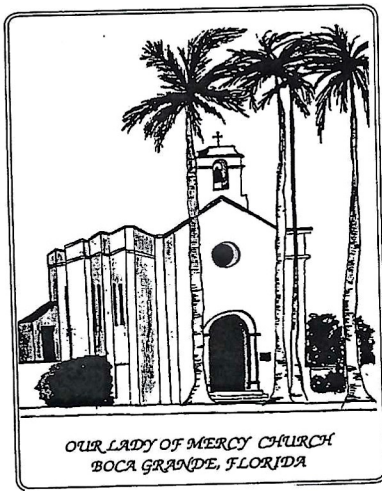




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921
(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Saturday
Sunday
Mon-Fri
First Saturday Anointing
Sacrament of Penance
Parish website address:
Online Giving:
Father Anthony email:

5:00 pm
9:00 & 10:30 am
8:00 am
After 5:00 pm vigil
By appointment
ourladyofmercy.church
ourladyofmercy.church
anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 12, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" Luke 17:11-13



This story begins very well for all ten of these lepers. For nine of them, it ends tragically. For one, it ends in an even better and more glorious way than it began.

The lepers represent us all. Their illness was a symbol of all sin and the consequences of sin. When the disease began, the lepers began to experience the effects of their disease. Discolored and thick dry skin, sores, and rashes would set in. Once detected, each leper was removed from the community to stop the spread of the disease and was only free to associate with other lepers. They no longer could gather freely with their loved ones as the lepers entered isolation and shame. Analogously, all sins have similar effects. Sin causes pain within our souls as we discover the growing wounds it causes. Sin affects our relationships and our ability to freely relate to those whom we love.

The initial cure for sin is simple. We cry out, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on me!" But that is only the first step. By curing the lepers, Jesus was showing us that He had power over our sin. He could forgive us and will forgive us when we seek His mercy. But forgiveness will end in tragedy if it does not lead us to faith and to a following of the will of God with zeal and determination. If we take the forgiveness of sins for granted, then we will be in an even more miserable state than before. The nine lepers who failed to return and give thanks to God represent those who do not convert their lives when touched by God's merciful hand.

This story highlights the importance of our response to God when He does touch us. We must glorify God with a loud voice, fall on our knees before Him and express our deepest gratitude. When the one leper does this, Jesus says to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." That mercy from our Lord was a mercy that touched his soul. It imparted the gift of faith and enabled this man to go forth and be healed with eternal graces. Too often we turn to God in prayer only when we have a problem. Then, once the problem is taken care of, we pay little to no attention to our Lord. God's role in our lives is not to fix our problems so that we can then go about our daily lives as normal. His mercy must evoke ongoing and profound gratitude. Gratitude to God is nothing other than an acknowledgement of the truth. We owe everything to God. Without Him, we are nothing. We are dead in our sins. Just one leper realized this and was blessed with the gift of faith that saved not only his body, but also his soul.

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which we turn to God in prayer. It is good to come to Him with our needs and problems. It is good to cry out "Jesus, Master! Have pity on me!" It is good to come to Him as the Physician of our soul and the source of healing we need. But that is not enough. In fact, if we stop there in

our life of prayer, we will end in a most miserable state. We will be using God for our selfish advantage. Are we able to take the next and most important step in faith. Do we come to Him when all is well? Do we praise Him with all our might for all that He has done for us? Do we fall on our knees before Him with the deepest gratitude in our heart? How is our prayer? Do we seek to imitate this one leper. If we do, our faith will also save us and our Lord will invite us to rise and go forth, healed in the truest way possible. Amen.

TV MASS TAPING at Our Lady of Mercy: On **Friday, October 24, at 10:00 am** we will be taping two TV



Masses for the Diocese of Venice. These Masses are broadcast every Sunday Morning locally at 10:30 am and streaming is available throughout the world. This is an important outreach ministry of the church as the TV Mass reaches the homebound, those in hospitals or hospice and anyone who is unable to attend Mass in person, particularly those who are caregivers of loved ones. Please plan on attending so that those viewing at home can witness the love that we have for them. We share in their suffering; our prayers are for their healing and that the Eucharist gives us that hope. Amen.

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.

October 1, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Holy Mother Church will celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 19, 2025. Catholics from around the world unite as one community of Faith in this annual Eucharistic celebration, inviting us to recommit ourselves to the Church's and the Holy Father's missionary activity and join in prayer and generous sacrifice to the Society for Propagation of the Faith.

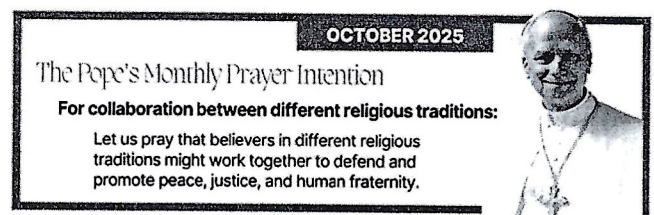
The theme for this year is "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples". During this Jubilee Year, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that hope is at the heart of the Christian message. The Holy Father continues this message as he challenges us to be "pilgrims of hope" in a world that often finds itself overshadowed by uncertainty and despair. This is precisely one means for us to be Missionaries of Hope.

The World Mission Sunday Collection in the Diocese of Venice in Florida will take place on the weekend of **October 18 & 19, 2025**. Your generosity supports the Pope's mission in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young and struggling, bringing hope through the building of churches, formation of seminarians and religious sisters, healthcare clinics and Catholic schools. Thank you for your kind response to the call of Pope Leo XIV and your prayers!

I take this opportunity to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida



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