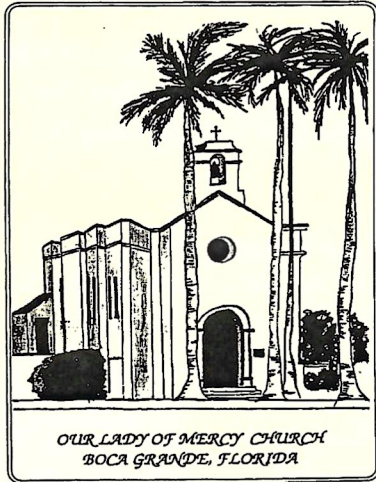




OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

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

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.

Luke 18:1

In our parable for today, we have witnesses of a widow who came to a dishonest judge and continuously begged him for a just judgment. Though the judge did not care about the woman, he eventually rendered a just decision for her because she was so persistent. It's interesting that Jesus used the image of a "dishonest judge" to teach us about persistent prayers being answered. He does so because He wants us to understand that if even those who are dishonest respond to persistence, then so much more will the Just Judge of Heaven respond to persistence.



Will God answer any prayer we pray if we offer that prayer day and night, day after day without fail? Does God eventually give into our requests as a parent might give into a child who keeps begging for something? Not exactly. One of the most important qualifiers mentioned in this parable is the word "just." We read that the woman's plea before the judge was, "render a just decision for me..." At the conclusion of the parable, Jesus gives this interpretation: "Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?" When we pray, we ought not pray for whatever we want. We ought not pray for our preference, selfish desires, or our own ideas. We must pray only for the justice of God. When we do so with unwavering perseverance, God will secure our rights and bring forth His justice.

Justice, in the mind of God, is not only about righting certain wrongs. The prime example of this is the death of our Lord Himself. Clearly, Jesus was purely innocent and yet He suffered greatly. For that reason, would we conclude that the suffering and death of the Son of God was an injustice? Not really. The reason for this is that justice can be achieved best by mercy. Because Jesus embraced the injustice of His suffering and death and turned it into a free embrace out of love, this "injustice" became a sacrifice of love by which an abundance of mercy was bestowed. Jesus had every right to call down fire from Heaven and to destroy those who sinned against Him. But He had a far better plan. Instead, by choosing to accept the injustice of the Cross, and by freely embracing it with His own will, the injustice was transformed and a far greater good came forth.

In our own lives, whenever we are wronged by another, we are often tempted to anger and to desire revenge in the name of justice. We want them to pay for what they did. If you ever feel that way, know that the greatest form of justice is mercy. Know that your free embrace of injustice brings forth the transforming power of God in a way that punishment or retribution could never accomplish. This is the form of justice we must pray for night and day. We must beg God for the ability to accept all sufferings with love, to offer those sufferings as a sacrifice, and to allow them to be transformed into mercy. If this is our persistent prayer, we can be certain that our prayer will be answered.

Reflect, today, upon anything for which we desire justice. Is there anything that has been unfair in our life? Do we dwell upon any hurt inflicted upon us by another? As we call those things to mind, know that the power of our persistent prayer has the potential to transform those sufferings into God's mercy. Beg for this gift and know that God will always answer those prayers. Amen.

Our Lady of Mercy TV MASS TAPING: 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 it is streamed throughout the world. This is an important 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 and that we share in their suffering and that our prayers are for their healing and that the Eucharist gives us that hope. Amen.



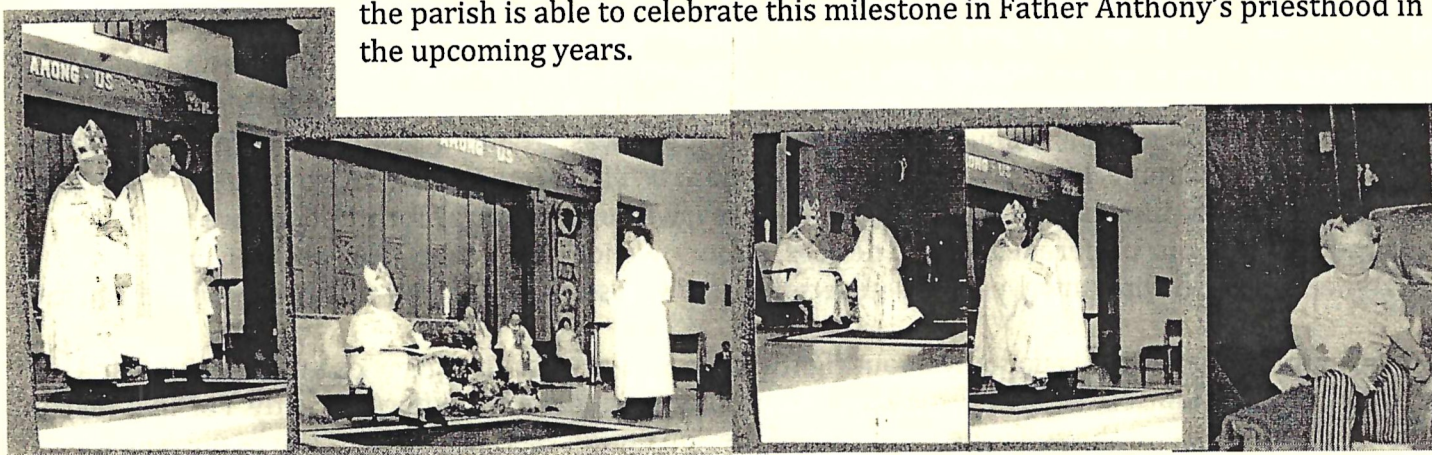
SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Envelopes are at the entrance of the church next to the piano.

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.

Happy 26th Anniversary Father Anthony

On Wednesday, October 22, Father Anthony will celebrate his 26th anniversary of ordination to the sacred priesthood. Please continue to pray for all priests that they will be good and merciful shepherds. Hopefully the parish is able to celebrate this milestone in Father Anthony's priesthood in the upcoming years.



Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

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