



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL Pastor

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(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 am
Monday – Friday	8:00 am
Tuesday Adoration	Suspended for the Summer
First Saturday Anointing	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance	Call the parish office
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

September 27, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years the Catholic Church has been, and remains, at the forefront in speaking out on the issue of the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death. The Church speaks for those who have no voice of their own, such as the unborn. In today's society, the issues concerning the sanctity and dignity of human life have become increasingly complex.

However, in this time of great division, and especially in the time of an election year, it is critically important to remember that shaping the moral character of society is a responsibility of people of faith. It is ongoing and is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ. Christians are called to be the light of the world!

The first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. **During the weekend of October 5 and 6, 2024**, Parishes across the Diocese of Venice in Florida will conduct a special collection to enhance the Diocesan Respect Life Office's affirming work. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this annual collection so that the Diocesan Respect Life Outreach can be expanded.

Please continue to pray for a greater appreciation of the sacredness of all human life. May God bless you with a deep appreciation for the gift of life and the courage to defend the sanctity of life. Let us remain united in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Next weekend Respect Life Second Collection

Respect Life Items of Interest

The below link will take you to the Diocese of Venice website where you can view videos on Amendment 4

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/respect-life/amendment4/>

Vote No on Amendment 3! - Much has been shared about defeating Amendment 4, the dangerous pro-abortion amendment which will appear on the Florida ballot this fall. It is asked that all Parishes continue to share information about *Why Vote No on Amendment 4* until Election Day. However, **Amendment 3**, which proposes the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana in Florida, is also critical. The Florida Bishops issued a statement ([here](#)) encouraging all Floridians to vote no on this amendment. In order to facilitate the sharing of information about Amendment 3, a number of bulletin ads have been created for your use to encourage its defeat and can be found [here](#). Please share this information with your parishioners weekly, from now until Election Day. Vote No on Amendments 3 & 4!

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship / Civilize It - As the 2024 Election draws closer, you are urged to utilize the various resources related to the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*. *Forming Consciences* offers an opportunity to form one's conscience in light of Catholic teaching and the issues of our current time. View important excerpts from the guide on video here: [youtube.com/watch?v=2L](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L).

Statewide Culture of Life Conference - Registration is now open for the 2024 Statewide Culture of Life Conference hosted by the Diocese of Orlando on October 18 and October 19 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. See cflcc.org/culture-of-l for the lineup of speakers, hotel accommodations and registration. For questions or further information contact Jeanne Berdeaux, Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-374-1068.

Red Mass - The 16th Annual Red Mass will be celebrated by Most Rev. Frank Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice at 5:30 p.m., October 22, at St. Martha Catholic Church, 200 N. Orange Avenue in Sarasota. Judges, lawyers, lawmakers, their families and staff are cordially invited to attend. A reception hosted by the Planning Committee of the Catholic Lawyers Guild will follow in the Fr. Fausto Parish Hall. Please send RSVPs before October 11 for the Red Mass and/or reception to Tina Mroczkowski at 941-366-5510 or tinam@bowmangeorge.com.