



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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Gospel of Luke Reflection

And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." Luke 16:8

These lines conclude the Parable of the Dishonest Steward. At that time, there was a Palastinian custom in which agents acted on behalf of a wealthier master's money, making loans and obtaining them back with interest. It is similar to our modern banking system. The problem presented in this parable was that the steward was dishonest, skimming some of the profits for himself. As a result, the master told the steward to get his financial affairs in order because he was going to fire him. The shrewd steward, acting on the authority he still had for the moment, then went forth and reduced the debt of each of his master's debtors so as to win favor with each of them so that he could do business with them after he was fired by his master.



Obviously, Jesus does not tell this parable because He approves of dishonest and shrewd deception in business practices. Instead, He tells it to illustrate the fact that many people who are motivated by selfishness and worldly goals use the natural gift of prudence with much more zeal than many of the "children of light."

Think about our goals in life. If we were to make a list of our goals, what would it look like? And if we were to order that list according to the importance of those goals, what would be first? Hopefully, on the top of that list, we would have as our primary goal the love, service and glory of God. In the end, that is all that matters in life. Every other goal in life will fall into place when that is our central goal.

However, if we were to order our list according to how much time, energy and prudence we put into each endeavor, how would it look? Would it look different? Most likely. Many people go about their lives putting a tremendous amount of time and effort into the passing things of this world. Many make their financial advancement the goal with which they spend the most time and energy. Others devote countless hours to hobbies, entertainment, home improvements, sports, and even

wasteful activities such as binging on television. When it comes to the practice of the faith, it is a rare person who devotes a significant amount of time and energy to daily prayer, studying the Scriptures, learning the Catechism, and studying the lives of the saints. Many experience Sunday Mass as a burden. Charitable service can become undesirable. Many rarely work at the proclamation of the Gospel.

Though it is true that much of our time might need to be devoted to the ordinary duties of life, such as making a living and caring for the home and family, it is also true that most people need to reorder their priorities by making sure that the will of God is the central mission of their lives. How is this best accomplished? It begins with the virtue of prudence. Prudence is both a natural virtue and a supernatural one. On a natural level, prudence is called the “mother of all virtues” because it is the quality by which every other virtue, all our time and energy, goals and ambitions are directed. Prudence is the act of vigorously using our minds to creatively and zealously work to achieve the most important goals in life. Supernatural prudence is a spiritual gift by which our natural abilities of prudence are infused with the grace of God, and we are better equipped to know how to accomplish God’s will for our lives.

Reflect, today, upon what our list would look like if we were to make it honestly. What do we spend the most time and energy doing? Even if we need to spend most of our time on the ordinary aspects of life, this becomes a holy endeavor when we do it because God is inspiring us to do so. In that case, even the ordinary becomes grace-filled and becomes a way by which we glorify God. The only way for us to know if we are using our time and energies properly is by being open to the gift of supernatural prudence. Pray for that gift today and ask our Lord to more directly order our life so that everything we do is for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

O.C.I.A.

Have you ever wanted to become a baptized Catholic? Missing the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Communion and you are an adult over the age of 18 then the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the parish program for you. Father Anthony will be instructing the catechumens (non-baptized) and candidates (baptized) this year leading up to the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday April 4, 2026, when the Sacraments of Initiation will be supplied. If you are interested in this, please email Father Anthony at Anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org and he will send you the registration form. Classes will begin on Saturday morning at 11:00 am in the PLC October 4, 2025.



Second Collection This Weekend for Humanitarian Aid in Gaza

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.

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