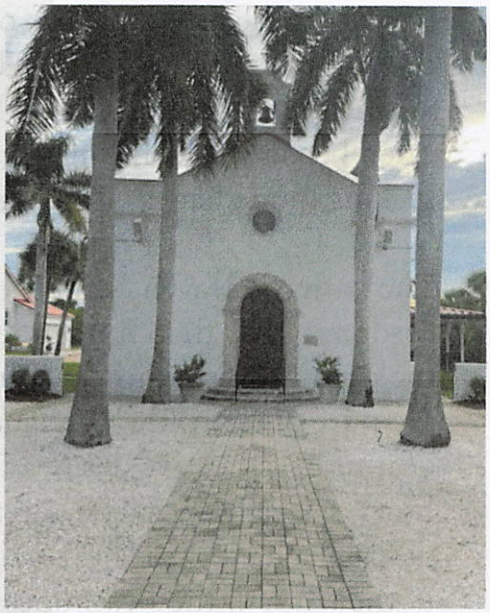
OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921
(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

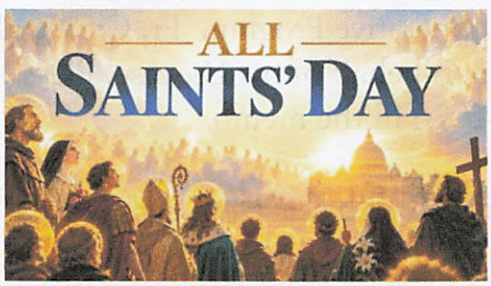
Saturday:	5:00 pm
Sunday:	9:00 & 10:30 am
Mon-Friday:	8:00 am
First Saturday Anointing:	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance:	By appointment
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church
Father Anthony email:	anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org
Office Hours, Monday – Friday:	8:00am-4:00 pm
Business Manager Erin Sifrit:	erin.sifrit@olomcc.org



SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Gospel of Matthew Reflection

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven..."
Matthew 5: 1–3



Do we want to go to Heaven? Most would instinctively respond, "Yes." But imagine an angel appearing to us today and saying, "The Most High God will be taking you to Heaven this very day." How would we react? Would our heart leap with joy? Or would a wave of fear wash over us as we realized everything in this world would be left behind? In truth, many struggle to look forward to Heaven with genuine longing. We may think of it from time to time, perhaps smile when recalling loved ones who have gone before us, presuming they are "in a better place." Yet few of us live with a desire that eagerly awaits Heaven as our true home.

Today, on the Solemnity of All Saints, the Church invites us to lift our eyes to the glorious communion of saints and angels. In Heaven, they behold the Beatific Vision, gazing with awe and love upon the Most Holy Trinity. They are fulfilled. Their hearts are open, receiving God's love in its fullness and returning it with perfect charity. This eternal exchange of love deepens their union with God in an everlasting ascent of glory. By God's mercy, if we are counted among the "few" who enter through the narrow gate (cf. Matthew 7:14), by walking the constricted road that leads to life, then, when this life is ended, we will immediately know that every act of prayer, sacrifice, and surrender was worth it. The beatific gaze upon God will fill us with such radiant joy that all earthly attachments will dissolve. We will see clearly how foolish it was to cling to the vanities of this world and will be eternally grateful that we strived to overcome them with diligence.

Riches, possessions, honors, and status will be gone. None of it will matter. All we will carry into

eternity is the love we lived—our love that was purified through suffering, tested by obedience, and offered as a sacrifice. This is divine charity, and its fruit will forever remain with us. All selfish love will be stripped away. Only what is of God will remain. Talk of Heaven can be jarring to some. We often become so consumed with the present moment that we see only this present moment, seeking immediate satisfaction or resenting current struggles. Living as if this life were all we have.

The path to Heaven challenges our natural instincts. Grace must elevate them, guiding us by divine wisdom rather than human reasoning. Today's Gospel reveals that wisdom: The truly blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers, and those persecuted for Christ. Do we desire this life of beatitude? Or do we desire a life of riches, fun, pride, judgment, condemnation, an indulgent heart, self-righteousness, and freedom from all suffering and persecution? If we struggle with desiring a life of true beatitude, then fall to our knees in prayer today. Beg God to open our heart to the truth of the Beatitudes that leads to heavenly glory. The path is narrow and few walk it. Resolve to be among those few. Read the Beatitudes slowly and ask, "Do we truly want to be counted among them?" If the answer is "Yes," then live today—and every day—with Heaven as our only goal. Amen.

Diocese of Bariadi, Tanzania

Next weekend, November 7-8, Fr. Cyril, a priest from the newly established Diocese of Bariadi, Tanzania will be here as part of the Diocese of Venice Mission Cooperative Program. Fr. Cyril will give the homily at all Masses, a second collection will be taken up on behalf of his Diocese. Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy with Mission Co-Op 2026 in the memo.

From Father Cyril: *I am writing to share with you some of the urgent needs of the new Diocese of Bariadi. As a newly established diocese, it is an area of primary evangelization facing several significant challenges:*

- Clean and Safe Water: A key priority is digging more wells to provide clean, safe water so community members no longer have to walk long miles in search of it.

- Education for Young Girls: Supporting education for young girls is critical, as it helps prevent early marriages to older men and protects them from FGM.

- Places of Worship and Pastoral Care: Most communities currently celebrate the Eucharist under trees or in private homes. There is a pressing need to build proper churches and train local catechists in the villages, given the small number of priests available to serve a large Catholic population.

These are just a few of the primary obstacles the new diocese is working to overcome.



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Faith Appeal 2026

Parish assessment this year is $144,000 (**$122,614.74 collected as of October 26**) Envelopes are available at the front of the church. Please make checks payable to the *Catholic Faith Appeal* and *in the memo write Our Lady of Mercy Parish* so that we receive proper credit for your donation. Every dollar given to the CFA helps us reach our goal. May God continue to bless our generous parish. We are hopeful that 100% of our Parish community will respond to the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal to successfully meet and perhaps exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal 2026, with a pledge or one-time gift.