

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Boca Grande, Florida

Father Anthony Hewitt, Pastor

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921

(941) 964 - 2254

Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday	By Appointment
Web address:	ourladyofmercy.church
OnlineGiving:	https://ourladyofmercy.church

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

February 14, ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

8:00 am and 5:00 pm

LENTEN **REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and **Good Friday**, March 29, 2024, are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is to continue until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday. **Note:** If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday at 10:00 am
Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 4:00 pm

At the entrance of the church there is a small booklet called **The Season for Healing Hearts** for use daily during Lent. Please take one per family and enjoy courtesy of a faithful parishioner.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AFTER THE SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Beginning on February 3, the First Saturday of month, and every First Saturday to follow, the anointing of the sick will be administered after the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass. The holy oil is for those who are not feeling well or those who might be going for surgery. Take this opportunity to receive this special sacrament when you can.

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2024

This weekend is the collection of donations to satisfy our commitment to the CFA. Our parish goal is **\$105,000**. Last year we surpassed our goal, and with the overage we were able to assist many catholic schools in the diocese who were unable to meet their financial budget. The CFA envelopes are located at the entrance of the church. We will have a **second collection today**. Please drop the completed envelope in the basket. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish and the ministries of the Diocese of Venice.

Commitment Weekend

February 10/11, 2024 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10:31—11:1 Mk 1:40-45

As we delve into the Gospel of Mark, we encounter a poignant moment in the ministry of Jesus—a leper approaches him, kneels down, and pleads, "If you wish, you can make me clean." In response, Jesus, moved with compassion, reaches out and touches the leper, saying, "I will; be clean." Immediately, the leprosy leaves him, and he is cleansed.

This story speaks volumes about the transformative power of compassion and the healing touch of Christ. It is a narrative that resonates deeply with the mission of our Catholic Faith Appeal. In this annual call to generosity, we are invited to extend the compassionate touch of Christ to those in our community who are in need, just as Jesus did with the leper.

The leper, considered an outcast, approached Jesus with faith and humility. In our community, there are those who may feel like spiritual or social outcasts, burdened by various challenges. Our contributions to the Catholic Faith Appeal provide an opportunity for us to reach out, just as Jesus did. Through our collective generosity, we become instruments of healing and hope. Notice the immediate response of the healed leper. He was told by Jesus to go and show himself to the priest, following the prescribed ritual for reintegration into the community. Similarly, our contributions to the Catholic Faith Appeal enable the Church to carry out its mission of reconciliation and inclusion. We become partners in restoring and uplifting those who may have been marginalized or forgotten.

The healed leper couldn't contain his joy; he began to proclaim the good news everywhere he went. Likewise, our support for the Catholic Faith Appeal is an opportunity for us to joyfully proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Our contributions enable the Church to continue its mission, spreading the message of hope and salvation to all corners of our community. May our generosity reflect the compassion of Christ, reaching out to those in need.

What the CFA donation supports:

The **Catholic Faith Appeal** helps to sustain many programs and apostolates in our Parishes. Some examples are preparing couples for marriage, providing the curriculum to educate both children and adults in our Faith, forming future priests, educating children in Catholic schools, and supporting religious sisters who serve in various roles.

ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

(Letter from Bishop Dewane)

January 30, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

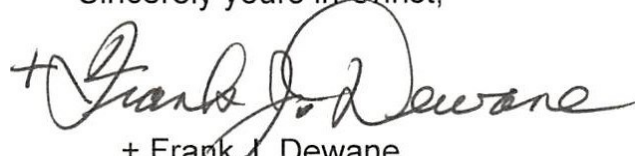
The special Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will take place on **Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024**. This annual collection supports projects in more than 25 countries which endured 70 years of communist oppression and occupation, and helps the Church accompany people to an encounter with Christ that is filled with hope.

Funds raised in this Collection go to restore Churches, and especially worship spaces. Further, help is given to form youth ministries and pastoral centers which enliven the faith of children and young people, and form disciples who help others encounter the Lord. Creative outreach and heroic acts of compassion are given to those in desperate need of assistance, including meals and emergency shelter for those fleeing war.

Participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses your care and support for the people and their families in this region. Please be generous, and may God continue to bless you for your generosity.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers on this Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of

Venice in Florida

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE-THE-DATE:

- March 1st - Fish Fry – Parish Life Center
- March 4th - Boca Grande Preschool – Beach Ball – Gasparilla Inn Beach Club
- April 12th – Barbecue – Parish Life Center

Parish Dinners – A Lenten Fish Fry is scheduled for Friday March 1st and a BBQ dinner is scheduled for April 12th. All parishioners are invited. Dinners will be from 5 to 7 PM in the Parish Life Center and will be catered by JT Turner. Water and sodas will be provided, BYOB. The cost will be \$45/person, cash or check accepted. Seating is limited to 120 per event and tickets will be available in advance ONLY. Tickets will be sold after masses two weeks prior to the event, and at the rectory on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or you can contact Sandy Hemm at 937-418-1881 or sandyhemm@yahoo.com. Volunteers needed for night of the event and to provide cookies/bars. To volunteer please contact Angela Steffan 941-855-1277 or aksteffan@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY

Please remember the food pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grove City. They are always in need of non-perishable (and unopened) food items. Please place donated items in the plastic bin under the table inside the church. To give you some helpful hints, they are in need of Peanut Butter, Pork & Beans, and 1 lb. bags of rice. Thank you for your continuous support.

OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE / JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST VIDEO SERIES

Jesus and the Eucharist is a seven-part video series in partnership with the Augustine Institute, the USCCB, and the National Eucharistic Congress. Learn more about the Jesus and the Eucharist Series and access the first video in English and Spanish (and many other video and audio resources) on the USCCB Learn Platform with the National Eucharistic Revival, web address: eucharisticrevival.org/jesus-and-the-eucharist?

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 24 at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice. Please contact the parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend. Our telephone number is 941-964-2254.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord of all, in this time of strife and suffering, we come before you with heavy hearts, seeking your divine intervention. We lift up to you the victims of the Holy Land conflict, asking for your mercy and healing touch.

Prince of Peace, grant solace to those who are in pain, strength to those who are weary and hope to those who are in despair. Let your guiding light shine upon all, that they may find a path to reconciliation and understanding.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, wrap your mantle of love around those who are suffering, and intercede for them before your Son. May your gentle compassion be a source of comfort and consolation. We implore you, O God, to inspire leaders and all involved to seek avenues of peace and dialogue. Soften hearts that are hardened by hatred and division and instill in them a desire for unity and harmony.

St. Francis of Assisi, patron of peace, pray for us. Help us to be instruments of your peace in this troubled world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.