



# **OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH**

## **Boca Grande, Florida**

Father Anthony Hewitt, Pastor

Mailing Address:

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

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### Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday	4:15 to 4:45

Online Giving <https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/>

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**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JULY 16, 2023**

### **WELCOME NEW PASTOR**

Fr. Anthony Hewitt begins his pastorate at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, beginning Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Father Hewitt was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Venice on October 22, 1999. Father served as Parochial Vicar at St. Andrew Parish in Cape Coral and St. Jude Parish in Sarasota, and since 2013, as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Fort Myers. Please give him a warm welcome and the support that he needs, including your prayers.

### **FROM A SERMON BY SAINT AUGUSTINE ON PSALM 51 WRITTEN BY KING DAVID**

*I acknowledge my transgression*, says King David. If I admit my fault, then you will pardon it. Let us never assume that if we live good lives we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon. But men are hopeless creatures, and the less they concentrate on their own sins, the more interested they become in the sins of others. They seek to criticize, not to correct. Unable to excuse themselves, they are ready to accuse others. This was not the way that David showed us how to pray and make amends to God, when he said: *I acknowledge my transgression, and my sin is ever before me*. He did not concentrate on others' sins; he turned his thoughts on himself. He did not merely stroke the surface, but he plunged inside and went deep down within himself. He did not spare himself, and therefore was not impudent in asking to be spared.

Do you want God to be appeased? Learn what you are to do that God may be pleased with you. Consider the psalm again: *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight*. Are you then to be without sacrifice? Are you to offer nothing? Will you please God without an offering? Consider what you read in the same psalm: *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight*. But continue to listen and say with David: *A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart*. Cast aside your former offerings, for now you have found out what you are to offer. In the days of your fathers, you would have made offerings of cattle – these were the sacrifices. *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it*. These then, Lord, you do not want, and yet you do want sacrifice.

*You will take no delight in burnt offerings, David says. If you will not take delight in burnt offerings, will you remain without sacrifice? Not at all. A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart.*

You now have the offering you are to make. No need to examine the herd, no need to outfit ships and travel to the most remote provinces in search of incense. Search within your heart for what is pleasing to God. Your heart must be crushed. Are you afraid that it might perish so? You have the reply: *Create a clean heart in me, O God.* For a clean heart to be created, the unclean one must be crushed.

We should be displeased with ourselves when we commit sin, for sin is displeasing to God. Sinful though we are, let us at least be like God in this, that we are displeased at what displeases him. In some measure then you will be in harmony with God's will, because you find displeasing in yourself what is abhorrent to your Creator.

### **PRAYER FOR SAFETY IN HURRICANE SEASON**

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.  
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.  
You are still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control:  
the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father.  
Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

### **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 take advantage of those BOGO (buy one get one free) items at the local grocery stores. Please place donated items in the plastic bin under the table inside the church.