



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:

Monday-Friday

8:00 A.M.

Saturday Vigil

5:00 P.M.

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Parish website address:

ourladyofmercy.church

OnlineGiving:

<https://ourladyofmercy.church>

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 10:00 am

Stations of the Cross on **Friday** at 4:00 pm

Individual Confessions by appointment. Email the parish at [**Anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org**](mailto:Anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org)

Third Sunday of Lent reflection: It is comforting to know that even in our sinfulness, we cannot and will not stop God's redemptive work in us and in our world. Of course, we always have free will, but God's grace unfailingly abounds. When has our life resembled a crooked line? When did God's steadfastness and love gently straighten those lines, bringing us back into harmony with God's plan for our life? Spend some time today savoring those times in our past and the gratitude that flows in response.

Parish CFA goal \$105,000.

The **CFA** Catholic Faith Appeal Donations in action throughout the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Your gift to the Catholic Faith Appeal supports the Office of Youth and Young Adult Outreach which strives to motivate young people to grow closer to Jesus Christ and His Church by providing guidance to Parish-based youth programs and organizing Diocesan-wide events and pilgrimages. This outreach offers annual training opportunities for adults working with teens as well as initiatives for evangelizing our youth.

AN INVITATION FROM SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

My Dear Friends in Christ,

On many occasions we have parishioners wondering and worrying about some very important questions regarding their futures. Questions like:

Who will make my healthcare and financial decisions when I cannot speak for myself?

How do I make healthcare and financial decisions for a loved one?

What will happen to my assets after I die?

What will happen to my Parish, program or ministry after I am gone?

Do I want the government making these decisions for me?

If you and your family members do not know the answers to these questions, I encourage you to attend the free upcoming Life Planning Seminar entitled "Planning for Tomorrow," on **Thursday, March 7 at 10AM.**

Our Lady of Mercy has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida to provide you with the crucial information you need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for yourself and/or a loved one.

Please know that this seminar is completely free and is not intended to sell you anything or to ask you to make a donation. It is only intended to provide you with important information and to help answer your questions. Details can be found in the bulletin.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Michael Morse, Director of Southwest Community Catholic Foundation

SECOND COLLECTION MARCH 9/10

February 23, 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice will soon take up the yearly collection in support of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**. During the Season of Lent, it is time to consider the Gospel's call to serve the poor and vulnerable.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection funds Catholic agencies whose programs help families suffering from war, famine, extreme poverty, and environmental destruction. CRS programs that focus on environmental destruction include rehabilitating water systems, building water access points, and delivering feed supplements for livestock affected by lack of water and pasture. In addition, families are taught how food hygiene and gardening skills will grow nutrient-rich foods year-round and lower the risk of food borne diseases. Millions of people living in places affected by soil depletion and drought have benefited from these life-giving programs.

The CRS Collection in the Diocese of Venice will take place the weekend of **March 9 and 10, 2024**. Please consider generously supporting this meaningful and vital collection. Your contribution can have a lifesaving, positive impact on the lives of people affected by natural disaster and poverty throughout the world. Won't you help?

I take this opportunity to assure you and your family of my continued consideration as well as my prayers during this Lenten Season. Thank you for the good that you do for others!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

DIOCESE OF VENICE EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

All are invited to attend the Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Conference on **Saturday, March 16**, at Bishop Verot Catholic High School, 5598 Sunrise Drive, Fort Myers. This effort, in support of the Church's National Eucharistic Revival to place an emphasis on the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist, will be an all-day event of faith and fellowship, featuring inspirational Catholic speakers, including nationally acclaimed Catholic speaker and author Steven Ray, Crystalina Evert, Kathia Aranga, Father Elvis Gonzalez, and Tim Glemkowski. English and Spanish sessions will be offered.

The day will include the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as well as adoration, and confessions. Promotion of this important Diocesan Eucharistic event is encouraged. For more information, please contact Jim Gontis at gontis@dioceseofvenice.org. To register go to dioceseseofvenice.org/eu Registration deadline is March 12.

HOLY CHRISM MASS – EPIPHANY CATHEDRAL

The Chrism Mass, which takes place during Holy Week every year, will be held at 10:30 a.m., **Tuesday, March 26** at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Ave. W., in Venice. During this Mass, Bishop Frank J. Dewane will bless the Holy Oils which are used in the administration of the Sacraments at each parish throughout the year. Priests and Deacons celebrating 25 and 50 years of Ordination are recognized at this Mass. **Fr. Anthony, our Pastor, will be celebrating his 25th year of ordination.** All are encouraged to attend in support of our clergy and to participate in this important Holy Week celebration.

UPCOMING EVENT – SAVE-THE-DATE:

- April 12th – Barbecue – Parish Life Center

Parish Dinner – The last parish dinner for the season is a BBQ dinner 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 the masses each Sunday 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.

PRAY TO DEFEAT FLORIDA'S ABORTION AMENDMENT

The political committee behind a proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize abortion up until birth in Florida has surpassed the petition signature requirement for placement on the November 2024 ballot. For ballot placement to be confirmed, the amendment language must be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court to ensure it is clear and limited to a single subject. In her brief to the Court, the attorney general urged the justices to reject the proposal, identifying several terms in the amendment language that are not clearly defined and could mislead voters.

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) also filed a legal brief in opposition to the amendment. The FCCB's brief argued that the proposed ballot title is misleading. The title states that the amendment "limits" government interference with abortion when the text of the amendment itself actually prohibits all regulation before viability.

The ballot language also fails to advise voters that the amendment would largely prohibit the state's oversight of abortion clinics and provide fair notice of its impact on existing legal protections for women and children.

JOB OPENING AT OUR LADY OF MERCY

Our Lady of Mercy is looking to hire a part-time experienced individual with an accounting background as Accounting Assistant. This position serves an Accounting Assistant under the direction of the Pastor. This position will handle various aspects of recordkeeping and administrative work both financial and non-financial. A degree in Accounting or Business is preferred and / or possess comparable experience of at least 5 yrs.

You can visit the Diocese's website: dioceseofvenice.org > click the "employment" tab at very bottom of page and that takes you out to the career site. Click on "City" Boca Grande. The website will give you full details of overview, description, and requirements.

You may also send resume, and cover letter with salary objective to Rev Anthony Hewitt at anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org and reference "Accounting Assistant" or mail directly to Rev. Anthony Hewitt, Post Office Box 181, Boca Grande, FL 33921