



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:

Monday-Friday	8:00 am
Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 am
Tuesday Adoration	10:00 am
First Saturday Anointing	After 5:00 pm vigil
Sacrament of Penance call the parish office for appointment.	
Parish website address:	ourladyofmercy.church
Online Giving:	ourladyofmercy.church

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024

Jesus' fundamental command is mutual love. This stems from Jesus' love of the disciples, which in turn flows from the Father's love of His Son. Indeed, the specific model of such love is the death of Jesus. But far from being a purely personal acquisition, the love of God looks to others. "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit..." For John, believers spread God's Word. In loving spouse, family, and friends, the Catholic reveals a dimension of God's love. In loving enemies and foes, the Christian reflects an even deeper insight into God's love. In reaching out to the homeless and distraught, the Catholic shares yet another aspect of God's love. In pursuing justice and honesty, the Catholic once again offers a perception of God's love. In these and similar instances believers are one with God in this love.

Believers are God's Word.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** takes place the First Saturday after the Vigil Mass.

Parish CFA goal \$105,000 (\$94,589.58 raised so far).

The **CFA** Catholic Faith Appeal Donations in action throughout the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Our Parish community is hopeful that 100% of our registered households will respond to the 2024 Catholic Faith Appeal. With the support of our Parish community, we will successfully meet and possibly exceed our goal. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal with a pledge or one-time gift as your means allow. Your support is much needed and will be greatly appreciated! For those who are returning to homes outside of Florida we will miss you and look forward to your return soon. **Please continue to give to the parish through the CFA while you are away so that we can give generously to the schools in our diocese that desperately need our help. We also have online giving and the website for our parish is in the heading of this bulletin. May God continue to bless all of us and our parish.**

Parish Accountant Needed

Chris, our parish accountant, has retired and we are looking to hire her replacement. It is a part time job, in a pastoral setting with the added benefit of working for the glory of God and His Church. Contact Fr. Anthony at anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org. Please pray that we fill this important position in the administration of the church. Have a blessed Easter Season.

May 10: Saint John of Ávila, Priest, and Doctor of the Church—Optional Memorial

1499–1569 Patron Saint of Spanish priests

Canonized by Pope Paul VI on May 31, 1970

Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI on October 7, 2012

I know of nothing better than to meditate on the fact that our Lord, with Whom we are to treat, is both God and man, and to think over the reasons for which He comes down upon the altar.

Surely such a stroke of love should be enough to awaken anyone from the slumber of indifference. Let such a one reflect upon this Mystery and say to himself: “It is God Almighty Who will come down upon the altar at the words of Consecration: I shall hold Him in my hands, and converse with Him, and receive Him into my breast.” If only we remember this, and if, by the help of God’s Holy Spirit, it penetrate our soul, it will suffice, and more than suffice, to enable us, frail mortals as we are, to perform this sacred duty as we ought. ~Letter to a priest on preparation for Mass, Saint John of Ávila

Though today’s saint bears the name of Ávila, that was simply his name, not where he was from. John of Ávila was born in the town of Almodóvar del Campo, Spain, less than a decade after Spain was liberated from almost 800 years of Muslim rule. He was an only child born later in life to his parents who had struggled to conceive. His noble, wealthy, and devout parents attributed John’s birth to the intercession of Saint Bridget of Sweden. Notably, John was born on the Feast of the Epiphany.

At the age of fourteen, John was sent to study law at the renowned University of Salamanca, but he never completed his law degree. After four years of study, John had a profound conversion experience, after which he returned to his parents’ home for a three-year period of prayer and discernment. During that time, John began to hear God calling him to the priesthood. He sought spiritual advice from a Franciscan friar who told John that he believed him to be called to the priesthood and that he must go. That spiritual advice confirmed John’s interior calling, and in 1520 he began his theological studies.

While in seminary, John was blessed with excellent teachers who were well versed in the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas. John was smart, a good student, and very devout, especially regarding the Holy Eucharist. When John returned home in 1526, he was ordained a priest and celebrated his first Mass in his home parish.

Safe Environment Training - 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 Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit dioceseofvenice.org for further information. 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, also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.