



# **OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH**

## **Boca Grande, Florida**

Father Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor

Mailing Address:

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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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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 7, 2023**

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

At the 9:00 AM mass this morning, two of our young parishioners will be receiving their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to William Cross, and Henry Francis Hahn. We pray that these children will grow in their appreciation for this great gift of the Eucharist and will continue to mature in their love of Jesus and their Catholic Faith. Our deep gratitude to Ainslye Gilligan, their religious education teacher, for her weekly instruction of these boys as she prepared them to receive First Penance and First Eucharist. They will complete their Christian initiation some years from now when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### **PARISH WEBSITE**

Our Lady of Mercy Church has launched its own personal website; URL: <http://ourladyofmercy.church>  
Please note that the website includes provision for parish donations to be made online.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

For our parishioners who are cleaning out their food pantry before going north, 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.

### **SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL FLORIDA CATHOLIC**

The Florida Catholic e-Edition is FREE! Keep up to date on the latest news from across the Diocese of Venice by signing up now for the weekly digital paper at <https://dioceseofvenice.org/news/>. The Florida Catholic also includes Catholic news from Florida, the U.S., and the Vatican.

### **NEW SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Beginning today, Sunday, the 8:00 A.M. mass is discontinued, and mass will be celebrated at 9:00 and 10:30 A.M. Live streaming of mass into the Parish Life Center is also discontinued.

### **BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Congratulations to Margaret and Joe Frisella on the baptism of their infant daughter, Rosalie. Rosalie was baptized at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Rosalie is the newest and youngest member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

## **CARLO ACUTIS, APOSTLE OF THE EUCHARIST**

A 15-year-old Italian, touted as the “patron saint of the internet,” who died of leukemia in 2006 moved a step closer to possible sainthood with his beatification in the town of Assisi, where he is buried. “Carlo used the internet in service of the Gospel, to reach as many people as possible.” **To spread devotion to the Eucharist, he created a worldwide website of 153 Eucharistic miracles.** He saw the web “as a place to use with responsibility, without becoming enslaved.”

**Acutis was born in London on May 3, 1991,** to Italian parents and moved to Milan as a child. Acutis' mother, Antonia, doesn't know how Carlo came to love Jesus. He had been baptized as a baby, but the family didn't practice the Faith. Perhaps it was their Polish nanny who told Carlo about Jesus. Regardless of the source, Carlo had a deep love for Jesus even as a preschooler, asking his bemused mother if they could stop in to see Jesus when they walked past churches in their Milan neighborhood — and even insisting on taking flowers to place at the feet of the Blessed Mother. His curiosity prompted her to study theology in order to answer his questions, renewing her own faith. “Carlo saved me. I was an illiterate of the faith. Otherwise, I would have failed in my parental responsibility. It is a path that continues. I hope to at least wind up in purgatory,” she said.

After receiving his First Communion, Carlo had begun to lament the many people who don't go to Mass. **“They'll stand in line for hours to go to a concert,”** he would say, **“but won't stay even a moment before the tabernacle.”** Eager to do something to draw souls to Jesus, young Carlo began to research **Eucharistic miracles.** He was convinced that people wouldn't be able to stay away from the Holy Mass if they knew about the miracles. So, Carlo began to research, dragging his parents from one shrine to another in order to take pictures for the website he was building.

Through all this, every day: Mass, the Rosary, silent time before the tabernacle. **“The Eucharist is my highway to heaven,”** he would say, and nothing could get between him and his daily appointment with the Lord. **“The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus,”** Carlo said, reminiscent of St. Augustine's statement, **“We become that which we receive,”** with reference to receiving the Eucharist. His motto was, **“Jesus is my great friend and the Eucharist my highway to heaven.”**

Like most teenagers, Carlo loved to play computer games; his favorite being Pokémon. He loved to play soccer, go hiking, listen to contemporary music and, to do fun things like silly animations or videos of his dogs.

He was a remarkable young man, but ordinary: he had no visions, he didn't levitate when he prayed, he just lived like heaven was real. He was completely himself, video games and computer programming and all, but entirely Christ's. On his website, Carlo wrote a list of instructions for becoming holy, encouraging people to go to Mass daily and confession. But his very first rule for becoming holy was this: “You must want it with all your heart.”

Carlo was no computer geek closeted in a back bedroom. For all his technological skill, Carlo was a friendly, outgoing kid. He was so friendly that his family was reluctant to go on walks with him; Carlo knew everybody, it seemed, and couldn't help but stop to talk to every person he passed. He had a sensitive heart and was always looking out for those who were suffering: classmates whose parents were going through a divorce, kids who were being bullied.

“We have always been awaited in heaven,” he said, and throughout his life his eyes were fixed on eternity. So, when, at 15, he went to the hospital with the flu and was diagnosed instead with an acute and untreatable leukemia, Carlo wasn't upset. He was ready to go home. “I can die happy,” he told his mother, “because I haven't wasted even a minute on things that aren't pleasing to God.” Within three days, Carlo Acutis was dead, October 12, 2006. He was buried in his track suit and sneakers in Assisi. **He was beatified on October 10, 2020,** in Assisi, with 40,000 youth present.