



# **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:

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|-------------------------|---|
| 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:            | <a href="http://ourladyofmercy.church">ourladyofmercy.church</a>          |
| OnlineGiving:           | <a href="https://ourladyofmercy.church">https://ourladyofmercy.church</a> |

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**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

### **NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Dear People of God,

**Holy Hour is every Tuesday at 10:00 am.** We will start with Exposition of the Blessed Eucharist, then silent adoration, and ending with Benediction at 11:00 am. This is a beautiful opportunity to spend time before our Lord and to offer prayers for our needs. It is my hope that we pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life during this time with Jesus, as well as the renewal of Church in the Eucharist the world over. May this time before Jesus bring us grace and healing. Prayers of Adoration may be found on the table in back of church.

*Father Anthony*

### **ALL SOULS INTENTION ENVELOPES**

During the month of November, the church remembers those loved ones who have gone before us in death marked with the sign of faith. The All-Souls envelopes are available in your envelope packets and on the table at the entrance to the church. List the names of family and friends you would like to have remembered by the priest at all the Masses in November. The envelopes can be put in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office. May the angels lead our loved ones into paradise.

### **REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Let us pray for our deceased families and friends during this month of November that they may be supported by our prayers and the prayers of their loved ones:  
especially our recently deceased this past year: Jerome Rose, Ann Keefe, and Kenneth Berry.

### **PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH**

(Commentary from Pope Francis)

Today's Gospel passage (cf. Mt 23:1-12) is set in the final days of Jesus' life, in Jerusalem; days filled with expectations and also tension. On the one hand, Jesus directs harsh criticism at the scribes and Pharisees, and on the other, he entrusts important mandates to Christians of all times, thus also to us. He says to the crowd: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so, practice and observe whatever they tell you." Meaning that they have the authority to teach what is in conformity with the Law of God.

However, immediately after, Jesus adds: “but do not do ‘what they do; for they preach, but do not practice’” (vv. 2-3).

Brothers and sisters, a frequent flaw of those in authority, whether civil or ecclesiastic authority, is that of demanding of other things — even righteous things — that they do not, however, put into practice in the first person. They live a double life. Jesus says: “They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger (v. 4). This attitude sets a bad example of authority, which should instead derive its primary strength precisely from setting a good example.

Authority arises from a good example, so as to help others to practice what is right and proper, sustaining them in the trials that they meet on the right path. Authority is a help, but if it is wrongly exercised, it becomes oppressive; it does not allow people to grow, and creates a climate of distrust and hostility, and also leads to corruption.

Jesus openly denounces some of the negative conduct of the scribes and of some Pharisees: “they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the marketplaces” (vv. 6-7). This is a temptation that corresponds to human pride and that is not always easy to overcome. It is the attitude of living only for appearances.

Then Jesus entrusts the mandates to his disciples: “you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. [...] Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant” (vv. 8-11).

We disciples of Jesus must not seek titles of honor, of authority or supremacy. I tell you; it pains me personally to see people who, psychologically, live in pursuit of vain accolades. We disciples of Jesus must not do this, because among ourselves there must be a simple and fraternal attitude. We are all brothers and sisters and in no way must we abuse others or look down on them. No. We are all brothers and sisters. If we have received talents from the heavenly Father, we must place them at the service of our brothers and sisters, and not exploit them for our own satisfaction and personal interests. We must not consider ourselves superior to others; modesty is essential for an existence that seeks to conform to the teaching of Jesus, who is meek and humble of heart and came not to be served but to serve.

### **CELEBRATE FATHER CAROSELLA**

All are invited to a celebration of Father Carosella’s 60th ordination anniversary, 85th Birthday, and to honor 35 years of service as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy church. An Italian dinner is planned in the **Parish Life Center on November 17th from 5:00 until 7:00pm**. There is a \$40 charge that includes drinks. Please RSVP to Ken Parker by November 12th, [kbparker45@gmail.com](mailto:kbparker45@gmail.com) or 813-760-8968. Volunteers needed for setup, cleanup, signing, or hostess during the event. Ken Parker will collect volunteer names at time of sign-up.

### **OUR ANNUAL SHOE BOX**

As is our custom each year, we have placed a shoe box on the table in the rear of the church for donations for Christmas gifts to the children of the migrant families of St. Paul’s Parish of Arcadia. Please make checks out to: Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. Do not make check out to Our Lady of Mercy. Thank you for your generous support.