



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Boca Grande, Florida

Father Anthony Hewitt, Pastor

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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	By Appointment
Web address:	ourladyofmercy.church
OnlineGiving:	https://ourladyofmercy.church

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

My dear parishioners,

On Thursday, **Thanksgiving Day**, we will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am. I hope you will have a blessed day of giving thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist and for the gift of family and friends. May your day be filled with grace.

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.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21: THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. A church was built there in honor of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church. As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. In what is recognized as an unhistorical account, the *Protoevangelium of James* tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old.

This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond. It is sometimes difficult for modern Westerners to appreciate a feast like this. The Eastern Church, however, was quite open to this feast and even somewhat insistent about celebrating it. Even though the feast has no basis in history, it stresses an important truth about Mary: From the beginning of her life, she was dedicated to God.

She herself became a greater temple than any made by hands. God came to dwell in her in a marvelous manner and sanctified her for her unique role in God's saving work. At the same time, the magnificence of Mary enriches her children. They—we—too are temples of God and sanctified in order that we might enjoy and share in God's saving work.

Some ways to pray before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration

Taken from the Lay Cistercians *Published July 19, 2022*

The Blessed Sacrament is one of the most important symbols of the Catholic faith. For us, it is not just a representation of Christ's sacrifice. Rather, it is the body and blood of Christ Himself which He shed for us to attain eternal life.

As such, as Catholics, praying to the Blessed Sacrament is not just a mere religious act. It's our way of getting closer to Christ. Through the consecrated bread and wine, we not only remember His ultimate sacrifice but also celebrate His presence in the Eucharist.

So, if you want to start a Eucharistic devotion, here are the prayers before the Blessed Sacrament:

A Prayer of Faith in the Divine Eucharist

I believe in my heart and openly profess that the bread and wine which are placed upon the altar are by the mystery of the sacred prayer and the words of the Redeemer substantially changed into the true and life-giving Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ Our Lord and after the Consecration, there is present the true Body of Christ which was born of the Virgin Mary and offered up for the salvation of the world, hung upon the Cross, and now sits at the right hand of the Father and there is present the true Blood of Christ which flowed from his side. They are present not only by means of a sign and of the efficacy of the Sacrament, but also in the very reality and truth of their nature and substance. Amen.

Prayer in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

I adore You, Bread from Heaven.

I adore You, Bread of Angels.

I adore You, My Jesus,

truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

(Pause for silent adoration.)

I adore You, Jesus, my true life
because You died for love of me.

I adore You, Jesus, Divine Light because
You show me the way to heaven.

I adore You, Jesus, Divine Lamb,

Who takes away the sin of the world.

(Pause for silent adoration.)

My God and Savior Jesus Christ,

true God and true Man,

I firmly believe that You are really and bodily

present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

From the very depths of my heart, I adore You.

(Pause for silent adoration.)

St. Alphonsus de Liguori Prayer for a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament:

My Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love which You bear us,
remain night and day in this Sacrament full of compassion and love,

awaiting, calling, and welcoming all who come to visit You,

I believe that You are present in the Sacrament of the Altar.

I adore You from the abyss of my nothingness,

and I thank You for all the graces which You have bestowed upon me

and in particular for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament,

for having given me Your most holy Mother Mary as my Advocate,

and for having called me to visit You in this church.
I now salute Your most loving Heart;
and this for three ends: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift;
secondly, to make amends to You for all the outrages
which You receive in this Sacrament from all Your enemies;
thirdly, I intend by this visit to adore You in all the places on earth
in which You are present in this Sacrament
and in which You are the least reserved and the most abandoned.
My Jesus, I love You with all my heart.
I grieve for having hitherto so many times offended Your infinite goodness.
I purpose by Your grace never more to offend You for the time to come.
And now, miserable, and unworthy though I be,
I consecrate myself to You without reserve;
I give You renounce my entire will, affections, my desires, and all that I possess.
Henceforward, dispose of me and of all that I have as You please.
All that I ask of You and desire is Your holy love, final perseverance
and the perfect accomplishment of Your will.
I recommend to You the souls in Purgatory,
and especially those who had the greatest devotion
to the most Blessed Sacrament, and to the most Blessed Virgin Mary.
I also recommend to You all poor sinners.
Finally, my dear Savior, I unite all my affections
with the affections of Your most loving Heart,
and I offer them, thus united, to Your Eternal Father,
and beseech Him in Your name to vouchsafe for Your
love, to accept and grant them.
Amen.

Prayer Before the Reception of the Eucharist:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who according to the will of the Father and with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit hast by Thy death given life unto the world, I adore and revere this Thy holy Body and this Thy holy Blood which was given over and poured forth for the many unto the remission of sins. O merciful Lord, I beg of Thy mercy that through the power of this sacrament Thou wilt make me one of that many. Through faith and love make me feel the power of these sacraments so I may experience their saving power. Absolve and free from all sin and punishment of sin Thy servants, Thy handmaidens, myself, all who have confessed their sins to me, those whom I have promised or am obliged to pray for, and so too those who themselves hope or beg to be helped by my prayers with Thee. Make our Church rejoice in Thy constant protection and consolation. Amen.

*O sacred Banquet,
wherein Christ is received;
the memory of His Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
and the pledge of future glory is given unto us.*

Short Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament:

I adore you Jesus, true God, and true man, present in the Holy Eucharist, kneeling before you and united in spirit with all the faithful on earth and all the saints in heaven. In gratitude for so great a blessing, I love you with all my heart, for you are worthy of all praise and adoration. Lord Jesus Christ, may I never offend you with my lack of love. May your Eucharistic presence refresh me in body and soul. Mary, Mother of the Eucharistic Lord, pray for me and obtain for me a greater love for Jesus. Amen.

Prayer for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God, and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord of all, in this time of strife and suffering, we come before you with heavy hearts, seeking your divine intervention. We lift up to you the victims of the Holy Land conflict, asking for your mercy and healing touch.

Prince of Peace, grant solace to those who are in pain, strength to those who are weary and hope to those who are in despair. Let your guiding light shine upon all, that they may find a path to reconciliation and understanding.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, wrap your mantle of love around those who are suffering, and intercede for them before your Son. May your gentle compassion be a source of comfort and consolation. We implore you, O God, to inspire leaders and all involved to seek avenues of peace and dialogue. Soften hearts that are hardened by hatred and division and instill in them a desire for unity and harmony.

St. Francis of Assisi, patron of peace, pray for us. Help us to be instruments of your peace in this troubled world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.