

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:

8:00 A.M.

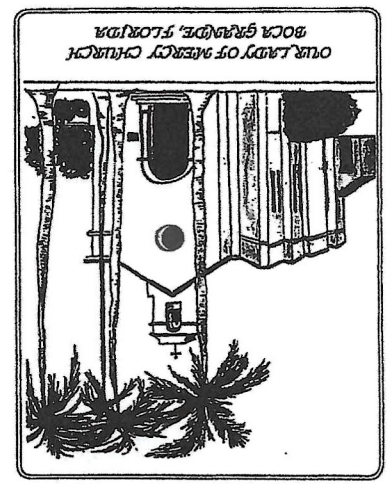
5:00 P.M.

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

By Appointment

ourladyofmercy.church

[https://dioceseofmercy.org/ways-to-give/parish-](https://dioceseofmercy.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/)



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 8, 2023

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear parishioners,

Thank you to all those who made last Sunday a most memorable occasion. It was a truly beautiful Mass with Bishop Dewane installing me as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy. Your presence: the flowers were fresh, the music was angelic, and the celebration of the Eucharist was heavenly. You made it a wonderful moment in the history of the parish.

The reception in the Parish Life Center was exceptional. The tables, the decorations, the hospitality, the servers, those who cleaned up and reset the room. The chef, the food, the drinks, everything was just excellent. Bishop remarked on the beauty of the center and really was taken with the windows and how it complements that of the church. In essence, the people of God made this celebration possible. I am humbled to be your pastor and I look forward to serving you for years to come.

May Our Lady of Mercy continue to guide our path.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL

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. Attached are prayers you might want to pray at the Holy Hour.

Father Anthony

THE BUILDERS REJECTED

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?* Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." Matthew 21:42-43

The most amazing thing that has ever happened in this world is the death of the Son of God. It is amazing for many reasons. It is amazing that God the Father allowed His Son to be brutally murdered by evil men. It is amazing that the Son did not call upon the myriad of angels to stop His persecution. It's amazing that Jesus spoke words of forgiveness from the Cross as His own mother looked on. But perhaps the most amazing aspect about this event is that from it, the gift of eternal salvation was made possible.

Only God, in His inconceivable wisdom and power, could bring forth the greatest good from the greatest evil. Nothing could be more evil than the brutal murder of the Son of God. And nothing could be more glorious than the transformation of that heinous act into the definitive act of salvation for the human race. Jesus was "the stone rejected by the builders." But that rejected Stone was used by the Father to "become the cornerstone" of the new life of grace to which we are called. The passage quoted above concludes the Parable of the Tenants, which outlines salvation history. The Father is the owner of the vineyard, which represents the people of Israel. The tenants were the religious leaders of the time who abused the prophets who were sent to gather the fruit of God's Kingdom. The son is the Son of God whom the leaders of Israel killed under the misconception that killing Jesus would guarantee the continuation of their power. However, the true result was that they suffered their own destruction, and the murdered Son became the cornerstone of the Church and the source of new life.

Today, you are among the people to whom God has given charge of His new Vineyard, the Church. Of you, God demands an abundance of good fruit. Though the Church is entrusted to the pope, bishops, and priests in a special way, it is also entrusted to the laity, each in their own way. Everyone must bear fruit for the Kingdom of God, and everyone will be held accountable for their stewardship. Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that we have little to offer. If we were the pope, a bishop or even a priest, we could do great things for God. And though that is true, it is no less true that everyone is capable of bearing an abundance of good fruit for the Kingdom. And God expects that of us all. If you doubt that fact in any way, recall again the undeniable fact that the Father used the greatest evil ever committed to bring forth the greatest good ever known. If God can bring forth new life from death, then He can certainly use you in powerful ways. In fact, the weaker you are and the more insignificant you feel, the more God can use you to produce good fruit.

Reflect, today, upon the glorious fact that if God can use his own suffering and death to bring salvation to the world, He can also use you in ways that are beyond your imagination. You might not become a famous evangelist. You might not succeed in some well-recognized ministry. In fact, you might even encounter much suffering, persecution, and hardship throughout life. Regardless of your own life situation, God desires to use you for great things and to bear an abundance of good fruit for His Kingdom. Commit to that mission and allow God to use you as a cornerstone of His grace in this world. My Lord and Cornerstone of the Church, You were rejected by the leaders of Israel and were killed in the most horrific way. Yet in Your glorious power, You transformed that evil into the greatest good. I give to You my weaknesses and pains, my talents, and labors; I give to You my entire life. Please use me and help me to share in Your life so that, with You, I may also become a cornerstone of Your grace as You desire. Jesus, I trust in You.

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Married and engaged couples are invited to the third annual *Together in Holiness* marriage conference on October 21, 2023, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at St. John XXIII Catholic Church in Fort Myers. This one-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$64/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. An Early Bird discount is available through August 28 as well as scholarships upon request. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Venice. For more info, visit togetherinholliness.org or email ellen@fortireandfamily.org

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am come spend an hour with Our Lord Jesus Christ with Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction.

Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

My Lord Jesus Christ, Your Eucharistic presence teaches me how to love as you have loved me. In your great love for me you continue to give yourself, body, blood, soul, and divinity in this sacrament of your love. As I pray here in your Eucharistic presence, enkindle in me the fire of your gospel. Nourish me with your love and compassion, so that I may be your living presence to all I meet. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

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.

Going Forth

Lord Jesus Christ, I have spent this time of adoration and prayer in your Eucharistic presence. Fill my life with love, joy, peace, and kindness. Transform me by the power of the Holy Spirit into a living image of your compassionate presence. May I go forth from this hour of adoration and prayer to be your hands, feet, and heart to all those I meet. Risen Jesus, may I be surrounded by the radiance of your love. Amen.