



OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH  
BOCA GRANDE, FLORIDA

# **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:

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](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

OnlineGiving

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

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**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

### **NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Dear People of God,

I pray that you are well this day. **Holy Hour will begin this Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Father Anthony

### **INSTALLATION OF FATHER ANTHONY**

All are invited - On October 1st Bishop Dewane will install Father Anthony Hewitt as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy at the 10:30am mass. The Bishop will join Father Anthony and parishioners for a celebration lunch after mass in the Parish Life Center. All are invited to attend and officially welcome Father Anthony to OLM. **Please RSVP for the meal by September 25th** to Ken Parker at [kbparker45@gmail.com](mailto:kbparker45@gmail.com) or 813-760-8968.

Volunteers Needed - Volunteers are needed to assist with the installation celebration. Please also email or call Ken Parker to join the volunteer team for the October 1st celebration.

### **FORGIVING**

**Jesus teaches us to forgive... *“Not 7-times but 70-times-7-times.”***

Peter puts a question to Jesus: *“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?”* Jesus answered, *“I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times”* (Mt 18: 21-22). Let us look at 2 recent examples.

One was in a tiny community around **Nickels Mines Pennsylvania** that a man stormed into a one-room schoolhouse and shot 10 young girls, killing five. He then killed himself. Since the tragedy, people around the world have been inspired by the way the Amish expressed forgiveness toward the killer and his family. **Charles Roberts** was not Amish, but Amish families knew him as the milk truck driver who made deliveries.

The most powerful demonstration of the depth of Amish forgiveness was when members of the Amish community went to the killer's burial service. Several Amish families who had buried their own daughters just the day before were in attendance and they hugged the widow, and other members of the killer's family.



Amish Families at killer's burial service with his



The world was in disbelief when Pope John Paul II was shot in **St. Peter's Square** on May 13, 1981, by an assassin from Bulgaria named Ali Aja. Saint Pope John Paul II not only survived the attempted assassination, but, shortly after his recovery, went to visit his attempted assassin in Regina Coeli prison in Rome to shake the hand of the man who held the gun to assassinate him: he forgave him.

The Amish families and Pope John Paul II embody Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel.

In the Gospel parable, Jesus contrasts the forgiving attitude of the King - namely God - with the attitude of the debtor – anyone of us - who he forgave, who refuses, in turn, to forgive a much smaller debt of one of his debtors. The parable echoes Jesus' aspiration in the "Our Father," ***"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."*** Jesus exemplifies this teaching from the Cross when he cries out, ***"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"***- re-echoed by the priest in the Rite of Penance, ***"May Our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you &, by his authority I absolve you"***

We live in a wounded world, captured in the popular REM hit song, ***"Everybody hurts sometime...."*** **Jesus offers a healing remedy, when he directs us to forgive, "not seven times, but seventy –times-seven-times," exemplified by the Amish families and Pope St. John Paul II.** It is in this vein that the catechist, on Catechetical Sunday, is invited ***"to teach as Jesus did."***

### **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 [togetherinholiness.org](https://togetherinholiness.org) or email [ellen@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:ellen@forlifeandfamily.org).

### **FOOD PANTRY**

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 take advantage of those BOGO (buy one get one free) items at the local grocery stores. Please place donated items in the plastic bin under the table inside the church.