A quilted landscape scene. In the foreground, a wooden plow is pulled across a field. The middle ground features a large field of birds, possibly geese or swans, arranged in neat rows. The background shows rolling green hills under a warm, golden sky. A small cluster of buildings is visible on a distant hill.

*If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.*

John 14:23

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR LADY OF MERCY Catholic Church

5201 North Military Trail
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33064
Telephone: 954.421.3246
Facsimile: 954.421.1973
www.ourladyofmercy catholicchurch.org.
Our Parish App
WeShare Online Giving

Pastor

The Very Reverend Kenneth D. Whittaker, V.F.
Dean

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil
4:00 p.m.

Sunday
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass Monday thru Saturday
9:00 a.m.

Holy Day Masses
9:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:15—3:45 p. m.



Baptisms and Weddings
Please contact the parish office



Welcome

Our Lady of Mercy Church, the clergy and faithful, welcome you to the parish. In Word and Sacrament, we pray you find the spiritual and communal life of grace which the Church promises to all who approach her. You are welcome in faith. *Fiat voluntas tua...*

Twenty-fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

God's ways are not our ways.
We judge by human standards. If we want our judgements to be right ones then we pray for guidance so that we may judge generously. God rewards everyone individually according to his judgement and not ours.



Please share this with your fellow parishioners

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy,

You have been missed in the parish and at Mass. When public Masses resumed May 31, we understood that people with underlying conditions or who were anxious about the virus would continue to examine their suitability before attending Mass. I pray you are well and have had such an opportunity to determine if now is the time to resume your faithful participation at the Eucharist. Safe distance and mask wearing are a real part of our celebration of Mass as we observe common sense in respecting others and safeguarding our health. You will find suitable space to sit and pray, hear God's Word, receive his Body and Blood, and be safe.

Some have maintained their offertory support of the parish while others have not. I understand there may be reasons for this but I encourage everyone to acknowledge the reality that without your donations to the parish, this community of faith which you participated in may close as if it were a failing business, a victim of the pandemic. We are not a victim, we are a body of believers who live and act as the Body of Christ. I invite you to renew your place in the community as you are able. If there is anything we can do to assure you and assist you, please let us know.

You are remembered in prayer but I prefer not to think of you as a memory but an active, vibrant member of the parish as we confidently move forward united in our Catholic Faith under the loving intercession of Our Lady of Mercy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Very Reverend Kenneth D. Whittaker, V.F.
Pastor



LET US RETURN TO THE EUCHARIST WITH JOY

The pandemic caused by the Covid 19 virus has produced upheavals not only in social, family, economic, educational and work environments, but also in the life of the Christian community, including the liturgical dimension. To prevent the spread of the virus, rigid social distancing was necessary, which had repercussions on a fundamental trait of Christian life: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them” (Matthew 18:20); “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, And all who believed were together and had all things in common” (Acts 2: 42, 44).

As soon as circumstances permit, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as the “source toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10).

We cannot live, be Christians fully realizing our humanity and the desires for good and happiness that dwell in our hearts without the Word of the Lord which in the celebration of the liturgy takes shape and becomes a living word, spoken by God who today open their hearts to listen;

We cannot live as Christians without participating in the Sacrifice of the Cross in which the Lord Jesus gives himself unreservedly to save, by his death humanity which had died because of sin; the Redeemer associates humanity with himself and leads it back to the Father; in the embrace of the Crucified One all human sufferings find light and comfort;

We cannot be without the banquet of the Eucharist, the table of the Lord to which we are invited as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to receive the Risen Christ himself, present in body, blood, soul and divinity in the Bread of heaven which sustains us in the joys and labors of this earthly pilgrimage;

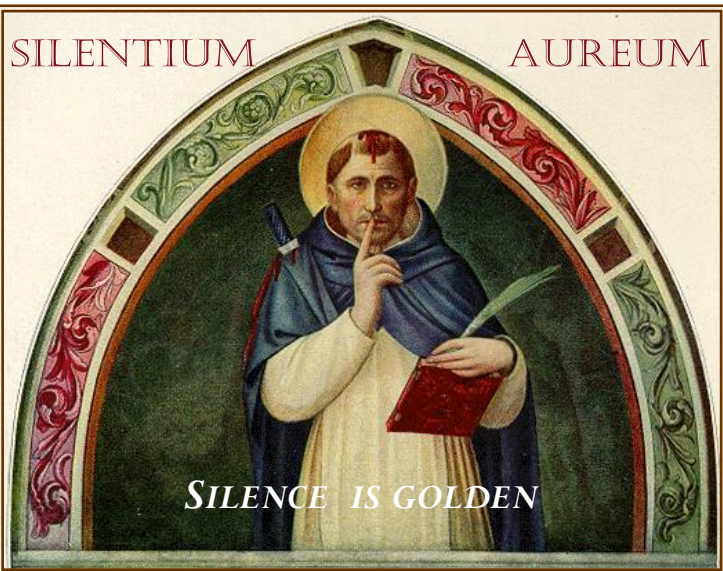
We cannot be without the Christian community, the family of the Lord, we need to meet our brothers and sisters who share the Sonship of God, the fraternity of Christ, the vocation and the search for holiness and the salvation of their souls in the rich diversity of ages, personal histories, charisms and vocations;

We cannot be without the house of the Lord, which is our home, without the holy places where we were born to faith, where we discovered the provident presence of the Lord and discovered the merciful embrace that lifts up those fallen, where we consecrated our vocation to marriage or religious life, where we prayed and give thanks, rejoiced and wept, where we entrusted to the Father our loved ones who had completed their earthy voyage;

We cannot live without the Lord’s Day, without Sunday which gives light and meaning to the succession of days of work and to family and social responsibilities.

The Church will continue to cherish the human person as a whole, She bears witness to hope, invites us to trust in God, recalls that earthly existence is important, but much more important is eternal life; sharing the same life with God for eternity is our goal, our vocation. Let us invoke intercession to the Blessed Virgin Mary, for those who are sorely tried by the pandemic and every other affliction, let us persevere in prayer for those who have left this life, and at the same time let us renew our intention to be witnesses of the Risen One and heralds of sure hope, which transcends the limits of this world.

From the Vatican
Robert Cardinal Sarah
Prefect



Contact Dahlia Steele-Huie *Religious Ed* 954-592-6109
 Contact Anthony Gonsalves *Adult Education* 954-675-3127
 Contact James Olsen *Youth Ministry* 954-298-5894

Preparations are being made for those students in the Sacramental Programs for First Communion and Confirmation which were interrupted by the mid-March closing of the church. The student and their family must have resumed attendance at Mass

To teach as Jesus did

Marriage Anniversary

James and Pat Olsen
 October 3, 2020
 22 years

A PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Almighty God, Father of all nations, we praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; May we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.



To Mary, the Mother of Life we entrust our appeal for all of life. Throughout history life is always at the center of a great struggle. Mary is the living word of consolation for us in that struggle and to her we entrust the cause of life. Saint Pope Saint John Paul II

Civility, Clarity, Compassion— A Catholic Approach to the 2020 Election

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square -- and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at individuals.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities. As Catholics, we must bear witness to a better way.

Read Archbishop Wenski's letter on the back page for an understanding of the Catholic position on endorsing candidates and voting responsibility.

Knights of Columbus

Blue Mass

*To Honor The Work Of All
 Public Safety Personnel*

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
 2001 South Ocean Blvd.
 Lauderdale by the Sea

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
 5:30 p.m.

Contact John Yardley
 954-798-8596
 kofc4955@yahoo.com

Remembered in Prayer

***A time and a season for all things...
A time to heal...***

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tom April | Jean Kline |
| Joseph Berardino | Christine Lefevre |
| Eileen Blades | J'Aime Maix |
| Lilia Blenman | Mary Jo Mano |
| Maryellen Bombardier | Christopher Marcelin |
| S'ean Borchardt | Jalbert Matarese |
| Gloria Bruno | Debra Mattalino |
| John and Mary Bourgeois | Bud McDonald |
| Robert Bushey | David Moore |
| Margaret Cacciatore | Bella Morales |
| Marietta Calayag | Andres Moros |
| Mildred Calderera | Mary Moss |
| Timothy Calhoun | Patricia Sullivan-Myrick |
| Mirtha Catalano | Pat Nichols |
| Carmine Cavazza | Amy Nickolopoulos |
| Jeanne Chapman | Cathy Norman |
| Anthony Chiavetta | Jean Olkowski |
| Marge Christiano | Shayna Orsen |
| Christopher Clarke | Sandra Otero |
| Jerry Clobes | Carol Payberg |
| Dottie & Alicia Cotugno | Janet Poole |
| Jim Cusick | Oscar Quintero |
| Emily Danilchuk | Richard Ray |
| Felix DeVito | Jordan Michael Rivero |
| Joseph DiNoto | James Robinson |
| Monique Dutreuil | Ron Roesch |
| Frank Dyer | Ronald Romero |
| Shemar Etaenne | Michael Scaperotto |
| Constance Fischetti | Linda Seesman |
| Renee Forella | Hector Soto |
| Joann Freyberg | Emile Strauch |
| Sara Gabb | Margaret Strizelk |
| Vera Ghio | Betty Treacy |
| Janis Glassman | Kathleen Vandiford |
| Richard Hasle | Nick Ventura |
| Timothy Jordan | Eva Villegas |
| Barbara Karol | Jean Marie Vitta |
| Tara Kepple | John Ward |
| Barry Kimbal | Stella Joan Welsh |
| | Mary Jane Wunder |

A time to die

A time of war...

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Michael David | John Lane |
| William Kasten | |

And a time of peace. Ecclesiastes

Mass Intentions

- Saturday, September 26
 9:00 a.m. Madeline Hollwedel
 4:00 p.m. Jean Martin
 Anthony Falco
- Sunday, September 27
 8:30 a.m. Ana Espinal
 10:30 a.m. *Pro Populo - For the People*
- Monday, September 28
 9:00 a.m. Madeline Hollwedel
- Tuesday, September 29
 9:00 a.m. Erricho Auricchio
- Wednesday, September 30
 9:00 a.m. Madeline Hollwedel
- Thursday, October 1
 9:00 a.m. Erricho Auricchio
- Friday, October 2
 9:00 a.m. Richard Caveney, Jr.
 Kathleen Mead
- Saturday, October 3
 9:00 a.m. Paul Whalen
 4:00 p.m. Carmelina Circelli
 Helen Van Beverhoudt

***Prayer to Saint Michael for
Police and Law Enforcement***

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle.
 Be our defense against the wickedness
 and snares of the devil.
 May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
 O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God,
 Thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
 Who prowl the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Protect all police and law enforcement officers
 who guard our streets and homes. Keep them safe
 from all harm and grant them
 a peaceful homecoming. Amen

Sanctuary Memorials

*Week of September 27, 2020
Sanctuary Candle, Altar Bread and Wine*

***In Honor of
All Public Service Personnel***

« *Musica* »

All Creatures of Our God and King

#745 in Word & Song

1. All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! O burning sun with golden beam And silver moon with softer gleam:

Refrain:

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. O rushing wind and breezes soft, O clouds that ride the winds aloft: Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O rising morn, in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice.
3. O flowing waters, pure and clear, Make music for your Lord to hear. Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O fire so masterful and bright, Providing us with warmth and light,

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

#650 in Word & Song

1. God, whose giving knows no ending, From your rich and endless store: Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door, Gifted by you, we turn to you, Off'ring up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.
2. Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son: All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone; Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at your throne.
3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted, Gain through pow'rs your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the Gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving you by

How Great Thou Art

#739 in Word & Song

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee; How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee; How great thou art! How great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin;

God, We Praise You

#742 in Word & Song

1. God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we name you sov'reign Lord! Mighty King whom angels worship, Father, by your Church adored: All creation shows your glory, Heav'n and earth draw near your throne, Singing "Holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts and God alone!"
2. True apostles, faithful prophets, Saints who set their world ablaze, Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded, Join one growing song of praise, While your Church on earth confesses One majestic Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God, our hope eternally.
3. Jesus Christ, the King of glory, Everlasting Son of God, Humble was your virgin mother, Hard the lonely path you trod: By your cross is sin defeated, Hell confronted face to face, Heaven opened to believers, Sinners justified by grace.



Tuesday November 3rd is Election Day (although many of us already will have voted through mail or at an early voting location). As Catholics, we see responsible citizenship as a virtue, and thus participation in the political process is not only a right but also a duty. And so, as Catholics and as American citizens we should exercise the right and duty of our citizenship by voting. Besides several state and local races, this election will decide who will be President and Vice-President for the next four years and who will represent us from our congressional district in the House of Representatives for the next two years.

Our Church rightly does not tell the faithful to vote for any candidate or party. The Catholic Church is not – nor does she want to be – a political agency or a special interest group. However, she does have a profound interest – and rightly so – in the good of the political community, the soul of which is justice. For this reason, the Church engages in a wide variety of public policy issues including the defense of unborn life, of religious liberty and of marriage as a union of one man and one woman as well as advocacy on issues concerning immigration, education, poverty and racism along with many others.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and, on the state level, our Florida Catholic Conference seek to educate Catholics and others of good will so that our choices, made with an informed conscience, will be coherent with our faith. In doing so, the Church offers a specific moral framework that should guide the voter in making prudential decisions as to who are the “best” candidates – or, as sadly happens too often, who are the least “worse” candidates. This moral framework anchored in the Scriptures and expressed in the teaching of the Church – more than mere party affiliation or self-interest - should guide the serious Catholic to examine the candidates on a full range of issues as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. In this way, our vote will be an exercise of both *responsible* as well as *faithful* citizenship.

For Catholics, the defense of human life and dignity is not a “narrow cause” but a way of life. As Pope Francis says, "Human life is sacred and inviolable. Every civil right is based on the recognition of the first, fundamental right, the right to life, which is not subject to any condition, of a qualitative, economic and certainly not of an ideological nature."

For this reason, no Catholic should vote for a political program or law with the intent of contradicting the fundamental principles of our faith. A voter who would vote for a candidate precisely because he or she was pro-abortion would certainly be guilty of sin – objectively speaking. Someone may arrive at a prudential decision to vote for a candidate for other reasons even though his or her record is one of supporting the killing of unborn infants or legalized euthanasia. But such a decision would have to be weighed very carefully given the candidate’s manifest cooperation in evil (the enablement of abortion).

The stridency and polarization of politics in America today can be discouraging. We need a new kind of politics – one focused on moral principles, not on polls; on the needs of the vulnerable, not the contributions of the powerful; and on the pursuit of the common good, not the demands of special interests. Too few candidates share a consistent concern for human life and dignity. And too few citizens hold elected officials accountable by exercising their right to vote. All this shows that, as Catholics, we should be more – and not less – engaged in political life. All of us are called to become informed, active and responsible participants in the political process – and to do so by bringing together, coherently and consistently, our faith, our moral convictions and our responsibilities in the public square.

Catholics in public life – whether they are Democrats or Republicans – must act seriously and responsibly on many important moral issues. Our faith has an integral unity that calls Catholics to defend human life and human dignity whenever they are threatened. A priority for the poor, the protection of family life, the pursuit of justice and the promotion of peace are fundamental priorities of the Catholic moral tradition which cannot be ignored or neglected. Yet abortion is a grave violation of the most fundamental human right – the right to life that is inherent in all human beings, and that grounds every other right we possess. That some Catholics in public life promote positions on human life that are not coherent with their Catholic Faith is a scandal and while they may claim to be “practicing” Catholics, it is obvious that they need to practice a whole lot more – until they get it right.

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami