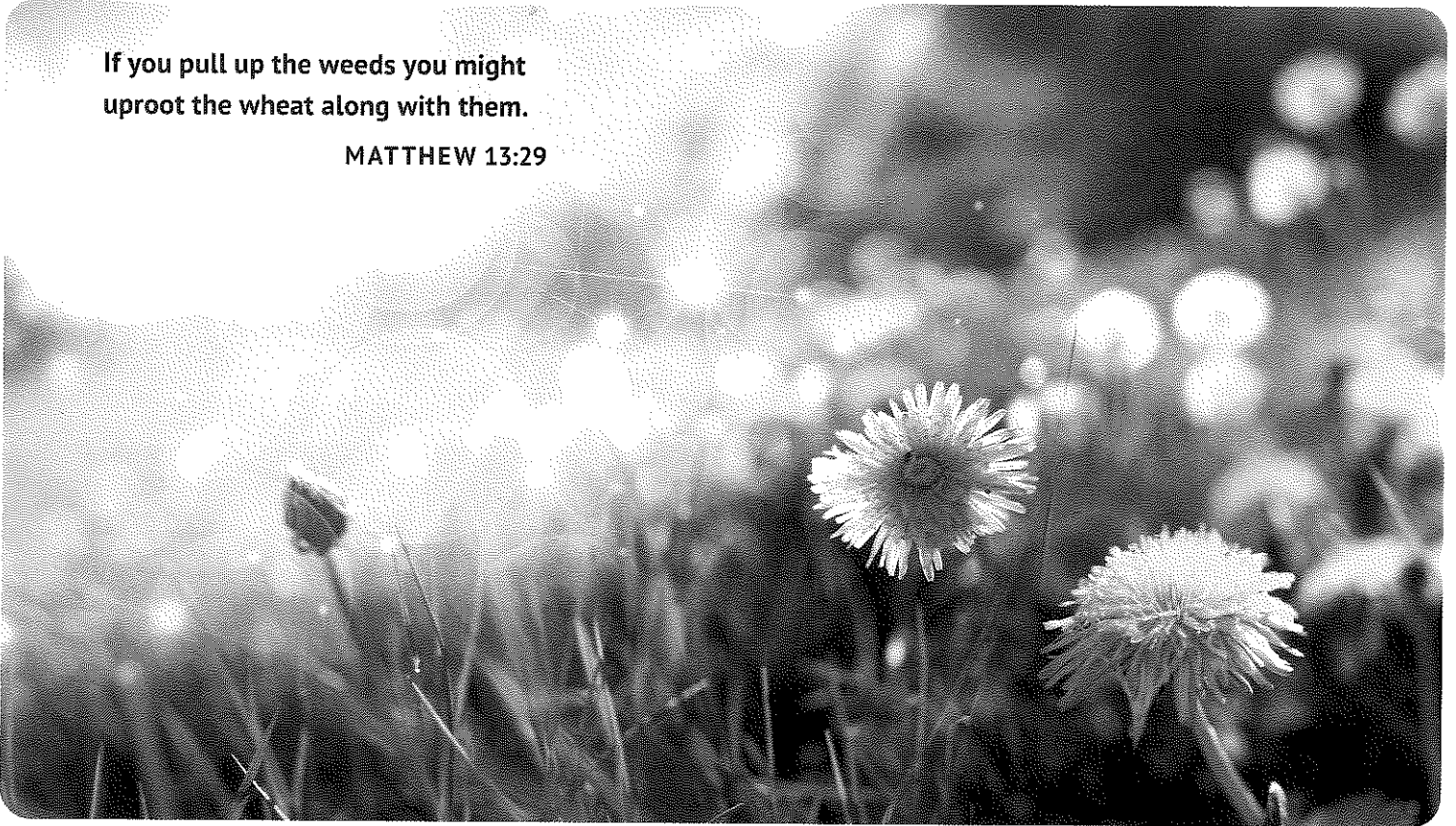




If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.

MATTHEW 13:29



## Weeds in the Gardens of Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**e humans are a curious lot, a mixture of wheat and weeds, sin and grace, tolerance and intolerance. Uproot one and you might uproot the other as well. The one who is guarded and may seem superficial may also be the one who is fun to be with and makes us laugh. The one who is terribly impractical may also be the creative dreamer. The penny-pincher who finds it difficult to spend and enjoy life may also be the one who calms our own spending and encourages us to save.

The kingdom of heaven, says the parable, is about God, who allows the wheat and weeds to grow together; God, who recognizes in each of us both good and evil and seems able to love us that way. Some find it difficult

to tolerate those who are still growing in the faith.

Over the years there have been different litmus tests to determine the truly faithful ones—usury and the lending of money for interest, being part of the military, nuclear arms use, the prohibition and use of alcohol, birth control, divorce. Consider the Inquisition, when

heretics were burned at the stake. Being a believer does not mean any of us perfectly lives out the ideal.

God seems more tolerant of us than we are of one another. We vessels who hold the treasure of

faith grow at our own pace, each quite differently. It is God who does the ultimate sorting, willing to gather the wheat from our personal gardens and leave the weeds behind. ●

### Reflect

*Are there some believers you find difficult to tolerate?*

# Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



## Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.

Fayette, OH 43521

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel  
Pat Eisel  
Ray Hollstein  
Mike Burkholder  
Traci Maginn  
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



## OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429

Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday

## PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

[OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

Bookkeeper

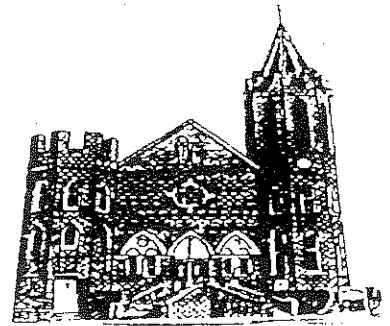
Ron Baker

[OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

Youth Leader/CRE

Anita Van Zile

Website (bulletin online)  
[stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy](http://stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy)



## St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.  
Archbold, OH 43502

### MASS SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m.

### Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150  
[email-stpeter@rtexexpress.net](mailto:email-stpeter@rtexexpress.net)

### Religious Ed

Deb Herring

### Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

## SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions *starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.*
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please note that the bulletin deadline is Tuesday, Noon. Please either call, email at [ourladyofmercyfayette@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofmercyfayette@gmail.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

# SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

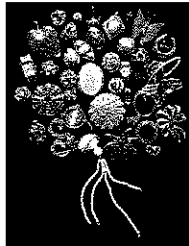
ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

### BULL THISTLE FESTIVAL BREAKFAST

The Altar Rosary will again host breakfast on August 5, 2023, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m., during the Bull Thistle Festival in Fayette. We are looking for additional help for the day. If you are willing to spare an hour or a few hours, please let Sherry Renner know 419-388-5695.

### ALTAR ROSARY – JEWELRY SHADOW BOX

The Altar Rosary will be assembling a Shadow box with old jewelry from our parishioners. If you would like to donate a piece or pieces to be included in the display or need additional information, please see Anita Van Zile.



Sample of shadow box

### SHARING YOUR FLOWERS WITH MARY

If you have any flowers out of your garden, that you would like to share with Mary, there will be extra vases on the back table every Sunday to put them in and then you can place by the statue of Mary.

### THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." - St. Rose of Lima

### Do Something Beautiful for God – The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa

**July 23** – I have never been in a war, but I have seen famine, death, and destruction. I was asking myself the other day: What do people feel when they provoke war? I don't understand it. We are all children of God. In every war, on both sides, everyone involved, everyone affected is a child of God.

**July 24** – All of us are called to work in a special way for the sake of peace. In order to bring about that peace, we need to learn from Jesus to be meek and humble of heart. Only humility will lead us to unity, and unity to peace.

**July 25** – I believe that many people today think the poor are not humans like them. They look down on them. But if they had a deep respect for the poor, I am sure it would be easy for them to come closer to them, and to see that they have as much right to the things of life and to love as anybody has.

**July 26** – I feel that we too often focus on the negative aspects of life, on what is bad. If we were more willing to see the good and the beautiful things that surround us we would be able to transform society. It begins in the family. From there, we can help transform our next-door neighbors with loving service, then others who live in our neighborhood and city. We can bring peace and love to the world. The whole world is hungry for these things, and we can each play a small role in feeding this great hunger.

**July 27** – Live life beautifully. You have Jesus with you, and He loves you. If we could only remember that God love us and we have an opportunity to love others as He loves us. Not in big things, but in small things with great love, then your country will become a haven of peace and a burning light of love in the world.

**July 28** - We must know that we have been created for greater things, not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for degrees and diplomas. Not just to work and accomplish. We have been created to love and to be loved. This is easy to forget amidst the busyness of life. You have been created to love and to be loved. Make love a priority.

**July 29** – Prayer is necessary as air to breathe, as necessary as the blood in our bodies, as necessary as anything. We think so many things are necessary, but we are wrong. We have been deceived and we deceive ourselves. So few things are necessary, and prayer is one of them.

**Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at [vanzilejn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanzilejn@hotmail.com) or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163.**

**Privacy Issues for Parish Office: IMMEDIATE FAMILY** – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

### ST. PETER NEWS

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

*Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.*

### FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---May 6 – Oct. 28 – Farmer's Market  
@ Fayette Opera House Parking Lot  
– Saturday's 9 am – 1 pm

---August 4 – Fayette Opera House,  
Man of Many Voices, Colin Dexter  
7 pm (visit [operahouse-fayette.org](http://operahouse-fayette.org) for more  
information & tickets)

---August 5 - Bull Thistle Festival

If you know of any Fayette Community events please either call or visit the office or email to [ourladyofmercyfayette@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofmercyfayette@gmail.com)

ACA in progress – information and envelopes are on the table in the back.  
Our Lady of Mercy is at 96.01%.

## HELP WANTED

The Diocese has openings for employment. Check out the list at [toledodiocese.org/careers](http://toledodiocese.org/careers)

## SAVE THE DATE

2023 Diocesan Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral  
October 22, 2022 | 3:00 p.m.

If you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2023 – 25, 40, 50, 60, or 60+ years – plan to join Bishop Daniel E. Thomas for the Order of Blessing Married Couples within Holy Mass. Registered couples receive a commemorative certificate and are invited to a reception following mass.

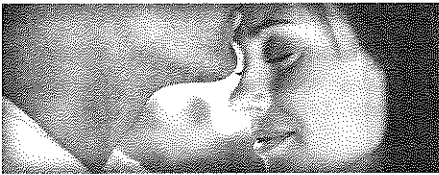
To register visit: [www.toledoanniversarymass.org](http://www.toledoanniversarymass.org)

## 2023 GRANT-SCHOLARSHIP REV. AUGUST SCHAEFER

The 2023 Rev. August Schaefer Liturgical Grant Cycle will open on Monday, July 3, 2023. Applications and deadlines can be found on the parish website at [stjosephmarblehead.org](http://stjosephmarblehead.org).



## Love and Life Programs Program 1: *I + YOU = WE*



Happy relationships don't grow on trees. Inspire your Marriage!

October 7 - 8, 2023

Immaculate Conception Church • 414 Madison St. • Port Clinton, OH 43452

This is a unique weekend filled with lectures, dynamic workshops, and individual couple dialogue that leads you through 8 simple steps to real joy in your marriage.

All married couples will benefit from this workshop.

### Program Leader

Fr. Jaroslaw "Jay" Szymczak  
Pastor of the Holy Family • Warsaw, Poland

### Cost

\$250 per couple, \$300 after Sept. 25th

### Includes

- Lecture & related workshop materials
- Coffee, tea & refreshments
- All meals

### More Information

[lozeandlifeprogram@toledo.org](mailto:lozeandlifeprogram@toledo.org)  
Aaron & Stephanie Gorys 614-376-6975



Saturday, October 7th 8:00am - 9:00pm and Sunday, October 8th 8am - 4pm

For more Diocese of Toledo happenings please visit [toledodiocese.org/calendar](http://toledodiocese.org/calendar)

# Saints of the Day ([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of July 23 – July 29

**Sunday, July 23–St. Bridget of Sweden** - St. Bridget (1303-1373) was born into a devout and prestigious family in Sweden. Her father was a governor, judge, and one of the wealthiest landowners in the country. Bridget received an excellent religious education, and from a young age demonstrated a great capacity for holiness. She even experienced mystical visions in her childhood. At the age of thirteen she was given in marriage to a similarly devout young man named Ulf. Together the two had a happy marriage and raised eight children, one of whom was St. Catherine of Sweden. St. Bridget became famous for her sanctity, and she was well-acquainted with the Swedish king and many theologians who sought her counsel. When Bridget and Ulf were in their forties, they went on pilgrimage along the famous Way of St. James. Shortly afterwards Ulf died, and Bridget gave herself entirely to the religious life. Her visions became more frequent, and were written down in a famous work called the Revelations of St. Bridget of Sweden. She also founded a new religious order known as the Brigittines. To obtain approval for her Order she traveled to Rome with her daughter Catherine, where she lived until her death. St. Bridget of Sweden is one of the six patron saints of Europe. Her feast day is July 23rd.

**Monday, July 24 –St. Christina the Astonishing** - St. Christina (1150-1224) was born to a peasant family in Belgium. She was orphaned as a child and raised by her two older sisters. When she was 21 she had what was believed to be a severe seizure, and was pronounced dead. At her funeral she suddenly revived and levitated before the bewildered congregation. She said that during her coma she had been to heaven, hell, and purgatory and had been given the option to either die and enter heaven, or return to earth to suffer and pray for the holy souls in purgatory. Christina chose the greater act of charity. From then on she lived in extreme poverty: wearing rags, sleeping on rocks, and begging for her food. She is called "Astonishing" because she did the most bizarre things and suffered the pains of inhuman feats without being physically harmed by them. She would roll in fire and hide in hot ovens; she would stand in freezing water for hours in the dead of winter; she allowed herself to be dragged under water by a mill wheel; she spent much time in graveyards. She would also climb trees to escape the strong odor of sin in those she met. Many thought her to be possessed by demons or insane, but many devout people recognized and vouched for her sincerity, obedience, and sanctity. They believed that she was a living witness to the pains that souls experience in purgatory, willingly suffering with them and for them. Christina the Astonishing is the patron of those with mental illness and disorders, mental health workers, psychiatrists, and therapists. Her feast day is July 24th.

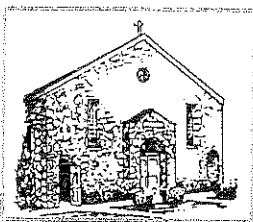
**Tuesday, July 25– St. James the Greater** - St. James the Greater (died 44 AD) is the brother of St. John the Apostle, and was one of Jesus's original 12 Apostles. The title "Greater" was added to distinguish him from St. James the Lesser, and is believed not to concern status or holiness, but physical height. Besides being the son of Zebedee, what is known of St. James's life comes after he and his brother were called to leave their father and their nets and follow after Jesus. James was one of the three apostles invited to witness the miraculous Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor. As well, his righteous anger at seeing a Samaritan town reject Jesus inspired him to ask Jesus to call down fire on the town, which Jesus gently rebuked. Following Christ's Resurrection and Ascension, James preached the Gospel across the Roman empire before traveling to Spain, where he spread the Gospel for many years. The famous "Camino de Santiago" pilgrimage path in Spain is named in his honor (Santiago is Spanish for James). At the end of his life, James returned to Jerusalem, where he was the first apostle to be martyred. His feast day is July 25th.

**Wednesday, July 26– St. Anne & St. Joachim** - St. Anne and St. Joachim (1st c. B.C.) are the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the maternal grandparents of Jesus. Their names have been preserved in Church tradition since the second century, although little is known of their lives. It is believed that St. Joachim and St. Anne, although wealthy, lived a devout and simple life of voluntary poverty, chastity, and generosity to the poor. According to legend, after long years of suffering from infertility and praying for a child, Joachim and Anne were each separately visited by an angel in their old age, who announced that they would give birth to a very special child. Their moment of joy at this happy news is depicted with their embrace and kiss at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. It was from their holy and chaste marriage that the Immaculate Conception was brought into the world. According to tradition, when the Child Mary was three years old, they dedicated her to God and presented her to live in the Jerusalem temple until the time of her betrothal to St. Joseph. St. Anne is the patroness of unmarried women, wives, expectant mothers, pregnancy, women in labor, grandmothers, childless couples, and against poverty and sterility. Women praying to meet their future spouse often turn to St. Anne. St. Joachim is the patron of fathers and grandfathers. Their feast day is July 26th.

**Thursday, July 27 – Pope St. Celestine I** - Pope St. Celestine I (d. 432 A.D.) was a Roman deacon who was elected Supreme Pontiff in 422 A.D. He was a contemporary of St. Augustine, and it is said that the two were good friends. He also lived with St. Ambrose in Milan prior to serving in Rome. Pope St. Celestine led the Church for nine years during a troubled time of social upheaval. Within the Church there were multiple dangerous heresies spreading and corrupting the faith of the people, especially Nestorianism and Pelagianism, which he staunchly fought against, and for this he is known as a defender of orthodox doctrine. Outside the Church, barbarian hordes were invading the West, leading to the collapse of the Roman Empire. Pope St. Celestine I worked to restore the churches that were attacked when Alaric the Goth sacked Rome. He also established the papal diplomatic service to send ambassadors, known as nuncios, from the Vatican to other governments around the world. He is also the Holy Father who sent St. Patrick to evangelize Ireland, and who introduced the responsorial psalm into the papal Mass at Rome. His feast day is July 27th.

**Friday, July 28– St. Nazarius & St. Celsus** - St. Nazarius and St. Celsus (1st c.) were early Christian martyrs, but nothing else is known with certainty about their lives or the time they lived, other than that they were put to death for their Christian faith in Milan, Italy, perhaps during the persecution of the Emperor Nero. What we know about these saints came to us from St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. In 395 A.D. St. Ambrose discovered the body of St. Nazarius, with severed head, along with a vial of his blood still as fresh as the day it was spilled, in a garden outside the city gates. St. Ambrose carried the body in procession to bury in the city's Basilica of the Apostles. In the same garden he also discovered the body of St. Celsus, and likewise had the body taken to the same basilica. Miracles occurred in the church at the presence of the relics of these two holy martyrs. According to one account, St. Nazarius was the son of St. Perpetua, the child she bore just prior being executed for her faith. Celsus was a youth given to the care of St. Nazarius by the boy's mother, who desired for the saint to teach her son the Christian faith. The two traveled and preached the Gospel together zealously before being tortured and executed in Milan. They share a feast day on July 28th.

**Saturday, July 29– St. Martha, St. Mary & St. Lazarus** - St. Martha (1st c.) was a pious Jewish woman from Bethany near Jerusalem. She was a close friend of Jesus during his earthly ministry, as was her brother, St. Lazarus, and her sister, St. Mary of Bethany (St. Mary Magdalene – separate feast day on July 22nd). The Gospels tell us that "Jesus loved Martha, and her sister Mary and Lazarus." Martha would serve the Lord faithfully when he was a guest in her home, once busying herself so much with her work that she neglected to spend time enjoying his presence, for which she earned a gentle rebuke from Our Lord. Martha had great faith in Christ, especially evidenced in her belief that he could raise her brother Lazarus from the dead. In the Gospels we read that St. Martha testified that Jesus was the Son of God even before his Passion and Resurrection. According to tradition, after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, St. Martha gathered a group of women together to live, pray, and do penance in common, one of the early Christian houses of consecrated women. St. Martha is the patron of servers, maids, butlers, servants, single laywomen, homemakers, housewives, and cooks. Together, these siblings share a feast day on July 29th.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



JULY 23, 2023

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

## THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. July 23	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30 am	SP	Mary Grime
Tues. July 25	7 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. July 26	9:00a.m..	SP	For the People
Thurs. July 27	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. July 28	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. July 29	8:30a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	Gina Dammon, John Grieser
Sun. July 30	8:30a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30a.m	SP	Amelia Salinas

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Aug. 5 – Bull Thistle Festival Breakfast  
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

---Aug. 17 – Finance Council meeting  
5:30 p.m.

## SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for July 16, 2023

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (15 envelopes) \$ 1,436.00  
LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 190.00

**BUDGET** \$ 1,747.00  
Over/(Under) (\$ 121.00)

### OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance \$ 100.00  
St. Vincent de Paul \$ 110.00  
Votives \$ 2.00  
**TOTAL COLLECTION** \$ 1,838.00

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

July 30, 2023

Reader	Ron Baker
Servers	Alise Herr Andrea Herr Hannah Kovar
Greeters/ Gifts	Jerry & Anita Van Zile
Ushers	Dennis & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Ron Baker Dennis & Denise Miller

## Words of the week (from Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

**EVIL** - something that brings sorrow, distress, or calamity

**GOOD** - something conforming to the moral order of the universe

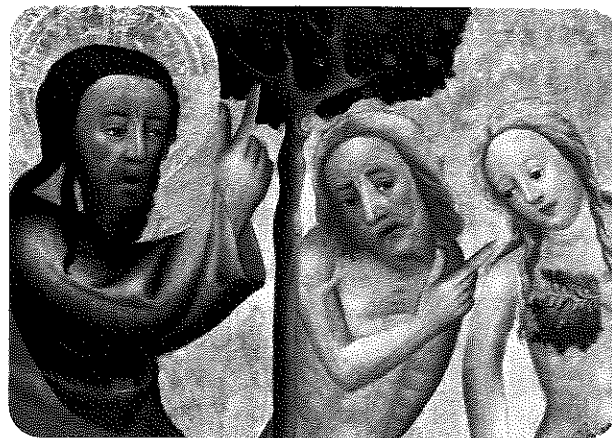
"He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows is the devil." *Matthew 13:37-39*

# Dear Padre,

**Christians teach that Adam and Eve were the first man and woman and that they were created by God. How does the Catholic Church reconcile this belief with the theory of evolution?**

Chapter 1 of Genesis contains the seven-day account of creation that we usually refer to when we reflect on the beginning of our world. The very next chapter contains a second account. The editors of the Bible were not distraught over the two differing accounts; they left them side by side because they weren't interested in giving either a historical or scientific explanation for the world's origin. Rather, they were emphasizing deeper truths, such as the goodness of the earth as created by a loving and caring God. Scripture tells us that the Creator held human beings as especially precious.

Cannot these same values be maintained if we believe creation (or evolution) took longer than seven twenty-four-hour days? Perhaps God actually spent seventy billion years bringing forth the world's beauty. Details and numbers don't change the message of Genesis: God is good; God created the cosmos, heaven and earth, "all things visible and invisible," as we profess in the Nicene Creed, and all of creation is good. Furthermore, scientific discoveries surrounding space, matter, and all forms of life "invite us to even greater admiration for the greatness of the Creator, prompting us to give him thanks for all his works and for the understanding and wisdom he gives to scholars and researchers" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 283). ●



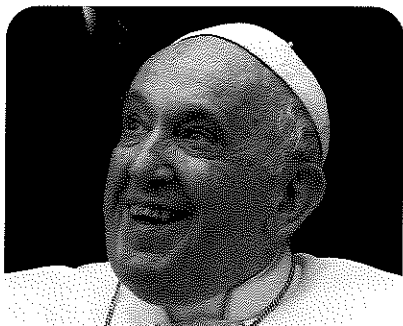
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**Fr. Richard A. Boever, CSSR, PhD**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30
Weekday	St. James, Apostle	Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Weekday	Weekday	Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 14:5-18 Mt 12:38-42	2 Cor 4:7-15 Mt 20:20-28	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15 Mt 13:1-9	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b Mt 13:10-17	Ex 20:1-17 Mt 13:18-23	Ex 24:3-8 Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Rom 8:28-30 Mt 13:44-52 or Mt 13:44-46



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***It is not those who are always searching for others' limitations and flaws who cooperate well with God but, rather, those who know how to recognize the good that silently grows in the field of the Church and history, cultivating it until it becomes mature....God, and he alone, will reward the good and punish the wicked.***

ANGELUS, ROME, JULY 19, 2020