

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.

MARK 13:33

How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks.

Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy.

What's going on?

Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along. ●

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of life?

Catholic Communities



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.



Parish Pastor
Rev. William Pifher
419-446-9288

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

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

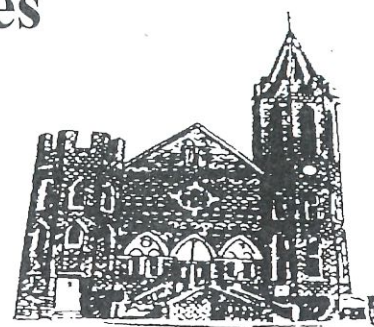
Youth Leader/CRE

Anita Van Zile

OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st 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@rtexpress.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 OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL (DAY OF HOLY OBLIGATION)

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 6:00 p.m. Rosary, 6:30 p.m. Mass – Our Lady of Mercy
Friday, December 8, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – St. Peter

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Lady of Mercy's Religious Education classes will be presenting a Christmas program next Sunday, December 10, 2023 after Mass. A breakfast will be served after the program in the basement.

SAVE THE DATE

December 17, 2023, after Mass will be the day Our Lady of Mercy decorating will be decorating the church. Anyone who would like to help please mark it on your calendar.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA, DECEMBER 17 - 25

A mailing went out this week and you should be receiving it soon. Please return your prayer intention card as soon as possible to be included for the Novena. You may either mail, place in the offering basket or drop off at the office.

AREA PENANCE SERVICES

Below are the area Penance Services and the times.

Thursday, December 6, 2023, 6 p.m. – St. Caspar, Wauseon
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2 p.m. – St. Michael, Hicksville
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m. – St. Peter, Archbold

ST VINCENT de PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul will **NOT** be accepting clothing, household items, etc. donations until after January 1, 2024. Their Christmas and toy giveaway will be on Thursday, December 7 & December 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please spread the word should you know of anyone in need of help for Christmas.

PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"There is a state of resting in God; an absolute break from all intellectual activity, when one forms no plans, makes no decisions, and for the first time really ceased to act; when one simply hands over the future to God's will and surrenders himself to Fate." - *St. Benedicta of the Cross*

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

Dec. 3 – Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.

Dec. 4 – Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

Dec. 5 – Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.

Dec. 6 - God dwells in us. It doesn't matter where you are as long as you are clean of heart. Clean of heart means openness, that complete freedom, that detachment that allows you to love God without hinderance, without obstacles. When sin comes into our lives that is a personal obstacle between us and God. Sin is nothing but slavery.

Dec. 7 – I can do things you cannot, and you can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things.

Dec. 8 – We need to know when we say yes to God exactly what is in that yes. Yes means "I surrender" – totally, fully, without any counting the cost, without asking, "Is it convenient?" Our yes to God is without any reservations.

Dec. 9 – I am Albanian by birth. Now I am a citizen of India. I am also a Catholic nun. In my work, I belong to the whole world. But in my heart, I belong to Jesus.



ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, December 8, 2023
Mass 9:00 a.m.

PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
6:30 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

---Dec. 12 – Night of Healing 7 p.m. - St. Richard's – Swanton, Ohio

---Dec. 18 – Opera House – 7 p.m. - Clark Family Christmas – \$15 General Admission - \$12 Seniors - \$10 Students

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at 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 the 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.



DIOCESE OF TOLEDO NEWS

ACA in progress – information and envelopes are on the table in the back.
Our Lady of Mercy is at 100.66%.

HELP WANTED

The Diocese has openings for employment. Check out the list at toledodiocese.org/careers

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO CALENDAR

For additional happenings in the Diocese of Toledo please visit toledodiocese.org/calendar

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS

Please pray for the Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they will gather on Monday, December 4, 2023 for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.

For all our Priest's serving the Diocese of Toledo, as they gather for their annual Day of Prayer on Monday, December 4. During this time of the National Eucharistic Revival, may they be renewed in the grace of their ordination, in their zeal to serve Christ and his Church, and in their love for the Holy Eucharist. Let us pray to the Lord.

The Diocese of Toledo Invites You to the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." - John 6:51

As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas invites you to join him to witness what God has in store for his Church in the U.S. through the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024! The Diocese of Toledo is forming a delegation to represent our local Church in this historic event at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, where 80,000 Catholics are expected to gather to deepen our understanding of, love for, and living out the great mystery of the Eucharist. The Diocese of Toledo has reserved a limited number of tickets for this pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress. Tickets are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Learn more and register: <https://toledodiocese.org/congress> or see flyer on bulletin board.

OLM Religious Education Christmas Drive 2023

This year we will be helping the **Fayette Helping Hands Food Pantry**.

This organization has requested we provide the following:

- Winter caps and hats
 - Gloves
 - Combs
 - Brushes
- Toothbrushes

There will be a box in the back of the church to collect these items and the last date to donate will be Sunday, December 10th.

Please notify those in need the Fayette Helping Hands Food Pantry's December distribution dates are December 14th and 21st, from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm.



2 Corinthians 9:11

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



Fayette Salvation Army Bell Ringing 2023

Change of dates and Location

Due to the remodeling of Circle K, and in conjunction with the Fayette Winter Market, there will be only one day of the 2023 Salvation Army Bell Ringing in our community. And, in the hopes there is not too much of a loss of donations in ringing for only one day, we are asking for everyone to spread the word in order to reach our goal in collecting near last year's total amount of donations.

The Winter Market is on December 9th from 4 pm – 8 pm.

Our community has always shown immense support and generosity for this event and the need is as great as ever. All funds stay within the Fayette Community. Donations can be mailed to:
Salvation Army c/o Jerry Van Zile, PO Box 453 Fayette OH 43521



Please see us at the
Opera House on December 9th.

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of December 3 – December 9

Sunday, Dec. 3– St. Francis Xavier - St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was born in his family castle in Navarre in what is today Spain. While studying in Paris he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined him in the foundation of the Society of Jesus. Instead of devoting himself to academic pursuits as he had planned, and in which he enjoyed great success, he became the first Jesuit missionary priest. His missionary activity began in Goa, India and extended across the Orient. St. Francis Xavier was known throughout the Far East for his humility, care of the poor, and miracles including healings, speaking in tongues, and prophetic powers. His passion for Christ and zeal for souls won him many converts to the faith. It is said that during his missionary journeys he baptized over 40,000 people. He is considered by many to be one of the Church's greatest missionaries since St. Paul the Apostle. In his travels he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations of the Catholic Church in Asia. He is the patron saint of navigators, missionaries, African missions, India, Japan, China, and New Zealand. St. Francis Xavier's feast day is December 3rd.

Monday, Dec. 4 –St. Barbara - St. Barbara (3rd c.) was born in Nicomedia in modern day Turkey. According to tradition, after the death of her mother she was raised by her rich and tyrannical pagan father who, because of her beauty and intelligence, guarded her closely, keeping her locked away in a tower to protect her from the outside world. She was educated by tutors and came to reject the false gods she was taught to worship in favor of the true God for whom she yearned and wished to discover, dedicating her life and virginity to this purpose. She developed a prayer life and resisted her father's attempts to have her marry. Believing Barbara to be negatively affected by the seclusion, her father allowed her more freedom to associate with the world. She soon discovered Christians, and, recognizing the Creator she sought, and was baptized in secret. After informing her father that she was a Christian, he denounced her to the authorities under the persecution of Roman Emperor Maximian. She was imprisoned and cruelly tortured, but remained steadfast in her faith. During the night she would pray fervently, and her wounds would miraculously heal. This only subjected her to greater torments, followed by more miraculous interventions. She was finally beheaded by her own father, and afterward he was struck and killed by lightning as punishment. St. Barbara is the patron saint of firemen, armorers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners, and others who work with explosives. She is also the patron against storms, lightning, and fire, to name a few. St. Barbara's feast day is December 4th.

Tuesday, Dec. 5– St. Sabas - St. Sabas (439-532 A.D.) was born near Caesarea in Cappadocia to an illustrious family. His father was an army officer who, being stationed in Alexandria, left Sabas (along with his estate) in the care of his wife's sister. Sabas was severely mistreated by his aunt, and he fled from her to live with his father's brother instead. This move led to a family feud over the management of his father's estate, and Sabas, a meek child disgusted with their worldliness, sought refuge in a monastery. He was well-treated there, and although only a child, excelled in the monastic life. When he reached the age of eighteen, after living in the monastery for ten years, Sabas traveled to Jerusalem to visit the holy places and to become a desert hermit. He lived in a Jerusalem monastery for a time before dwelling alone in a desert cave near Jericho, spending his days in prayer and penance. Because of his renowned virtue and holiness many men desired to follow his example. He was ordained a priest so that he could better direct the 150 monks in his care. Sabas became an important leader in the early Church by founding monasteries, fighting heresy, and serving in delegations to the Roman Emperor. He is one of the most highly-regarded patriarchs of Palestine, and is considered one of the Fathers of Eastern monasticism. His most important monastery, the Great Laura, is one of the oldest monasteries in the world and is still inhabited by Eastern Orthodox monks. St. Sabas' feast day is December 5th.

Wednesday, Dec. 6– St. Nicholas of Myra - St. Nicholas of Myra (270 – 343 A.D.) was the only child of a wealthy Greek Christian couple living in what is today the country of Turkey. He was a pious child, and upon the death of his parents Nicholas was raised by an uncle who was a bishop. St. Nicholas grew in holiness, was ordained to the priesthood, and eventually consecrated a bishop. He was famous for generosity to the poor, protection of the wronged, zeal against heresy, and performance of miracles. Many famous legends are told of him. When a poverty-stricken man was to be forced to sell his daughters into slavery, St. Nicholas secretly tossed bags of coins into their home to serve as the girls' dowry, thus enabling them to marry and be provided for. The money was said to have landed in their stockings drying by the fireplace, which is the origin of gifts in children's stockings and shoes at Christmastime. At the Council of Nicea, Nicholas prevailed against the heretic bishop Arius; he was also instrumental in defending the doctrine of Jesus' divinity and formulating the Nicene Creed. His relics are still preserved in the Basilica of St. Nicholas in Italy. On his feast day they emit a miraculous myrrh, which is distributed around the world. Many countries have the custom of making him the secret giver of gifts to children on his feast day. In the United States, for example, he is celebrated as "Santa Claus," who

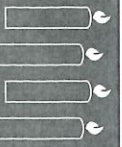
(St. Nicholas of Myra – cont.)

distributes gifts to children on Christmas Eve. St. Nicholas of Myra is the patron saint of many causes, professions, cities, and countries; but he is most notably the patron of children, sailors, prisoners, and maidens seeking to marry. His feast day is December 6th.

Thursday, Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose of Milan - St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397 A.D.) was born in Gaul (modern France) and became a successful lawyer and governor in Milan, Italy. When the bishop of Milan died in 374 A.D., a movement arose among the people to demand that Ambrose take his place. At the time Ambrose was only a catechumen preparing for baptism; he was not yet a Christian. He went into hiding in an attempt to escape the ecclesiastical appointment. His attempts to hide were unsuccessful; the emperor forbade anyone to give him shelter, which forced him to give himself up and submit to the will of the people to be their bishop. Ambrose quickly received the sacraments, including Holy Orders, and was ordained the Bishop of Milan a week later. He became a very holy leader, giving his property to the poor and his land to the Church, and making himself directly available to the needs of all people. He also worked tirelessly to defend orthodox doctrine, especially against the pervasive Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. St. Ambrose was the saint who introduced *lectio divina*, the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Sacred Scriptures, into the Latin Church. This informed his eloquent writing, preaching, and teaching, earning him the nickname “honey-tongued doctor.” Ambrose was the bishop who converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. He is one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and his statue is one of four that upholds the Chair of St. Peter inside St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. St. Ambrose’s feast day is December 7th.

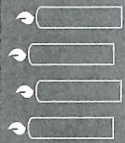
Friday, Dec. 8– St. Patapios - St. Patapios (4th c.) was born in Thebes, Egypt. His parents were prominent Christians, and his father was the governor of the region. Patapios was well-educated by the best tutors, and his learning awakened in him a desire to shun the world and its materialism and seek a life of asceticism. Inspired by the manner of life of the Church Fathers, Patapios became a desert hermit upon his father's death. He later moved away to live in a cave near Corinth, and then sailed to Constantinople to live as a simple monk in the Monastery of Blachernae. There he fasted, prayed, and performed miracles until his death at the age of 83. In the early 20th century, a local priest planning renovations discovered his relics after the saint appeared to him in a dream and informed him where they were located. His relics were found the next day holding a large wooden cross on his chest and a parchment scroll bearing his name. St. Patapios' feast day is December 8th.

Saturday, Dec. 9– St. Juan Diego - St. Juan Diego (1474–1548) was a poor and humble peasant of the lowest class of Aztec Indians living in what is today Mexico. His native name was Cuauhtlatoatzin, meaning, "eagle that talks." He was baptized at the age of fifty by a Franciscan missionary priest and received the Christian name of Juan Diego. It was he to whom Our Lady appeared as a pregnant Aztec princess on December 9, 1531—at that time the feast of the Immaculate Conception—on the hill of Tepeyac, in present-day Mexico City, as he was on his way to Mass. To help Juan Diego prove to the bishop that she had truly appeared, the Virgin Mary miraculously left her image on his tilma. This image is now famously known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Juan Diego's tilma still bears the image of Our Lady (miraculously, as the plant fibers normally disintegrate in 15-20 years) and it hangs in one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites of the world, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II as the first indigenous saint from the Americas. His feast day is December 9th.



ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
<p>The First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	4	<p>What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?</p>	5	<p>"The liturgical Season of Advent ... invites us to go to the encounter with the Lord who comes through prayer, penitence and works of charity. Prepare yourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus with assiduous listening to the Word of God and a generous response to his grace."</p> <p>Pope Francis, Audience, November 30, 2022</p>	6	<p>In honor of Saint Nicholas whose memorial we celebrate today, consider ways that you can share your time, treasure, and talent to assist those who are in need.</p>	7	<p>On this Memorial of Saint Ambrose, a bishop and great teacher of the faith, pray for all clergy and others charged with forming others in the faith of the Church.</p>	8	<p>Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States of America. It is a holy day of obligation. Offer your Mass intention today for the needs of the nation.</p>	9	<p>Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.</p>	
<p>The Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord."</p>	10	<p>"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mark 1:10</p>	11	<p>Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to Juan Diego as a pregnant indigenous woman. Pray for all pregnant women and mothers and look for ways that you can walk with moms in need: <u>Walking with Moms in Need</u></p>	12	<p>In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.</p>	13	<p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this <u>blessing</u> with your family and friends.</p>	14	<p>"For the believer, the Word of God is not simply a text to read. The Word of God is a living presence, it is a work of the Holy Spirit that comforts, instructs, gives light, strength, relief, and a zest for life. To read the Bible, to read a piece, one or two passages of the Bible, is like a short telegram from God that immediately goes to the heart." Pope Francis, Audience, December 21, 2022</p>	15	<p><u>Las Posadas</u>, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. <u>Pray for migrants</u> seeking shelter around the world.</p>	16



ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17 The Third Sunday of Advent Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in the season of Advent, light two violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!	18 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me: he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted... to announce a year of favor from the LORD." Isaiah 61:1-2	19 "God, in the Christmas mystery, reveals himself not as One who remains on high and dominates the universe, but as the One who bends down, descends to the little and poor earth, it means that, to be like him, we should not put ourselves above others, but indeed lower ourselves, place ourselves at the service of others, become small with the small and poor with the poor." Pope Francis, Audience, December 18, 2022	20 "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38	21 Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for all your beloved family and friends.	22 Use this blessing to bless the nativity scene in your home: <u>Blessing of a Christmas Manger</u> or <u>Nativity Scene</u> <u>USCCB</u>	23 Reach out to those in your community who may be alone this Christmas and invite them to Mass and to share part of your celebration.

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent
This year, the Fourth Week of Advent lasts only one day. Light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord.

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Our Lady of Mercy Parish



DECEMBER 3, 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. Dec. 3	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Eddie Tidwell, Chuck Wurth Living & Deceased Sarnac family
	10:30 am	SP	Mike & Joyce Britenriker Pat & Juanita Arend
Tues. Dec. 5	7 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Dec. 7	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
	6:00p.m.	OLM	For the People
Immaculate Conception Vigil			
Fri. Dec. 8	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Immaculate Conception			
Sat. Dec. 9	8:30a.m.	SP	No Mass
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Dec. 10	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Living & Deceased Sarnac family
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Dec. 3 – Basement Rental (all day)
- Dec. 6 –Religious Ed –Elem.
- Dec. 7 – Immaculate Conception (day of Holy Obligation) Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m. Rosary - 6:30 p.m. Mass
- Dec. 10 – Religious Ed. Christmas program after Mass, breakfast to follow
- Dec. 13 – Penance Service – 6:30 p.m. at **St. Peter's**
- Dec. 17 – Decorate church after Mass
- Dec. 17 – 25 – Christmas Novena
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Mass 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for November 26, 2023

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (11envelopes) \$ 1,021.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 47.00

BUDGET \$ 1,747.00
 Over/(Under) (\$ 679.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

St. Vincent de Paul \$ 10.00
 Votive Candles \$ 3.00
 CPC Jar \$ 40.00
 Campaign for Human Dev. \$ 25.00
 All Saints \$ 40.00
TOTAL COLLECTION \$ 1,186.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

December 10, 2023

Reader	Anita Van Zile
Servers	Evan Beauregard Kennedy Kunkle
Greeters/ Gifts	Joyce Bonin Marge Crowell
Ushers	Jerry & Anita Van Zile
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Michelle Miron Jerry Van Zile

Word(s) of the week (from Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

PREPARE – to make ready beforehand for some purpose, use, or activity

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.



These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 4 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11	December 5 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	December 6 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37	December 7 <i>St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	December 8 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	December 9 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	December 10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Is 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

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VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020