



## Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●



[John] was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

JOHN 1:8

### Reflect

*When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?*

# 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**

Tami Baker

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

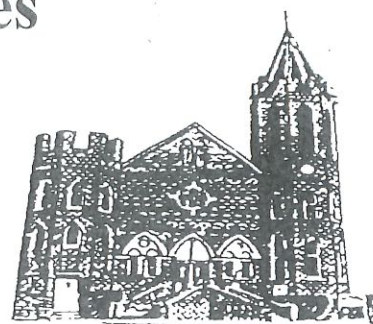
**Youth Leader/CRE**

Anita Van Zile

[OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmircrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmircrosoft.com)

**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 [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

### DECORATING TODAY AFTER MASS

Today after Mass we will be decorating Our Lady of Mercy. Anyone who would like to help please stay after Mass.

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA, DECEMBER 17 - 25

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.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m. – Holy Trinity, Assumption

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

This year the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent will be only a few short hours and then it will be Christmas Eve. Please note that Saturday evening/Sunday Morning Mass (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) and Christmas Eve Mass are 2 separate Masses. If you are planning on attending a different Parish, please check the time of their Sunday morning Mass has not been changed.

### CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

#### Christmas Eve

Our Lady of Mercy – 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter – 4:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

Our Lady of Mercy – 9:00 a.m.

### 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

"Let Mary never be far from your lips and from your heart. Following her, you will never lose your way. Praying to her, you will never sink into despair. Contemplating her, you will never go wrong." - St. Bartholomew

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

**Dec. 17** – We never base our assistance on the religious beliefs of the needy, but on the need itself. We are not concerned with the religious beliefs of those we help. We only focus on their urgent need for our love.

**Dec. 18** – To women: You and I – being women – we have this tremendous gift: the gift of understanding love. I see that so beautifully in the people we serve, in our poor women, who day after day, meet suffering, accept suffering for the sake of their children. I have seen mothers going without so many things, even resorting to begging, so that their children may have what they need.

**Dec. 19** – If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

**Dec. 20** – One thing I ask of you: Never be afraid of giving. There is a deep joy in giving, since what we receive is much more than what we give.

**Dec. 21** – Life is full of paradoxes. I have found that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.

**Dec. 22** – Love has no other message but its own. Every day we try to live out Jesus' love in a very tangible way, in every one of our deeds. If we do any preaching, it is done with deeds, not with words. This is our witness to the Gospel.

**Dec. 23** – In God we live and move and have our being. It is God who gives life to all, who gives power and being to all that exists. But for His sustaining presence, all things would cease to be and fall back into nothingness. Consider that you are in God, surrounded and encompassed by God, swimming in God.



### ST. PETER NEWS

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

#### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:30 p.m. & 10:00 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. 20 – Community Meal – 5 – 6 p.m. Fayette Methodist Community Life Center

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

**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 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.**

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE – December 24 & 25, 2023

## December 24, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. Mass

Greet & Gifts – Mike Maginn Family

Reader – Pat Eisel

Servers – Maeve & Will Maginn

Ushers – Ron & Pat Eisel

## December 24, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Greet & Gifts – Ron & Pat Eisel

Reader – Pat Eisel

Servers – Kennedy Kunkle

Kruez Lichtenwald

Micah Maginn

Ushers – Ron & Pat Eisel

## December 25, 2023 – 9 a.m. Christmas Morning Mass

Greet & Gifts – Jerry & Anita Van Zile

Reader – Anita Van Zile

Servers – Evan Beauregard

Ushers – Phil & Tami Baker

Money Counters – Phil & Tami Baker

Jerry Van Zile

## Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of December 17 – December 23

**Sunday, Dec. 17– St. John of Matha-** St. John of Matha (1154-1213) was born near Provence, France to noble and pious parents, and was dedicated to God from his birth. He learned the arts of a nobleman and advanced in Christian virtue, tending the sick and giving alms to the poor. Through his study of theology at the University of Paris he discerned a call to Holy Orders and became a priest. On the day of his first Mass he had a vision which encouraged him to devote his life to ransom Christians who had been captured by Muslims and forced into slavery. After time spent in prayer and fasting, he went to Rome to gain the Pope's approval for a new religious order dedicated to this purpose. Pope Innocent III deliberated and ordered a fast, afterwards concluding that John's mission was inspired by God. He gave his approval for the foundation of the Order of the Holy Trinity, or the Hospitaller Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of Captives (Trinitarians). The habit of the order, a white scapular with a two-toned blue and red cross on the chest, was chosen according to what St. John saw in his vision. St. John of Matha and the Trinitarians collected alms and traveled to Moor-controlled areas, ransoming and encouraging many Christian captives. His feast day is December 17.

**Monday, Dec. 18 –St. Winebald -** St. Winebald (701-761 A.D.) – also known as Winibald or Wynbald – a Saxon prince born into a holy and royal family in England. His father, St. Richard the King, and his mother, St. Wunna of Wessex, are both saints, as well as his brother, St. Willibald, his sister, St. Walburga, and his uncle, St. Boniface. After making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with his father and brother, and then spending many years in Rome, Winebald was recruited by his uncle, Boniface, to join him in evangelizing Germany. Winebald was ordained a priest and worked as a missionary across Germany, Holland, France, Austria, Belgium, and Luxembourg, leaving behind many flourishing churches and monasteries under the Rule of St. Benedict. St. Winebald was an important figure in laying the foundations of Christianity across much of Europe. After his death, his tomb became a pilgrimage shrine. His feast day is December 18.

**Tuesday, Dec. 19– Pope St. Anastasius I -** Pope St. Anastasius I (d. 401 A.D.) was a 4th century Bishop of Rome. The writings of the Church Fathers tell us that he was a distinguished Roman Christian known for his charity and holiness. He was elevated to the Chair of St. Peter in 399 A.D., succeeding Pope Siricius, and his pontificate lasted not quite four years. St. Paulinus of Nola, St. Augustine, and St. Jerome were among his friends. St. Jerome called Pope St. Anastasius "a man of very rich poverty and apostolic zeal." He fought against heresies and heretics that threatened the doctrine of the Church, most notably a popular theologian at the time, Origen, whom he soundly condemned. Pope St. Anastasius I was known as a great Holy Father who governed the Church "with purity of life, abundance of doctrine, and perfect strictness of ecclesiastical authority." His feast day is December 19.

**Wednesday, Dec. 20– St. Dominic of Silos -** St. Dominic of Silos (1000–1073 A.D.) was born in Navarre, Spain, to a peasant family. He grew up herding his father's sheep in the Pyrenees mountains. This work endeared in him a love of solitude, leading him to enter the local Benedictine monastery in Navarre. He eventually became its prior, but was driven out when the King of Navarre seized its lands. Dominic then fled to another monastery under the protection of King Ferdinand I of Leon. Though the monastery was dilapidated, he became abbot and restored it both materially and spiritually, turning it into a significant center of scholarship and charity to the poor. The funds of the monastery were used to ransom Christian captives who were enslaved by Muslims. St. Dominic of Silos was known during his life and after death as a miracle worker, making him a popular Spanish saint. The Spanish mother of St. Dominic de Guzmán, founder of the Dominican Order, prayed for a son at St. Dominic of Silos' shrine; when she conceived, she named her son after him. St. Dominic of Silos' special patronage became connected with pregnancy, and until 1931 his crozier was used to bless the queens of Spain, and was placed beside their beds when they were in labor. St. Dominic of Silos is also the patron of prisoners and shepherds. His feast day is December 20.

**Thursday, Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius** - St. Peter Canisius (1521–1597) was born in Holland to a wealthy family. He was sent to the University of Cologne and met St. Peter Faber who influenced him to join the Jesuits. St. Peter Canisius became famous for his preaching and writing, and was one of the most influential Catholics of his time. He was instrumental in defending Catholicism against the Protestant revolt in Germany and surrounding countries. He famously wrote a popular-level catechism to counter the spreading heresies. The restoration of the Church in Germany is largely attributed to his catechetical work. He was adamant in promoting charity and courtesy towards Protestants in a time of great hostility. After the Council of Trent, he was chosen by the Vatican to help smuggle the documents of the Council into the hands of European bishops, avoiding the outposts of Protestant aggression, which was a difficult task at the time. For his brilliance in teaching Catholic doctrine, St. Peter Canisius was named a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is December 21st.

**Friday, Dec. 22– St. Zeno of Nicomedia** - St. Zeno of Nicomedia (d. 303 A.D.) was a Roman soldier and commander living in Nicomedia (modern-day Turkey) during the reign of Roman Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. During their fierce persecution of the Church they were condemning many Christians to death, including any soldiers who professed faith in Jesus Christ. In Nicomedia alone, as many as 20,000 Christians were burned alive as they gathered inside a cathedral on Christmas Day. Standing nearby when the Emperor was offering a sacrifice to a Roman deity, St. Zeno, a Christian, mocked his devotion to a soulless god. St. Zeno was immediately seized and put to death, giving him a martyr's crown. St. Zeno's feast day is December 22nd.

**Saturday, Dec. 23– St. Victoria** - St. Victoria (d. 250 A.D.) was a Christian noblewoman from Rome. She, together with her sister, St. Anatolia, were forced into arranged marriages with two pagan noblemen. Both Victoria and Anatolia desired to devote themselves entirely to God rather than marry. Upon this refusal, their suitors denounced the sisters as Christians to the authorities under the persecution of Roman Emperor Decius. The sisters were seized and put under house arrest in order to break their faith and convince them to marry. Instead of weakening, their faith in Christ became more resolute. While under house arrest they sold all of their belongings, gave their money to the poor, and converted the servants and guards who attended them to Christianity. Both St. Victoria and her sister were eventually killed for their faith; first Anatolia, and later Victoria. St. Victoria was stabbed through the heart at the request of her rejected suitor, Eugenius. Her feast day is December 23rd.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



DECEMBER 17, 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. 17	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Novena Prayers
	10:30 am	SP	Novena Prayers
Tues. Dec. 19	7 p.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
Wed. Dec. 20	9:00 a.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
Thurs. Dec. 21	9:00a.m.	OLM	Novena Prayers
Fri. Dec. 22	9:00a.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
Sat. Dec. 23	8:30a.m.	SP	No Mass
	4:30p.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
Sun. Dec. 24	8:30a.m.	OLM	Novena Prayers
	7:00p.m.	OLM	Novena Prayers
	10:30a.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
	4:30p.m.	SP	Novena Prayers
	10:00p.m.	SP	Novena Prayers

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- 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 December 10, 2023

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (16envelopes) \$ 2,203.50  
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 776.00

**BUDGET** \$ 1,747.00  
 Over/(Under) \$ 1,232.50

#### OTHER COLLECTIONS

St. Vincent de Paul \$ 10.00  
 Votive Candles \$ 13.00  
 Maintenance \$ 100.00  
 Immaculate Conception (\$3 St. Peter parishioner) \$ 83.00  
 Christmas Flowers (St. Peter parishioner) \$ 15.00  
 Christmas \$ 220.00  
 Retired Religious \$ 75.00  
 CPC Jar \$ 22.00  
 Solemnity of Mary \$ 10.00  
**TOTAL COLLECTION** \$ 3,527.50

#### NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

December 24 & 25, 2023

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS	December 24 & 25, 2023
Reader	See bulletin insert
Servers	See bulletin insert
Greeters/ Gifts	See bulletin insert
Ushers	See bulletin insert
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	See bulletin insert

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

JOY – a source or cause of delight

Rejoice always. - 1Thessalonians 5:16

# Dear Padre,

*Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?*

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

### MONDAY

December 18  
Advent Weekday  
Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

### TUESDAY

December 19  
Advent Weekday  
Jgs 13:2-7,  
24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25

### WEDNESDAY

December 20  
Advent Weekday  
Is 7:10-14  
Lk 1:26-38

### THURSDAY

December 21  
Advent Weekday  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a  
Lk 1:39-45

### FRIDAY

December 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

### SATURDAY

December 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1-4,  
23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

### SUNDAY

December 24  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
2 Sm 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16  
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.