



A Haunting Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“What are you looking for?” asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus’ first words in John’s Gospel, and that’s what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I’d like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I’m simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—“What are you looking for?”

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It’s what I’m looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

**[Eli] said to Samuel,
“Go to sleep, and if you are
called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD,
for your servant is listening.’”**

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Reflect

**When you pray,
what are you looking for?**



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

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

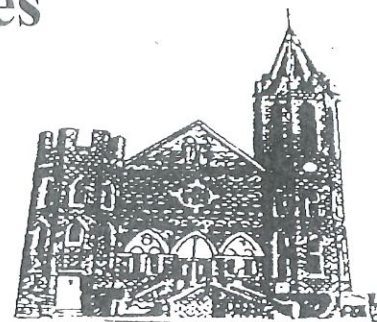
Youth Leader/CRE

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, JANUARY 14, 2024

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

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

BFF'S (Breakfast, Friends & Fellowship)

Join us today for our BFF after Mass for fabulous food, friends, and fellowship.

OUR CONDOLENCES

Fr. Frederick J. Schill, a senior status priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

FINANCE & PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Finance will meet at 5:45 p.m. and Parish Council will meet at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Meetings will be in the office.

ADULT NIGHT OUT

Our Lady of Mercy's Altar Rosary Society invites all parishioners over the age of 21 for an Adult Night Out on January 27, 2024, starting at 6:30 p.m. See flyer in bulletin.

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

"It takes three to make love, not two: you, you spouse, and God. Without God people only succeed in bring out the worst in one another. Lovers who have nothing else to do but love each other soon find there is nothing else. Without a central loyalty life is unfinished." - *Blessed Fulton Sheen*

Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

Warsaw, August 1, 1925

(9) Once I was at a dance (probably in Lodz) with one of my sisters. While everybody was having a good time, my soul was experiencing deep torments. As I began to dance, I suddenly saw Jesus at my side, Jesus racked with pain, stripped of His clothing, all covered with wounds, who spoke these words to me: **How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?** At that moment the charming music stopped, (and) the company I was with vanished from my sight; there remained Jesus and I, I took a seat my dear sister pretending to have a headache in order to cover up what took place in my soul.

After a while I slipped out unnoticed, leaving my sister and all my companions behind and made my way to the Cathedral of Saint Stanislaus Kostka. It was almost twilight; there were only a few people in the cathedral. Paying no attention to what was happening around me, I fell prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament and begged the Lord to be good enough to give me to understand what I should do next.

(10) Then I heard these words: **Go at once to Warsaw; you will enter a convent there.** I rose from prayer, came home and took care of things that needed to be settled. As best I could. I confided to my sister what took place within my soul. I told her to say good-bye to our parents, and thus, in my one dress, with no other belongings, I arrived in Warsaw.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY-DAYS

January 12, 2024 – March 29, 2024

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

---Jan. 17 – Community Meal Fayette Methodist Life Center 5 – 6 pm

---Jan. 27 – Lee Warren & Friends 7 p.m. – Fayette Opera House - \$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.



Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners,

The Altar Rosary Society would like to offer parishioners the opportunity to honor our Blessed Mother. Our goal is to adorn the Altar weekly with flowers.

If you would like to help with the funding for this endeavor, please fill in the form below. You may put the form and your payment in the collection basket or mail it in. Should you have any questions please see an Altar Rosary Society member.

God Bless and Thank You,

Our Lady of Mercy
Altar Rosary Society

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Financial Gift (please make checks out to OLOM Altar Rosary Society)

_____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$ (Other)

I would like to fund the flowers for the following date(s)

Please recognize in the bulletin

_____ Yes _____ No

If Yes: _____

Bulletin examples:

- Altar Flowers donated by the Smith Family
- Altar Flowers donated in memory of Joe Smith
- Altar Flowers donated (Special Intention)

OR Mail to: Our Lady of Mercy Altar Rosary Society P.O. Box 429 Fayette, OH 43521





**Our Lady of Mercy
Altar Rosary
CABIN FEVER
Adult Night Out**

**When: January 27, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

Where: Our Lady of Mercy

For Adults 21 years and over

**BYOB - Bring Your Own Beverage
(Alcoholic beverages allowed)**

**Altar Rosary will be providing SNACKY
food for your enjoyment**

**Come and enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship
and games**



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

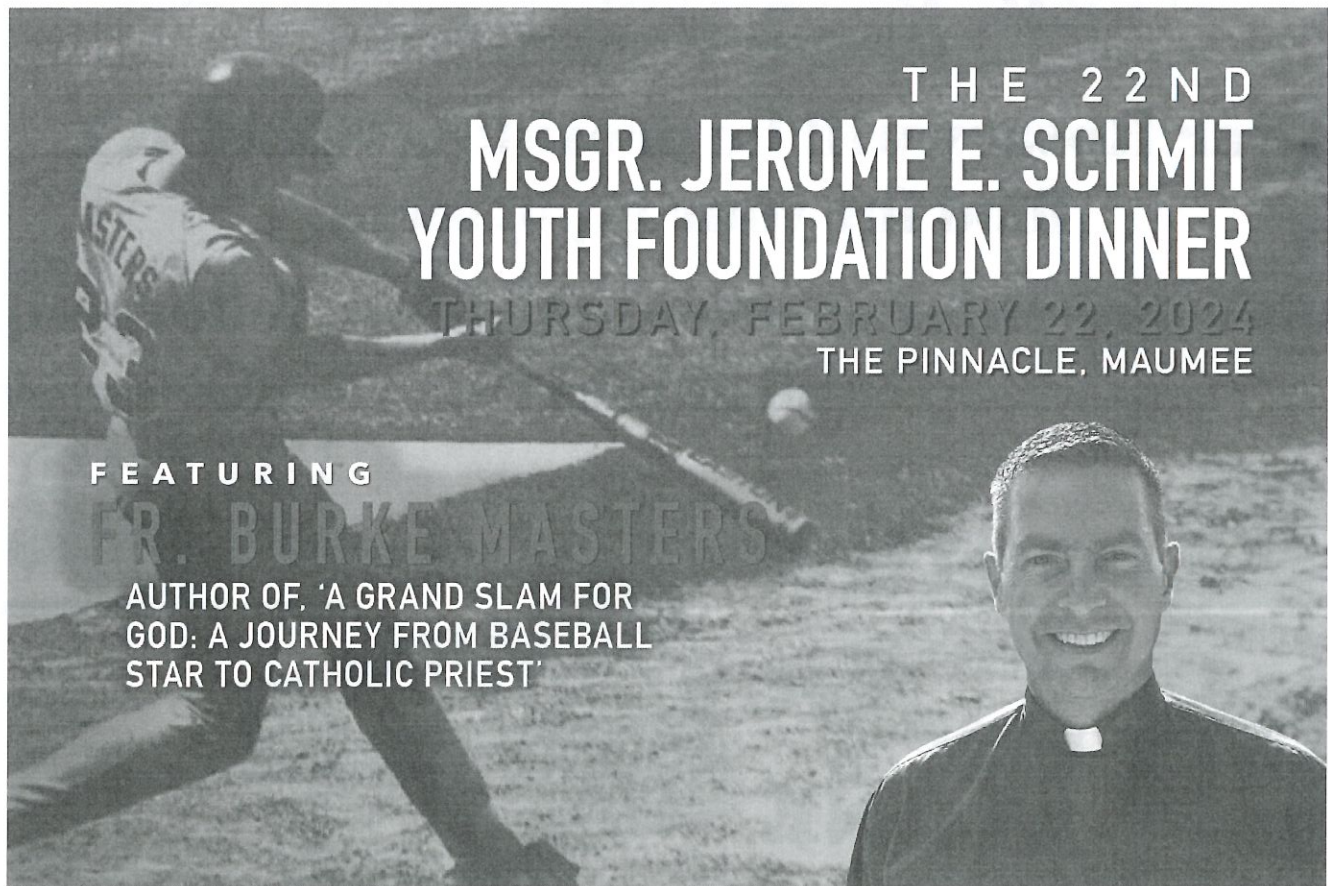
The Diocese of Toledo Invites You to the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024

"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.

Monsignor Jerome E. Schmit Youth Foundation Dinner

Join us Thursday, February 22 at The Pinnacle in Maumee for the 22nd Monsignor Jerome E. Schmit Youth Foundation Dinner. This foundation benefits CYO Athletics, Youth Ministry, and the Catholic Club. The guest speaker will be **Fr. Burke Masters**, author of, "A Grand Slam for God: A Journey From Baseball Star to Catholic Priest". Doors open at 6pm with Dinner at 7pm. Reserve your tickets today at www.catholicclub.org.



THE 22ND
**MSGR. JEROME E. SCHMIT
YOUTH FOUNDATION DINNER**
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024
THE PINNACLE, MAUMEE

FEATURING
FR. BURKE MASTERS
AUTHOR OF, 'A GRAND SLAM FOR
GOD: A JOURNEY FROM BASEBALL
STAR TO CATHOLIC PRIEST'

The flyer features a background image of a baseball player in a dark uniform with 'MASTERS' on the back, swinging a bat. In the foreground, a portrait of Fr. Burke Masters, a smiling man in a black clerical shirt with a white collar, is shown.

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of January 14 – January 20

Sunday, Jan. 14– St. Felix of Nola - St. Felix of Nola (d. 250 A.D.) was born in Italy near Naples, the son of a Syrian soldier. After his father's death, Felix gave his goods to the poor and entered the priesthood. He was ordained by his bishop, St. Maximus of Nola, and served as his assistant. When persecution against Christians increased under Roman Emperor Decius, St. Maximus hid in the desert while St. Felix was captured, tortured, and thrown into prison. While in prison an angel appeared to Felix and freed him from his chains, bidding him to go to the aid of his bishop, St. Maximus, who was at the point of starving to death. After assisting the bishop, Felix fled from his captors by hiding in a hole. Miraculously, a spider quickly spun a web over the hole and prevented St. Felix from being caught by his pursuers. Felix continued hiding in a dry well for six months until the persecution abated. Afterwards he declined an offer to become the bishop of Nola following the death of St. Maximus. Felix's property was confiscated in the persecutions, so he lived his remaining years farming a few acres of rented land for his own sustenance as well as alms for the poor. His feast day is January 14.

Monday, Jan. 15 –St. Arnold Janssen - St. Arnold Janssen (1837–1909) was born in Germany to a large Catholic family. He was a man of simple faith who studied theology, entered the priesthood, and served as a school teacher. He had a profound devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which awakened in him an increasing desire for missionary work. This led him to found *The Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, a monthly magazine sharing news of the Church's missionary activities and encouraging German Catholics to do more to help the missions. This was during a time of anti-Catholic persecution in Germany, and many priests were expelled from the country. Arnold suggested that these expelled priests serve in the missions, and for this purpose he founded the Society of the Divine Word, known as the Divine Word Missionaries, a religious congregation of missionary priests and lay brothers. He also founded two Orders of religious sisters associated with this missionary activity. Today more than 6,000 Divine Word Missionaries are active in 63 countries. St. Arnold was canonized in 2003 by Pope St. John Paul II. His feast day is celebrated on January 15.

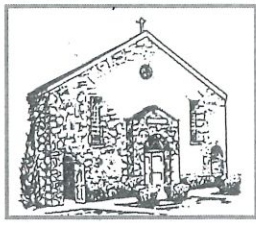
Tuesday, Jan. 16– St. Priscilla of Rome - St. Priscilla of Rome (1st c.) was a Christian noblewoman who served as a benefactor to the Christian community in Rome. She supported St. Peter the Apostle, the first Bishop of Rome, and her home near the catacombs served as his headquarters. She was the wife of Manius Acilius Glabrio, a Roman politician, who was executed by the Emperor Domitian for atheism, that is, his refusal to worship the Roman gods because he was Christian. Priscilla buried him in what was once a quarry and donated the property to the Church so that others could also be laid to rest there. Her catacombs, known since the earliest days of Christianity as the "Catacombs of Priscilla" are also referred to as the "Queen of the Catacombs" because such a large number of martyrs and popes were buried there. It also holds a significant collection of early Christian iconography including the earliest known depiction of the Madonna and Child. St. Priscilla was also martyred for her Christian faith and buried there. Her feast day is January 16.

Wednesday, Jan. 17– St. Anthony of the Desert - St. Anthony of the Desert (251–356 A.D.), also known as St. Anthony the Great (or St. Antony the Great) and also St. Anthony of Egypt, was a leading figure among the Desert Fathers, the early Christian monks who lived in the Egyptian desert in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The story of his life was written by St. Athanasius of Alexandria. St. Anthony's parents were wealthy, and after their death Anthony desired to conform himself to the manner of life of the Apostles and early Christians. On hearing these words from the Gospel of Matthew in church, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me," St. Anthony left everything behind to live a life of prayer, fasting, self-denial, and labor. Whenever he heard of other holy people living in this manner, he would visit them to learn from their virtues in order to imitate them. He eventually removed himself from all society and became the first Christian to live a life of consecrated solitude. He occasionally left his hermitage for pressing matters, once to encourage persecuted Christians, and another time to support Pope Athanasius against the heresy of Arius. St. Anthony died at the age of one hundred and five. His feast day is January 17th.

Thursday, Jan. 18 – St. Margaret of Hungary – St. Margaret of Hungary (1242–1271) was the daughter of King Bela IV of Hungary, and niece of the famed St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Her royal parents made a vow to God that if Hungary was saved from the Mongol invasion they would dedicate Margaret to religion. God heard their prayer and the country was saved. The king and queen then entrusted four-year-old Margaret to be raised and educated in a Dominican convent. At the age of ten Margaret was transferred to the Convent of the Blessed Virgin founded by her parents, built on an island her parents named after her. Margaret spent the rest of her life there, dedicating herself to prayer and severe penances. She opposed her father's attempts to arrange her political marriage with the King of Bohemia, even though her suitor obtained a dispensation from the pope to release her from her religious vows so that she could enter into matrimony. Margaret made her solemn vows as a Dominican nun at the age of eighteen. Although a beautiful princess, she took the most menial tasks in the convent and dedicated her life to serving the poor and sick. She was considered a saint during her life and after her death. Many miracles, especially the curing of illnesses, were attributed to her intercession. She died at the age of 28. Her feast day is January 18.

Friday, Jan. 19– St. Canute IV of Denmark - St. Canute IV of Denmark (1042 – 1086 A.D.), also known as Canute the Holy, was one of thirteen sons born to the king of Denmark. Canute later succeeded his brother to the throne and reigned as king from 1080 to 1086. He was a devout Catholic, a zealous propagator of the faith, and a brave warrior, in addition to being a man of prayer, penance, austerity, and charity towards the poor and weak among his people. The happiness of his people and the interests of the Church were his motivation, often putting him in opposition to the aristocracy. He fought against the barbarian nations and worked to strengthen the power of the monarchy, but some of his laws were unpopular and caused unrest among the people. Canute sought to expand Denmark's territory and believed he had a claim to the English throne. In 1085 he gathered his fleet and planned an invasion of England to overthrow William the Conqueror, a plan which was never realized. Instead, a revolt broke out against Canute, causing him to take refuge inside St. Alban's Priory in Odense. Canute, his brother, and seventeen of his men were pursued and killed by rebels in front of the altar. He was named a martyr for the faith, and many miracles were reported at his tomb. He was canonized in the year 1101, the first Danish saint. St. Canute is the patron saint of Denmark. His feast day is January 19.

Saturday, Jan. 20– St. Sebastian - St. Sebastian (d. c. 288 A.D.) was born in Gaul, present-day France, to wealthy Italian parents. According to tradition he went to Rome to serve and encourage the Christians who were being persecuted under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. To do so effectively and without suspicion, he enrolled in the Roman army as an officer. In this position he did much to encourage the faith of the Christians in the face of brutal martyrdom, and in the process made many new converts through his gift of healing. Once he was discovered to be a Christian, he was seized by Roman officers, tied to a tree, and shot through with arrows. He survived this, and was healed by St. Irene of Rome. Being fully recovered, he returned to preach to Diocletian himself. Diocletian then had him beaten to death with clubs. St. Sebastian is the patron of many causes, most notably of archers, athletes, police officers, soldiers, and against plague victims and enemies of religion. St. Sebastian's feast day is January 20th.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



JANUARY 14, 2024

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. Jan. 14	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Jeannette Tidwell
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cindy Eddy, Julia Sandoval
Tues. Jan. 16	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Jan. 17	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Jan. 18	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Jan. 19	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Jan. 20	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	John Griser
Sun. Jan. 21	8:30a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Jan. 14– BFF's after Mass
- Jan. 17 – Rel. Ed 6;45 p.m. Elem. & H.S.
- Jan. 18 – Finance 5:45 p.m. & Parish Council 6:15 p.m. meetings
- Jan. 21 – Youth breakfast after Mass
- Jan. 27 – 6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy Adult Night Out, put on by Altar Rosary Society

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for January 7, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (15 envelopes) \$ 1,486.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 162.00

BUDGET \$ **1,747.00**
 Over/(Under) (\$ 99.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance \$ 5.00
 CPC Jar \$ 5.00
 Solemnity of Mary \$ 158.00
 St. Vincent de Paul \$ 30.00
 Initial Offering \$ 135.00
TOTAL COLLECTION \$ **1,981.00**

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

January 21, 2024

Reader	Mary Bird
Servers	Micah & Maeve Maginn
Greeters/ Gifts	Mike Maginn family
Ushers	Denise & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Barb Bruggeman Dennis & Denise Miller

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

LISTEN– to give attention with the ear; attend closely for the purpose of hearing

the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered "Speak, for your servant is listening."
 - 1 Samuel 3:10

Dear Padre,

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

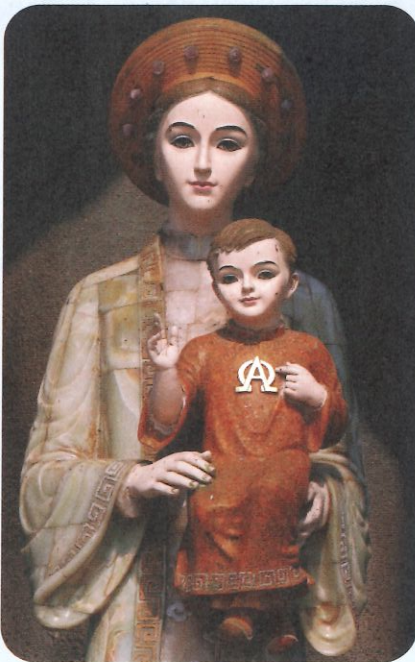
The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●



FRESCO OF APOSTLE ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST BY PIETRO GAGLIARDI / RENATA SEMAKOVA

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



GODONGPHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfillment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call.

ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 17, 2021

MONDAY

January 15

Weekday

1 Sm 15:16–23

Mk 2:18–22

TUESDAY

January 16

Weekday

1 Sm 16:1–13

Mk 2:23–28

WEDNESDAY

January 17

St. Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm 17:32–33, 37,

40–51

Mk 3:1–6

THURSDAY

January 18

Weekday

1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7

Mk 3:7–12

FRIDAY

January 19

Weekday

1 Sm 24:3–21

Mk 3:13–19

SATURDAY

January 20

Weekday

2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19,

23–27

Mk 3:20–21

SUNDAY

January 21

Third Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1–5, 10

1 Cor 7:29–31

Mk 1:14–20

DAYbreaks Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more. Available from Liguori Publications.



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