



Bringing Outsiders In

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As a child, were you teased, bullied, chosen last for a team? Did you feel apart from the in-crowd? If so, in various ways this treatment may have kept you from being fully engaged with the larger community, possibly continuing to scar you in even your grown-up world.

In 2021, the news media reported that a Louisiana cemetery refused burial for Darrell Semien because he was black. Though he had served his community as a deputy sheriff for fifteen years and had helped raise seventy-two foster children, none of that was of any significance. After the news broke, the cemetery quickly lifted its whites-only stipulation, but the damage had been done. In so many ways, we continue to exclude others from the human community, even in death.

Our Sunday Gospel tells of Jesus curing a leper, enabling the man to again become part of the community. Even more startling, by touching him, Jesus himself became “impure,” and thus isolated himself from the community, thereby switching roles with the man. Bringing others into community even at a cost to ourselves is divine.

Such compassion is exemplified when people work to reform prisons, seek to integrate immigrants into national life, give voice to the voiceless, improve mental health care, strive to alleviate paralyzing poverty, and more. The world witnessed compassion at its finest during the COVID-19 pandemic when medical personnel worked to heal the sick, even at the cost of isolating themselves from their own families. Compassion toward those in need is holy. ●

Reflect

Who made you feel welcome when you felt locked out? Can you do the same for another?

A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.”

MARK 1:40



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

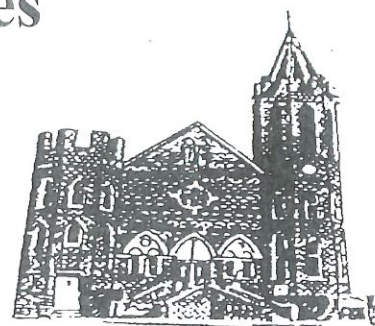
Youth Leader/CRE

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@rtceexpress.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, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

6th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

BFF BREAKFAST

Join us today after Mass for breakfast, friends & fellowship in the church basement.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024.

Our Lady of Mercy – 9:00 a.m. – Mass with Ashes
7:00 p.m. - Liturgical with Ashes
St. Peter - 7:00 a.m. – Mass with Ashes
6:30 p.m. – Mass with Ashes



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish and Finance councils will meet on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Finance at 5:45 p.m.

Parish at 6:15 p.m.

ST. TERESE OF LISIEUX – THE STORY OF A SOUL

St. Therese of Lisieux – The Story of a Soul is available for purchase \$10, please use the signup on the sheet on the back table to reserve your book. There will be a discussion on the book on March 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. here at Our Lady of Mercy.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2023 Contribution Statements have been mailed. Please let the office know if you do not receive yours.

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

"He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands." - St. Benedict

Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

(36) (14) Once I was summoned to the judgement [seat] of God. I stood alone before the Lord. Jesus appeared such as we know Him during His Passion. After a moment, His wounds disappeared except for five, those in His hand, His feet and His side. Suddenly I saw the complete condition of my soul as God sees it. I could clearly see all that is displeasing to God. I did not know that even the smallest transgressions will have to be accounted for. What a moment! Who can describe it? To stand before the Thrice-Holy God! Jesus asked me, **Who are you?** I answered, "I am Your servant, Lord." **You are guilty of one day of fire in purgatory.** I wanted to throw myself immediately into the flames of purgatory, but Jesus stopped me and said, **Which do you prefer, suffer now for one day in purgatory or for a short while on earth?** I replied, "Jesus, I want to suffer in purgatory, and I want to suffer also the greatest pains on earth, even if it were until the end of the world." Jesus said, **One [of the two] is enough; you will go back to earth, and there you will suffer much, but not for long; you will accomplish My will and My desires, and a faithful servant of Mine will help you to do this. Now, rest your head on My bosom, on My heart, and draw from it strength and power for these sufferings because you will find neither relief nor help nor comfort anywhere else. Know that you will have much, much to suffer, but don't let this frighten you; I am with you.**

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.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 am – Mass with dist. of Ashes
6:30 pm – Mass with dist. of Ashes

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

---Feb. 21 – Community Dinner – CANCELLED

---Feb. 24 – Opera House – Public Scene - \$15 General Adm. \$12 Seniors \$10 Students

---March 5 - Night of Healing, Defiance – St. John Parish – 7 p.m.

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



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

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.

2024 OPEN ARMS AWARDS

26th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF

CATHOLICS *With* DISABILITIES

With the Presentation of the 2024 Open Arms Awards



Principal Celebrant

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo

June 1, 2024 at 4:30 pm

St. Paul the Apostle Parish
91 East Main St. Norwalk, OH 44857



Diocese
of Toledo

Contact: Lynn Priest
Accessibility Ministries Specialist
419-214-4886, lpriest@toledodiocese.org



2024 Open Arms nomination forms on the back table

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of February 11– February 17

Sunday, Feb. 11– Bl. Bartholomew of Olmedo - Blessed Bartholomew of Olmedo (1485-1524) was a Spanish Mercedarian priest, and the first priest to arrive on Mexican soil in 1516 at the age of 31. He was chaplain for the expedition of Spanish Conquistador Fernando Cortés, who began the Spanish colonization of the Americas and the downfall of the Aztec empire. Bartholomew was well-liked by the native people. He taught them the Christian faith and exhorted them to end their practice of human sacrifice. He also defended them against injustice and restrained Cortés from acting out in violence against them. Bartholomew taught the native Mexicans devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Mercy, which they embraced. Blessed Bartholomew of Olmedo baptized more than 2500 people before he died in Mexico in 1524 at the age of 39. He was buried in Santiago de Tlatelolco. His feast day is February 11.

Monday, Feb. 12 –St. Julian the Hospitaller - St. Julian the Hospitaller (4th c.) came from a wealthy noble family in Europe. Little of his life is known with certainty. According to legend he married a noble widow, and was put under a curse at some point in his life. The curse was that he would one day kill his parents. To prevent this from happening, Julian and his wife moved far away from them. Julian's parents later found their whereabouts and made an unexpected visit while Julian was away. Julian's wife offered them her bed to sleep for the night. When Julian arrived home and found his bed occupied with a couple, he slew them both assuming it was his wife with another man. When Julian learned the truth, he was horrified by his actions and spent the rest of his life in penance. He and his wife went on a pilgrimage to Rome, and on their return established a hospital to continue their penance, dedicating their lives to caring for the poor and sick. One day a leper came to stay in the hospital; after Julian cared for his wounds, the leper revealed himself to be an angel and told Julian that God granted him absolution for his sins. The hospital was built near a river that was often crossed by pilgrims on their way to the Crusades. St. Julian the Hospitaller is the patron saint of hospitality, travelers, innkeepers, boatmen, pilgrims, and knights. His feast day is celebrated on February 12th.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 – St. Catherine del Ricci - St. Catherine del Ricci (1522-1590) was born with the name Alessandra in Florence, Italy, to a respectable merchant family. Her mother died while she was very young, so that from her childhood Alessandra took the Blessed Virgin Mary as her mother. She was given to prayer and religious fervor, and at the age of fourteen decided to enter a strict Third Order Dominican convent, taking Catherine as her religious name. She developed into a great mystic with an intense devotion to the Passion of Christ. For many years Catherine would go into ecstasy from noon every Thursday through 4 p.m. on Friday, experiencing in a mystical manner the sufferings of Christ during his Passion. She was also given the spiritual gift of the stigmata; Christ's wounds would appear on her body through the course of the ecstasy. After enduring much humiliation for years on account of these sufferings, she was eventually accepted as a holy woman and later became prioress. Her advice was widely sought on many spiritual and practical matters. Despite being cloistered, she kept up a loving correspondence with many relatives, friends, and her spiritual children. Among those in her correspondence were three future popes, Pope Marcellus II, Pope Clement VIII, and Pope Leo XI. Her feast day is February 13.

Wednesday, Feb. 14– St. Valentine of Rome - St. Valentine of Rome (c. 270) was a priest who lived in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Little is known of his life with certainty, except that he ministered to Christians who were persecuted and imprisoned for their faith, and died a martyr. One account has it that the emperor banned all marriages and engagements in Rome, believing this was the reason Roman men were unwilling to serve in the army. Valentine defied this unjust decree and continued to perform marriages for lovers in secret. He was arrested, and while in prison he restored sight to his jailer's blind daughter, causing the jailer and his entire extended household, forty-six people in total, to immediately convert to Christianity. Upon hearing this, Claudius ordered Valentine's execution. St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended, and signed it "From Your Valentine." He was beheaded on February 14th. St. Valentine is the patron of many causes including bee keepers, betrothed and engaged couples, lovers, love, happy marriages, and young people. His feast day is February 14th.

Thursday, Feb. 15– St. Claude de la Colombiere – St. Claude de la Colombiere (1641-1682) was born to a noble family in France and became a Jesuit priest. He was known for his solid and serious sermons and his dedication to observing the rule of his order with exactness. He became the rector of a Jesuit house next to the Monastery of the Visitation where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque lived, who was given special revelations from Jesus of His Sacred Heart. Claude became St. Margaret Mary's spiritual director, and, like her, became a zealous promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1676 he was sent to England to attend the wife of the future King James II, serving at court as preacher and confessor.

(St. Claude de la Colombiere – cont.)

When anti-Catholic persecutions broke out, Claude was falsely accused of being involved in a 'papist plot' and was thrown into prison. While there his health suffered due to mistreatment. He was preserved from execution and instead banished from England by royal decree. He returned to his native France, where his fragile health continued to deteriorate until he died a few years later. The day after his death, St. Margaret Mary received supernatural assurance that he needed no prayers, as he was already in heaven. His feast day is February 15.

Friday, Feb. 16– St. Juliana of Cumae - St. Juliana of Nicomedia (c. 270 A.D.), also known as St. Juliana of Cumae, was the daughter of noble pagan parents, born in Nicomedia, a Greek city in ancient Turkey. Although her father was hostile to Christians, Juliana secretly accepted baptism. Her father arranged her marriage to a pagan nobleman and Roman senator. When the time for her wedding came, Juliana refused her consent to be married unless her betrothed converted to the Christian faith. Her father retaliated by mercilessly abusing her, but Juliana would not give in. Her betrothed then denounced her as a Christian before the tribunal under the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. St. Juliana was unwavering in her faith, even after the devil himself appeared to tempt her during her sufferings. She was then publicly tortured by being burned, boiled in oil, and finally beheaded. Some accounts say she died together with St. Barbara. Many were converted to the Christian faith upon witnessing her fortitude in the face of her tortures. St. Juliana is the patron saint of sickness and bodily ills. Her feast day is February 16th.

Saturday, Feb. 17 – St. Manettus - St. Manettus (d. 1268), also known as St. Benedict dell'Antella, was one of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites. Between 1225 and 1227 in the city of Florence, Italy, seven cloth merchants from the city's prominent families joined the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They desired to live a penitential life dedicated to her title of Mother of Sorrows. Our Lady appeared to the seven men on the feast of the Assumption in 1233, asking them to live a life of seclusion and prayer. They obeyed and lived an austere life for many years. Mary appeared to the seven again in 1240, giving them a black habit and a scroll titled "Servants of Mary," and asking them to found a religious order following the Rule of St. Augustine. The Servites became one of the five original mendicant religious orders. Their special charism is devotion to the Passion of Jesus and the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Only one of the seven founders lived to see the order formally approved by Rome in 1304. It has since spread throughout the world and remains active to this day. The feast day of its Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites (Servants of Mary) is February 17.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



FEBRUARY II 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. Feb. 11	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin
	10:30a.m.	SP	Natividad Anonar, Lydia & Greg Wlasiuk
Tues. Feb. 13	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday	7:00a.m.	SP	Mass
	9:00a.m.	OLM	Mass
	6:30p.m.	SP	Mass
	7:00p.m.	OLM	Liturgical
Thurs. Feb. 15	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Feb. 16	9:00a.m.	SP	Spencer Johnson
Sat. Feb. 17	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	Cindy Eddy, Cathy Warner
Sun. Feb. 18	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Gina Dammon, Marysusan Vinskey

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Feb. 11 – BFF breakfast after Mass
- Feb. 11 – 1st Penance before Mass
- Feb. 14 –Rel. Ed 6:45 pm Elem.
- Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday – 9 a.m.
Mass with Ash distribution – 7 P.M.
Liturgy with Ash distribution
- Feb. 15 Council meetings
Finance 5:45 pm
Parish 6:15 pm
- Feb. 21 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 Youth Breakfast after Mass

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 4, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (9envelopes) \$ 931.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 2,237.00

BUDGET \$ 1,747.00
 Over/(Under) \$ 490.00

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance \$ 900.00
 St. Vincent de Paul \$ 10.00
 Latin America \$ 15.00
 Postage Help \$ 3.00
 CPC Jar \$ 41.00
TOTAL COLLECTION \$ 4,137.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	Feb. 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday	Feb. 18, 2024
Greeters/Gifts		Ron & Pat Eisel
Reader	9 am Anita Van Zile 7 pm Mary Bird	Mary Bird
Servers		Maeve & Micah Maginn
Ushers		Ron & Pat Eisel
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice	
Money Counters		Michelle Miron Barb Bruggeman

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

IMITATOR– to follow or endeavor to follow in action or manner

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Dear Padre,

I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don't consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister's behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

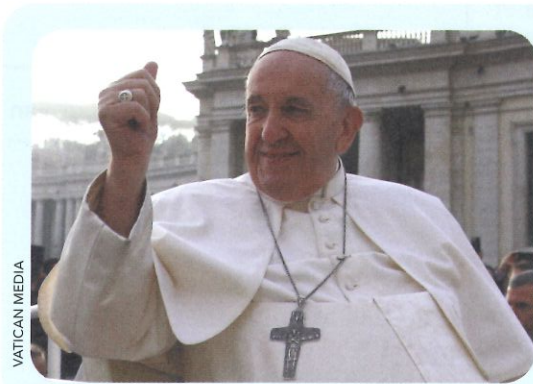
When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church.



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18
Weekday	Weekday	Ash Wednesday	Thursday after	Friday after	Saturday after	First Sunday of
Jas 1:1-11	Jas 1:12-18	Jl 2:12-18	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Lent
Mk 8:11-13	Mk 8:14-21	2 Cor 5:20-6:2	Dt 30:15-20	Is 58:1-9a	Is 58:9b-14	Gn 9:8-15
		Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Lk 9:22-25	Mt 9:14-15	Lk 5:27-32	1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Compassion means "to suffer-with-another." Jesus' heart manifests God's paternal compassion for (the leper), moving close to him and touching him. And this detail is very important. Jesus "stretched out his hand and touched him.... And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean" (Mark 1:41-42). God's mercy overcomes every barrier....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!

Consistently honored for excellence by independent organizations, *Liguorian* magazine delivers timely and timeless inspirational, authoritative dialogue on faith, Catholic principles, and more. Give a gift subscription or subscribe today! 6 ISSUES PER YEAR / \$28.00 US only.



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