



[Jesus] remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by
Satan.

MARK 1:13



A Trek in the Desert

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Deserts come in all shapes and sizes. For Noah, it turned out to be a desert of water, an endless, dreary expanse. For Jesus, it was also without end, one of rocks and sand; it was a harsh existence. In our lives, deserts might be a debilitating illness, a dried-up marriage, grief over lost love, a job that seems to tax our sanity, or a childhood scarred by abuse. Not long ago, the world found itself in a pandemic desert. For many, it was one of cabin fever that isolated us from family and friends. Deserts are not alluring places. They are places from which we tend to run.

Some people deal with the inevitable deserts of life by becoming angry; others grow bitter and turn inward; others blame God and walk away from faith. Yet deserts can also be the very forces that reshape lives. With nothing else to distract us, in the desert we come face to face with ourselves, with who we really are and whose voice it is that we follow. There we take a stand on life, as Jesus did. It was the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, and it was there that he realized the future to which he was being called. So also with us. Deserts become places where we discover what God is asking of us and where we need to go, all discoveries that may otherwise never have occurred. In some strange and curious way, then, deserts may be blessings in our lives. ●

Reflect

Have you had a desert experience? How did it reshape your life?

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 18, 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

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.

DIocese OF TOLEDO ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL COMMITMENT SUNDAY

The Annual Catholic Appeal commitment Sunday is today February 18, 2024. Please pick up your information/envelopes on the back table.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and March 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. it will be led by Deacon Larry Zachrich

USCCB CALENDAR FOR LENT

There are copies of the United Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) Calendar for Lent, Reflect. Repent. Restore. or here is the website for more Lenten resources www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/len

NO MASS

There will be no Mass or Communion Service on Thursday, February 22, 2024, here at Our Lady of Mercy.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bryson Kessler and Jaelynn Asbury on receiving their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday, February 11, 2024.

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledges of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and to contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 419-214-4880; or to write to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo, OH 43604.

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

"A servant is not holy if she is not busy." - St. Zita

Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

(18) + February 22, 1931

47 In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me, **Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.**

48 I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. **I Myself will defend it as My own glory.**

49 When I told this to my confessor, I received this for a reply: "That refers to your soul." He told me, "Certainly, paint God's image in your soul." When I came out of the confessional, I again heard words such as these: **My image is already in your soul. I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.**

50 + I desire that priests proclaim this great merc of Mine towards souls of sinners. **Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me. The flames of mercy are burning Me – clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls.** Jesus complained to me in these words, **Distrust on the part of souls is tearing My insides. The distrust of a chosen soul causes Me even greater pain; despite My inexhaustible love for Them they do not trust Me. Even my death is not enough for them. Woe to the soul that abuses these [gifts].**

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.

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

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO CALENDAR

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

HELP WANTED

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

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETOR

The Diocese of Toledo is looking to recruit individuals who are certified in American Sign Language for occasional interpretation for diocesan events, weddings, funerals, and/or graduations. ASL interpreters are compensated for their mileage and time (including travel time). Please contact Accessibility Ministries Specialist, Lynn Priest at lpriest@toledodiocese.org or 419.214.4886, if you are interested or would like more information.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 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



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 18– February 24

Sunday, Feb. 18– Bl. Fra Angelico - Bl. Fra Angelico (1387-1455) was born Guido di Pietro in Tuscany, Italy. Little is known of his early life, but he became a famous early Italian Renaissance master painter. Fra Angelico would pray earnestly before he painted, being convinced that in order to paint Christ perfectly, one must also be Christlike. His paintings then became tools for contemplating the theological mysteries hidden in the biblical events he depicted. He joined the Dominican Order in 1407 and was given the name Brother John, often called "Angelic Brother John", or Fra Angelico (Angelic Friar) because of his holiness. He lived and worked in several friaries until moving to the Friary of San Marco in Florence. While in Florence he was surrounded by an artistic community, and, due to his great talent, gained the patronage of the famous Medici family. In 1445 he was summoned to Rome to work on St. Peter's Basilica in various chapels. From 1449 until shortly before his death, Fra Angelico was also prior of the convent in Fiesole. He passed away while working again in Rome and is buried in the Dominican church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Fra Angelico was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II and is the patron saint of Catholic artists. His feast day is February 18.

Monday, Feb. 19 –Bl. Alvarez of Cordova - Bl. Alvarez of (Córdoba) Cordova (1350-1430) was born to a noble family in Zamora, Spain. He joined the Dominican Order and preached throughout Spain, and served at the court of Queen Catherine. He went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and upon his return preached the crusades against the Muslims. He founded the famous priory of Scala Caeli (Ladder of Heaven) at Cordova, a convent of strict observance, and it is said that angels helped provide its building materials. He erected pictures of the holy places in Jerusalem in its gardens, popularizing the custom of the Stations of the Cross. He lived a life of great austerity and begged for alms even though he could easily obtain what he needed from the royal court. Numerous miracles are attributed to him. It is told that he once found a dying beggar, wrapped him in a blanket, and carried him back to the convent. Upon unwrapping the cloth he found only a crucifix. Blessed Alvarez was dedicated to Christ's Passion and helped spread devotion to the Way of the Cross throughout western Europe. He also successfully led a resistance against the anti-pope and brought Spain under allegiance to the true pope in Rome. His feast day is February 19.

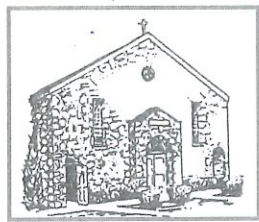
Tuesday, Feb. 20 – St. Francisco & St. Jacinta Marto - St. Francisco (1908-1919) and St. Jacinta Marto (1910–1920) were siblings and the youngest of the three shepherd children, who, along with their cousin, Lúcia Santos, witnessed three apparitions of an angel in 1916 and six apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917 while tending sheep in the countryside of Fatima, Portugal. They were entrusted by Our Lady of Fatima with many messages and warnings for the world, and that they were to do penance and pray for the conversion of sinners. Both became prayerful mystics, much wiser than their age, on account of these visits. Although only young children, they faithfully offered up many sacrifices as Our Lady requested, by praying the rosary daily, giving their lunches to the poor, denying themselves water on hot days, wearing a rough rope next to her skin, calmly facing ridicule on account of the apparitions, and bravely enduring the suffering that ended in their deaths. The Blessed Mother told Francisco and Jacinta that they would die young and that she would soon come to take them to heaven. Francisco and Jacinta both fell sick from influenza in 1918. Francisco died first, and Jacinta the next year after a long illness and two hospitalizations. They were canonized by Pope Francis on May 13, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the first Apparition of Our Lady of Fátima. Their feast day is February 20th.

Wednesday, Feb. 21– St. Peter Damian - St. Peter Damian (1007-1072 A.D.) was born in Ravenna, Italy, the youngest of a large and noble yet poor family. After his birth his mother initially refused to nurse him due to the strain he would put on the family, and he nearly died. He was later orphaned and suffered from extreme poverty. One brother adopted him, but neglected him and treated him like a slave. Another brother, a priest, recognizing that Peter had great intelligence, took him in and provided for his education. Peter excelled in his studies and in religious piety. By the time he was twenty-five he became a professor famous for his work in theology and canon law. Bothered by the distractions of university life, at twenty-eight he left his position to become a Benedictine monk and to lead a quiet life of fervent prayer and self-mortification. He lived during a time of great corruption in the Church, and became heavily involved in the controversies and crises of the day, advocating for reform and greater discipline in religious life. He was an influential figure, a friend and adviser to both popes and emperors, and was made a bishop and cardinal. Due to his academic prowess and prolific theological writings, St. Peter Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1823. His feast day is February 21.

Thursday, Feb. 22– St. Margaret of Cortona – St. Margaret of Cortona (1247-1297) was born in Tuscany, Italy, the only child of a working-class family. She lost her mother at age seven, and had a poor relationship with her stepmother. Margaret was spoiled, willful, reckless, and beautiful, and at the age of seventeen she left her father's house in the night and became the mistress of a young nobleman. She lived with him in his family castle for nine years and bore him a son, but he did not marry her due to her lower social class. One day he did not return home from a journey, and his hound came back to the castle alone. The dog led Margaret into the nearby wood where she discovered her lover brutally murdered. This shook her to her core. Her eyes were opened to the sinfulness of her way of life, and she became deeply repentant. She left his family castle with her son and sought out the Franciscan friars for spiritual direction. She then reformed her life through intense prayer, penance, and self-discipline, eventually joining the Third Order of St. Francis, and living in strict poverty and great charity towards the poor. St. Margaret of Cortona is the patron saint of the homeless, reformed prostitutes, midwives, single laywomen, the mentally ill, and the falsely accused. Her feast day is February 22nd.

Friday, Feb. 23– St. Polycarp of Smyrna - St. Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 69-155 A.D.) became a Christian in his youth, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. St. John ordained him Bishop of Smyrna (in modern day Turkey) and from this position Polycarp became one of the most illustrious of the Apostolic Fathers. His closeness with the Apostles, and the long life that he lived, enabled him to protect the Church against heresy. The account of his martyrdom is well-preserved and is one of the earliest in the Church. Knowing the government was seeking his life, he received a vision while praying that he would be burned alive. After his capture he was encouraged to submit to Caesar in order to be released, but he refused. He was then taken to a public arena to be killed. He gave an outstanding testimony, declaring that he had served Christ for 86 years. Witnesses of his execution saw the flames surround his body without burning it, and that Polycarp began to glow and emit a sweet aroma. This amazed the crowds, and his executioners were then ordered to stab him to death. St. Polycarp is the patron saint against dysentery and earache. His feast day is February 23rd.

Saturday, Feb. 24 – Bl. Thomas Maria Fusco - Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, also known as Tommaso, (1831-1891) was born to a noble and pious family in Italy, the seventh of eight children. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by his uncle, a priest, who oversaw his education. He had a deep love for the faith, especially to the Passion of Christ and Our Lady of Sorrows. He became a priest at the age of 24 and opened a school in his own home. He later became an itinerant missionary throughout southern Italy. After traveling for a number of years he opened another school, this time to train priests on how to be good confessors. He also founded the Priestly Society of the Catholic Apostolate to support the missions, which gained papal approval. During his work with the poor he discerned a call to start a new religious order of sisters, the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, to minister to orphaned children. In addition to all of this, Fusco was also a parish priest, a confessor to a group of cloistered nuns, and a spiritual father to a lay group at the nearby Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He died of liver disease at the age of 59. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 2001. His feast day is February 24.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



FEBRUARY 18, 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. 18	8:30 a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Gina Dammon Marysusan Vinskey
Tues. Feb. 20	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Feb. 21	9:00a.m.	SP	Mass
Thurs. Feb. 22	9:00a.m.	OLM	NO MASS/COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri. Feb. 23	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Feb. 24	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Feb. 25	8:30a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella, Ronald Keil Chuck Wurth
	10:30a.m.	SP	Larry Miller, Maryann Thatcher

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Feb. 18 – BFF breakfast after Mass
- Feb. 14 –Rel. Ed 6:45 pm Elem. & HS
- Feb. 21 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 Youth Breakfast after Mass
- Mar. 3, 10, 17 – Adult Lenten Study
After Mass
- Mar. 13 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Mar. 14 – St. Therese Book reflection
7 p.m.
- Mar. 20 – Penance Service 6:45 p.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 11, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (10 envelopes) \$ 1,956.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 343.00

BUDGET \$ **1,747.00**
 Over/(Under) \$ 552.00

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance \$ 200.00
 St. Vincent de Paul \$ 160.00
 Youth Group Donation \$ 20.00
 CPC Jar \$ 6.00
TOTAL COLLECTION \$ 2,685.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	Feb. 25, 2024
Greeters/Gifts	Joyce Bonin Shelly Gruman
Reader	Shelly Gruman
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle Micah Maginn
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 The America College Dictionary)

TEMPTATION– act of tempting; enticement or allurement

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. **Mark 1:12-13**

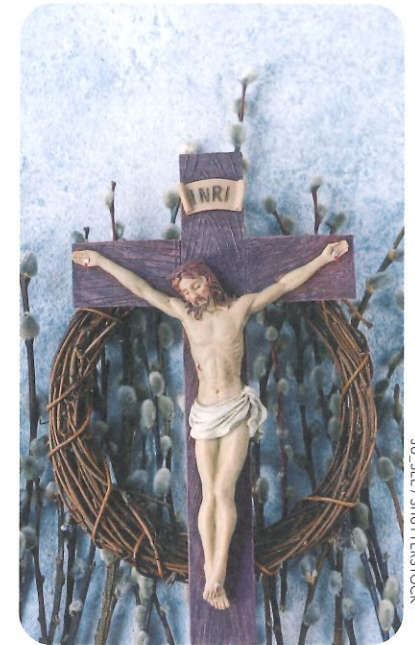
Dear Padre,

We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent!



JU_SEE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 19 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 Mt 25:31–46	February 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 55:10–11 Mt 6:7–15	February 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jon 3:1–10 Lk 11:29–32	February 22 <i>Chair of St. Peter the Apostle</i> 1 Pt 5:1–4 Mt 16:13–19	February 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 18:21–28 Mt 5:20–26	February 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dt 26:16–19 Mt 5:43–48	February 25 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gn 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 Rom 8:31b–34 Mk 9:2–10

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

How do we hear the voice of God? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. And here I would like to return to my advice of reading the Gospel every day....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 22, 2015



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