



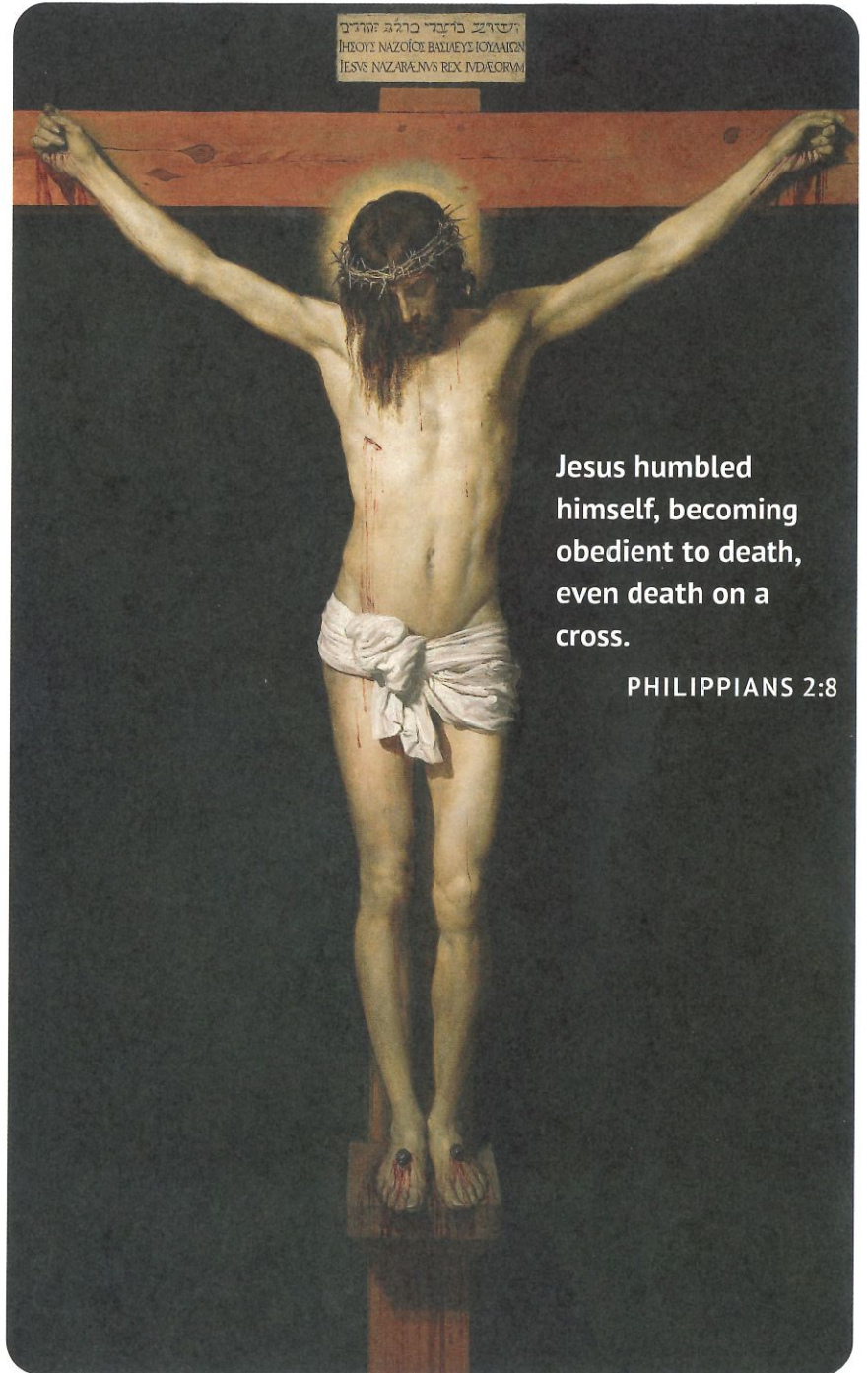
The Hungers with Which We Live

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Tenzin Kiyosaki is a former Buddhist nun who now works as an interfaith chaplain at a medical center in Los Angeles. There she tends to the spiritual needs of patients who have less than six months to live. When her brother asked her what it was that dying patients talk about, it led to her book *The Three Regrets: Inspirational Stories and Practical Advice for Love and Forgiveness at Life's End*. The three regrets she lists are: 1) I did not live my life of dreams; 2) I did not share my love; and 3) I did not forgive. All too easily it seems we become preoccupied with what in the end becomes peripheral to what we really seek in life.

Today we tell the story of how Jesus' life of loving others came to its final conclusion, one of sacrificial love to the point of death. He came to reveal how such love is an essential dimension of the presence of God at the heart of every human life, and a cornerstone of the kingdom of God he proclaimed and to which he gave his life.

To the end, even on the cross, forgiveness was an essential aspect of his life of loving others. The very realities of what Jesus' life was all about are the same hungers we so often fail to recognize as we live our lives, though it is what he continually preached. Coming face to face with our own mortality seems to make his message most real. ●



Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

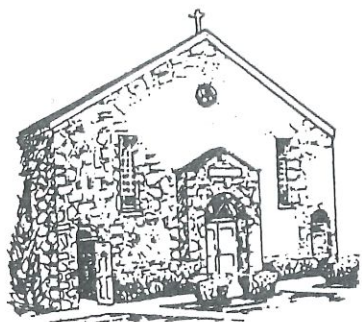
PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Reflect

Are you living the three values articulated by Tenzin Kiyosaki? Is there one you could do better?

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

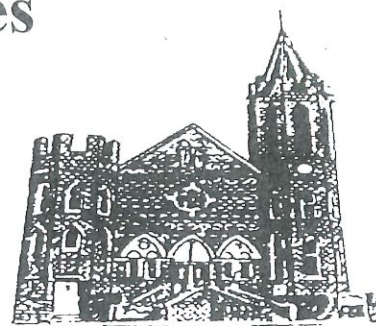
Youth Leader/CRE

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, MARCH 24, 2024

Palm Sunday – The Passion of the Lord

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

HOLY WEEK OFFICE HOURS

The office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 and open on Monday (3/25/2024) & Thursday (3/28/2024) 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

WALK FOR LIFE

The Good Friday Walk for Life will be on Friday, March 29, 2024, starting at Noon and will end approximately 2:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy, see flyer on bulletin board for more information.

CONDOLENCES

Our Prayers and Condolences go out to the Joy Short Family and to Larry Pennington on the loss of his daughter-in-law Robin Pennington on March 3, 2024.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (OUR LADY OF MERCY AND ST. PETER)

Please see flyer in bulletin for Mass/Service times and Liturgical schedule.

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

"Even if you are the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil as sorcerers do who practice black magic, and even if you are a heretic as obstinate as a devil, sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and will save your soul, if – and mark well what I say – if you say the Holy Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins." - St. Louis de Montfort

**“Take; this is
my body”**

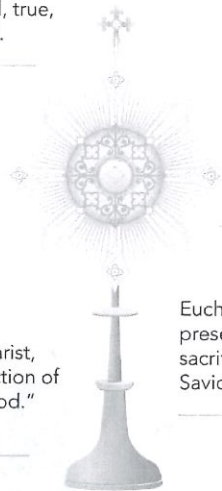
—Mark 14:22

The presence of
Christ in the
Eucharist is real, true,
and substantial.

“Jesus awaits us
in this sacrament
of love.” (St. John
Paul II, *Dominicae
cenae*, no. 3)

“It is called: Eucharist,
because it is an action of
thanksgiving to God.”
(CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist “makes
present the one
sacrifice of Christ the
Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)



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From USCCB.Org

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday – 3/28/2024 8p.m.

Good Friday – 3/29/2024

12:15 pm

Easter Vigil – 3/30/2024 8:30 p.m.

Easter – 3/31/2024 10:30 a.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Tuesday during Lent at 6:30
p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY-DAYS - LAST ONE

March 29, 2024

“LIVE A LIFE OF NO REGRETS”

Robert Rogers – Thursday, April
25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. – see flyer
on bulletin for more information

*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

---March 20 – Community Dinner 5-6 pm

Fayette Methodist Community Center

---March 23 – Fayette Opera House

7pm – BLISS 60's – 90's music

---April 16 – CPC Women's Health

Spring Benefit - register at
cpcnwo.org/events/benefit (more info on
OLOM bulleting)

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.

*Holy Week
Schedule
Mass/Service
Our Lady of Mercy and St. Peter*

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024

Our Lady of Mercy – 6:00 p.m.

St. Peter – 8 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

St. Peter – 12:15 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy – 3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil – Saturday, March 30, 2024

St. Peter – 8:30 p.m.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE – OUR LADY OF MERCY

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Reader – Anita Van Zile

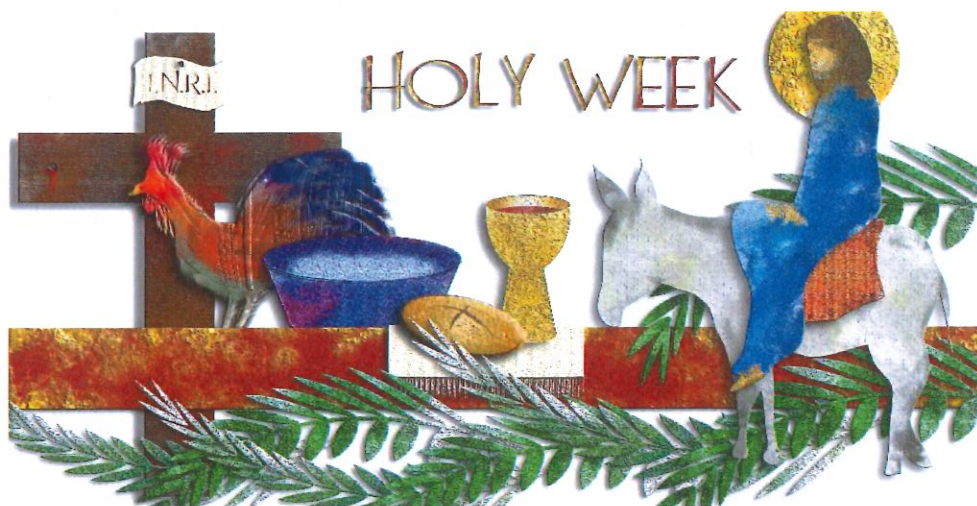
Servers - Maeve, Micah & Will Maginn

Good Friday, March 29, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Readers – Pat Eisel & Shelly Gruman

Servers - Maeve & Micah Maginn

Evan Beauregard



Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



Repent, and believe in the Gospel

On Ash Wednesday, many Catholics heard the words “Repent and believe in the Gospel,” as blessed ashes were imposed on their foreheads. These first words spoken by Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry (Mark 1:15), were addressed to each sinner who came forward (that is, to everyone!). At once these words are an exhortation to turn away from sin and turn back to our merciful Father, an encouragement to follow Jesus and his teachings more faithfully, and an invitation to true sorrow for our sins. Lent is the sacred time when, through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we strive to make right our relationships with the Lord and with one another.



Since the 18 December 2023 publication of the Declaration [Fiducia supplicans](#) (FS), on the pastoral meaning of blessings, by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, I have received numerous questions and expressions of serious reservation, concern and confusion. While the text of *Fiducia supplicans* stated that no further guidance or response would be given (FS 41), on 4 January 2024, the same Dicastery published a [press release](#) (PR) listing several previously unmentioned conditions for blessings of couples in

irregular situations and same sex couples, seeking to clarify the reception of *Fiducia supplicans*, and recommending “a full and calm reading of the Declaration so as to better understand its meaning and purpose” (PR Intro).

Now, after taking time for a full and calm reading; and after listening to, consultation with and being encouraged by several lay faithful, consecrated religious and clergy, including members of our diocesan consultative bodies, I offer the following observations in exercise of my apostolic mission of teaching, governing, and sanctifying the flock entrusted to my care (PR 2).

To be clear, there is no change to the Catholic Church’s perennial teaching on marriage. The divinely revealed truth is that marriage is the “exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children” (FS 4). Jesus himself taught this definition of marriage willed by the Creator “in the beginning” (cf. Matthew 19:3-9; Genesis 1-2). His Church has faithfully shared his teaching even when differing forms of unions have been promoted by popular cultures in various eras of history.

The Declaration highlights the common practice of Catholics seeking God’s help and guidance in their lives by approaching an ordained minister outside a liturgical context, for a brief prayer of blessing. The Declaration proposes that couples in irregular unions or same-sex unions can receive such informal blessings which are pastoral, not liturgical, in which there is “no intention to legitimize anything” (FS 40) of the immoral lifestyle of those blessed.

But herein lies the confusion. How can the blessing of a couple not be seen as the blessing of their union? Many, having read the documents, have commented to me that they would realistically see only two scenarios of requests for such blessings: a) those couples in irregular unions or same sex unions who are genuinely struggling and earnestly desiring the help of the Church's minister to repent, to follow the Gospel, and to make right their relationship with the Lord and with each other; and b) those couples who desire the Church's minister to condone their situation and affirm that the Lord blesses their union. In the first situation, a request for a blessing is a petition for grace to repent. In the second, a request for a blessing expresses a misguided attempt for approval of an immoral lifestyle which is incongruent with Jesus' teaching.

As shepherd of this local flock, having listened to many of my people, I worry that while *Fiducia supplicans* and the subsequent press release go to great lengths to insist that the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same sex couples does not officially validate their status or change in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage; nevertheless, the reality of performing such proposed blessings lends itself to causing grave scandal.

As we all know, for so many, perception is reality. If a cleric is blessing a couple, it is hard to imagine how that is not seen as a blessing of their union. Such a blessing, it seems to me, could well be misunderstood by the couples themselves and by the faithful, thus being perceived as a blessing of the union, not just the couple. Such blessings would somehow compromise or weaken the Church's perennial teaching either by intention or neglect, because they lack the clarity necessary to assuage misinterpretation, misunderstanding and erroneous conclusions.

Deeply grateful for the hardworking and dedicated clergy serving in the Diocese of Toledo, I encourage them to continue to pray spontaneous non-liturgical prayers with any persons who seek physical, mental, or spiritual health, wisdom in times of crisis and decision-making, grace to fight against temptation, and courage to leave sinful lifestyles and follow Jesus in freedom. This of course includes individuals who may find themselves in irregular or same sex unions, addressing them with love, offering them hope and calling them to conversion of mind and heart. As *Fiducia supplicans* #5

and the press release articulate, same-sex unions and irregular unions cannot and should not be blessed (PR 2). Thus, it would be morally inappropriate, misleading, and scandalous for clergy in our diocese to pray with a couple in any manner that would feign to approve, condone, endorse, or validate an irregular or same-sex union (PR 5). Ultimately, this could cause scandal for the couples themselves, for the faithful, and for society at large.

Catholic parents of children in irregular or same-sex unions know the complexity of accompanying their children with patient, prudent, and prayerful acts of charity and hospitality which do not obscure, but in fact, allow for the truth of Jesus' teaching about marriage and family to be more clearly revealed and embraced. I trust that the clergy of our diocese will continue to dedicate themselves to exercising their spiritual fatherhood with patience, prudence, and prayer, teaching the unchanging truths of our faith with clarity and accompanying all the people of God, particularly those who struggle.

It is essential for me to express gratitude and encouragement for all in our diocese who faithfully make serious sacrifices in striving to live Jesus' teaching on marriage and family life. Your dedication provides a much-needed witness amid chaos and confusion about the sacred realities of marriage and family. There are those in irregular unions who, out of respect for Jesus' teaching, still come to Mass but refrain from receiving the Holy Eucharist. There are those who experience same-sex attraction but strive to live chastely. We support, accompany, and reassure them as they strive to remain faithful to the Lord's Will.

While discordant voices will continue to engage in debate about the proper path forward for the Church, I invite everyone to join me in remaining faithful, not losing heart, and in focusing more intensely on Jesus and his call to conversion, whatever our vocation. Pray that together we might recognize that we are all sinners, urged anew this Lent to hear and heed the exhortation of Jesus himself: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
February 29, 2024

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of March 24– March 30

Sunday, Mar. 24– St. Catherine of Sweden - St. Catherine of Sweden (1331-1381) was the fourth of eight children born to St. Bridget of Sweden and her husband, Ulfo. As a child she was sent by her parents to be educated in a convent, and was later given in marriage to a German nobleman. Catherine was able to persuade her husband, a virtuous young man, to live together in a mutual vow of perpetual chastity. They lived happily together in complete devotion to God. After the death of her father, and with her husband's consent, Catherine accompanied her mother to Rome. While there, Catherine's husband died. She continued to be a companion to her mother and rejected further offers of marriage. Her mother worked to establish a new religious order, called the Order of the Holy Savior, or the Bridgettines. After her mother's death, Catherine took her body back to Sweden for burial while continuing the work of establishing the Bridgettines. She later traveled back to Rome to advocate for her mother's canonization and for Pope Urban VI to ratify her Order. While in Rome she became great friends with St. Catherine of Siena. St. Catherine of Sweden finally returned to Sweden and became abbess of the newly founded Bridgettines, living the rest of her days as a model of prayer and penance. St. Catherine of Sweden is the patron saint against abortions and miscarriages. Her feast day is March 24th.

Monday, Mar. 25 –St. Dismas - St. Dismas (1st c.) is the name Church tradition has given to the "Good Thief," one of the two criminals who were crucified alongside Jesus Christ on Good Friday. All we know about St. Dismas is what is mentioned of him in the Gospels: "Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.' The other [St. Dismas] however, rebuking him, said in reply, 'Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.'" Then St. Dismas, as an expression of his faith in Christ as the Messiah, said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied to St. Dismas, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:39-42). The feast day of St. Dismas is March 25.

Tuesday, Mar. 26 – St. Margaret Clitherow - St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586), also called Margaret of York, lived in York, England, the daughter of a candlemaker and wife of a wealthy Protestant butcher. She was raised Anglican just after the time that King Henry VIII severed the Church of England from communion with the Roman Catholic Church. A few years after her marriage, at the age of 18, she converted to the Catholic Church due to the work of covert missionary Catholic priests. While her husband remained Protestant, she aided persecuted Catholics by sheltering priests (which included her brother-in-law) and having Mass and Confessions said in her home, which became a safe house and hiding place for priests. Margaret witnessed the torturous death of many of the priests she aided, and she would publicly pray on the spot of their martyrdom. Undaunted in her work, she was imprisoned numerous times. On her final arrest she was charged for harboring Catholic priests and was condemned to a public execution by being crushed to death, a martyrdom of which she considered herself unworthy. All three of her children entered the religious life, two priests and a nun. St. Margaret Clitherow, the "Pearl of York," is the patron saint of martyrs, businesswomen, and converts. Her feast day is March 26th.

Wednesday, Mar. 27 – St. John of Egypt - St. John of Egypt (4th c.), also known as John the Hermit or John the Anchorite, worked alongside his father, a carpenter, until he was twenty-five years old. He then discerned a call from God to go out into the desert and become a hermit. He spent sixteen years in spiritual training under the care of a religious superior who commanded him to perform difficult and unreasonable tasks, which John obeyed with childlike simplicity. After this time of spiritual training he withdrew into greater solitude in a small cell at the top of a cliff, praying incessantly and avoiding contact with people for the last fifty years of his life. He had the gift of prophecy and could perform miracles, and foretold to Emperor Theodosius his future victories as well as the time of his death. People traveled from afar for his counsel or blessings, and to hear him preach. He would receive visitors two days a week from a tiny window in his cell. He became so famous for his holiness that St. Augustine wrote of him, making reference to the devils who came to tempt John continually. St. John of Egypt's feast day is March 27th.

Thursday, Mar. 28– St. Conon of Naso – St. Conon of Naso (1139–1236) was a wealthy nobleman, the son of a Count, from Naso, Italy. He was a devout young man, and at the age of 15 became a monk. He lived as a hermit until being called to serve the local monastery as its abbot. Upon the death of his parents he distributed his inheritance to the poor. While on pilgrimage to Jerusalem he had a vision of a priest he knew being choked by a snake. Conan raced to the priest to warn him of the danger. The priest's heart was convicted by the truth of the vision and confessed that he was hoarding money and neglecting the poor. Under Conan's direction the priest gave his excessive savings to the poor and recommitted his life to serving others. After his death, Conon was hailed a miracle worker. The city of Naso experienced a series of terrible storms which destroyed crops and disrupted the shipping trade, and the city ran out of grain and other food supplies, St. Conon appeared in a vision to a ship captain who was preparing to transport a load of grain. Conon told the captain to change course and take the grain to Naso. The captain obeyed the vision and arrived in Naso with food to relieve the famine. St. Conon's feast day is March 28th.

Friday, Mar. 29– St. Berthold of Mount Carmel - St. Berthold of Mt. Carmel (d. 1195), also known as Bartoldus of Calabria, was born in France, the son of a Count. He excelled at his studies and was ordained a priest. Berthold's brother, Aymeric, became the Latin patriarch of Antioch. The two joined together to participate in a Crusade to the Holy Land. While in the Holy Land, Berthold traveled to Mount Carmel and built a monastery and church dedicated to the Prophet Elijah. He gathered together a number of hermits scattered throughout Palestine to live together in imitation of the life of the great prophet as recorded in the Old Testament. Berthold became the group's superior and stayed with the community at Mount Carmel for 45 years until his death in 1195. It was the life and work of St. Berthold that laid the foundation for the Carmelite Order, whose rule was approved by Pope Honorius III in 1226. St. Berthold's feast day is March 29th.

Saturday, Mar. 30 – St. Fergus of Scotland - St. Fergus of Scotland (d. 730 A.D.), also known as St. Fergustian or Fergus the Pict, Bishop of the Gaels, was a bishop serving in the north of Scotland. Little is known of his life. He is believed to have been trained as a bishop in Ireland, ministering there for many years before traveling as a missionary to Scotland. He went throughout the Scottish countryside preaching the Gospel, setting up churches dedicated to St. Patrick of Ireland, and working to convert the pagan people to Christianity. He also traveled to St. Peter's Basilica to participate in the Council of Rome in 721 A.D. He died around the year 730 A.D. and is buried in Glamis, Angus, in Scotland. Nearby is St. Fergus' Well. The site is believed to be where St. Fergus presided over religious services before the first church of Glamis was built. His feast day is March 30th.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MARCH 24, 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. Mar. 24	8:00a.m.	OLM	Ron Lichtenwald Muriel Pennington
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People
Tues. Mar. 26	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Mar. 27	6:45a.m.	SP	Rosary
	7:10a.m.		Mass
Thurs. Mar. 28	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Mar. 29	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Mar. 30	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Mar. 31	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Gina Damman John Michael Kennedy

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Mar. 25 – Office Open
- Mar. 26 – Office will be Closed
- Mar. 28 – Holy Thursday – 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 29 – Good Friday Walk for Life
Noon
- Mar. 29 – Good Friday – 3:00 p.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for March 17 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (9 envelopes) \$ 471.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 294.00

BUDGET \$ 1,747.00
 Over/(Under) (\$ 982.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

St. Vincent de Paul \$ 50.00
 2023 ACA Rebate \$ 14.25
 Easter Flowers \$ 140.00
 Votive Candles \$ 4.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other) \$ 973.25

Youth Group Breakfast \$ 963.50

(see bulletin insert for Holy Week)

March 31, 2024
 Easter Sunday

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

Greeters/Gifts	Mike Maginn Family
Reader	Pat Eisel
Servers	Evan Beauregard Maeve & Micah Maginn
Ushers	Dennis & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Terry Kovar Dennis & Denise Miller

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

PASSION – the sufferings of Christ on the cross, or his sufferings subsequent to the Last Supper

Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch." He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; *he said , "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will."

Mark 14:34-36

Dear Padre,

I am the divorced mother of three young children. My daughter is making her first Communion and I want to go to Communion with her. But I haven't been to Mass in three years because of my divorce. I am nervous and embarrassed about returning to the Church. What can I do?



Sharing in your daughter's preparation for holy Communion is a lovely desire and a good chance to look closely at your own faith; it may be the "little push" you need. She needs to see in you someone who has faith and is committed to the Church. Taking your children to Mass each Sunday is a good start.

You mentioned that you haven't been to church in three years because of your divorce. You may be confused about the teachings of the Church concerning divorce. Divorced Catholics are still full members of the Church and can receive holy Communion. If you have remarried outside the Church, it is a more complicated issue, yet not hopeless.

Since you haven't been to Mass in three years, the first step is to talk to your pastor or another priest with whom you feel comfortable. Be honest. Explain why you have stayed away from the Church. Then set up a time to go to confession. And please don't be ashamed or embarrassed about coming back to church. No matter how long it has been, the Church welcomes you home. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid. Jesus—as St. Paul tells us—“emptied himself... he humbled himself” (Philippians 2:7–8).

HOMILY, ROME,
MARCH 28, 2021

MONDAY

March 25
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1–7
Jn 12:1–11

TUESDAY

March 26
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1–6
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

WEDNESDAY

March 27
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4–9a
Mt 26:14–25

THURSDAY

March 28
Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)
Chrism Mass:
Is 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9
Rv 1:5–8
Lk 4:16–21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Ex 12:1–8, 11–14
1 Cor 11:23–26
Jn 13:1–15

FRIDAY

March 29
Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Is 52:13–53:12
Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9
Jn 18:1–19:42

SATURDAY

March 30
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a
Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18
Ex 14:15–15:1
Is 54:5–14
Is 55:1–11
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4
Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28
Rom 6:3–11
Mk 16:1–7

SUNDAY

March 31
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Col 3:1–4 or
1 Cor 5:6b–8
Jn 20:1–9 or
Mk 16:1–7

