



Apples and Pears

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As a child, I remember our back yard had a fruit tree planted by my grandfather. Each year the tree bore apples and pears, both on the same tree. My grandfather explained that he had planted an apple sapling and then had grafted a pear branch onto its trunk. What continues to intrigue me about that tree is how the very same nourishment, the same sap out of the earth and traveling up the trunk, would produce such different fruits.

It is much like the power of the Holy Spirit given to human beings at the time of the ascension. Various gifts make themselves known, at times in the same person, over the course of a lifetime. A friend loved being a mom and raising a family. After the children had grown and went on their way, she went back to school and became a nurse. A local pastor was a pediatrician. After his wife died, he decided to become

a priest. John Grisham, educated as an attorney, began writing novels. All apples and pears, the fruit of God's Spirit.

We tend to ask young people what they would like to be when they grow up. A better question might be to ask what they think God would like them to be. However someone might answer such a question, what is important is to do it with "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2–3)—all prompted by God's Spirit. ●

Reflect

***Is there a difference between what we want to do and what God wants us to do?
How do we know?***

[Jesus] said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

MARK 16:15



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@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@rtecexpress.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 or email at

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

7th Sunday of Easter

The Ascension of the Lord

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

WELCOME

Welcome Father Dan Ring. Thank you for celebrating Mass with us today.

MUFFINS FOR MOM

Please join us after Mass for Muffins for Mom, celebrating Mother's Day.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGED

The office will be closed on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. It will be opened Wednesday, May 15 & Thursday, May 16. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



To all the women who are mother figures to all.

THANK YOU

Our "Thank You's" go out to all Our Lady of Mercy Catechist. Thank you for Blessing our Youth with your servant hearts.

Barbara Roby – 1st Grade

Mary Bird – 2nd Grade

Ron Eisel – 5th&6th Grade

Anita Van Zile – High School & CRE



ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed EVERY Wednesday in May at 7 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE - May 29, 2024 at 7 p.m. we will have Adoration, Rosary & Healing with Father Bill.

ALTAR ROSARY DISPLAY

Last year at the Mother Daughter Banquet the Altar Rosary Society collected jewelry from Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners. This jewelry was then sculpted by Anita Van Zile into a shadow box. This display will be in the lower level on the South wall for viewing in the month of May.

MORE ANNOUCEMENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---May 4 – Sept. 28 – Farmers Market, Opera House parking lot 9 am – 1 pm

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:

IMMEDATE 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.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Diocese of Toledo Upcoming Ordinations

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 10:00 am, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will ordain Travis Kahle, Eric Kaufman, and Kevin McGraw to the transitional diaconate. Please keep them in your prayers!

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 10:00 am, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will ordain Deacons Jacob Livecchi and Chris Turner to the priesthood. Please keep Thomas in your prayers!

You are invited to join us for the joyous occasion in person at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral. Additionally, the ordinations will be live-streamed! Watch at toledopriesthood.org.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"I travel, work, suffer my weak health, meet with thousand difficulties, but all these are nothing, for this world is so small. To me, space is an imperceptible object, as I am accustomed to dwell in eternity."

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

161 O Mary, Immaculate Virgin,
Pure crystal for my heart,
You are my strength, O secure anchor,
You are a shield and protection for a weak heart.

O Mary, you are pure and unparalleled,
Virgin and Mother at one, and the same time;
You're beautiful as the sun, by nothing defiled.
Nothing is worthy of comparison to the image of Your soul.

Your beauty enthralled the Thrice-Holy One's eye,
That He came down from heaven, forsaking th'eternal See's throne,
And assumed from Your Heart Body and Blood,
Hiding for nine months in the Virgin's Heart.

O Mother, Virgin, this will no one comprehend,
That the infinite God is becoming man;
It's only love's and His inscrutable mercy's purpose.
Through You, Mother – it's given us to live with Him for ever.

O Mary, Virgin Mother and Heaven's Gate,
Through You salvation came to us;
Every grace to us streams forth through Your hands,
And faithful imitation of You only will sanctify me.

O Mother, Virgin – most beautiful Lily.
Your Heart was for Jesus that first tabernacle on earth,
And that, because Your humility was the deepest,
Wherefore You were raised above Angel choirs and Saints.

O Mary, my sweet Mother,
To You I turn over my soul, my body and my poor heart.
Be the safeguard of my life,
Especially at death's hour, in the final fight.

The Feast of St. Dymphna

May 15th, 2024

Patroness of Those Suffering with Mental
Illness & Mental Health Professionals



The Diocese of Toledo, in partnership with the Catholic Psychotherapy Association, is highlighting the Feast of St. Dymphna to raise mental health awareness in our communities and highlight recommended Catholic mental health resources.

RESOURCRCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

- ▶ About St. Dymphna & Resource List - <https://toledodiocese.org/st-dymphna>
- ▶ Recommended Catholic Counselors - <https://toledodiocese.org/counseling>



Diocese
of Toledo



Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of May 12 – May 18

Sunday, May 12– Blessed Imelda Lambertini - Bl. Imelda Lambertini (1322–1333) was born to a noble and devout family in Bologna, Italy. As a child she developed a great love for prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Holy Eucharist. She spent much of her time in the Dominican monastery praying with the nuns, and at nine years of age requested to enter there as a postulant. Her parents and the nuns allowed her to enter, however, in that era children her age were not permitted to receive Holy Communion. Imelda repeatedly pleaded to receive Communion, but each time she was denied. Nevertheless, she developed a close relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When the feast of the Ascension approached, Imelda begged to make her First Holy Communion on this feast. Again, she was denied. On the Vigil of the Feast of the Ascension she was in the chapel praying, as usual, as the other Sisters received Holy Communion. Afterwards a glowing host was seen suspended in the air above the child. The priest understood this as a sign that the child should be permitted to receive, and he ministered the Holy Eucharist to her. Imelda remained kneeling in prayer in thanksgiving as the nuns left the chapel. When they returned for her, they found her just as they had left her, but her body was lifeless. It was understood that Imelda died of pure ecstatic joy after receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, as she had so ardently desired. Bl. Imelda Lambertini is the patron saint of First Communicants. Her feast day is May 12th.

Monday, May 13–Mother Julian of Norwich - Mother Julian/Juliana of Norwich (1342–1416) lived as a recluse in Norwich, England. Little is known of her life with certainty. At the age of 30 she was suddenly struck by a severe illness which almost took her life. During this illness she received a series of visions of Jesus Christ in sixteen separate revelations. When she recovered from her illness the visions stopped. Fifteen years later, Our Lord appeared to her to give her the meaning of her visions. St. Julian wrote her visions down in a book called Revelations of Divine Love, the earliest surviving book in the English language known to have been written by a woman. After these revelations she began to live a solitary life as an anchoress in a little cell built into the wall at the church of St. Julian in Norwich, not far from London. During her life the Church was in schism, and England was caught in a long war with France. The book contains a message of optimism based on the certainty of being loved by God and of being protected by his Providence. She received visitors to her cell and gave them guidance on the spiritual life, becoming a spiritual mother to many. St. Julian is an important medieval mystic whose response to the problem of evil is cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Although she was never formally beatified or canonized, her feast day is celebrated on May 13th.

Tuesday, May 14– St. Matthias the Apostle - St. Matthias the Apostle (1st c.) followed Jesus during his entire earthly ministry and was one of his 72 disciples. Matthias was chosen by the 11 Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot after his betrayal of Christ and subsequent suicide. After Christ's Ascension into heaven, St. Matthias devoted himself to preaching Christianity among the pagans, some of them barbarians and cannibals, all over Judea, Cappadocia, and Ethiopia for over 30 years. Many miracles are ascribed to him as the pagans sought to kill him: that he was unharmed after being forced to drink poison, that he once hid by becoming invisible, and that the earth opened up and swallowed his attackers. St. Matthias also preached the need for mortification of the flesh as an aid to growth in holiness. Eventually, at God's appointed time, he was martyred for the cause of Christ, though there are conflicting traditions as to exactly where and how. St. Matthias is the patron saint of carpenters, tailors, and reformed alcoholics. His feast day is May 14th.

Wednesday, May 15– St. Dymphna - St. Dymphna (7th c.) was the daughter of a pagan Irish chieftain and a beautiful Christian noblewoman. Dymphna was raised as a Christian, and she consecrated her virginity to Christ at a young age. Dymphna's father loved his wife deeply. When her mother died, Dymphna's father was so overcome with grief that he became mentally unstable. Unable to find another suitable wife of equal character and beauty to his first wife, he attempted to marry Dymphna due to her close resemblance to her mother. Upon learning of his wicked plan, Dymphna fled across the sea into Belgium along with her tutor and confessor, Father Gerebran. Her father pursued them and eventually discovered their location by tracing the foreign money they used along the

(St. Dymphna – cont.)

way. He killed Dymphna's confessor and pleaded with his daughter to return with him to Ireland to be his wife. When she refused, he cut off her head in a mad rage. St. Dymphna's church still stands on the place of her burial near Antwerp. There have been numerous accounts of those afflicted with epilepsy and mental illness visiting her tomb and receiving miraculous cures through her intercession. Because of this, St. Dymphna is the patroness of those suffering from mental and neurological disorders and illnesses, as well as of mental health professionals. Her feast day is May 15th.

Thursday, May 16– St. Simon Stock – St. Simon Stock (1165-1265) was born in Kent, England. He was strongly drawn to God as a child, and at the age of twelve he began to live as a hermit in the hollow of an oak tree. After two decades of this solitary and penitential life, he entered the world again to study theology and become a priest. His studies complete, he then returned to his hermitage. At this time the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him, instructing him to join the Carmelite Order that was just entering England. St. Simon became a Carmelite in 1212. By 1215 he became the order's leader and worked to establish it across Europe, especially at the great universities. He also traveled to Rome and Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land, and revised the Carmelite Rule to make them mendicant friars instead of hermits. Tradition holds that the Virgin Mary appeared to him again and presented him with a brown scapular, the habit of his order, promising that those who wore it would not be eternally lost in hell. This apparition is known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and her "scapular promise" is that she will intercede with her Son to ensure that the wearer of the scapular obtains the grace of final perseverance, that is, of dying in a state of grace. This is the origin of the Brown Scapular devotion which soon spread to the laity to obtain the graces promised by Our Lady, a devotion later encouraged by many popes. St. Simon Stock's feast day is May 16th.

Friday, May 17– Blessed Antonia Messina - Blessed Antonia Messina (1919-1935) was one of ten children born to a poor family on the island of Sardinia in Italy. Being the second oldest child, she had to leave school to help with the family chores after her mother became bedridden, a task which she accepted with obedience, humility, and joy. Antonia's mother referred to her daughter as "the flower of my life." Antonia was also active in her parish, joining the Young Women of Catholic Action organization at the age of ten and encouraging others to do the same. On May 17, 1935, while in the forest with a friend gathering firewood, Antonia was assaulted by a teenage boy who attempted to rape her. Her friend ran for help while Antonia bravely defended herself against her attacker. The young man, unable to achieve his goal due to her continuous resistance, brutally attacked Antonia with dozens of blows with a rock. By the time help arrived, it was too late. Antonia died at the age of sixteen. The entire town accompanied her body to the site of her burial. She is considered a martyr of sexual purity, and was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 1987. Her story has been likened to that of St. Maria Goretti. Blessed Antonia Messina is the patron of rape victims. Her feast day is May 17th.

Saturday, May 18 – St. Felix of Cantalice - St. Felix of Cantalice (d. 1587) was born to a pious peasant family in Italy. He grew up tending sheep and was hired out to work for a farmer at the age of nine, which he did for twenty years. He evidenced signs of holiness and spent his free time in prayer. He had a friend read him the lives of the saints from which he drew much inspiration. Felix eventually joined the Capuchin Franciscans and served in Rome as the Order's official beggar. Although he could not read, and received no formal study, he had great influence over the Roman people because of his piety and the labors he undertook to convert even the most hardened sinners. Felix also encouraged those he met to lead greater lives of virtue, regardless if they were dignitaries or peasants. Men who lived scandalous lives retreated from his presence, lest he convict them of their sins. St. Felix's special apostolate was among the children of the city to whom he gave religious instruction with childlike humility and simplicity. He was a contemporary and friend of St. Philip Neri, who declared Felix to be the Church's greatest living saint. St. Felix served in this way for 42 years. He was beatified immediately after his death, becoming the first Capuchin Franciscan ever canonized. His body rests under an altar dedicated to him in the church of the Immaculate Conception in Rome. His feast day is May 18.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MAY 12, 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. May 12	8:00a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Frances Uzdella Conklin Family
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner, Greg Wlasiuk
Tues. May 14	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. May 15	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. May 16	9:00a.m.	OLM	Joy Short
Fri. May 17	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. May 18	4:30p.m.	SP	John Beck Sharon Gigax
	8:30a.m.	OLM	Jennette Tidwell Joy Short
Sun. May 19	8:30a.m.	OLM	Jennette Tidwell Joy Short
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- May 5 – 31 – Altar Rosary Jewelry Display on exhibit in lower level
- May 15, 22 – Rosary 7 p.m.
- May 19 – Baccalaureate Mass
- May 23 – Council Meetings
Finance 5:45 pm
Pastoral 6:15 pm
- May 29 – Adoration, Rosary, Healing 7 p.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for May 5, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (12 envelopes)	\$ 861.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 2,303.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	\$ 1,417.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,005.00
Votives	\$ 12.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 20.00
Other Collections	\$ 225.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 4,426.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

May 19 2024

Greeters/Gifts	Jerry & Anita Van Zile
Reader	Mary Bird
Servers	Evan Beauregard
Ushers	Dennis & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Terry Kovar Dennis & Denise Miller Jerry Van Zile

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

ASCENSION – the bodily passing of Christ from earth to heaven

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. Acts 1:9

Dear Padre,

What were the main changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council?

It has been sixty years since the Second Vatican Council and we are still learning from what Pope John Paul II called the “fundamental event in the contemporary Church” and “the constant reference point of every pastoral action.” Vatican II’s sixteen documents focus on a wide variety of topics, touching almost every conceivable aspect of Church and Christian life. Four of the documents bear the title of “Constitution” and contain the core formulations of the council’s teachings.

The most visible change might be in how we worship. But even more fundamental is the emphasis on the Church as the “people of God.” Baptism admits all to the same journey of faith, initiating each person with differing talents and abilities into the mission of the Church. Thus, the faithful must be “led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people’ (1 Peter 2:9; see 2:4–5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*], 14). The hierarchy continues, but it is to hear and serve God’s people; “servant leadership” is the way to exercise authority in the Church of Vatican II. ●



WIKICOMMONS

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19
Easter Weekday	St. Matthias, Apostle	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Pentecost
Acts 19:1–8	Acts 1:15–17, 20–26	Acts 20:28–38	Acts 22:30; 23:6–11	Acts 25:13b–21	Acts 28:16–20, 30–31	Acts 2:1–11
Jn 16:29–33	Jn 15:9–17	Jn 17:11b–19	Jn 17:20–26	Jn 21:15–19	Jn 21:20–25	1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Gal 5:16–25

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions available. For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Jn 20:19–23 or Jn 15:26–27; 16:12–15

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus’ ascension into heaven...constitutes the end of the mission that the Son received from the Father and the beginning of the continuation of this mission on the part of the Church. From this moment...Christ’s presence in the world is mediated...by those who believe in him and proclaim him. This mission will last until the end of history.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 28, 2017



RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK