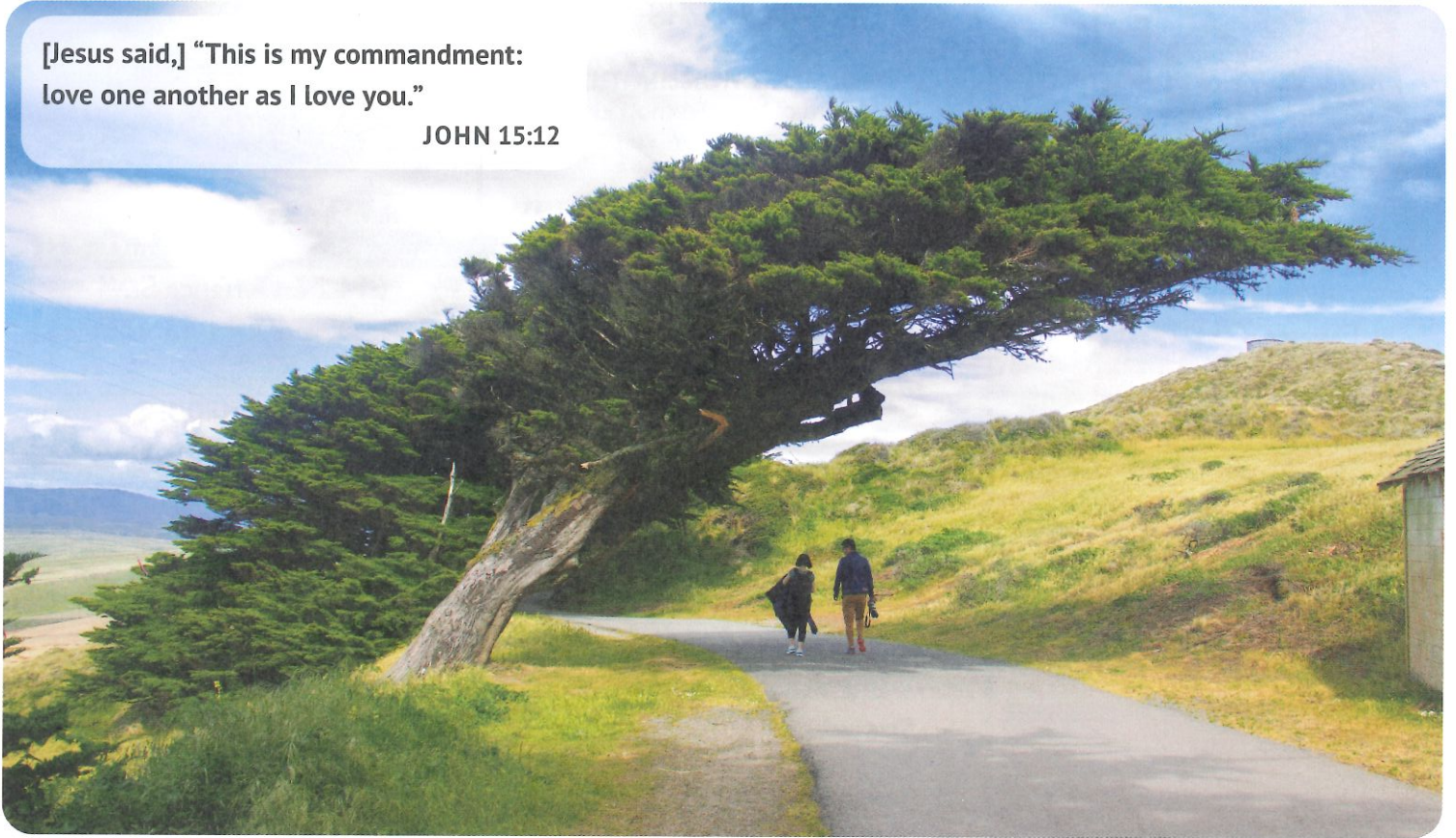




[Jesus said,] “This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you.”

JOHN 15:12



## We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight*. So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

**Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.**

# 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](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Bookkeeper**

Tami Baker

[OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

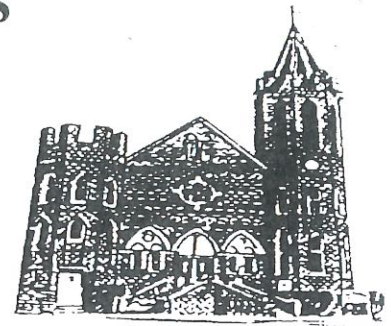
**Youth Leader/CRE**

Anita Van Zile

[OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Website (bulletin online)**

[stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy](http://stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy)



## St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.  
Archbold, OH 43502

### MASS SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 or email at

[OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin.

# SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

## 6th Sunday of Easter

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

### **MAY CROWNING**

We will be having the May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary today during Mass.

### **ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY**

There will be a meeting of the Altar Rosary Society, today after Mass.

### **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.

### **MARY'S FLOWERS**

Mary's flowers were provided by the Grieder and Van Zile families. Thank you.

### **NO MASS**

There will be no Mass or Communion Service on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER (TORNADO WARNING)**

Our Lady of Mercy will be open to all who need shelter during a Tornado warning. Please come and stay safe in the basement.

### **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**

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."  
St. John Henry Newman

### **DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**

#### **Notebook 1**

156 + Once, I desired very much to receive Holy Communion, but I had a certain doubt, and I did not go. I suffered greatly because of this. It seemed to me that my heart would burst from the pain. When I set about my work, my heart full of bitterness, Jesus suddenly stood by me and said, **My daughter, do not omit Holy Communion unless you know well that your fall was serious; apart from this, no doubt must stop you from uniting yourself with Me in the mystery of My love. Your minor faults will disappear in My love like a piexe of straw thrown into a great furnace. Know that you grieve Me much when you fail to receive Me in Holy Communion.**

### **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 15 – Community Dinner – Methodist Community Center 5 – 6 p.m.

---May 17 – Fayette Opera House – Mr. Magic – Tom Patton – 7pm

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

**Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at [vanzilejn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanzilejn@hotmail.com) or call Pat Eisler 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.

## **2024 Century Farm Award Applications Available**

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for Century Farm Awards. This award designation honors Catholic families who have maintained a farm or homestead within their family for at least 100 years in the Diocese of Toledo, emphasizing well-preserved working farms.

Applicants must submit a registration form, copies of old deeds, and pictures to support claims. The information submitted must show family residence and ownership of a farm for at least 100 years in the Diocese of Toledo.

Applications should be submitted no later than Friday, October 4, 2024.

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will celebrate a Mass honoring Century Farm Award recipients at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 66 Chapel Street, Monroeville, Ohio 44847.

For more information or to request the registration form, please contact: Paula J. Kidney at (419) 214-4898 or email: [pkidney@toledodiocese.org](mailto:pkidney@toledodiocese.org)

## Saints of the Day ([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of May 5 – May 11

**Sunday, May 5– St. Judith of Prussia** - St. Judith of Prussia (13th c.), also known as St. Jutta, was born to a wealthy family in Thuringia in what is now Germany. She desired to model her life after another noble saint from her country, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who lived in the previous century. Judith was married at age fifteen to a man of equal rank, and together they raised a family. Despite their great wealth, Judith desired that they should live in a simple way and share their fortune generously with the poor. Her husband was at first displeased with her because he desired a lifestyle according to their means and rank. However, Judith persevered and eventually won him over to join her in a life of greater humility and piety. Her husband later died while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Judith to raise her children alone. Once her children were grown, she rid herself of her costly clothes, jewelry, and other possessions and joined the Third Order of St. Francis. She committed herself to serving the poor and the sick, for which she incurred mockery due to her noble rank in society. In the final years of her life she relocated to Prussia to live as a hermitess in a simple hut. There she spent her days in prayer and penance for the conversion of the pagan Prussians. After she died many miracles occurred at her grave, and she became the patron saint of Prussia. Her feast day is May 5th.

**Monday, May 6–St. Francis-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval** - Saint Francis-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval (1623-1708) was one of eight children born to one of France's most illustrious families. He learned his piety from his mother, and like his namesake desired to become a priest and missionary. This dream was realized when he was appointed by Pope Alexander VII to be the first Apostolic Vicar of New France (Canada). His territory covered all of what is now Canada and the central section of what would become the United States, an enormous frontier which he undertook as a great spiritual work. He landed in Quebec in 1659 when the population was just 500 people. He supported the missions, built a cathedral to the Immaculate Conception, taught devotion to Our Lady under this title, founded a seminary and an industrial school, and began the first Catholic school system in Canada. In all seasons he made long and perilous journeys by land and water to minister to his flock. When Quebec became a diocese he was consecrated as Canada's first bishop. He fought the sinister alcohol trade to the Indian tribes by having it outlawed within his territory and excommunicating those involved with it. He converted and baptized an Iroquois chief who then became a promoter of the Christian faith and won other converts among the local tribes. St. Francis de Laval was a man known for his great influence and holiness of life. His feast day is May 6th.

**Tuesday, May 7– St. Rose Venerini** - St. Rose Venerini (1656–1728) was born in Italy, one of four children of a pious physician and his admirable wife. Rose was a bright and gifted child. At the age of seven she made a vow to consecrate her life to God. However, she was later conflicted between her vow and living in the world. At the age of 20 she knew she must make a decision between marriage and the cloister, the only two options available to women of her day, both of which she esteemed. After much prayer and suffering she entered a monastery. Only a few months passed before she returned home upon the sudden death of her father. This was followed not long after by the deaths of her brother and mother. Still yearning to respond to God's call to the consecrated life, she began by gathering together the young women of her neighborhood to pray the rosary. She was struck by the cultural, moral, and spiritual poverty of the women, and their lack of basic Christian formation. This inspired her to begin a school for their instruction and human formation, which became Italy's first public school for girls. This was an innovation in her day, as teaching catechism belonged to the clergy. After facing initial resistance, the fruit of her work and the moral improvement of the women became evident to all. The Pope himself attended one of her classes and praised her work. Governors and cardinals asked her to open schools in their areas. Over the course of her life she opened 40 schools across Italy dedicated to the education and promotion of women for the uplifting and ennobling of society. "Educate to save" became her motto. Her feast day is May 7th.

**Wednesday, May 8– St. Victor Maurus** - St. Victor Maurus (d. 303 A.D.), also known as Victor the Moor and Victor of Milan, was born in Mauretania (North Africa) in a Christian household. He later relocated to Milan, Italy, as a soldier of the Praetorian Guard that served Roman Emperor Maximian during his persecution of Christians. Although Victor was a Christian since childhood, this fact was not widely known until he destroyed an altar to a pagan god. The Emperor, infuriated, had Victor imprisoned and starved for six days. The Emperor then gave him every chance to recant his faith, including offering him riches, but Victor refused each attempt. He was then tortured mercilessly, unless he would offer sacrifice to the gods, by being stretched on the rack and having molten lead poured over his body. Victor remained steadfast and boldly proclaimed his faith in Christ, declaring that the Roman gods were demons. Finally the saint was beheaded on May 8 in the year 303 A.D. The Emperor refused him burial so that wild beasts would consume his body. However, after six days the body was discovered untouched with two beasts guarding it at the head and foot. The local bishop then received permission to bury the body. A church was later erected over Victor's grave and many miracles occurred there. St. Victor's feast day is May 8th.

**Thursday, May 9– Blessed Caroline Gerhardinger** – Bl. Caroline Gerhardinger (1797-1879), also known as Mother Maria Theresa of Jesus, was born into a working class family in Bavaria. Her giftedness as an educator was apparent early in her life, and she became a certified teacher at the age of 15. Although she was drawn to a quiet, contemplative life, her desire was to teach young girls to aspire to their full potential. For this she was greatly loved by her students. Responding to the needs of the time, and with the guidance of her bishop, she began a new religious order dedicated to education called the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame. This was during a period when all religious orders were closed by decree of the Bavarian government. She sent her Sisters in groups of twos and threes into the local villages to teach the poor young girls who would otherwise have no opportunity for education, a novelty in her day which grew into a new form of apostolic religious life. In this way she sought to remedy social ills through education, which she believed was just as necessary for a child as love, food, and shelter. When the Vatican negotiated the reopening of Bavaria's religious communities in 1828, the Sisters moved into a convent. Caroline took the religious name Mary Theresa of Jesus for her devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the time of her death her order had grown to 2,500 sisters. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985. Her feast day is May 9th.

**Friday, May 10– St. Damien de Veuster** - St. Damien de Veuster (1840–1889), also known as St. Damien of Molokai, was a priest from Belgium belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He had a special devotion to St. Francis Xavier and desired, like him, to be a missionary. His desire was fulfilled when he was sent to minister in Hawaii in place of his brother, a religious of the same congregation, who was assigned to go but was unable due to illness. The island was suffering from an influx of unknown diseases brought by foreigners, among them Hansen's disease (leprosy). The island of Molokai became quarantined as a leper colony, and all lepers were forcibly exiled there. The local bishop believed that the people living on the island, numbering over 800 at the time, needed a priest. Yet, the bishop knew that ministering to a people of this contagious and deadly disease would be a death sentence for the priest who went. The bishop asked for priests to volunteer to serve in Molokai. After serving in Hawaii for nine years, Fr. Damien was the first to volunteer. He began his ministry to the lepers in 1873. He built a church on the island and did much to improve the morale and joy among the people. St. Damien lived and ministered at the Kalaupapa leper colony for 15 years, fully knowing that this decision would eventually cause him to contract and die of the horribly mutilating disease. St. Damian died of leprosy in 1889 at the age of 49. He became known as a "martyr of charity" and the "Apostle to the Lepers." He was canonized during the Year of Priests in 2009. His feast day is May 10.

**Saturday, May 11 – St. Francis de Girolamo** - St. Francis de Girolamo (1642-1716) was the eldest of eleven children born to honorable and virtuous parents in Naples, Italy. As a child he was drawn to God and a life of prayer. Realizing his vocation to Holy Orders, he was ordained a Jesuit priest at the age of 28. He became a renowned public preacher due to his distinguished and eloquent voice. He was described as "a lamb when he talks, and a lion when he preaches." He had a heart for the missions after his patron St. Francis Xavier, but instead of traveling to distant lands he accepted his hometown of Naples as his India. He went as a missionary priest into country towns and villages for open-air preaching in the streets. He sought to convert sinners wherever they were—in brothels, prisons, galleys, hospitals, and asylums—as well as instructing the pious in their religious houses. He converted Muslim prisoners of war to the Christian faith, rescued children from dangerous and degrading situations, and opened a pawn shop for charity. The fruit of his labor was abundant. He converted many souls, even hardened sinners, and made them virtuous. Everyone knew him for his holiness and zeal. He also had a reputation for being a miracle worker during his lifetime and after his death. After spending 40 years in apostolic labor in Naples, he died of an illness from which he suffered greatly without complaint. His feast day is May 11th.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MAY 5, 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 5	8:00a.m.	OLM	Joy Short Dewey & Ivy Kunkle Family Living & Deceased Sarnac Family
	10:30a.m.	SP	Bob Hicks
Tues. May 7	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. May 8	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. May 9	9:00a.m.	OLM	NO MASS
Fri. May 10	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. May 11	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. May 12	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Frances Uzdella Conklin Family
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner, Greg Wlasiuk

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- May 5 – May Crowning during Mass
- May 5 – Altar Rosary meeting
- May 5 – 31 – Altar Rosary Jewelry Display on exhibit in lower level
- May 8, 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 April 28, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (7 envelopes)	\$ 436.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 428.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 883.00)
Maintenance	\$ 150.00
Votives & CPC Jar	\$ 30.00
Other Collections	\$ 270.64
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday &amp; Other)</b>	<b>\$ 1,314.64</b>

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

May 12 2024

Greeters/Gifts	Mike Maginn Family
Reader	Pat Eisel
Servers	Maeve & Micah Maginn
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil Baker Barb Bruggeman Michelle Miron

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

**COMMANDMENT**- a command or mandate

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. **John 15:12**

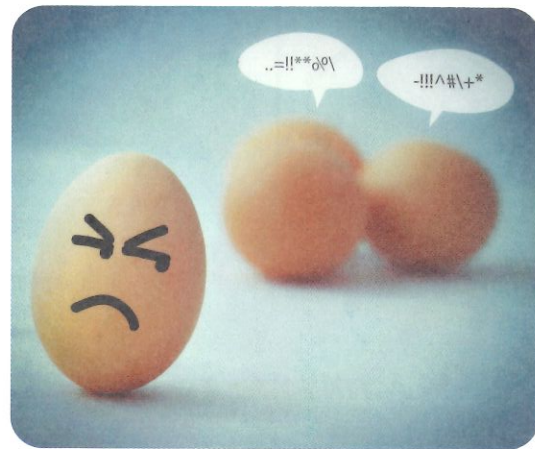
# Dear Padre,

**Please clarify for me what the Church considers as “gossip.”  
Is it that bad?**

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are “detraction” and “calumny.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is “without objectively valid reason, disclosing another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them.” Calumny occurs when a person, “by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today’s Gospel: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). ●



*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### MONDAY

May 6  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 16:11–15  
Jn 15:26–16:4a

### TUESDAY

May 7  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 16:22–34  
Jn 16:5–11

### WEDNESDAY

May 8  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 17:15,  
22–18:1  
Jn 16:12–15

### THURSDAY

May 9  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 18:1–8  
Jn 16:16–20

### FRIDAY

May 10  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 18:9–18  
Jn 16:20–23

### SATURDAY

May 11  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 18:23–28  
Jn 16:23b–28

### SUNDAY

May 12  
*Ascension of the Lord*  
Acts 1:1–11  
Eph 1:17–23 or  
Eph 4:1–13 or  
4:1–7, 11–13  
Mk 16:15–20



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021