



## Feeling Our Way

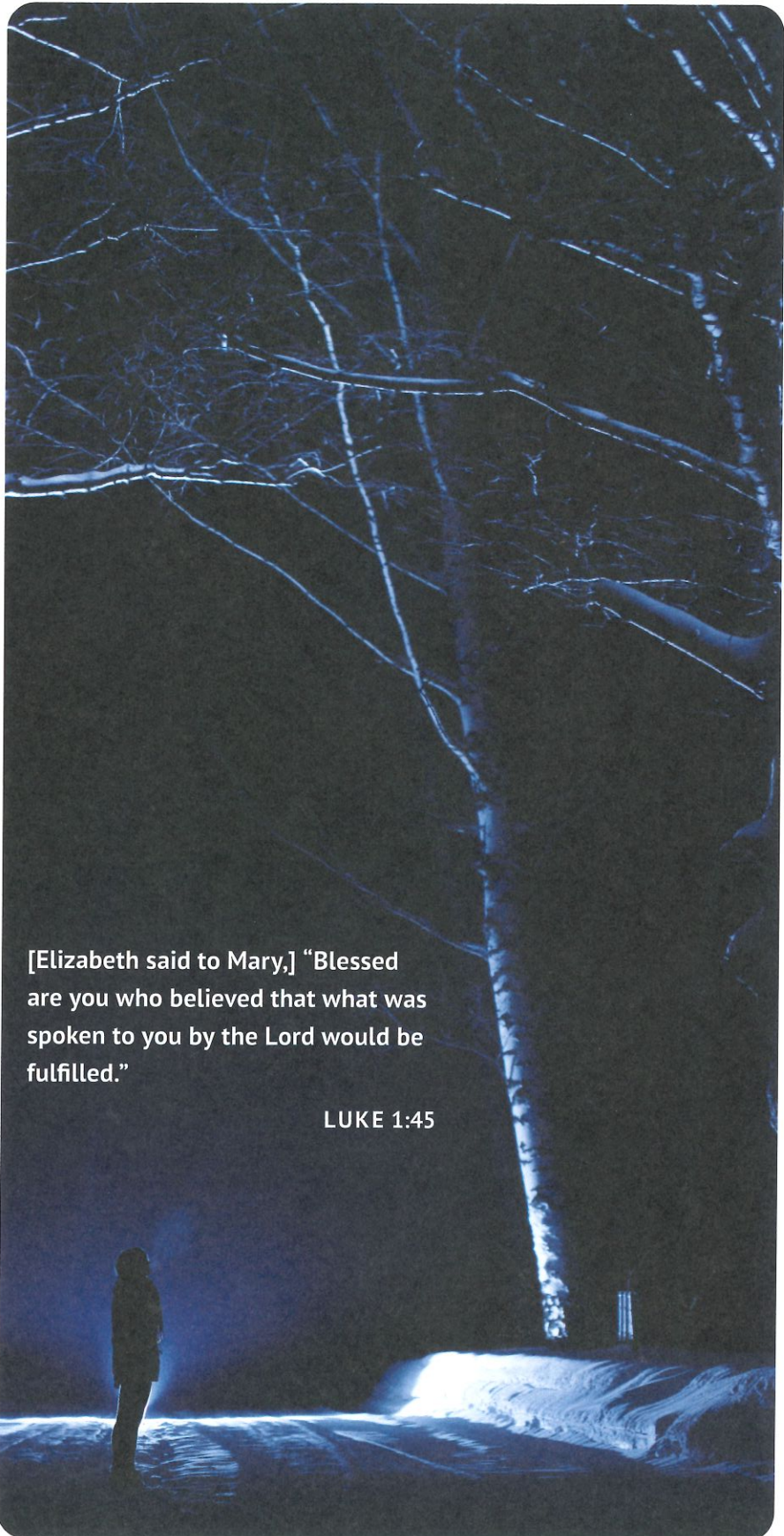
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**M**ost of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

### Reflect

*Have you responded with a whole-hearted "Yes" to God's will for you?*



[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45

# 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

#### FINANCE COUNCIL

Barb Bruggeman  
Terry Kovar  
Joanna Marry

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)

#### CRE

Mary Bird

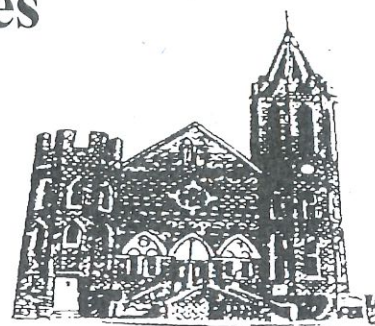
[OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

#### Prayer Chain

[OLOMPrayerchain@olom.2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMPrayerchain@olom.2441.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

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](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, 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, December 22, 2024

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

### CHURCH DECORATING

Church decorating will be today after Mass. All are welcome to help.

### COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CENTER CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our Lady of Mercy CCD students are collecting baby wipes and ointment for their Christmas project and inviting the Parishioners to help. If you would like to donate please put donation in the box at the back of church.

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA - CONTINUES

Our Lady of Mercy's Christmas Novena continues until December 25.

# Peace

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open on Monday, December 23 & Thursday, December 26 and Tuesday December 31, 2024 & Thursday, January 2, 2025 during normal hours.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Our Lady of Mercy 7:00 p.m., St. Peter 4:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day – Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 a.m.

### TODAY A SAVIOR IS BORN

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”  
– Luke 2:11



Merry Christmas to you and your families. May the Joy of Christmas fill your hearts and LOTS of memories are made.

### 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

---Opera House events

Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Bean Creek Coffee House

Jan. 25, 7 p.m. Tina Mae, Becca Lynn and John Schwind

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 or call Our Lady of Mercy office. Email [olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

#### 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.

# Christmas Flowers



## In honor / memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Borer

In honor of the newly elected public officials  
may their leadership be blessed with peace and  
unity.

Mrs. Joyce Bonin

Marcel Bonin

Mr. Dan Lumbrezer

Bernard & Ruth Lumbrezer

Mrs. Marge Crowell

Jim Crowell, Pigott Family, Rodney Moran  
Kosciuczyk Family

Miss Tammy Mudrak

All who are not here  
Eberly family, Rettle/Schultz family,  
Nyari family, Mynheuri family

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Renner

Memory of Our Parents

Mrs. Dorma Eberly

Steve & Erma Schultz, John & Barbara Nyari,  
John Litteral, John & Helen Rettle

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Miron

Mike & Joyce Dwyer, Carl & Emma Davis  
Duane & Edith Dwyer, Rick & Marti Dwyer

Mr. & Mrs. Phil Baker

Deceased members of  
Baker family, Hertzfeld family, Butler family,  
Menchhofer family

Mr. Ronald Bernath

Memory of my Parents

Mr. Larry Pennington

Muriel Pennington



# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## “Hope does not disappoint!”

“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). These are the first words of the official announcement of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 entitled “Pilgrims of Hope.” Quoting Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans, our Holy Father Pope Francis follows the ancient tradition of announcing a periodic Jubilee Year for the Universal Church, offering this encouragement: “For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as ‘our hope’ (1 Tim 1:1)”. The Pope will formally initiate the Jubilee year with the opening of the Holy Year Door at St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, and conclude it on January 6, 2026.

At Christmas we celebrate Hope! And Hope has come to us in a person! That person is Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, true God and true Man, who comes anew as our Hope! And hope is much different than a wish, isn’t they? Some may

remember as children paging through the Sears Catalogue and making their Christmas wish list! Today, parents may receive texts with photos as hints of what their children are wishing to receive at Christmas. We are familiar with offering good wishes for someone’s graduation or birthday, wishing someone well when they are ill or wishing a couple many years of happiness as they marry.



But hope is different. Our Catholic faith teaches us that hope is the theological virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it! (CCC). “The virtue of Hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person, it takes up the hope that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps us from discouragement; it sustains us during times of abandonment; it opens up our hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, we are preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity” (CCC 1818).



With its origins in Biblical texts and dating back to 1300, in the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between

adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

“The Jubilee is called Holy Year, not only because its beginning and end is marked with solemn holy acts, but also because its purpose is to encourage holiness of life. It is convoked to strengthen faith, encourage works of charity and brotherly communion within the Church and in society and to call Christians to be more sincere and coherent in their faith in Christ, the only Saviour” (vat.va).

Hope! Who of us in these days and at this time, with the reality of the situation in the world and in our nation, doesn't need to be reminded that Christ is our Hope! Who of us cannot admit that we are often weary, burdened, anxious, troubled, experiencing feelings of hopelessness? There's a great phrase in Italian: “C'e' sempre Speranza,” There is always hope! No matter what, there is always hope! For us, that hope is a person, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas. As we enter the Jubilee Year, I invite you to pray with me the Jubilee Prayer, so that as fellow pilgrims, we might not only experience and rejoice in that hope ourselves, but we might live and radiate that hope for all!

Father in heaven,  
 may the *faith* you have given us  
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
 and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
 in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
 reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
 into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
 Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both  
 humanity and the whole cosmos  
 in the sure expectation  
 of a new heaven and a new earth,  
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
 reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
 throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
 be glory and praise for ever.  
 Amen.

It is the wish of Pope Francis that “the Holy Year be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity.” Please do keep abreast of how we will be observing this Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope,” here in the Diocese of Toledo. It is my sincere hope that individuals, families, parishes, our Catholic schools and organizations, will find worthy ways to promote and participate in this Jubilee. Almost every week throughout 2025 we will share through our Diocese of Toledo Facebook and website, events and prayer intentions for various groups, including families, young people, priests, deacons, seminarians, consecrated religious, students, the sick and so many others. I ask that you take time to pray for these intentions and feel emboldened to speak with your family, friends, coworkers and schoolmates about your Catholic faith and about the hope you have found in Christ Jesus, who is our Hope!

As the Holy Father encourages us: “Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: ‘Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart, hope in the Lord!’” (Psalm 27:14).

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
 Bishop of Toledo  
 December 14, 2024

# Saints of the Day

([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of Dec. 22– Dec. 28

**Sunday, Dec. 22 – St. Zeno of Nicomedia** - St. Zeno of Nicomedia (d. 303 A.D.) was a Roman soldier and commander living in Nicomedia (modern-day Turkey) during the reign of Roman Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. During their fierce persecution of the Church they were condemning many Christians to death, including any soldiers who professed faith in Jesus Christ. In Nicomedia alone, as many as 20,000 Christians were burned alive as they gathered inside a cathedral on Christmas Day. Standing nearby when the Emperor was offering a sacrifice to a Roman deity, St. Zeno, a Christian, mocked his devotion to a soulless god. St. Zeno was immediately seized and put to death, giving him a martyr's crown. St. Zeno's feast day is December 22nd.

**Monday, Dec. 23 – St. Victoria** - St. Victoria (d. 250 A.D.) was a Christian noblewoman from Rome. She, together with her sister, St. Anatolia, were forced into arranged marriages with two pagan noblemen. Both Victoria and Anatolia desired to devote themselves entirely to God rather than marry. Upon this refusal, their suitors denounced the sisters as Christians to the authorities under the persecution of Roman Emperor Decius. The sisters were seized and put under house arrest in order to break their faith and convince them to marry. Instead of weakening, their faith in Christ became more resolute. While under house arrest they sold all of their belongings, gave their money to the poor, and converted the servants and guards who attended them to Christianity. Both St. Victoria and her sister were eventually killed for their faith; first Anatolia, and later Victoria. St. Victoria was stabbed through the heart at the request of her rejected suitor, Eugenius. Her feast day is December 23rd.

**Tuesday, Dec. 24– Adam and Eve**- Adam and Eve, the first man and woman created by God as recounted in the Old Testament book of Genesis, are the father and mother of all humanity. Through their willful disobedience to the command of God, sin came into the world. To redeem mankind which was thereby separated from the perfect communion with the Holy Trinity for which they were created, God became man, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and died on a Cross. Jesus is the New Adam, and Mary is the New Eve. Christian tradition recognizes that Adam and Eve were rescued by Christ in virtue of His death, burial, and resurrection, and are with God and the saints in heaven. Their feast day is celebrated together on December 24th.

**Wednesday, Dec. 25– St. Anastasia** - St. Anastasia (c. 281-314 A.D.) was a Roman citizen of the noble class, born to a wealthy pagan father and a Christian mother. She was secretly baptized due to her mother's desire to raise her as a Christian. Anastasia married a Roman pagan of her class, and, when he discovered that she was a practicing Christian, he became a cruel tyrant and inflicted much suffering upon her. After her husband's untimely death, Anastasia devoted her life to acts of charity and to consoling Christians who were imprisoned for their faith. When she was discovered to be a Christian during the persecutions of Diocletian, Anastasia was captured, tortured, and starved before being crucified, burned alive, and beheaded. The place of her martyrdom is Sirmium in what is today Serbia, and afterwards she was venerated as a healer and exorcist. St. Anastasia is one of the seven women, besides the Virgin Mary, commemorated in the Roman Canon of the Mass. Her feast day is December 25th.

**Thursday, Dec. 26–St. Stephen** – St. Stephen (1st. c.) was one of the Church's first deacons in Jerusalem and an eloquent preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. According to Sacred Scripture he was "a man full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost" and "full of grace and fortitude." The account of his martyrdom is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. After boldly preaching against the Jewish leaders for their rejection of the promised Messiah, he was accused of blasphemy and stoned to death by an angry mob. The man who would later become St. Paul the Apostle, while he was persecuting the Church before his conversion, was among the mob as an approving witness. St. Stephen's name comes from the Greek word meaning 'crown,' fitting as he was the first Christian to earn the martyr's crown. St. Stephen's feast day is celebrated on December 26th.

**Friday, Dec. 27– St. John the Evangelist** - St. John the Evangelist (1st c.) was one of the Twelve Apostles, and one of the three in Jesus' inner circle, along with his brother, James, and Simon Peter. St. John was the disciple who reclined on the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper, and the only one of the twelve to not forsake Christ during His crucifixion and death. John stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross alongside the other holy women, and therefore he was the disciple to whom Jesus entrusted the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In addition to being called "The Evangelist" he is also known as the "Beloved Disciple." After the death and resurrection of Jesus, St. John was an important leader of the Church in Jerusalem. He lived to a very old age and composed the fourth Gospel that bears his name, three epistles, and the book of Revelation. He is the only one of the Twelve Apostles who was not martyred, instead being exiled to the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea under the persecution of Roman Emperor Domitian. St. John the Evangelist's feast day is December 27th.

**Saturday, Dec. 28– The Holy Innocents** - The Holy Innocents (1st c.) are the children mentioned in the account of Jesus' birth in Matthew's Gospel (2:16-18). When the Magi came to Jerusalem to find and adore the Baby Jesus, the newborn King of the Jews, King Herod requested that they inform him of the Child's location under the pretense of offering Him adoration, too. After paying the Child homage and offering Him their gifts, the Wise Men were warned in a dream not to betray Jesus' location, and departed for their home country by another route. Meanwhile the Holy Family was warned by an Angel to flee into Egypt. King Herod fell into a jealous rage over the Magi's failure to report back to him. He ordered all the baby boys aged two years and under to be killed, according to the appearance of the Bethlehem Star to the Three Wise Men, in an attempt to kill the Baby Jesus. These baby boys died not only for Christ, but in his stead. The Church venerates them as martyrs. It is uncertain how many children were killed, whether a small number, or in the thousands. The Latin Church instituted the feast of the Holy Innocents in the fifth century. The Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome is believed to possess the bodies of several of the Holy Innocents. Their feast day is commemorated on December 28th.





# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



DECEMBER 22 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. Dec. 22	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People
Tues. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
	7:00 p.m.	OLM	For the People
	9:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Dec. 25	9:00 a.m.	OLM	For the People
Thurs. Dec. 26 Communion Svc	9:00 a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Dec. 27 Communion Svc	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Dec. 28	4:30 pm	SP	For the People
Sun. Dec. 29	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
  - Dec. 22 & Dec. 29 – at home
- Dec. 17 – Dec. 25 OLOM Christmas Novena
  - Dec. 22 – Decorate for Christmas after Mass
  - Dec. 24 – 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
  - Dec. 25 – 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
  - Jan. 1 – Mass 9 a.m. Mary, Holy Mother of God

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	Dec. 22	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
<b>Greeters/Gifts</b>	Maginn Family	Eisel Family	Beauregard Family
<b>Reader</b>	Angie Beauregard	Pat Eisel	Angie Beauregard
<b>Servers</b>	Evan Will M	Kennedy K Micah M Will M	Evan B
<b>Ushers</b>	Dennis Denise Miller	Ron Pat Eisel	Phil Tami Baker
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Until further notice		
<b>Money Counters</b>	Phil B Dennis M Michelle M		Phil B Barb B Eli E

## SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT Reported for December 15, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (18 envelopes)	\$ 806.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 317.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 624.00)
<b>OTHER COLLECTION</b>	
Immaculate Conception	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 35.00
CPC Jar & Votive Candles	\$ 14.00
Maintenance	\$ 25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 25.00
Postage Help	\$ 10.00
Retired Religious	\$ 5.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Initial Offering	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday &amp; Other)</b>	<b>\$ 1,352.00</b>

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

PEACE – freedom from strife or dissension

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace. – Micah 5:3-4a

# Dear Padre,

## Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



IMMACULATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

### The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

### 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*.



YARA NARDI / CNS

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021