



Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:1B-2

In Search of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We are always in search of something or other, it seems—an intangible something that tends to shift and change over the course of our lives, like the tumbling pieces of a kaleidoscope. Sometimes, it is love we seek. Other times, meaning. Or inner peace, freedom from anxiety or guilt. Or perhaps freedom from all that ties us down. And sometimes, it is God we seek. Like the Magi, we too are on a quest for the Holy One.

One afternoon, Tom, a high-school sophomore, stopped by. He asked if we could talk about God—or, more exactly, about what God was like. He had been in a study hall, waiting for the bell to ring, when the person behind him asked, “When you die, do you think you’re going to see God?” Tom said he thought he would, but then the other student replied, “Well, you won’t, because God doesn’t have a body. There isn’t something to see.”

The bell rang, Tom said, and they never finished the conversation. Tom wondered whether God had a body or not, and, if not, then what was God like? Tom was searching for a God that made sense amidst galaxies and black holes and light years of time, but also a God who was personal and knowable and lovable. He wasn’t sure how to put the two together. He had become one of the Magi on a journey to find God. ●

Reflect

Where are you on your journey to know and discover God?

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

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

CRE

Mary Bird

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer Chain

OLOMPrayerchain@olom.2441.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@rtexcexpress.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, JANUARY 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

BFF'S

BFF's resume on January 12, 2025 after Mass. All are invited to enjoy Breakfast, Food & Fellowship.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass – Jan. 5 & Jan. 19
At Home – Jan. 12 & Jan. 26

ALTAR ROSARY

Altar Rosary Society will be meeting on January 12, 2025 after Mass.

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed January 21 thru January 28. It will re open on January 29. Please have all announcements for those dates in by January 14 at noon to be in the bulletin. If there is an urgent matter (Jan. 21 thru the 28th) that needs to be announced please see Barb Bruggeman.



THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

“It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God’s sight.” – *St. Basil the Great*

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 2

859 (237) J.M.J

Cracow, Pradnik, January 1, 1937.

Jesus, I Trust in You.

+ Today, at midnight, I bid good-bye to the old year 1936, and welcomed the year 1937. It was with fear and trembling that, in this first hour of the year, I faced this new period of time. Merciful Jesus, with You I go boldly and courageously into conflicts and battles. In Your Name, I will accomplish everything and overcome everything. My God, Infinite Goodness, I beg of You, let Your infinite mercy accompany me always and in all things.

As I enter this year, fear of life overwhelms me, but Jesus brings me out of this fear and lets me know what great glory this work of mercy will bring Him.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

FISH FRY-DAYS

Archbold Knights of Columbus Fish Fry-Days begin January 24 thru April 18

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

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office. Email 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.

Tired of the gym?

5 Catholic New Year's Resolutions to try in 2025!

(from www.denvercatholic.org)

With the end of 2024 drawing near, you may be experiencing a case of the New Year's Scaries.

We're all about helping people grow closer to Jesus Christ, and this year is no different! If you're looking for some creative New Year's resolutions, look no further! Check out these 5 ideas, and share with a friend!

Daily blessing jar: Decorate a jar as a family, and write down a blessing from the day each night, or as regularly as you can. Next year, on New Year's Eve, you can read through the blessings of the year. This resolution is a great way to start a new yearly tradition and is a fun way to reflect on God's work in your life and focus on the positive during challenging moments.

Holy Happy Hour: Commit to a monthly "Holy Happy Hour," where you spend one hour in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by an intentional social gathering with friends at a local pub, coffee shop or brewery. This resolution balances prayer, community and celebration, rooted in the joy of Catholic life.

Acts of Kindness Bingo: Create a bingo-style chart with different acts of kindness and spiritual practices for the year. These can include things like: "Help a neighbor with groceries," "Send a handwritten note to someone," "Fast for a day," or "Pray the Litany of Saints." Each time you complete a task, mark it off on the bingo card. Once you complete a row (or the whole board), reward yourself with something meaningful (a treat or a day of rest). It's a fun way to encourage good habits while growing in faith!

"Saint of the Month" club: Each month, pick a saint to learn about and "adopt" for that month. You can read their biography, reflect on their virtues, and look for ways to imitate their life in your own. Add a twist by choosing saints that relate to your life (e.g., St. Jude for lost causes, St. Joseph for a holy family, St. Gerard for expectant parents). You can even decorate your home with a small image of the saint as a reminder of the month's focus.

Spiritual Bucket List: This year, create a Spiritual Bucket List by choosing 1-3 Catholic activities or experiences that inspire you to grow in faith, encounter God in new ways and create lasting memories. These can range from small, local goals to big, life-changing pilgrimages tailored to your interests and spiritual needs. Examples can include, but are not limited to:

- Go on a local or major pilgrimage
- Try a new devotional
- Host a special dinner party for a feast day
- Volunteer for a new ministry
- Read through a new spiritual book or book of the bible

2025

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of Jan. 5 – Jan. 11

Sunday, Jan. 5 – St. John Neumann - St. John Neumann (1811-1860) was born in Bohemia in what is now the Czech Republic. He entered the seminary, and when the day came for his ordination to the priesthood, his bishop fell ill and couldn't proceed with the ceremony. However, because Bohemia had an over-abundance of priests, John's ordination was never rescheduled. Undeterred in pursuing his priestly vocation, John decided to go to America to seek ordination. He came to the United States in 1836 as a missionary priest to serve America's European immigrant population. He was ordained in New York, joined the Redemptorists, and was later consecrated a bishop. He is famous for knowing twelve languages and for being the first American man and American bishop to be canonized. St. John Neumann left his impact on the United States by building a vast number of churches, schools, hospitals, and orphanages. The number of parochial school students greatly increased in his diocese. St. John Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the laity in the United States, especially in his promotion of devotion to the Holy Eucharist. His feast day is January 5th.

Monday, Jan. 6 – St. Andre Bessette - St. Andre Bessette (1845-1937) was born the eighth of twelve children to a poor working class family in Quebec, Canada. He was weak and sickly from his birth. When he was nine, his father died in a lumber accident; when he was twelve, his mother died of tuberculosis. He then worked at various odd jobs until he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a lay brother at age 25, serving as porter for Quebec's Notre Dame College for much of his life. Andre welcomed and prayed for the people he met, especially those who were ill or suffering. When an epidemic of sickness broke out, Andre demonstrated the gift of healing. He gave all the credit to St. Joseph, to whom he had a great devotion. Over the years, when word of his sanctity spread, tens of thousands of people came to Bessette for prayer and healing. He worked all day to receive them in person or answer their letters. When his Order wanted to purchase land on Mt. Royal, Bessette buried St. Joseph medals on the property. The owners yielded, the land was sold to the Order, and Andre worked to have a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph built on the property. It is still in use to this day. When he died at the age of 91, it is said that a million people visited his coffin. St. Andre Bessette's feast day is January 6th.

Tuesday, Jan. 7– St. Raymond of Penafort- St. Raymond of Penafort (1175-1275) was born in Spain to the noble family of Aragon. As a child he received an excellent education and displayed a great love for the Blessed Mother. After studying and teaching philosophy and law he entered the Order of Preachers. He preached the Crusades and encouraged the faithful to defend their civilization from foreign threats. To aid his preaching, Raymond requested that his fellow Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas, write his epic Summa Contra Gentiles for the conversion of non-Catholics, especially Muslims. It is said that at least 10,000 Muslims were converted to the Catholic faith as a result of Raymond's evangelistic labors. Together with King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom (Mercedarians), a group that worked to free Christians enslaved by the Moors. Known for his great mind and great sanctity, St. Raymond was the Pope's personal confessor and close adviser. As a trained lawyer, he was also chosen to compile the Church's legal documents into one source of canon law which was then used for centuries. He also wrote a manual of moral theology for confessors. St. Raymond is famous for the miracle of sailing from the island of Majorca to Barcelona using his cape for a raft, in protest of the King of Aragon's refusal to dismiss his mistress. St. Raymond of Penafort is the patron of lawyers and canon lawyers. His feast day is January 7.

Wednesday, Jan. 8– St. Apollinaris Claudius - St. Apollinaris Claudius (2nd c.), also called St. Apollinaris of Hierapolis, was a bishop in what is today Turkey. He became famous for his polemical writings against the heretics of his day, showing that their theological errors were taken from the pagans. His most famous work was an Apologia for the Christians addressed to Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 177 A.D. In it he reminded the Emperor of a miracle he received because of the Christians: when his army was nearly defeated in an attempt to conquer the Germanic barbarians, it was the prayers of the Christians among his soldiers which obtained the needed relief and the military victory, even though Christianity was illegal. In light of this miracle, Apollinaris

(St. Apollinaris Claudius – cont.)

requested the Emperor's protection of Christians from persecution. St. Apollinaris' work earned him the moniker, "Apollinaris the Apologist." His writings are largely lost, and what we know of his work comes to us from other early Christian writers including St. Jerome and Eusebius. His feast day is January 8th.

Thursday, Jan. 9–St. Adrian of Canterbury– St. Adrian of Canterbury (d. 710 A.D.), also known as St. Hadrian, was a native of North Africa who was sent to England to accompany his friend, Theodore of Tarsus, who was appointed to the prestigious archbishopric of Canterbury. St. Adrian was originally offered and turned down the ecclesiastical position, and instead was made abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury (originally called the Monastery of St. Peter). The monastic school grew and thrived under his leadership, and became an important center of learning where many future scholars, bishops, and abbots were educated in Latin, Greek, scripture, theology, Roman law, arithmetic, and other subjects. St. Adrian himself was well known for being a great teacher of religion, math, science, and literature. He also served as the Holy Father's assistant and adviser. During the lives of Adrian and Theodore, education and learning flourished in England. After his death, his tomb became famous for miracles. His feast day is January 9th.

Friday, Jan. 10– St. William of Bourges - St. William of Bourges (1155–1209), also known as St. William the Confessor, was born to a noble family in France. He was educated under his uncle who was an archdeacon, and from a young age turned away from the world and gave himself over to religion and learning. He became a priest and later entered religious life in a Cistercian monastery, an order famous for strict discipline. St. William was known to be a cheerful man and a hard worker, and pure of heart. He was chosen to be Archbishop of Bourges in the year 1200, much to his dismay. He left the solitude of the monastery out of obedience and entered into the public life of a bishop, throwing himself wholeheartedly into serving both the spiritual and physical needs of the poor. As bishop he continued his great austerities. He had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and would spend much time in prayer at the foot of the altar. He was known for performing miracles both during his life and after his death. He died kneeling at prayer, and by request was buried wearing his hair shirt and lying in ashes. His feast day is January 10.

Saturday, Jan. 11– Pope St. Hyginus - Pope St. Hyginus (d. 142 A.D.) was born in Athens, Greece, and became the ninth successor to the Chair of St. Peter. He reigned as pope for four years from about 138-142 A.D. Many of the details of his life have not been preserved, although various actions are credited to him: defending the Catholic faith against the Gnostic heresy which spread in Rome; beginning the practice of including godparents at infant baptisms to help the newborn child receive a Christian upbringing; and decreeing that all churches must be consecrated. Pope St. Hyginus is buried near the tomb of St. Peter on Vatican Hill. It is uncertain whether he became a martyr under the persecutions of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. His feast day is January 11.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



JANUARY 5, 2025

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. Jan. 5	8:30a.m.	OLM	Karl & Lotte Obermoser Ruth Obermoser
	10:30a.m	SP	Lynn Schrickel
Tues. Jan. 7	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Jan. 8	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Jan. 9	9:00 a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Jan. 10	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Jan. 11	4:30 pm	SP	Mikolaj Wlasiuk Roger Anderson
	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin
Sun. Jan. 12	10:30a.m	SP	Cindy Eddy John Van Pelt

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
- Jan. 5 & Jan. 19 – after Mass
- Dec. 29, Jan. 12 & Jan. 26 – at home
- Jan. 12 – BFF after Mass
- Jan. 12 – Altar Rosary meeting after Mass
- Jan. 16 – Council meetings
- Finance 5:45 p.m.
- Pastoral 6:15 p.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for December 29, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (13 envelopes)	\$ 451.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 40.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 1,216.00)
OTHER COLLECTION	
Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00
Votives/Blessed Candles	\$ 10.00
Christmas	\$ 10.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 1,511.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	January 12, 2025
Greeters/Gifts	Joyce Bonin Marge Crowell
Reader	Angie Beauregard
Servers	Evan Beauregard
Ushers	Angie Beauregard Terry Kovar
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Barb Bruggeman Eli Eberly Terry Kovar

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

ADORE– to regard with the utmost esteem, love, and respect; honor

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Psalm 72

Dear Padre,

I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was known for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated during that time. Some scholars believe that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers.

Astrologers believe that the zodiac signs under which we were born largely control our human destiny. The Christian objection to astrology is that it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars, planets, animals, or inanimate objects can, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the LORD your God.... You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven" as "the governors of the world" (Wisdom 13:2).

Don't give credit to or blame the stars for what you do and who you are. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who cares for all creation.

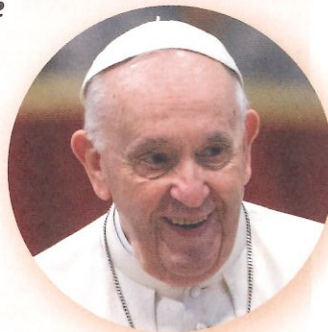


TANYA ANTUSENOK / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars.... We are what we desire. For it is our desires that...drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of habit, beyond banal consumerism, beyond a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.



CNS PHOTO

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

January 11
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

January 12
The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7
or Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Acts 10:34-38
or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22