



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”

LUKE 6:20

## It’s All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**here we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage “Bloom where you are planted” may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won’t do much blooming. We’ll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week’s gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What’s so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that’s where we put down our roots. In other words, if that’s what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn’t come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become “like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream” (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

### Reflect

***Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?***



# 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)

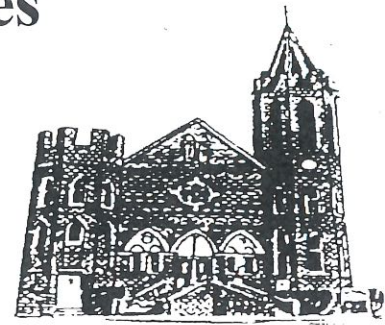
**CRE**

Mary Bird

[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

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, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

### BFF'S

Next BFF will be February 23, 2025.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass – Mar. 2 & Mar. 16

At Home – Feb. 23, Mar. 9, Mar. 23 & Mar. 30

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastoral Council will be meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. in the Parish Office. There will be no Finance Council meeting.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep Myla Burkholder in your prayers as she prepares for her First Reconciliation on February 23, 2025.



### 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

Feb. 22 – Stand Up Comedy – The Real John King, 7 p.m.

---Feb. 19 – Community Meal – 5 -6 pm – Fayette Methodist Life Center

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.

### ADULT LENTEN STUDY

The Adult Lenten Study will be based on Bishop Robert Baron's program "The Mass"—part 2. Participation in last year's study is not a prerequisite for participating this year. A flyer with dates, time and a registration form is on the back tables. The registration form needs to be returned by Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Please prayerfully consider participating in this year's program.

### MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy will be having a Mardi Gras Celebration. All parishioners 21 and over are invited for a night of Mardi Gras style food and games. Please see flyer on back for more information.

### DAILY QUOTES FROM MOTHER ANGELICA PERPETUAL CALENDAR

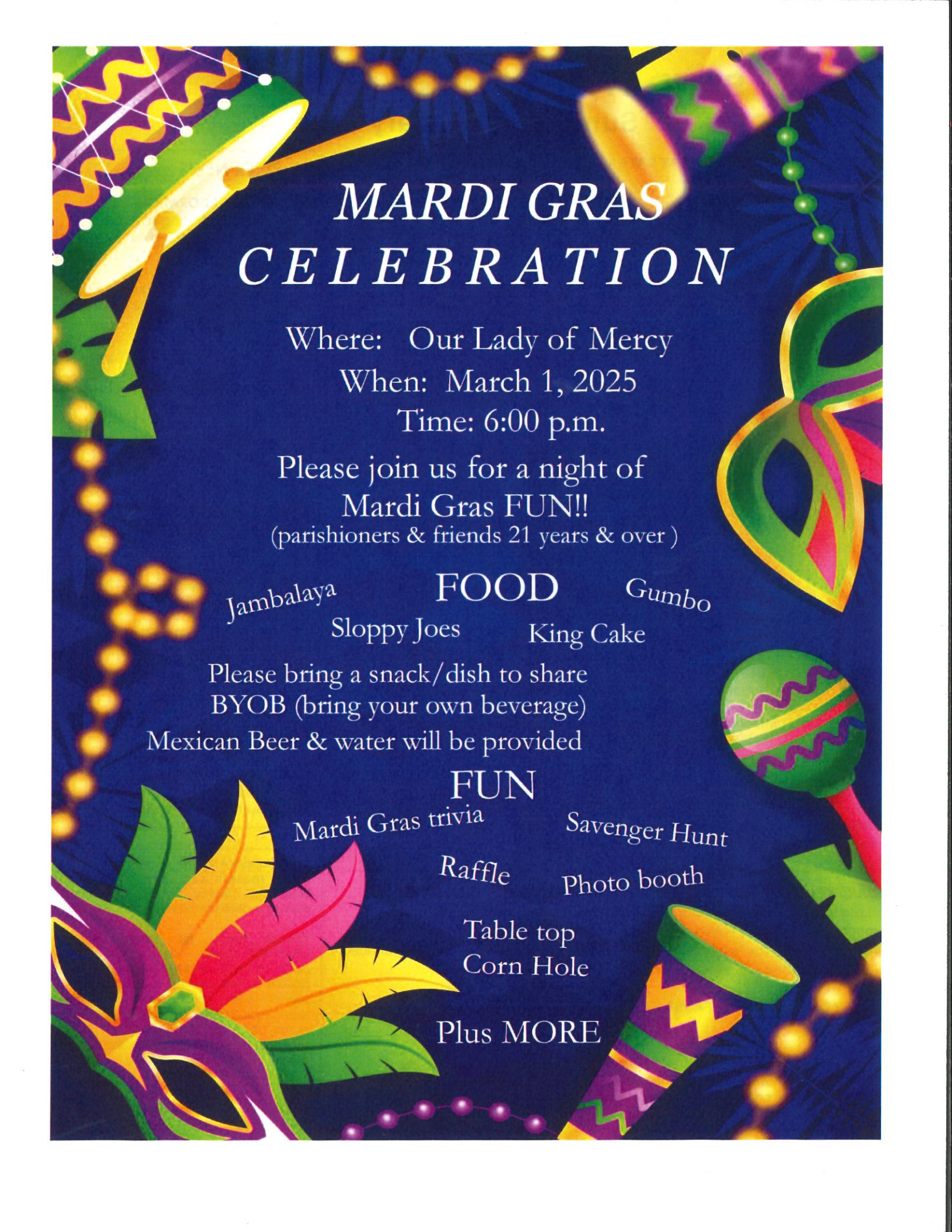
"Lord Jesus, increase my faith. I want so much to have faith that moves mountains. I want to believe with such intensity that only a thin veil separates me from seeing You face to face. I want to see the Father's Will and Providence in everything that happens."

### DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 2

928 Then suddenly I saw the Lord, who clasped to His Heart and said to me, **My daughter, do not weep, for I cannot bear your tears. I will grant you everything you ask for, but stop crying.** And I was filled with great (280) joy, and my spirit, as usual, was drowned in Him as in its only treasure. Today, encouraged by His kindness, I conversed with Jesus at greater length.





# MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Where: Our Lady of Mercy

When: March 1, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for a night of  
Mardi Gras FUN!!  
(parishioners & friends 21 years & over)

Jambalaya

FOOD

Gumbo

Sloppy Joes

King Cake

Please bring a snack/dish to share  
BYOB (bring your own beverage)

Mexican Beer & water will be provided

FUN

Mardi Gras trivia

Savenger Hunt

Raffle

Photo booth

Table top

Corn Hole

Plus MORE



# Saints of the Day

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

Week of Feb. 16 – Feb. 22

**Sunday, Feb. 16 – St. Juliana of Nicomedia-** St. Juliana of Nicomedia (c. 270 A.D.), also known as St. Juliana of Cumae, was the daughter of noble pagan parents, born in Nicomedia, a Greek city in ancient Turkey. Although her father was hostile to Christians, Juliana secretly accepted baptism. Her father arranged her marriage to a pagan nobleman and Roman senator. When the time for her wedding came, Juliana refused her consent to be married unless her betrothed converted to the Christian faith. Her father retaliated by mercilessly abusing her, but Juliana would not give in. Her betrothed then denounced her as a Christian before the tribunal under the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. St. Juliana was unwavering in her faith, even after the devil himself appeared to tempt her during her sufferings. She was then publicly tortured by being burned, boiled in oil, and finally beheaded. Some accounts say she died together with St. Barbara. Many were converted to the Christian faith upon witnessing her fortitude in the face of her tortures. St. Juliana is the patron saint of sickness and bodily ills. Her feast day is February 16th.

**Monday, Feb. 17– St. Manettus -** St. Manettus (d. 1268), also known as St. Benedict dell'Antella, was one of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites. Between 1225 and 1227 in the city of Florence, Italy, seven cloth merchants from the city's prominent families joined the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They desired to live a penitential life dedicated to her title of Mother of Sorrows. Our Lady appeared to the seven men on the feast of the Assumption in 1233, asking them to live a life of seclusion and prayer. They obeyed and lived an austere life for many years. Mary appeared to the seven again in 1240, giving them a black habit and a scroll titled "Servants of Mary," and asking them to found a religious order following the Rule of St. Augustine. The Servites became one of the five original mendicant religious orders. Their special charism is devotion to the Passion of Jesus and the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Only one of the seven founders lived to see the order formally approved by Rome in 1304. It has since spread throughout the world and remains active to this day. The feast day of its Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites (Servants of Mary) is February 17.

**Tuesday, Feb. 18– Blessed Fra Angelico-** Bl. Fra Angelico (1387-1455) was born Guido di Pietro in Tuscany, Italy. Little is known of his early life, but he became a famous early Italian Renaissance master painter. Fra Angelico would pray earnestly before he painted, being convinced that in order to paint Christ perfectly, one must also be Christlike. His paintings then became tools for contemplating the theological mysteries hidden in the biblical events he depicted. He joined the Dominican Order in 1407 and was given the name Brother John, often called "Angelic Brother John", or Fra Angelico (Angelic Friar) because of his holiness. He lived and worked in several friaries until moving to the Friary of San Marco in Florence. While in Florence he was surrounded by an artistic community, and, due to his great talent, gained the patronage of the famous Medici family. In 1445 he was summoned to Rome to work on St. Peter's Basilica in various chapels. From 1449 until shortly before his death, Fra Angelico was also prior of the convent in Fiesole. He passed away while working again in Rome and is buried in the Dominican church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Fra Angelico was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II and is the patron saint of Catholic artists. His feast day is February 18.

**Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Blessed Alvarez of Cordova -** Bl. Alvarez of (Córdoba) Cordova (1350-1430) was born to a noble family in Zamora, Spain. He joined the Dominican Order and preached throughout Spain, and served at the court of Queen Catherine. He went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and upon his return preached the crusades against the Muslims. He founded the famous priory of Scala Caeli (Ladder of Heaven) at Cordova, a convent of strict observance, and it is said that angels helped provide its building materials. He erected pictures of the holy places in Jerusalem in its gardens, popularizing the custom of the Stations of the Cross. He lived a life of great austerity and begged for alms even though he could easily obtain what he needed from the royal court. Numerous miracles are attributed to him. It is told that he once found a dying beggar, wrapped him in a blanket, and carried him back to the convent. Upon unwrapping the cloth he found only a crucifix. Blessed Alvarez was dedicated to Christ's Passion and helped spread devotion to the Way of the Cross throughout western Europe. He also



**(Blessed Alvarez of Cordova – cont.)**

successfully led a resistance against the anti-pope and brought Spain under allegiance to the true pope in Rome. His feast day is February 19.

**Thursday, Feb. 20 – St. Francisco & St. Jacinta Marto**– St. Francisco (1908-1919) and St. Jacinta Marto (1910–1920) were siblings and the youngest of the three shepherd children, who, along with their cousin, Lúcia Santos, witnessed three apparitions of an angel in 1916 and six apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917 while tending sheep in the countryside of Fatima, Portugal. They were entrusted by Our Lady of Fatima with many messages and warnings for the world, and that they were to do penance and pray for the conversion of sinners. Both became prayerful mystics, much wiser than their age, on account of these visits. Although only young children, they faithfully offered up many sacrifices as Our Lady requested, by praying the rosary daily, giving their lunches to the poor, denying themselves water on hot days, wearing a rough rope next to her skin, calmly facing ridicule on account of the apparitions, and bravely enduring the suffering that ended in their deaths. The Blessed Mother told Francisco and Jacinta that they would die young and that she would soon come to take them to heaven. Francisco and Jacinta both fell sick from influenza in 1918. Francisco died first, and Jacinta the next year after a long illness and two hospitalizations. They were canonized by Pope Francis on May 13, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the first Apparition of Our Lady of Fátima. Their feast day is February 20th.

**Friday, Feb. 21– St. Peter Damian** - St. Peter Damian (1007-1072 A.D.) was born in Ravenna, Italy, the youngest of a large and noble yet poor family. After his birth his mother initially refused to nurse him due to the strain he would put on the family, and he nearly died. He was later orphaned and suffered from extreme poverty. One brother adopted him, but neglected him and treated him like a slave. Another brother, a priest, recognizing that Peter had great intelligence, took him in and provided for his education. Peter excelled in his studies and in religious piety. By the time he was twenty-five he became a professor famous for his work in theology and canon law. Bothered by the distractions of university life, at twenty-eight he left his position to become a Benedictine monk and to lead a quiet life of fervent prayer and self-mortification. He lived during a time of great corruption in the Church, and became heavily involved in the controversies and crises of the day, advocating for reform and greater discipline in religious life. He was an influential figure, a friend and adviser to both popes and emperors, and was made a bishop and cardinal. Due to his academic prowess and prolific theological writings, St. Peter Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1823. His feast day is February 21.

**Saturday, Feb. 22– St. Margaret of Cortona** - St. Margaret of Cortona (1247-1297) was born in Tuscany, Italy, the only child of a working-class family. She lost her mother at age seven, and had a poor relationship with her stepmother. Margaret was spoiled, willful, reckless, and beautiful, and at the age of seventeen she left her father's house in the night and became the mistress of a young nobleman. She lived with him in his family castle for nine years and bore him a son, but he did not marry her due to her lower social class. One day he did not return home from a journey, and his hound came back to the castle alone. The dog led Margaret into the nearby wood where she discovered her lover brutally murdered. This shook her to her core. Her eyes were opened to the sinfulness of her way of life, and she became deeply repentant. She left his family castle with her son and sought out the Franciscan friars for spiritual direction. She then reformed her life through intense prayer, penance, and self-discipline, eventually joining the Third Order of St. Francis, and living in strict poverty and great charity towards the poor. St. Margaret of Cortona is the patron saint of the homeless, reformed prostitutes, midwives, single laywomen, the mentally ill, and the falsely accused. Her feast day is February 22nd.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



FEBRUARY 16, 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. Feb. 16	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner Carolyn Bigger
Tues. Feb. 18	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Feb. 19	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Feb. 20	9:00 a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Feb. 21	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Feb. 22	4:30 pm	SP	For the People
Sun. Feb. 23	8:30a.m.	OLM	Living & Deceased Sarnac family Rosemay Pontius
	10:30a.m.	SP	Alexander Bodowski Virgil Frey Larry Miller

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
- Feb. 16 – after Mass
- Feb. 23 – at home
- Feb. 20 – Pastoral Council meeting at 6:15 p.m., Parish Office
- Feb. 23 – Myla Burkholder, 1<sup>st</sup> Penance
- Feb. 23 – BFF after Mass
- Mar. 1 – Our Lady of Mercy Mardi Gras Celebration – 6 p.m.

## SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 9, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (16 envelopes)	\$ 1,335.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 104.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 308.00)

### OTHER COLLECTION

Postage Help	\$ 20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 10.00
Maintenance	\$ 25.00
Votive Candles	\$ 6.00
Funeral Memorials	\$ 695.00

**TOTAL COLLECTIONS**  
(Sunday & Other) **\$ 2,195.00**

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	February 23, 2025
<b>Greeters/Gifts</b>	Mike Maginn Family
<b>Reader</b>	Shelly Gruman
<b>Servers</b>	Will Maginn
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil & Tami Baker
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Until further notice
<b>Money Counters</b>	Phil Baker Barb Bruggeman Barbara Roby

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

DEPENDENCE – reliance; confidence; trust

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose hope is the Lord.  
**Jeremiah 17:7**



# Dear Padre,

*I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?*

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*



REIMER / SHUTTERSTOCK

## 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*.



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

### Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

### Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday

February 22

*The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

### Sunday

February 23

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38