



Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?

LUKE 6:41

Blindsided

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There are days when the darker side of who we are rises up and slaps us in the face. One evening, I decided to go to see a film. I bought a ticket, made my way into the theater, and found a seat that would give me an unobstructed view of the screen, one that had patrons on either side of the open seat in front of me. Fairly sure that no one would sit in front of me, I felt good about my maneuver. A few minutes before the film began, a group of four walked down the aisle, looking for a string of open seats in the crowded theater. One of them stopped at my row and asked if I would move down a seat. Immediately, I realized my predicament. If I moved, I'd be behind someone tall, with my vision of the screen blocked.

I'd spend the film gazing through someone's head. I said no. The woman who had asked was taken aback, said so, and then moved on. Just as quickly, I found myself shocked by my own selfishness. Where had that come from? Was I really not who I thought I was? I discovered that there are hidden pieces of who we are that seldom come to light, and when they do, we cringe. If we are fortunate, the Lenten journey we begin on Ash Wednesday might reveal to us what it is that lives in our hearts. ●

Reflect

What can I do for Lent that may help me see myself more clearly?

Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

CRE

Mary Bird

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

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@rtccexpress.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, MARCH 2, 2025

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass –Mar. 2 & Mar. 16

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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

7:00 a.m. St. Peter

9:00 a.m. Our Lady of Mercy

6:30 p.m. St. Peter



ADULT LENTEN STUDY

The Adult Lenten Study will be based on Bishop Robert Baron's program "The Mass"—part 2. Begins on March 9, March 23, & April 6 beginning shortly after Mass.

YOUTH GROUP - CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP BREAKFAST

There will be a Youth Breakfast on March 9, 2025 after Mass at Our Lady of Mercy. Please come and support Our Lady of Mercy's Evan Beauregard, Angie Beauregard and St. Peter's Youth Group as they prepare for their CHWC trip to Nashville, TN, June 21 – 27, 2025.

THE CHOSEN

Our Lady of Mercy will be viewing The Chosen – Season 1 during the Easter season. We are in the process of scheduling the dates for the 8 episodes, each episode is approximately 1 hour in length, starting the week of April 21, 2025. Please fill out the form on the back table for which time will be best for you. Please turn into Sherry Renner or place in the collection basket.

FATHER STANBERY

Father Stanbery has taken up residence at Ayden Healthcare of Wauseon for long-term care. He is available via his cell phone or by contacting the health facility at (419) 337-3050.

DAILY QUOTES FROM MOTHER ANGELICA PERPETUAL CALENDAR

"If something happens that I'm not happy with, I relate to the Will of God: He's purifying me, He's taking hold of me. It's a personal relationship. No matter what happens in the world, it relates back to God. It's in the Palm of His hands."

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 2

1032 + During Holy Mass, I saw the Lord Jesus nailed upon the cross amidst great torments. A soft moan issued from His Heart. After some time, He said, **I thirst. I thirst for the salvation of souls. Help Me, My daughter, to save souls. Join your sufferings to My Passion and offer them to the heavenly Father for sinners.**

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

---Fayette Opera House March schedule: Mar. 6 Souper Supper 6 pm
Mar. 23 – Dinner & Glasgow Reed Organ concert 12:30 pm

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

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

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email 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.

March

2025

Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mardi Gras 6 p.m.
2 Rel. Ed. after Mass	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday SP 7 am OLOM 9 am SP 6:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Rel. Ed. at home Adult Lenten Study CHWC Youth breakfast	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Rel. Ed. after Mass	17	18	19	20 Council Meetings Finance 5:45 pm Pastoral Council 6:15 pm Stations of the Cross 7 pm	21	22
23 Rel. Ed. at home BFF after Mass Adult Lenten Study	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Rel. Ed. after Mass	31					

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of Mar. 2 – Mar. 8

Sunday, Mar. 2 – Blessed Charles the Good - Blessed Charles the Good (1083–1127), also known as Charles I and the Count of Flanders, was born in Denmark, the only son of King Canute IV (St. Canute) and Adela of Flanders. He was five years old when his father was assassinated in the Odense Cathedral, after which he and his mother fled for their lives to Flanders. He grew up in the royal court in that country and accompanied his maternal grandfather, a Count, on a crusade to the Holy Land. After his grandfather's death, Blessed Charles became an advisor to the next Count, his uncle; after his uncle's death, Charles became Count. He was highly regarded by the people for his holiness and virtue. He was outspoken against the common practice of hoarding grain and selling it at inflated prices, and opposed the prominent Erembald family who gained their financial prosperity through this unjust practice. On March 2, 1127, while Charles was in church praying, he was slain by soldiers loyal to the Erembald family, in the same manner his father was killed. His death sparked a public outcry and uprising against the Erembald family, while Charles was immediately looked upon as a martyr and saint. His feast day is March 2nd.

Monday, Mar. 3– St. Katharine Drexel - St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) was a wealthy heiress from a prominent family in Philadelphia. From a young age she felt called to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of the underprivileged, particularly the African American and Native American communities. She learned the virtue of charity from her parents, who often opened their home to the poor. She began by donating money, but quickly realized this would not bring the lasting change these communities desperately needed. During an audience with Pope Leo XIII she requested that a religious order be sent to manage the institutions she was funding. In response, the Pope suggested that she herself enter the religious life for this purpose. St. Katharine then founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, Katharine invested her personal fortune of 20 million dollars in this cause. She helped build the first missions school for Native Americans in Santa Fe, and founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At the time of her death, more than 500 sisters of her order taught in over 60 schools which had been founded throughout the country. Katharine Drexel was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in the year 2000, making her the second American-born saint. Her feast day is March 3rd.

Tuesday, Mar. 4– St. Casimir of Poland - St. Casimir of Poland (1458-1484) was the second son of King Casimir IV and Queen Elizabeth of Austria, one of thirteen children born to them in the royal palace at Cracow. Casimir committed his life to God from an early age, thanks in part to a brilliant and pious priest who served as the royal tutor. He turned away from the privileges of his station in life and instead exercised extreme asceticism and self-denial. He wore a hairshirt under his clothes, slept on the cold ground, and knelt in prayer for long hours outside of locked churches. At the age of thirteen the Hungarians requested Prince Casimir to rule their country as king, which he accepted in the hope of defending the Christian nation against the Turks. However, the plan did not come to fruition and he returned home to continue his life of prayer, penance, and generosity to the poor. He later ruled Poland for a few short years while his father attended royal business in Lithuania. Casimir took a vow of celibacy which he upheld despite immense political pressure to marry. He suffered from a chronic lung condition, which he succumbed to in 1484 at the age of 25. Many miracles were attributed to his intercession after his death. St. Casimir is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, and young people. His feast day is March 4th.

Wednesday, Mar. 5 – St. John-Joseph of the Cross - St. John-Joseph of the Cross (1654-1739) was born on the island of Ischia, near Naples. He joined the Franciscan Order of the Strict Observance (the reform of St. Peter of Alcantara) at age sixteen. His influence was great despite his young age, and after three years he was sent to help found a new order of friars in Piedmont, where he was ordained to the priesthood. He codified a set of guidelines for spiritual and daily life that were approved by the Holy See and became a lasting model for religious communities. In 1702 he was appointed Vicar Provincial of the Alcantarine Reform in Italy. During his time as Vicar he implemented a rule that no beggar would be turned away without assistance, and in times of extreme

(St. John-Joseph of the Cross - cont.)

scarcity he would offer his own portion to the poor. He was known as a deeply holy man who served Christ and the monastic community through daily acts of mortification and humility. Despite his high ranking position, he continued to lead a life of service and took on menial tasks whenever possible, from working in the kitchen to chopping firewood. He was said to have performed numerous miracles as well as the gift of prophecy. St. John-Joseph of the Cross is the patron saint of Ischia and his feast day is March 5th.

Thursday, Mar. 6 -St. Colette - St. Colette (1381-1447) was born in Picardy, France, the daughter of a poor carpenter who served the local Benedictine abbey. Her parents conceived her in their old age after praying to St. Nicholas for a child, naming Colette after him. She became well known for her faith and spiritual wisdom from a young age. After the death of her parents she joined the Third Order of St. Francis and became a hermit. She led a life of asceticism and solitude until a dream revealed that God willed her to reform the Poor Clares. She obeyed and joined the Poor Clares in 1406. Her mission of reformation was sanctioned by Benedict XIII of Avignon (the anti-pope) who appointed her superior of each of the convents she reformed. Despite resistance from within the Poor Clares, she successfully reformed several existing convents and founded 17 new ones dedicated to a stricter observance of the Poor Clares, known as the Colettines. She experienced visions and ecstasies of Christ's Passion, and even prophesied her own death. Through her life's work, St. Colette's reformation breathed new life into the Poor Clares and created a lasting model of spirituality. St. Colette's feast day is March 6th.

Friday, Mar. 7- St. Perpetua & St. Felicity - St. Perpetua and St. Felicity (d. 203 A.D.) were friends who lived in Carthage, North Africa. They were both catechumens preparing to receive the Church's sacraments: Perpetua was a married noblewoman nursing her first child, and Felicity was a pregnant Christian slave who worked as a household servant. Because Christianity was forbidden, they were seized along with two companions, one of them being their catechist. Perpetua's baptism was hastened after her arrest, and God told her to pray for strength to withstand her coming trials. While in prison she kept a detailed diary of her sufferings and mystical visions, one of the oldest and most treasured of early Christian writings. Her father, a pagan, pleaded with her to deny her faith, even bringing her infant, for whom she was anxious, to the prison in order to persuade her to apostatize. She refused. Felicity also remained steadfast in her faith, giving birth to a daughter while in prison a few days before her execution. Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions were condemned to be torn by wild animals in the arena. Perpetua understood that their contest was not with animals, but with the devil. She walked into the arena and met her fate with a joy and bravery that astonished many onlookers. Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions were mauled and then beheaded on March 7, 203. St. Perpetua and St. Felicity share a feast day on March 7th.

Saturday, Mar. 8 - St. John of God - St. John of God (1495-1550) was born in Portugal to poor and devout Christian parents. How he came to be separated from them and homeless at the age of 8 is uncertain, but he eventually found work as a shepherd until the age of 22. At that time he enlisted as a soldier in the Roman Emperor's army to escape an offer of marriage to the shepherd's daughter. There he led a wild and dissolute life; fond memories of his parents is all that kept the spark of faith alive in his heart. At the age of 40 he left the army and reformed himself, beginning with a penitential pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella (The Way of St. James) in Spain. Appalled at his sinful and wasted life, he was determined to spend his remaining days in good works. He was affirmed in this direction by a vision of the Infant Jesus and a sermon of St. John of Avila, who was to become his spiritual director. He later dedicated his life in service to the poor, homeless, and sick, especially the mentally ill, by starting a hospital and homeless shelter. Many people were attracted to him and his work, and he organized his followers into the Order of Hospitallers. They were approved by the Holy See as the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God, which still exists to this day. St. John of God is the patron saint of many causes, especially of hospitals, hospital workers, nurses, the sick, and the dying. His feast day is March 8.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MARCH 2, 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. Mar. 2	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Frank O & Mary Smith
Tues. Mar. 4	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Mar. 5	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Mar. 6	9:00 a.m.	OLM	James Eisel
Fri. Mar. 7	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Mar. 8	4:30 pm	SP	John Van Pelt
Sun. Mar. 9	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Rosemary Pontius Al Holland, Gina Holland, Rod Britenriker
	10:30a.m.	SP	

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
 - Mar. 9, & Mar. 23 – at home
 - Mar. 2, Mar. 16 & Mar. 30 – after Mass
- Mar. 5 – Ash Wednesday – 7 am - SP
 - 9 am – OLOM
 - 6:30 pm - SP
- Mar. 9 – CHWC Youth Breakfast after Mass
- Mar. 9, Mar. 23 & Apr. 6 after Mass Adult Lenten Study
- Mar. 20 – Council meetings
 - 5:45 p.m. Finance
 - 6:15 p.m. Pastoral
- Mar. 20 – 7 pm Stations of the Cross

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 23, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (13 envelopes)	\$ 923.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 157.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 667.00)
OTHER COLLECTION	
CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 50.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 1,155.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	March 5, 2025 Ash Wednesday	March 9, 2025
Greeters/Gifts		Eisel Family
Reader	Mary Bird	Pat Eisel
Servers		Kennedy K.
Ushers		Ron & Pat
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice	
Money Counters		Eli Eberly Terry Kovar Barbara Roby

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

HARDENED – obdurate, unfeeling
SOFTEN – to make or become soft or softer

Even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with your whole heart,
 with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
 Rend your hearts, not your garments,
 And return to the Lord, your God.
 For gracious and merciful is he,
 slow to anger, rich in kindness,
 and relenting in punishment. **Joel 2:12-13**

Dear Padre,

Does pregnancy qualify as an exemption from abstinence and fasting in Lent?

Yes, it does. Just to be clear, abstinence is not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent and applies to Catholics over the age of fourteen. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obligated to fast, that is, eat only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not add up to a full meal. In addition to children and elders, exemptions from these disciplines include pregnant or nursing women and the physically or mentally ill, including those with chronic illnesses, like diabetes.

It is presumed that mature Catholics will seek balance and integration in the practice of the faith and will routinely make careful, informed decisions and apply them to spiritual practice. Obviously, being informed and aware of what the Church teaches, why the Church teaches something, and how it is to be applied and understood will only enhance a person's discernment.

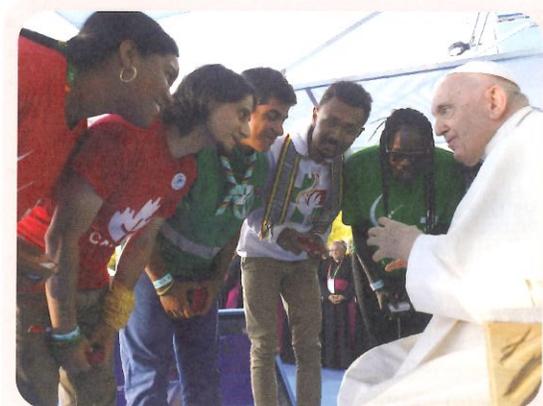
The health of an unborn baby is a clear responsibility and of the utmost importance. Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet during pregnancy and adjusting any habitual practices that may endanger the health of the baby should be a primary concern. While exempt from fasting and abstinence, a pregnant woman may want to observe Lent by adopting another penitential discipline, something that would do no harm to the baby but would still be in the spirit of Lent. ●



SHETS PRODUCTION / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>
Sir 17:20–24 Mk 10:17–27	Sir 35:1–12 Mk 10:28–31	Jl 2:12–18 2 Cor 5:20–6:2 Mt 6:1–6, 16–18	Dt 30:15–20 Lk 9:22–25	Is 58:1–9a Mt 9:14–15	Is 58:9b–14 Lk 5:27–32	Dt 26:4–10 Rom 10:8–13 Lk 4:1–13



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What Jesus says is true: we always find reasons for blaming others and justifying ourselves. And very often we complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves and without making an effort to change.... Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. Otherwise, there will be no change.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 27, 2022