

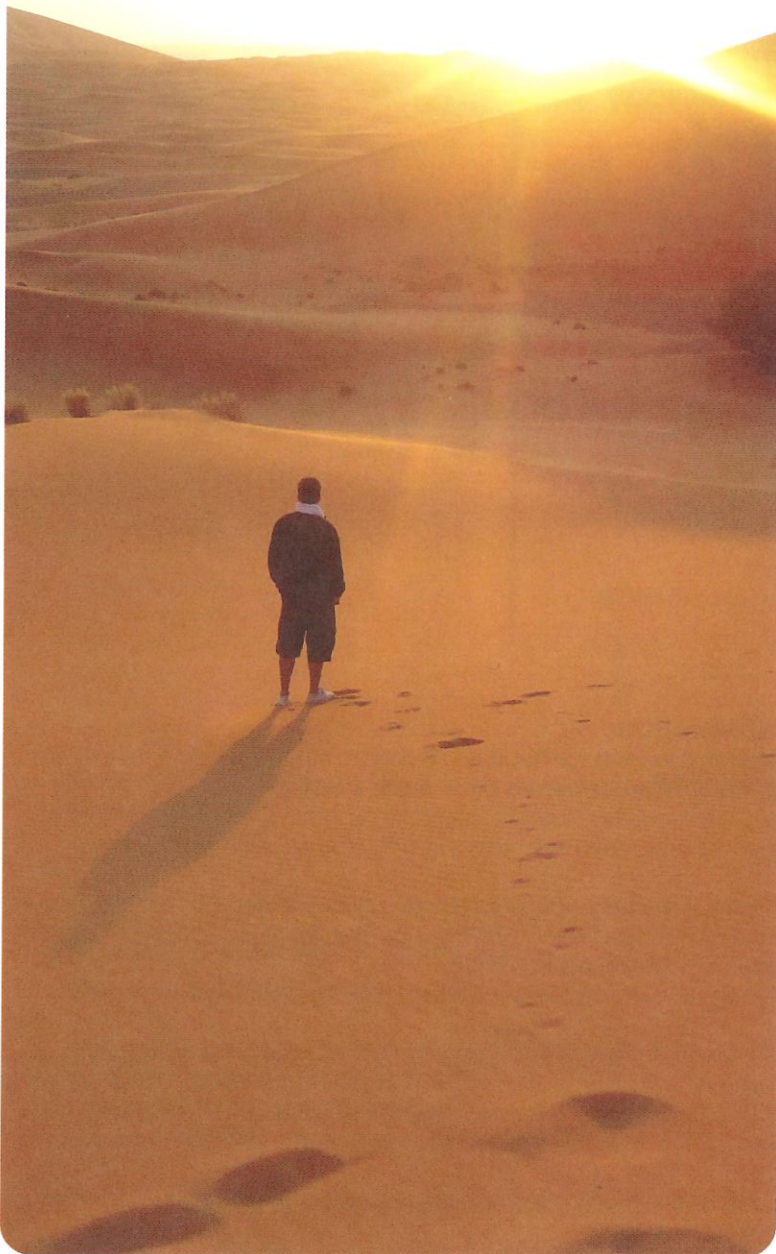


## Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Filled with the Holy Spirit,  
Jesus returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the desert  
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



**I** *f I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, is a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

### Reflect

***What about my life do I struggle to accept?***

# 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)

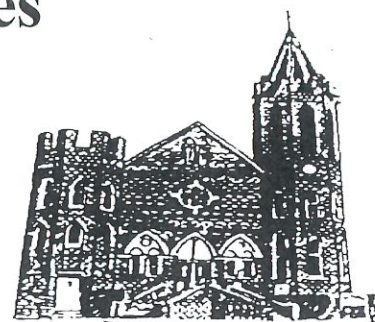
**CRE**

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

# SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

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

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass – Mar. 16 & Mar. 30  
At Home – Mar. 9 & Mar. 23

### ADULT LENTEN STUDY

The 1<sup>st</sup> Adult Lenten Study begins on today March 9, and will be on March 23, & April 6 beginning shortly after Mass.

### YOUTH GROUP - CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP BREAKFAST

There will be a Youth Breakfast on **TODAY**, March 9, 2025 after Mass. 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.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. led by Father Bill and on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 7 p.m. led by Deacon Larry.

### AREA LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

St. Caspar – March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.  
St. Peter – April 2, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.

### 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.

### APRIL FAYETTE COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Lady of Mercy will be hosting the April Fayette Community Meal on April 16, 2025, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Help is needed. There will be a short meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2025 after Mass for all who would like to help. Any questions please see Sherry Renner or call the Parish Office on Tuesday's or Thursday's.

### ACA UPDATE

Our Lady of Mercy Goal - \$4,190.00 paid to date \$1,235.00 (28.45%)

### DAILY QUOTES FROM MOTHER ANGELICA PERPETUAL CALENDAR

"You shouldn't let another person decide whether you are happy or grouchy. When you concentrate on the actions of others, how they act and how they don't act, you'll get lost. They're the same person all the time; the problem is your reaction to them. Love is what the Lord asks of us. If we must love even our enemies, imagine how we are expected to love our family members."

### DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 2

1036 (10) + I realize more and more how much every soul needs God's Mercy throughout life and particularly at the hour of death. This chaplet mitigates God's anger, as He Himself told me.

### 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. 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](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.

## LENTEN JOURNEY

Looking for help on your Lenten journey? Below is a list of HELPS for your journey this year.

### 10 THINGS TO GIVE UP or ADD IN FOR LENT

1. Avoid hitting the snooze on your alarm clock
2. Attend an additional Mass during the week
3. Read a book on a Saint
4. Laziness
5. Impulse spending
6. Help a neighbor
7. Being distracted / inattentive
8. Procrastination / avoidance
9. Intentionally silence parts of your day to be with the Lord
10. Declutter your home - discard or giveaway one item each day

### WEBSITES

**Unbound** – <https://living.unbound.org/Articles/Campaigns/FamilyLentActivity>

**USCCB Lenten Calendar** - <https://www.usccb.org/resources/2025-daily-lenten-calendar-english-spanish>

**40 Days for Life (Toledo)** – <https://40daysforlife.com/en/toledooh>

**Examination of Conscience** – <https://usccb.org/resources/examination-conscience>

**10 Things to Remember During Lent** – <https://usccb.org/resources/10-things-remember-during-lent>

**Why is Lent 40 Days** - <https://usccb.org/resources/why-lent-40-days>



# Saints of the Day

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

Week of Mar. 9 – Mar. 15

**Sunday, Mar. 9 – St. Frances of Rome** - St. Frances of Rome (1384-1440) was born to a noble family in Rome. As a young girl her desire to become a nun was refused by her father, who instead arranged her marriage at the age of 12. St. Frances accepted this as God's will for her life. She was married for 40 years and had children, two of whom died from the plague. In her time Rome was at war and the city was in chaos from political disarray and widespread disease. St. Frances responded by converting her home into a hospital. She drove with a wagon into the streets and collected the sick and stranded in order to care for them. She miraculously cured many people, and also began the city's first orphanage. She inspired many women to join her in this life of prayer and good works, and eventually founded a congregation of lay oblates attached to the Benedictine monastery known as the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome. After her husband's death she entered religious life as the group's superior. One of the great mystics of her time, she dictated 97 visions and was visibly guided by her guardian angel throughout her life. St. Frances of Rome is the patron saint of many causes, including motorists, pilots, women, widows, and against plague and the death of children. On her feast day many priests bless cars due to her patronage of cars and drivers. Her feast day is March 9th.

**Monday, Mar. 10– St. Macarius of Jerusalem** - St. Macarius of Jerusalem (4th c.) was the Bishop of Jerusalem from 312-335 A.D. Little is known of his life before this time. He took part in the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. and vigorously opposed the Arian heresy, which greatly threatened the early Church. It is believed that he was one of the bishops who helped draft the Nicene Creed. St. Athanasius, his contemporary, refers to Macarius as an example of "the honest and simple style of apostolical men." After the council, St. Macarius accompanied St. Helen, the queen mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, in her successful search for the True Cross that Jesus was crucified upon. It was he who suggested to St. Helen that she would identify the real Cross by touching all three of those she found to a seriously ill woman, and observe which one brought immediate healing. Following the discovery of the True Cross in this miraculous manner, Constantine wrote to Bishop Macarius requesting that he oversee the construction of a magnificent church in Jerusalem, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, to commemorate the sites of the Crucifixion and Burial of Christ, which still exists today as one of the most important Christian pilgrimage sites in the world. His feast day is March 10th.

**Tuesday, Mar. 11– St. Eulogius of Cordoba** - St. Eulogius of Cordoba (9th c.) was a priest from a prominent Christian family in Cordoba (Cordova), Spain. He was well-educated, humble, gentle, friendly, and a gifted leader with the charism of encouragement, especially towards Christians facing martyrdom. In his time Cordoba was the capital of the Muslim conquerors of Catholic Spain. The Muslim leaders allowed Christians to live in relative peace until a persecution arose when some of the Muslim population began converting to Christianity. They imprisoned the clergy, including Eulogius. While in prison Eulogius read the Bible to his companions and exhorted them to faithfulness in the face of martyrdom. He also wrote to two other young female converts who were facing threats, instructing them that no matter how terribly they were physically abused, it could not harm their souls, and that they must fight for their faith till death and leave God to defend his Church. St. Eulogius was released and later jailed again for hiding a young female convert who fled from her family in fear of her life. St. Eulogius' judge offered him escape if he would weaken the practice of his religion, but instead he preached the Gospel to the presiding court. He was immediately beheaded. St. Eulogius' feast day is March 11th.

**Wednesday, Mar. 12 – St. Luigi Orione** - St. Luigi Orione (1872-1940) was born in northern Italy and entered a Franciscan friary at the age of 13, but had to leave due to poor health. He became a pupil of St. John Bosco at his Turin oratory for boys, and later entered the diocesan seminary. While still a seminarian he opened his own oratory and boarding school to provide for the Christian training and education of boys. This institution became a well-spring for new vocations to the priesthood. He also traveled and founded many other pious congregations for clergy and lay people alike, including two religious orders. The ideal of St. Luigi's life was to provide for the spiritual welfare of others and to serve Jesus Christ and his Church. Many people were attracted to him and his work, and

**(St. Luigi Orione – cont.)**

he cared in a special way for the sick, the disabled, and the poor. He was a preacher and confessor, as well as an organizer of pilgrimages, missions, processions, and other public celebrations of the faith. He loved Our Lady deeply and fostered devotion to her among his seminarians. Today his apostolate encompasses about 300 foundations, including schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and learning centers on nearly every continent. His body is incorrupt, and he was canonized in 2004. St. Luigi Orione's feast day is March 12th.

**Thursday, Mar. 13 – St. Euphrasia** – St. Euphrasia (380-410 A.D.) was the only child of noble Christian parents serving the court of the Christian Emperor Theodosius I, their relative, in Constantinople. After her birth her parents vowed to remain celibate in order to commit their lives fully to prayer and penance. Her father died soon after, and Euphrasia moved with her mother to Egypt near a large monastery of nuns. At the age of seven Euphrasia vowed her virginity to Christ and desired to join the monastery. Her mother gladly presented her to the abbess, and then died soon after. When the Emperor heard of her mother's death, he sought out Euphrasia for an arranged marriage. Euphrasia denied the offer due to her vow, and requested that her large estate be sold with the money given to the poor, and all her slaves freed. The Emperor was greatly pleased with her chosen course in life, and did all that she asked. As a nun Euphrasia did great penances. In order to resist temptations to sin, she would perform difficult manual labor, often lifting heavy stones and moving them from one place to another for days on end, and other such drudgery. She was known to perform miracles both before and after her death at the age of thirty. Her feast day is March 13th.

**Friday, Mar. 14– St. Matilda** - St. Matilda (895-968 A.D.) was born in Prussia, the daughter of a Count, and was raised and educated in a monastery by her grandmother, who was the abbess. A political marriage was arranged for her to Henry I, the future king of Germany. Henry and Matilda enjoyed a happy and blessed marriage. As the Queen of Germany, Matilda became the mother of five important historical figures: Holy Roman Emperor Otto I; Henry, Duke of Bavaria; St. Bruno, Archbishop of Cologne; Gerberga, wife of King Louis IV of France; and Hedwig, mother of Hugh Capet. Matilda was a holy and virtuous woman known for her generosity to the poor. The king adored his queen and attributed his success in battle to her prayers. They reigned seventeen years, and their eldest son succeeded the throne and became Emperor Otto I. After her husband's death, Matilda's two eldest sons chastised her for her generous almsgiving. St. Matilda then took the possessions left to her by her husband and turned them over to her sons, and retired from court. Her sons immediately suffered misfortune, which was attributed to their poor treatment of their holy mother. In order to repair this injustice and regain God's favor, St. Matilda was begged to return to court, which she did, forgiving her sons for their ill will. She continued to help the poor, build churches, and support many monasteries. St. Matilda was a celebrated monarch and was venerated by the people immediately after her death. Her feast day is March 14th.

**Saturday, Mar. 15 – St. Louise De Marillac** - St. Louise De Marillac (1591-1660) was born in Paris, France to a noble family and received her education at a Dominican convent. Her mother died shortly after her birth, and her father when she was sixteen years of age. It was then necessary for her to decide her vocation, and being dissuaded from entering religious life by her spiritual director, as was her desire, she married and bore a son. Later she worried that she had rejected a divine call to the religious life, and vowed that should her husband die, she would not remarry. Two years later her husband died after a long illness. During this time she met a holy priest, St. Vincent de Paul, and placed herself under his spiritual direction. Through his influence she worked among the poor and disadvantaged in Paris, and co-founded the Sisters of Charity with him in 1642. After writing their rule of life she traveled around France establishing her new religious order to work in hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions that aided the poor. She was especially gifted at spiritual guidance and served as the superior of the Sisters of Charity in Paris until her death. St. Louise De Marillac is the patron saint of social workers, the sick, widows, and against the loss of parents. Her feast day is March 15th.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MARCH 9, 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. 9	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Rosemary Pontius
	10:30a.m.	SP	Al Holland, Gina Holland, Rod Britenriker
Tues. Mar. 11	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Mar. 12	7:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Mar. 13	9:00 a.m.	OLM	James Pontius
Fri. Mar. 14	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Mar. 15	4:30 pm	SP	John Van Pelt
Sun. Mar. 16	8:30a.m.	OLM	Muriel Pennington
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cindy Eddy Frank O & Mary Smith

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
- Mar. 9, & Mar. 23 – at home
- Mar. 16 & Mar. 30 – after Mass
- 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 March 2, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (20envelopes)	\$ 4,331.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 178.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	\$ 2,762.00
<b>OTHER COLLECTION</b>	
CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 21.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 5.00
Maintenance	\$ 115.00
Postage Help	\$ 10.00
Mass Stipend	\$ 10.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday &amp; Other)</b>	<b>\$ 4,670.00</b>

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

TEMPTATION – act of tempting, enticement or allurements

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	March 16, 2025
<b>Greeters/Gifts</b>	Joyce Bonin Marge Crowell
<b>Reader</b>	Mary Bird
<b>Servers</b>	Kennedy K.
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil & Tami Baker
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Until further notice
<b>Money Counters</b>	Eli Eberly Joanna Marry Michelle Miron

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry.

Luke 4:1-2

# Dear Padre,

*Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."*

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●

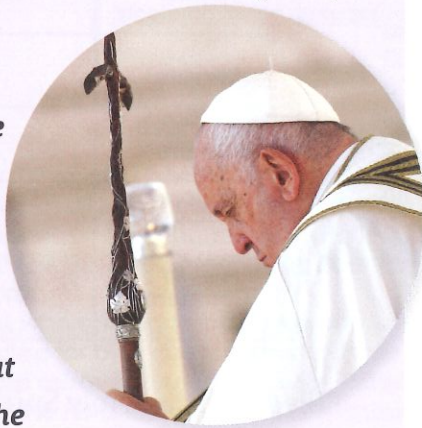


SWEET MARSHMALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.*



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

### Monday

March 10  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18  
Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday

March 11  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 55:10-11  
Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday

March 12  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jon 3:1-10  
Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday

March 13  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Est C:12, 14-16,  
23-25  
Mt 7:7-12

### Friday

March 14  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Ez 18:21-28  
Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday

March 15  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dt 26:16-19  
Mt 5:43-48

### Sunday

March 16  
*Second Sunday of Lent*  
Gn 15:5-12,  
17-18  
Phil 3:17-4:1 or  
3:20-4:1  
Lk 9:28b-36

## 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*.