



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1



Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Looking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John’s Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday’s Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It’s noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away, Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

God has made all life new and destined for resurrection.

What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement’s gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

Reflect

What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?

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

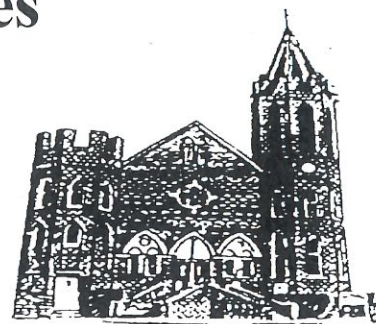
CRE

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, APRIL 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

Resurrection of the Lord

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

JOYOUS AND BLESSED EASTER

Easter Blessings to you and your family.



Alleluia!!

He has Risen!!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass – Apr. 27 & May 11 (Last class)

At Home – Apr. 20 & May 4

APRIL FAYETTE COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Lady of Mercy hosted the April Fayette Community Meal on April 16, 2025 and served from the Fayette Community. Thank you to all who helped and thank you to Jacoby Ole Smokehouse, West Unity, Ohio for the donation of the ground beef.

THE CHOSEN

Season 1 episode 1, "I Have Called You By Name" will be viewed on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7 p.m. Please bring a comfy chair and beverage (non adult) if you want. Popcorn will be provided.

RICE BOWL COLLECTION

Please turn your Rice Bowls by April 27, 2025 into any of the following people, Mary Bird, Barb Bruggeman, Mike Burkholder or Ron Eisel. Thank you for participating in Our Lady of Mercy Lenten project.

SILENT FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Our Lady of Mercy is setting up a Festival Planning Committee for the Silent festival, (this years date is Saturday, Septmber 20, 2025). Anyone interested being on the committee, please plan to attend a meeting on April 27, 2025 after Mass in the back of the church.

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 3

1074 April 4, 1937 – When I went for adoration, I heard these words: **My beloved daughter, write down these words, that today My Heart has rested in this convent [Cracow house]. Tell the world about My mercy and My love.**

The flames of mercy are burning I Me. I desire to pour them out upon human souls. Oh, what a pain they cause Me when they do not want to accept them! My daughter, do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.

Tell [all people], My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---May 17 – Fayette Opera House –
Season Finale – 7:00 p.m.

---May 21 – Fayette Community Meal –
5 p.m. – 6 p.m. – 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

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.



EASTER FLOWERS

Mr. & Mrs. Phil Baker

**In Memory of Deceased Members of the
Menchhofer & Butler families and
Baker & Hertzfeld families**

Mrs. Marcel Bonin

In Memory of the Bonin – Disbrow families

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Borer

In Honor of Community Pregnancy Center

Mr. Daniel Lumbrezer

In Memory of Bernard & Ruth Lumbrezer

Ms. Linda Tilley

**In Memory of LeRay & Barb Tilley
Patti & Nancy**

Ms. Tammy Mudrak

**In Memory of the Members of the
Eberly & Rettle families
Mynheir & Simmons families**

Mr. Ryan Eberly

In Memory of Abigail Eberly & Robin Eberly

Mrs. Marge Crowell

**In Memory of Jim Crowell, Rodney Moran,
Pigott & Kosciuczyk families**

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Eisel

**In Memory of the decease
Eisel & Steinke families**

Mr. Ronald Bernath

In Memory of Gerald & Bea Bernath

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Miron

In Memory of Mike & Joyce Dwyer

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bird

In Memory of the Zink and Bird families

Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Frame

Sunday, Apr. 20 – St. Agnes of Montepulciano - St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1268–1317) was born into a noble family in Tuscany. Her birth was announced with strange lights surrounding her dwelling, considered a sign that she was a favored child. At nine years of age she requested to enter the local Franciscan monastery in Montepulciano. Although doing so at her young age was against Church law, she obtained special permission from the pope. She became a model nun, reached a high degree of contemplative prayer, and executed her duties so well that she was chosen to help found and lead a new monastery in Proceno when she was just 15 years old, again with special permission at her young age. She lived there for 20 years and became known as a great mystic and visionary while cultivating a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She became locally famous for her miracles as well as for her austerities. She lived on bread and water, slept on the ground, and used a stone for a pillow. Eventually, Agnes returned to Montepulciano. By request she founded and led an even larger monastery, this time receiving a vision that it should be a convent of Dominican nuns dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Through her prayers she cured the sick, multiplied food, and raised to life a child who had drowned. Her feast day is April 20.

Monday, Apr. 21 – St. Anselm - St. Anselm (1033–1109) was born into a noble family in the Lombardy region of Italy. The example of his pious mother led him to great faith, and he sought to enter the monastery at age 15. However, the abbot refused him due to Anselm's stern father. After his mother's death Anselm left home and settled in Normandy to study under the direction of a famed monk named Lanfranc. Upon the death of his father, Anselm became a Benedictine monk at the age of 27. Due to his brilliance, Anselm became a teacher at the abbey's school and prior of the monastery. He went on to become the most learned theologian, philosopher, and mystic of his generation, the greatest since St. Augustine of Hippo. Anselm's fame led to his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury in England, succeeding Lanfranc in this office, where he went on to correct abuses against the Church at the hand of the English kings. Twice he was banished from the island while appealing to Rome for assistance, and twice he returned to Canterbury to carry on his duties until his death. His abilities as an extraordinary theologian, negotiator, and statesman greatly supported the cause of the Church. As archbishop he continued his monastic lifestyle and intellectual pursuits. He composed several philosophical and theological treatises, as well as a series of beautiful prayers and meditations, which led him to be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Clement XI in 1720. His feast day is celebrated on April 21st.

Tuesday, Apr. 22– Pope St. Soter - Pope St. Soter (c. 174-175 A.D.) was born in Fondi, Italy. Nothing is known of his early life. He served as the 12th bishop of Rome from c.167 to 175 A.D. He was praised for his fatherly tenderness in comforting, both with words and generous alms, those who suffered for their Catholic faith, especially remote Christian churches living in poverty. He is said to have written an encyclical against Montanism – a heresy which maintained that a Christian who sinned gravely could never be redeemed. Pope St. Soter also declared that marriage was only a valid sacrament when blessed by a priest. The manner of Pope St. Soter's death is uncertain; one tradition holds that he was martyred on April 22, 175 A.D., under the Christian persecution of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. He was buried in Rome on the Appian Way in the catacombs of St. Callixtus. His feast day is April 22nd.

Wednesday, Apr. 23– St. George - St. George (d. 303 A.D.) was born in Palestine to noble Christian parents. Like his father, he enlisted as a soldier in the Roman army serving under Emperor Diocletian. He was renowned for his bravery and outstanding military prowess, and was a favorite of the Emperor. Many fantastical legends are ascribed to him, however, none are known to be true with any certainty. The most famous legend is St. George and the Dragon, where St. George, after making the Sign of the Cross, saved a king's daughter from being devoured by a man-eating dragon. St. George killed the elusive dragon, and by this feat persuaded many souls to accept baptism. He also admonished the king, in gratitude for his princess being saved by Christ's power, to support the cause of the Church. What is known with certainty is that St. George, after confessing and refusing to renounce his faith in Christ, was martyred in Palestine during the Christian persecution of Diocletian. He became a highly venerated saint in antiquity, and many early churches were dedicated in his honor. St. George is the patron of many causes and countries, including soldiers, knights, chivalry, horsemen, farmers, Canada, England, and Germany, to name a few. His feast day is April 23.

Thursday, Apr. 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622) was born with the name Mark Rey in what is today Germany. He studied and taught law and became known for his charity, austerities, and great devotion to God. He gained a reputation for being "the poor man's lawyer" because of his concern for the helpless. He eventually left his profession to become a Capuchin Franciscan friar and priest, taking the religious name "Fidelis," meaning "faithful." His work as a friar was fraught with danger. He lived during the Counter-Reformation, a time of great religious, cultural, and political upheaval in Western Europe. He zealously defended the teaching of the Catholic Church against the Protestant heretics. He wrote many pamphlets against Calvinism and Zwinglianism, and even traveled to Switzerland to preach against the Calvinists both in the pulpits and the public square. His untiring efforts to bring souls back to the Church was so successful that he became a threat to the heretic preachers. One day his preaching provoked a mob that confronted him and demanded he renounce his Catholic faith upon pain of death. He replied, "I came to extirpate heresy, not to embrace it," after which he was bludgeoned to death. Many miracles led to his canonization in the following century. St. Fidelis' feast day is April 24.

Friday, Apr. 25– St. Mark the Evangelist - St. Mark the Evangelist (1st c.) was born to Jewish parents living in Libya in North Africa, later settling in Cana of Galilee not far from Jerusalem. Mark became one of the 70 disciples of Jesus and the author of the Gospel that bears his name. According to tradition, St. Peter the Apostle was married to a relative of St. Mark's father, and after Mark's father died, Peter looked after him like his own son. Being a close disciple of St. Peter, the first Bishop of Rome, Mark's Gospel is addressed to Gentile converts to the Christian faith living in Rome. Most of what we know about his life and missionary activity is recorded in the New Testament. He traveled to Egypt and founded the Church there, and was martyred c. 68 A.D. by being dragged through the streets of Alexandria until his body was torn to pieces. St. Mark is the patron of lawyers and prisoners. His feast day is April 25.

Saturday, Apr. 26 – Sts. Cletus & Marcellinus- St. Cletus (1st c.) and St. Marcellinus (3rd c.) were both Romans, popes, and martyrs who ruled the Holy See during the terrible persecution of Christians at the hands of the Roman Empire. St. Cletus was a convert and disciple of St. Peter the Apostle who became the third Bishop of Rome from 76 to 89 A.D., under the reigns of Roman Emperors Vespasian and Titus. His name appears in the Roman Canon of the Mass. St. Marcellinus was the twenty-ninth Bishop of Rome from 296 to 304 A.D. during the infamous persecution of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, on the eve of the legalization of Christianity across the Empire. Statues of these two popes of the early Church sit on opposite corners of the portico ceiling of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. They share a feast day on April 26th.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

APRIL 20, 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. Apr. 20	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner Carolyn Bigger Susan Saaf
Tues. Apr. 22	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Apr. 23	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Apr. 24	9:00 a.m.	OLM	Katie Cole
Fri. Apr. 25	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Comm. Service			
Sat. Apr. 26	4:30 pm	SP	Grace New
Sun. Apr. 27	8:30a.m.	OLM	Eddie Tidwell Rosemary Pontius
	10:30a.m.	SP	1 st Communicants

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Religious Ed. Dates

--- Apr. 20 & May 4 – at home

--- Apr. 27 & May 11– after Mass

---Apr. 23 – June 11 – The Chosen at 7:00 p.m. OLOM basement

---Apr. 27 – Silent Festival Committee meeting after Mass back of church

---May 1, 8, 15 22 & 29 Rosary at 7 p.m.

---May 4 1st Communion & May Crowning

---May 4 BFF after Mass

---May 15 – Council Meetings – Finance 5:45 p.m. & Pastoral 6:15 p.m., Rosary at 7:00 p.m.

---May 18 – Baccalaureate Mass

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for April 13, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (19 envelopes)	\$ 1,521.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 241.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	\$ 15.00

OTHER COLLECTION

CPC Jar	\$ 10.00
Votives	\$ 10.00
Maintenance	\$ 120.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 10.00
Perpetuate the Gift Rebate	\$ 435.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 2,347.00
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NEXT
WEEK'S
MINISTERS

April 27, 2025
Easter

Greeters/Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Proclaimer	Pat Eisel
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Terry Kovar Michelle Miron Cindi Siegel

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

RESURRECT – to raise from the dead;
bring to life again

For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

John 20:9

Dear Padre,

I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you “beef up” your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish’s process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Second Sunday of Easter /
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	Sunday of Divine Mercy
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Acts 5:12-16
						Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
						Jn 20:19-31

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!” Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people’s plea for peace.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022