

Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord.

JOHN 21:12

The Abundance

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Twenty-five years ago, when Carl was about eighteen years old, he asked me how he would know when he had truly fallen in love. How would he know that it wasn't simply infatuation or passion and that she was the right person? Today, Carl tells me that I said something to him about recognizing that if you have to ask the question, it probably isn't love; it is probably the woman who best captures the most attractive aspects of all the women he has ever dated, liked, or loved.

For the next twenty years or so, Carl never seemed to find that love he was seeking—until one day, it happened. He fell in love and got married. Five years later, I asked Carl if it was indeed love. He said he believed it was, even though during those years of empty seeking, he thought true love would never come to him. He also said he's convinced that it was the hand of God that brought them together. Of that, he has no doubts.

In its own way, Carl's story is really the story of Peter and his friends going fishing and finding nothing all night long. Then, at dawn, a voice from the shore suggests that they try the other side of the boat. Lo and behold, an abundance appears where there had been only emptiness. That's when Peter and his friends realize, “It is the Lord!” For us, too, we have those moments when we recognize God's hand in our lives. ●

Reflect

Is there a hole in my life that's waiting to be filled? Where am I looking?

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

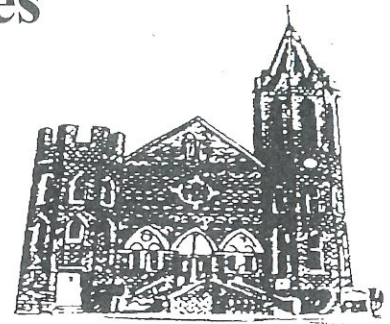
CRE

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@rtexexpress.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, MAY 4, 2025

3RD Sunday of Easter

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

BFF'S

BFF today after Mass, 1st Communion celebration. Come and enjoy breakfast, friends and fellowship.

1ST COMMUNION

Congratulaions to Myla Burkholder on receiving her 1st Holy Communion today at Mass. May Jesus be with you always.



THE CHOSEN

Season 1 episode 3, "Jesus Loves the Little Children" will be viewed on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 7 p.m. Please bring a comfy chair, beverage (non adult) and a friend. Snacks will be provided .

ROSARY – MAY MARY'S MONTH

Please join us for the The Rosary being prayed on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. – "Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of war." Our Lady of Fatima

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

After Mass – May 11 (Last class)
At Home – May 4

SILENT FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

We will meet on Sunday, June 8, 2025 after Mass in the basement.

ASK HER - SIMPLE WORDS TO JUMPSTART YOU CONVERSATION WITH MARY

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to remind you that you will not crumble under the weight of fear. You will rise up and overcome! You will conquer through GRACE! Because TAHAT is the will of God for you."

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 3

1076 Write this: Everything that exists is enclosed in the bowels of My mercy, more deeply than an infant in its mother's womb. How painfully distrust of My goodness wounds Me! Sins of distrust wound Me most painfully.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

---May 9 & 10 - Altar Rosary Society Plant Sale – May 9, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. May 10, 9 a.m. – noon – rear doors of the church. Fern order forms on the back table (Our Lady of Mercy)

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

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY NEWS

---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

---Help Wanted - Office Manager - St Richard Parish in Swanton is seeking a full-time employee to manage administrative duties for parish operations and maintain related records. This person will report directly to the pastor. Contact Fr. Eric Culler @ eculler@toledodiocese.org, 419-826-2791 Ext 2.

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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are you among woman
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour
of our death.



Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of May 4 – May 10

Sunday, May 4 – St. Florian - St. Florian (C. 250-304 A.D.) was a commander in the Roman army in what is now Austria. He served during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, who violently persecuted Christians. Among Florian's military duties was the organization of firefighting brigades. St. Florian was secretly a Christian and was known for miraculously saving a town from being destroyed by fire; after praying to God for help, he extinguished a raging fire with a single bucket of water. Word reached the Emperor that Florian was not enforcing the ban against Christianity in his territory. He was put under investigation and was discovered to be a Christian. In one account, it was for refusing to offer sacrifice to the gods; in another, for refusing to execute a group of Christians. He was then condemned to be tortured and executed for his Christian faith. Refusing to recant, St. Florian was then flayed alive, scourged, and martyred by being dumped in the river with a millstone attached to his body. His body was later recovered, and today his relics are venerated at a church named for him in Kraków, Poland. St. Florian is the patron saint of firefighters, chimney-sweeps, brewers, drowning victims, Austria, Poland, and against floods, fires, and battles. St. Florian's feast day is May 4th.

Monday, May 5 – St. Judith of Prussia - St. Judith of Prussia (13th c.), also known as St. Jutta, was born to a wealthy family in Thuringia in what is now Germany. She desired to model her life after another noble saint from her country, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who lived in the previous century. Judith was married at age fifteen to a man of equal rank, and together they raised a family. Despite their great wealth, Judith desired that they should live in a simple way and share their fortune generously with the poor. Her husband was at first displeased with her because he desired a lifestyle according to their means and rank. However, Judith persevered and eventually won him over to join her in a life of greater humility and piety. Her husband later died while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Judith to raise her children alone. Once her children were grown, she rid herself of her costly clothes, jewelry, and other possessions and joined the Third Order of St. Francis. She committed herself to serving the poor and the sick, for which she incurred mockery due to her noble rank in society. In the final years of her life she relocated to Prussia to live as a hermitess in a simple hut. There she spent her days in prayer and penance for the conversion of the pagan Prussians. After she died many miracles occurred at her grave, and she became the patron saint of Prussia. Her feast day is May 5th.

Tuesday, May 6 – St. Francis-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval - Saint Francis-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval (1623-1708) was one of eight children born to one of France's most illustrious families. He learned his piety from his mother, and like his namesake desired to become a priest and missionary. This dream was realized when he was appointed by Pope Alexander VII to be the first Apostolic Vicar of New France (Canada). His territory covered all of what is now Canada and the central section of what would become the United States, an enormous frontier which he undertook as a great spiritual work. He landed in Quebec in 1659 when the colonial population was just 500 people. He supported the missions, built a cathedral to the Immaculate Conception, taught devotion to Our Lady under this title, founded a seminary and an industrial school, and began the first Catholic school system in Canada. In all seasons he made long and perilous journeys by land and water to minister to his flock. When Quebec became a diocese he was consecrated as Canada's first bishop. He fought the sinister alcohol trade to the Indian tribes by having it outlawed within his territory and excommunicating those involved with it. He converted and baptized an Iroquois chief who then became a promoter of the Christian faith and won other converts among the local tribes. St. Francis de Laval was a man known for his great influence and holiness of life. His feast day is May 6th.

Wednesday, May 7 – St. Rose Venerini - St. Rose Venerini (1656-1728) was born in Italy, one of four children of a pious physician and his admirable wife. Rose was a bright and gifted child. At the age of seven she made a vow to consecrate her life to God. However, she was later conflicted between her vow and living in the world. At the age of 20 she knew she must make a decision between marriage and the cloister, the only two options available to women of her day, both of which she esteemed. After much prayer and suffering she entered a monastery. Only a few months passed before she returned home upon the sudden death of her father. This was followed not long after by the deaths of her brother and mother. Still yearning to respond to God's call to the consecrated life, she began by gathering together the young women of her neighborhood to pray the rosary. She was struck by the cultural, moral, and spiritual poverty of the women, and their lack of basic Christian formation. This inspired her to begin a school for their instruction and human formation, which became Italy's first public school for girls. This was an innovation in her day, as teaching catechism belonged to the clergy. After facing initial resistance, the fruit of her work and the moral improvement of the women became evident to all. The Pope himself attended one of her classes and praised her work. Governors and cardinals asked her to open schools in their areas. Over the course of her life she opened 40 schools across Italy dedicated to the education and promotion of women for the uplifting and ennobling of society. "Educate to save" became her motto. Her feast day is May 7th.

Thursday, May 8 – St. Victor Maurus– St. Victor Maurus (d. 303 A.D.), also known as Victor the Moor and Victor of Milan, was born in Mauretania (North Africa) in a Christian household. He later relocated to Milan, Italy, as a soldier of the Praetorian Guard that served Roman Emperor Maximian during his persecution of Christians. Although Victor was a Christian since childhood, this fact was not widely known until he destroyed an altar to a pagan god. The Emperor, infuriated, had Victor imprisoned and starved for six days. The Emperor then gave him every chance to recant his faith, including offering him riches, but Victor refused each attempt. He was then tortured mercilessly, unless he would offer sacrifice to the gods, by being stretched on the rack and having molten lead poured over his body. Victor remained steadfast and boldly proclaimed his faith in Christ, declaring that the Roman gods were demons. Finally the saint was beheaded on May 8 in the year 303 A.D. The Emperor refused him burial so that wild beasts would consume his body. However, after six days the body was discovered untouched with two beasts guarding it at the head and foot. The local bishop then received permission to bury the body. A church was later erected over Victor's grave and many miracles occurred there. St. Victor's feast day is May 8th.

Friday, May 9–Blessed Caroline Gerhardinger - Bl. Caroline Gerhardinger (1797-1879), also known as Mother Maria Theresa of Jesus, was born into a working class family in Bavaria. Her giftedness as an educator was apparent early in her life, and she became a certified teacher at the age of 15. Although she was drawn to a quiet, contemplative life, her desire was to teach young girls to aspire to their full potential. For this she was greatly loved by her students. Responding to the needs of the time, and with the guidance of her bishop, she began a new religious order dedicated to education called the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame. This was during a period when all religious orders were closed by decree of the Bavarian government. She sent her Sisters in groups of twos and threes into the local villages to teach the poor young girls who would otherwise have no opportunity for education, a novelty in her day which grew into a new form of apostolic religious life. In this way she sought to remedy social ills through education, which she believed was just as necessary for a child as love, food, and shelter. When the Vatican negotiated the reopening of Bavaria's religious communities in 1828, the Sisters moved into a convent. Caroline took the religious name Mary Theresa of Jesus for her devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the time of her death her order had grown to 2,500 sisters. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985. Her feast day is May 9th.

Saturday, May 10 – St. Damien de Veuster - St. Damien de Veuster (1840–1889), also known as St. Damien of Molokai, was a priest from Belgium belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He had a special devotion to St. Francis Xavier and desired, like him, to be a missionary. His desire was fulfilled when he was sent to minister in Hawaii in place of his brother, a religious of the same congregation, who was assigned to go but was unable due to illness. The island was suffering from an influx of unknown diseases brought by foreigners, among them Hansen's disease (leprosy). The island of Molokai became quarantined as a leper colony, and all lepers were forcibly exiled there. The local bishop believed that the people living on the island, numbering over 800 at the time, needed a priest. Yet, the bishop knew that ministering to a people of this contagious and deadly disease would be a death sentence for the priest who went. The bishop asked for priests to volunteer to serve in Molokai. After serving in Hawaii for nine years, Fr. Damien was the first to volunteer. He began his ministry to the lepers in 1873. He built a church on the island and did much to improve the morale and joy among the people. St. Damien lived and ministered at the Kalaupapa leper colony for 15 years, fully knowing that this decision would eventually cause him to contract and die of the horribly mutilating disease. St. Damien died of leprosy in 1889 at the age of 49. He became known as a "martyr of charity" and the "Apostle to the Lepers." He was canonized during the Year of Priests in 2009. His feast day is May 10.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MAY 4, 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. May 4	8:30a.m.	OLM	Myla Burkholder
	10:30a.m.	SP	Frank O & Mary Smith Sue Ann Dominique
Tues. May 6	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. May 7	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. May 8	9:00 a.m.	OLM	Rosemary Pontius
Fri. May 9	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. May 10	4:30 pm	SP	Grace New
Sun. May 11	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Rosemary Pontius
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Religious Ed. Dates
 --- May 4 – at home
 --- May 11– after Mass (last class)
 ---Apr. 23 – June 11 – The Chosen at 7:00 p.m. OLOM basement
 ---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
 ---June 8 – Silent Festival Committee meeting after Mass in basement

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for April 27, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (12 envelopes)	\$ 465.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 371.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 911.00)

OTHER COLLECTION	
Catholic Home Mission	\$ 20.00
Maintenance	\$ 50.00
St. Vincen de Paul	\$ 50.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 986.00
--	------------------

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	May 11 2025
Greeters/Gifts	Joyce Bonin Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Angie Beuregard
Servers	Evan Beuregard
Ushers	Angie Beuregard Terry Kovar
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Ron Baker Eli Eberly Terry Kovar

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

COMMUNION–reception of the Eucharist – the celebration of the Lord's Supper; the Eucharist

“To the one who sits on the throne and the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.” – **Revelation 5:13**

Dear Padre,

I committed some grave sins many years ago, and I have been to confession to confess and be absolved, but I still feel guilty. Do I need to confess again?

Absolutely not. There is no need to confess your sins again. This is not required, and it may indicate a lack of faith in the power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thankfully, the sacrament does not require perfection.

It does not require any additional action on your part other than to be open to the movement of the Spirit of God.

Forgiveness is a gift from God. It is not something you merit. It is not something you earn. And there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive. Rather, it is a blessing you accept gratefully, thankfully, and with a profound knowledge and respect for the mercy of God at work in your life. To confess your sins again and again does nothing except make you feel more guilty. It is a way of punishing yourself; a futile attempt to try to earn what has been freely given. A better use of your time and energy would be to discover a way to remind yourself, not of guilt or imperfection, but of the love God has for you. It is indeed awesome and amazing, as the song so accurately celebrates: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." ●

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8-15	Acts 7:51-8:1a	Acts 8:1b-8	Acts 8:26-40	Acts 9:1-20	Acts 9:31-42	Acts 13:14, 43-52
Jn 6:22-29	Jn 6:30-35	Jn 6:35-40	Jn 6:44-51	Jn 6:52-59	Jn 6:60-69	Rv 7:9, 14b-17
						Jn 10:27-30



SARAVUTPICS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Brothers and sisters, when our nets are empty in life, it is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves, to take our minds off things, to return to old pastimes. It is time to begin again with Jesus, it is time to find the courage to begin again, it is time to put out to sea again with Jesus.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 1, 2022