

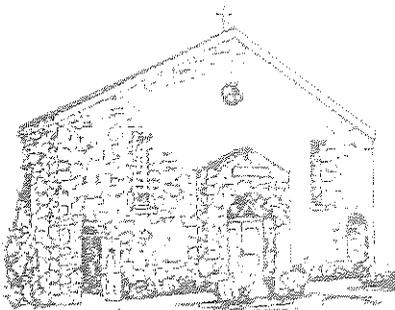
Catholic Communities

Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

St. Peter Catholic Church

Sunday
December 28, 2025
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph



409 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521
419-237-2441
Office Hours – Tues. & Thurs.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
(Reconciliation 30 minutes
before Mass or by appointment)
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Sherry Renner
Office Manager/Secretary
OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Tami Baker
Bookkeeper
OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Mary Bird
CRE
OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com



614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, Ohio 43502
Rectory – 419-446-9288
Office hours – Tues. & Thurs.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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 OFFICE STAFF

Kim Garrow
419-446-2150
Office Manager/Secretary
stpeter@rtexpress.net

Doug Williams
Bookkeeper

Deb Herring
CRE

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

Terry Kovar
Barb Bruggeman
Joanna Marry

Council meetings are generally held the 3rd Thursdays of the month
5:45 p.m. – Finance
6:15 p.m. – Pastoral



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. - 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information

OUR LADY OF MERCY WEBSITE (bulletin online)

Stpeterarchbold.com/
our-lady-of-mercy

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please note that the bulletin deadline is *Tuesday by noon*. Please either call, email or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following weeks bulletin.

Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy

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.

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.

Sacrament of Marriage

Initial arrangements are to be made *six* months prior of your planned wedding date. The Diocesan policy is to allow sufficient time for the couple to make adequate preparation to receive the sacrament. Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements.

Anointing of the sick

Please call the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for a visit.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Having questions about the Catholic faith? Thinking of joining the Catholic Church? You can learn more by contacting the office 419-237-2441 or Father Pifher 419-446-9288 for the process.

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. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon or email to olomfayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com with the exact verbiage requested. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals

December 28, 2025 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 7:55 A.M.

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



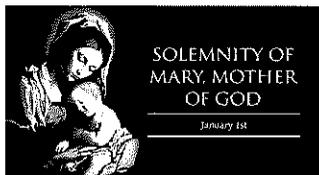
HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Tuesday, December 30 - 9 a.m -3 p.m.

SOLMNIY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

St. Peter – December 31, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy – January 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation classes will be Jan. 4 and Jan. 18 after Mass.

BFF'S

If your family would like to provide donuts and/or beverages for Feb. 8, Mar. 8, or May 3 please sign up on the form on the cry room door.

CPC BABY BOTTLES

Please turn all baby bottles in to the back of the church (green tub) by January 4, 2026. Thank you all for all your support to the Community Pregnancy Center.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

May you all have a very Blessed and Jesus filled New Year.

Happy New Year
2026 ❄️ *

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD VIGIL

December 31 – Rosary 4:00 p.m.
Mass 4:30 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY

January 3 – 8:30 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass

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

Jan. 8 – Fayette Opera House –
Bean Creek Coffee House – 7 p.m.

Jan. 24 – Fayette Opera House –
Cat Canyon – 7 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Dec. 28	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Jimmie Crowell Giovanni Stella
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Cindy Eddy, Cathy Warner Carolyn Bigger, Dick & Susan Saaf
Mon., Dec. 29		NO MASS	
Tues., Dec. 30	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Dec. 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., Jan. 2	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Jan. 3 1 st Saturday	8:30 a.m.	SP	Rosary
	9:00 a.m.		For the People
	4:30 p.m.	SP	John Van Pelt Tom Young
Sun., Jan. 4	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Al Holland, Frank Grime

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

Please keep the following person(s) / intention(s) in your prayers this week.

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller
Joyce Bonin

For all who are struggling financial, stress
mentally

If you have someone or an intention you would like the Parish to pray for, please contact the office at 419-237-2441 or email olompraver@olom2441.onmicorsoft.com before noon on Tuesday.

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – January 1 & January 4, 2026

	January 1	January 4
Greeters / Gifts	Maginn Family	Ron & Pat Eisel
Proclaimer	Mary Bird	Pat Eisel
Servers	Will Maginn	Myla B./Kennedy K.
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel	Ron & Pat Eisel
Money Counters		Phil Baker/Eli Eberly Terry Kovar

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for December 21, 2025

Sunday Offertory (10 envelopes)	\$ 615.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 205.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 927.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 5.53
Immaculate Conception	\$ 20.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 905.53

(Sunday Offertory & Other)

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of December 28 – January 3

The Holy Innocents (1st c.) are the children mentioned in the account of Jesus' birth in Matthew's Gospel (2:16-18). When the Magi came to Jerusalem to find and adore the Baby Jesus, the newborn King of the Jews, King Herod requested that they inform him of the Child's location under the pretense of offering Him adoration, too. After paying the Child homage and offering Him their gifts, the Wise Men were warned in a dream not to betray Jesus' location, and departed for their home country by another route. Meanwhile the Holy Family was warned by an Angel to flee into Egypt. King Herod fell into a jealous rage over the Magi's failure to report back to him. He ordered all the baby boys aged two years and under to be killed, according to the appearance of the Bethlehem Star to the Three Wise Men, in an attempt to kill the Baby Jesus. These baby boys died not only for Christ, but in his stead. The Church venerates them as martyrs. It is uncertain how many children were killed, whether a small number, or in the thousands. The Latin Church instituted the feast of the Holy Innocents in the fifth century. The Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome is believed to possess the bodies of several of the Holy Innocents. Their feast day is commemorated on December 28th.

St. Thomas Becket (1118-1170), also known as St. Thomas of Canterbury, was the son of a prosperous London merchant. Being a well-educated youth, he was appointed as clerk to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was later made Archdeacon. In this role he met and became close friends with King Henry II of England. The King promoted Becket to the office of Lord Chancellor, and, when the Archbishop of Canterbury died, made Becket the new Archbishop in 1162, the most powerful ecclesiastical position in all of England. King Henry II supposed that having his close friend in such a position would enable him to enforce his will on the Church. However, in his new role as priest and archbishop, Thomas Becket experienced a religious conversion and transferred his ultimate allegiance to the Church. This led to frequent conflicts over the rights of the Church between the King of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury, resulting in Becket's exile. When Becket returned to England, he was murdered by four knights, the king's lackeys, as he was offering Mass at the Canterbury Cathedral altar on December 29, 1170. St. Thomas Becket's feast day is December 29th.

St. Anysia of Salonika (d. c. 298 A.D.), also known as St. Anysia of Thessalonica, was born to wealthy and pious Christian parents near Thessalonica, Greece. After the death of her parents, while she was still a young lady, Anysia dedicated her life completely to Christ. She made private vows of chastity and poverty, spent her days in fasting and prayer, and gave her wealth to the poor. She lived under the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Maximian, who declared that anyone who met a Christian could kill them without trial. One Sunday while on her way to church, St. Anysia was harassed by a Roman soldier. In one account he attempted to force her to make sacrifice to the pagan sun god. Anysia refused, declared her commitment to Christ, and spat in the soldier's face. Enraged, the soldier ran her through with his sword, winning Anysia the crowns of virginity and martyrdom. Her feast day is December 30.

Pope St. Sylvester (c. 250-335 A.D.) was born in Rome and raised as a Christian under the care of pious parents, and the religious instruction of a devout priest. He was later ordained to Holy Orders in Rome, and witnessed the outbreak of Christian persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. During this time he became well-known as a good and holy priest, so much so that when the Pope died, Sylvester was appointed the new Bishop of Rome. Little is known about Pope St. Sylvester other than the many important events in Church history that occurred under his pontificate. He was the reigning pope during the Council of Nicea which condemned the Arian heresy and established the Nicene Creed; he was the Holy Father who converted and baptized the Roman Emperor Constantine; Rome's greatest churches were built under his direction by Constantine, including St. John Lateran, St. Peter's, and Santa Croce; and the Church saw the beginnings of temporal prosperity and the establishment of the Christian Roman Empire. Sylvester was Pope from 314 A.D. until his death in 335 A.D. His feast day is December 31st.

St. Joseph Mary Tomasi (1649-1713) was born in Sicily to noble and virtuous parents. He received a good Christian education and was drawn to the things of God from an early age. He renounced his inheritance and titles, transferring them to his brother, and entered religious life in the Order of the Clerics Regular Theatine founded by St. Cajetan. When their children were grown, his parents also entered religious life. St. Joseph Tomasi became so well known for his sanctity and learning that his advice and friendship was widely sought. He was a master of several languages, including Hebrew, and converted his teacher, a Jewish Rabbi, to Christianity. He is known for his writings on theology and love of the Roman liturgy, earning him the name "Liturgical Doctor." Some of the liturgical reforms he sought were adopted in 20th century. He was famous for teaching catechism to the children of his titular church, and its congregants Gregorian chant. He was appointed a Cardinal, and not long after suffered from pneumonia and died. St. Joseph Mary Tomasi is the patron saint of liturgy. His feast day is January 1st.

St. Basil (330 – 379 A.D.) was born to wealthy and pious parents in Cappadocia, Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). His family was renowned for their great sanctity; his grandfather was martyred under the persecution of Roman Emperor Diocletian, and his grandmother, mother, and several siblings are all numbered among the saints. St. Basil became a monk and founded several monasteries, famously writing a monastic rule of life which has proved to be the most lasting of those in the East. He studied under the finest teachers and was a respected man of great learning, as well as a zealous defender of orthodoxy against many heresies that threatened the Catholic faith, especially Arianism. He was appointed the bishop of Caesarea and in this role became one of the most influential saints in Church history. His life of deep prayer, austerities, and humility, combined with his uncommon preaching and teaching gifts, guided him in leading one of the most politically and ecclesiastically important Sees of the day, for which he earned the name "the Great." He is a Doctor of the Church, and one of the group of three saints called the Cappadocian Fathers, together with his brother, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and his lifelong friend, St. Gregory of Nazianzus. St. Basil's feast day is celebrated on January 2nd, a shared feast day with his close friend St. Gregory Nazianzus.

St. Genevieve (c.422-512 A.D.) was born to a respectable family in a small village outside Paris, France. When she was seven years old a famous bishop, St. Germain, spotted her in a crowd and prophesied to her parents about her future sanctity. At his invitation, St. Genevieve expressed her desire to live in a state of perpetual virginity and made her vows under him, after which St. Germain gave her a brass medal engraved with a cross as a reminder of her consecration to Christ. In her teens she received the religious veil under the Bishop of Paris and lived a devout life of prayer, charity, and austerity. She was especially known for her gifts of prophecy and reading consciences. When her parents died she lived with her grandmother in Paris, often visiting other cities where she would perform miracles. This led to her persecution, with a plot against her life, but when St. Germain came to her defense she was afterwards greatly revered by the people. St. Genevieve became venerated as the patron saint of Paris after she helped avert an attack against the city by Attila the Hun, and for saving the city from famine during a siege, when a boatload of grain overcame a military blockade due to her intercession. St. Genevieve is also the patron saint against fever, plague, and disasters. Her feast day is January 3rd.

**ASK HER – SIMPLE WORDS TO JUMPSTART
YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MARY**

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to remind you that just as she delivered Christ over 2,000 year's ago, we too are called to "deliver" Christ into our own families, our communities, and into the world."

MESSAGES OF MEDJUGORJE

*Up-to-date messages may be obtained at <http://www.medjugorje.org>
On the 25th of day of each month the Queen of Peace gives a message to the visionary, Marija Pavlovic, for the whole world.*

August 30 1984 – "Dear children! The cross was also in God's plan when you built it. These days, especially, go on the mountain and pray before the cross. I need your prayers. Thank you for having responded to my call."

September 6, 1984 – "Dear children! Without prayer there is no peace. Therefore I say to you, dear children, pray at the foot of the cross for peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."

*The Hidden Phase – June 30, 1981 – December 31, 1981
During this period, Our Lady appeared to the visionaries in hidden places, away from the police patrols that were trying to track them down.*

July 25, 1981 – (Vicka's diary – 31st apparition, 6:30 p.m.) After the usual questions on the subject of the ill, the Gospa responded "God, help us all!"

November 25, 2025 Message to Marija

"Dear children! In this time of grace, I am calling you to follow me. Pray for those who do not pray and do not want peace and joy, which only the Most High can give. May your souls be united in the joy of expectancy and your heart will be filled with peace. You will be convinced, little children, that all will be good and that God will bless all; because the good that you give will return to you, and joy will enfold your heart because you are with God and in God. Thank you for having responded to my call." (With Ecclesiastical approval)

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Faith Formation after Mass
Jan. 4 & Jan. 18

---January 1, 2026 –
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of
God – Rosary 8:30 a.m.
Mass 9:00 a.m.

---January 11, 2026 – BFF
Donuts & beverages after Mass

---January 15, 2026 – Council
Meetings – Finance 5:45 p.m.
Pastoral 6:15 p.m.

---January 15, 2026 – Rosary
7:00 p.m.

---January 25, 2026 – Big BFF
after Mass

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

FAMILY – any group of persons
closely related by blood, as parents,
children, uncles, aunts, and cousins

Whoever honors his father is gladden by children,
and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his
father will live a long life; he who obeys his father
brings comfort to his mother, **Sirach 3:5-6**

The Kids' Bulletin

*Sunday December 28th, 2025
Feast of the Holy Family*



Matt. 2:13-15

*Use the number code to see what
the prophet predicted about the Child Jesus.*

11 15 14 11 5 4 6 16 12 14 7

2 1 8 8 4 3 9 16 13 11 10

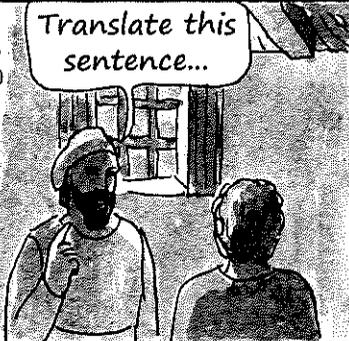
A	C	D	E	F	G	I	L	M	N	O	P	S	T	U	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Saint Thomas Becket

December 29

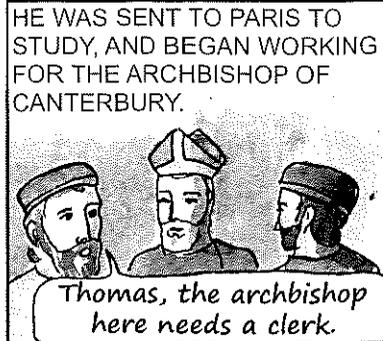
THOMAS BECKET WAS BORN IN 1120 IN LONDON, ENGLAND, TO A FAIRLY WEALTHY FAMILY. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.

Translate this sentence...



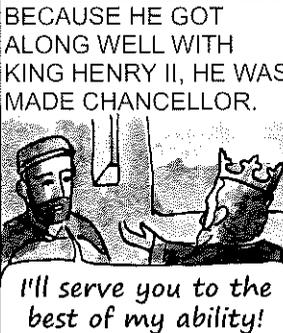
HE WAS SENT TO PARIS TO STUDY, AND BEGAN WORKING FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Thomas, the archbishop here needs a clerk.



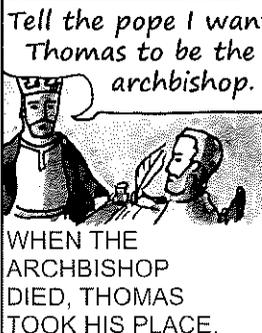
BECAUSE HE GOT ALONG WELL WITH KING HENRY II, HE WAS MADE CHANCELLOR.

I'll serve you to the best of my ability!



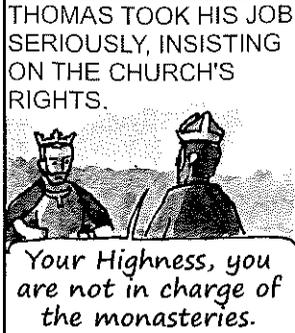
Tell the pope I want Thomas to be the archbishop.

WHEN THE ARCHBISHOP DIED, THOMAS TOOK HIS PLACE.



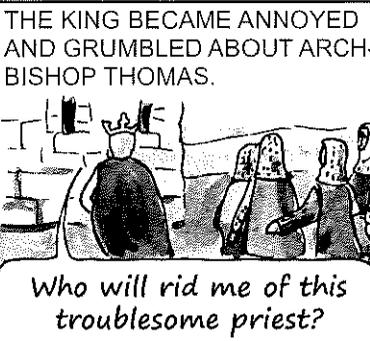
THOMAS TOOK HIS JOB SERIOUSLY, INSISTING ON THE CHURCH'S RIGHTS.

Your Highness, you are not in charge of the monasteries.



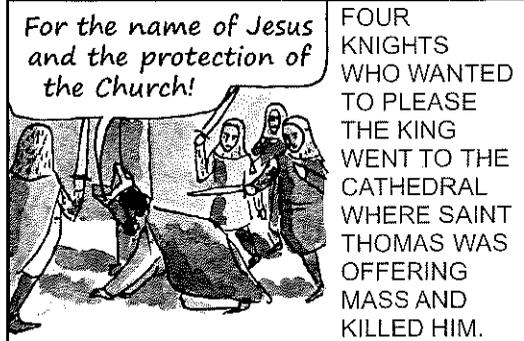
THE KING BECAME ANNOYED AND GRUMBLED ABOUT ARCHBISHOP THOMAS.

Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?



For the name of Jesus and the protection of the Church!

FOUR KNIGHTS WHO WANTED TO PLEASE THE KING WENT TO THE CATHEDRAL WHERE SAINT THOMAS WAS OFFERING MASS AND KILLED HIM.



SAINT THOMAS HAD LIVED A SECULAR (NOT VERY RELIGIOUS) LIFESTYLE UNTIL HE BECAME AN ARCHBISHOP. THEN HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS JOB WAS TO CARE OF SOULS, AND HE DIDN'T LET HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE KING GET IN THE WAY. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE GOOD FRIENDS, BUT REMEMBER HE IS OUR BEST FRIEND!

Fill in the Blanks

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and use the circled letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom.

The angel of the Lord appeared to _____¹ in a dream and said,
"Rise, take the child and his _____⁷,
flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell _____⁴.
_____² is going to search for the child to
destroy him."

Joseph rose and took the _____⁹ and his
mother by _____⁸ and departed for Egypt.
He _____⁶ there until the death of Herod,
that what the _____³ had said through the
prophet might be _____⁵.
Out of _____¹⁰ I called my son.

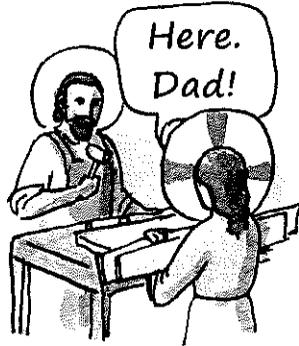
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Matt. 2:13-15

FULFILLED
MOTHER
STAYED
JOSEPH
HEROD YOU
CHILD LORD
NIGHT EGYPT

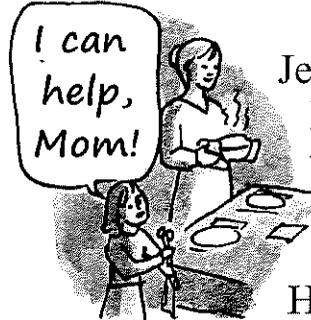
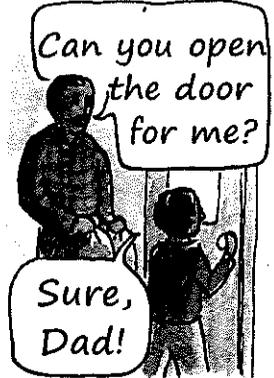


The Holy Family



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. When God sent His Son Jesus into the world He wanted Him to come in a humble and quiet way. He wanted Jesus to have a mother and an earthly father and be raised in a happy home.

God brings us into the world in families too. He wants us to have good and loving mothers and fathers to look after us and teach us. Our Lady and Saint Joseph are great examples for parents. They loved Jesus and kept Him safe and let Him grow and learn.



Jesus is an example to children, too! Love your father and mother, obey them and pray for them. Today is a good time to think of how your family can become more like the Holy Family, living in peace, joy and love. Can you think of a way to be more obedient, loving or generous with your family?

Answer to front page: Out of Egypt I called my son.
Answer to inside page: HOLY FAMILY