

Catholic Communities

Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

St. Peter Catholic Church

Sunday
December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent



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

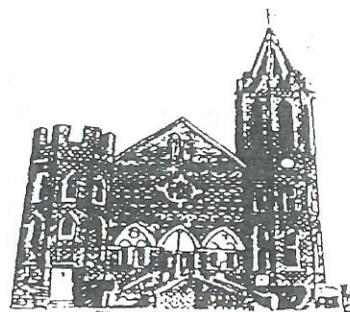
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
(Reconciliation 30 minutes
before Mass or by appointment)
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

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@rtceexpress.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 7, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 7:55 A.M.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass will be Monday, December 8, 2025 at Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 a.m. and St. Peter, Rosary & Mass – Rosary 6:30 p.m., Mass 7:00 p.m.

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.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Please pick up Our Lady of Mercy December calendar on the back tables.

FAITH FORMATION (Religious Education)

Class December 7, Penance service after Mass today.

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS

The Faith Formation classes will be saving their coins in baby bottles for the Community Pregnancy Center, November 23rd thru January 11, 2026. They would like to invite Our Lady of Mercy parishioners to join them. Please pick up a baby bottle on the back tables.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open this week on Tuesday, December 9 & Wednesday, December 10, 9 a.m -3 p.m.

AREA PENANCE SERVICES

Holy Trinity – Assumption, Dec. 17 6:30 p.m.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

If you are interested in ringing the Salvation Army bell for the following dates, Dec. 12 & 13 and Dec. 19 and 20 please contact the Van Zile's

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

A dinner will be served on December 13, 2025 in celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe after 4:30 p.m. Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS

December 24 – 4:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD VIGIL

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

---Dec, 13 – Fayette Winter Market 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. downtown Fayette

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Dec. 7	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Eddie Tidwell Rosemary Pontious
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Frank Grime Cathy Warner Carolyn Bigger
Mon., Dec. 8	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	Immaculate Conception
	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Rosary/St. Peter St. Peter	
Tues., Dec. 9	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Dec. 10	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Dec. 11	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	Shane Kunkle Frank Grime
Fri., Dec. 12	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Dec. 13	4:30 p.m.	SP	John Van Pelt
Sun., Dec. 14	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Eddie Tidwell Rosemary Pontious
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Al Holland Lowell & Barbar Merillat Simplicio & Chris Lopez 24 th Anniversary

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

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

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller

Welcoming Jesus into our hearts this Advent

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 olomprayer@olom2441.onmicorsoft.com before noon on Tuesday.

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – DECEMBER 8 & 14, 2025

	December 8	December 14
Greeters / Gifts		Joyce Bonin/Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Mary Bird	Shelly Gruman
Servers		Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers		Angie Beuregard/Terry Kovar
Money Counters		Phil Baker/Terry Kovar/Barbara Roby

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for November 30, 2025 – Mass Canceled

Sunday Offertory (11 envelopes)	\$ 0.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 0.00
BUDGET	\$ <u>1,747.00</u>
Over / (Under)	

OTHER COLLECTIONS

CPC Jar & Votives	\$ <u>0.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$
(Sunday Offertory & Other)	

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of December 7 – December 13

St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397 A.D.) was born in Gaul (modern France) and became a successful lawyer and governor in Milan, Italy. When the bishop of Milan died in 374 A.D., a movement arose among the people to demand that Ambrose take his place. At the time Ambrose was only a catechumen preparing for baptism; he was not yet a Christian. He went into hiding in an attempt to escape the ecclesiastical appointment. His attempts to hide were unsuccessful; the emperor forbade anyone to give him shelter, which forced him to give himself up and submit to the will of the people to be their bishop. Ambrose quickly received the sacraments, including Holy Orders, and was ordained the Bishop of Milan a week later. He became a very holy leader, giving his property to the poor and his land to the Church, and making himself directly available to the needs of all people. He also worked tirelessly to defend orthodox doctrine, especially against the pervasive Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. St. Ambrose was the saint who introduced *lectio divina*, the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Sacred Scriptures, into the Latin Church. This informed his eloquent writing, preaching, and teaching, earning him the nickname “honey-tongued doctor.” Ambrose was the bishop who converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. He is one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and his statue is one of four that upholds the Chair of St. Peter inside St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. St. Ambrose’s feast day is December 7th.

St. Patapius (4th c.) was born in Thebes, Egypt. His parents were prominent Christians, and his father was the governor of the region. Patapius was well-educated by the best tutors, and his learning awakened in him a desire to shun the world and its materialism and seek a life of asceticism. Inspired by the manner of life of the Church Fathers, Patapius became a desert hermit upon his father’s death. He later moved away to live in a cave near Corinth, and then sailed to Constantinople to live as a simple monk in the Monastery of Blachernae. There he fasted, prayed, and performed miracles until his death at the age of 83. In the early 20th century, a local priest planning renovations discovered his relics after the saint appeared to him in a dream and informed him where they were located. His relics were found the next day holding a large wooden cross on his chest and a parchment scroll bearing his name. St. Patapius’ feast day is December 8th.

St. Juan Diego (1474–1548) was a poor and humble peasant of the lowest class of Aztec Indians living in what is today Mexico. His native name was Cuauhtlatotzin, meaning, “eagle that talks.” He was baptized at the age of fifty by a Franciscan missionary priest and received the Christian name of Juan Diego. It was he to whom Our Lady appeared as a pregnant Aztec princess on December 9, 1531—at that time the feast of the Immaculate Conception—on the hill of Tepeyac, in present-day Mexico City, as he was on his way to Mass. To help Juan Diego prove to the bishop that she had truly appeared, the Virgin Mary miraculously left her image on his tilma. This image is now famously known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Juan Diego’s tilma still bears the image of Our Lady (miraculously, as the plant fibers normally disintegrate in 15–20 years) and it hangs in one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites of the world, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II as the first indigenous saint from the Americas. His feast day is December 9th.

Our Lady of Loreto is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with the house where Mary was born, the site of the Annunciation, and the dwelling place of the Holy Family. The tradition and history of the Holy House goes back to Apostolic times. In the 13th century the house was mysteriously moved in one piece from Nazareth in the Holy Land to a final resting place in Loreto, Italy, carried by angels, a miracle to which the Church attests. It was transported to prevent its destruction by Muslims who destroyed the basilica which housed it. A new basilica was built around the Holy House in Italy, known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the world. Written at the door of the basilica are these words: “The whole world has no place more sacred ... For here was the Word made Flesh, and here was born the Virgin Mother.” Our Lady of Loreto is the patron of aviators, fliers, pilots, and builders. Her feast day is December 10th.

Pope St. Damasus I (306-384 A.D.) was born into a Christian family in Rome. He became a deacon and served at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Rome where his father served as priest. After the death of Pope Liberius, Damasus was elected Pope in the year 366 A.D. Violence broke out as a rival pope was also elected, and the two factions fought to enforce their candidate. Damasus was confirmed as the rightful pope by the Roman Emperor, and the anti-pope was banished from the city. Pope Damasus chose the scripture scholar St. Jerome as his personal secretary, to whom he commissioned the translation of the Bible into Latin (the Latin Vulgate). It was during Damasus' reign that Christianity was declared the religion of the Roman state. Pope Damasus also called the Council of Rome in 382 A.D. to clarify the canon of Sacred Scripture. He opposed heresy, worked to preserve the catacombs, and advocated for devotion to the Christians martyred under the Roman persecutions. His feast day is December 11.

Our Lady of Guadalupe - St. Juan Diego, a humble Aztec peasant, saw the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Hill of Tepeyac near present-day Mexico City on December 9, 1531, the feast of the Immaculate Conception at the time. After a request by the bishop to prove her identity, Our Lady asked Juan Diego to gather the roses which he found growing on the hill, which were neither native to the area nor in season, and take them to the bishop. Juan Diego did so and placed the roses in his tilma (or cloak). Upon opening the tilma to reveal the miraculous roses to the bishop, there was something even more miraculous present—an image of the Virgin Mary dressed as a pregnant Aztec princess. The various design elements on the tilma read like a codex to the Aztecs, revealing to them the truth of the Catholic faith preached by the missionary priests. Millions quickly converted to the Catholic Church as a result. This apparition and image is venerated under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the first Marian apparition in the New World, and the only one where Our Lady produced an image of herself. The perfectly preserved tilma is venerated at her basilica and shrine in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas, the New Evangelization, and unborn children. Her feast day is December 12th.

St. Lucy (Lucia) of Syracuse (283–304 A.D.) was born to a wealthy Christian family on the island of Sicily. Her father died when she was in her infancy. Lucy grew in piety, and at a young age secretly consecrated her virginity to Christ. Her mother pressured her into an arranged marriage with a pagan nobleman in order to provide for her daughter's future, which Lucy avoided. When Lucy's mother was struck with a long and serious illness, Lucy convinced her mother to accompany her to pray at the tomb of St. Agatha. As a result, Lucy's mother was miraculously cured of her malady. Lucy then told her mother about her vow of chastity, and her mother consented to her refusal to marry. Lucy gave herself to serving persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, wearing a wreath of candles on her head to illumine the dark underground caverns, with her arms full of provisions. The man to whom Lucy was betrothed, upon finding that Lucy was a Christian and had refused his hand in marriage, had her imprisoned under the persecutions of Diocletian. The judge sentenced Lucy to prostitution in a brothel, but God rendered her body immovable and the soldiers were unable to carry out the task. They then tried to set her on fire, but the wood underneath Lucy would not burn. Finally, she was killed by the sword. Among her tortures her eyes were gouged out, making St. Lucy the patron saint of eye problems and blind people, among others. St. Lucy is among the great virgin martyrs of the Church, her name appearing in the Roman Canon of the Mass. Her feast day is December 13th.

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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

“Ask Her...to help you believe that your life can be transfigured by the brilliant light emanating from the Heart of Christ.”

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 4

1270 (28) September 10, [1937]. I learned in the course of meditation that the purer the soul, the greater her communion with God on the spiritual level. She pays little heed to the senses and their protests. God is a Spirit, and so I love Him in spirit and truth.

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 11, 1984 – “Dear children! Pray, because Satan wishes to complicate my plans still further. Pray with the heart and surrender yourselves to Jesus in prayer.”

*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 22, 1981 – “(Vickas diary – 28th apparition, 6:30 p.m.) On arriving she said: “Praise be Jesus Christ.” All of us questioned her on the subject of some sick people who had been recommended to us. Then we prayed with the Blessed Virgin. She only said the Our Father and Glory Be, and during the time that we said the Hail Mary, she was silent. The Gospa told us that: “A good many people have been converted and among them some had not gone to Confession in 45 years, and now, they are going to Confession. Go in the peace of God.” As Our Lady was departing, a cross appeared in the sky.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Faith Formation after Mass
Dec. 7 (Penance Svc), Dec. 14
& Dec. 28

---December 17 – 25 Our Lady
of Mercy Christmas Novena

---December 24 – Christmas
Eve Mass 7:00 p.m.

---December 25 – Christmas
Day Mass 9:00 a.m.

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

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

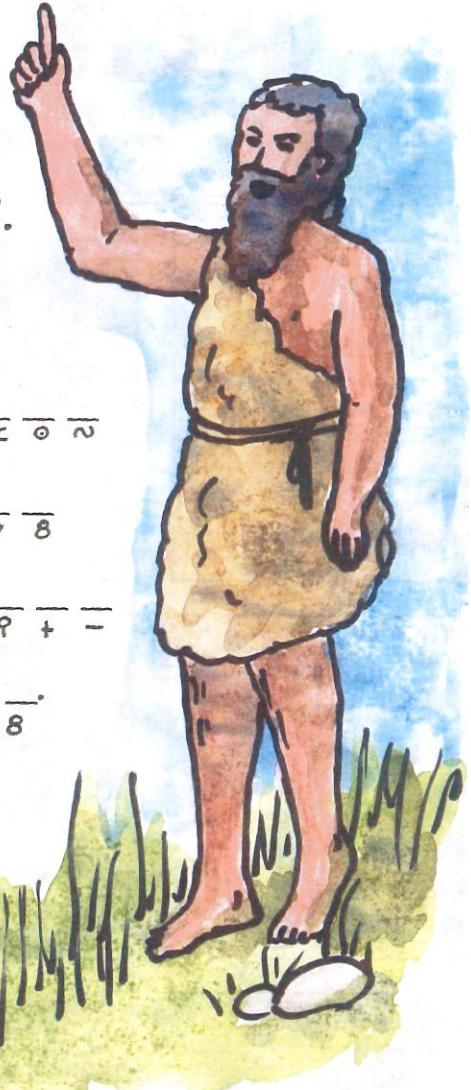
PREPARE – to make ready, or put
in due condition, for something

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths
Luke 3:4

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7th, 2025

The one who is
coming after me
is mightier than I.



→ 8 Δ + □ □

x n ✓ - + l 8 c o ~

Δ + - → - → 8

→ o □ c u ✓ + φ + -

n < γ r + φ 8

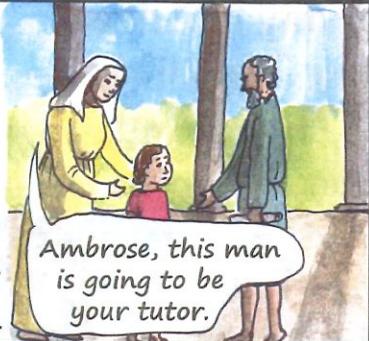
What did Saint
John the Baptist
say about the one
who was coming
after him?
Use the code to
find out!

n x γ 8 r → + □ < o ✓ φ u - ~ Δ c l
A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z

SAINT AMBROSE

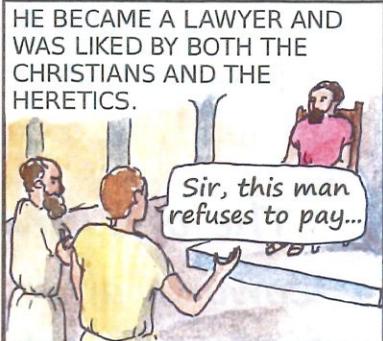
DECEMBER 7

AMBROSE WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 340 TO A VERY IMPORTANT ROMAN FAMILY. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.



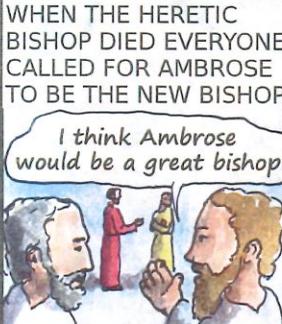
Ambrose, this man is going to be your tutor.

HE BECAME A LAWYER AND WAS LIKED BY BOTH THE CHRISTIANS AND THE HERETICS.



Sir, this man refuses to pay...

WHEN THE HERETIC BISHOP DIED EVERYONE CALLED FOR AMBROSE TO BE THE NEW BISHOP.

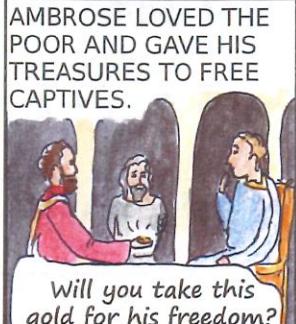


I think Ambrose would be a great bishop!



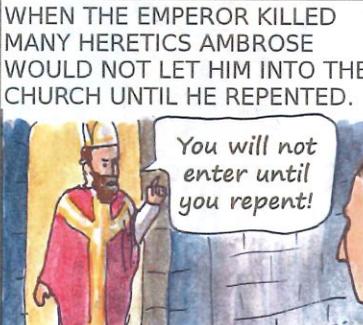
HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CHOSEN BUT THE EMPEROR INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT.

AMBROSE LOVED THE POOR AND GAVE HIS TREASURES TO FREE CAPTIVES.



Will you take this gold for his freedom?

WHEN THE EMPEROR KILLED MANY HERETICS AMBROSE WOULD NOT LET HIM INTO THE CHURCH UNTIL HE REPENTED.



You will not enter until you repent!



ONCE THE HERETICS WERE TRYING TO SEIZE THE CHURCH BUT AMBROSE WOULDN'T GIVE IT UP. FINALLY THE SOLDIERS WENT INSIDE TO PRAY!

SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?

Peace Among the Animals

In today's first reading, the prophet describes peace between animals and people in God's kingdom.

Can you figure out which animals (or people) go with which?

Clue: the pictures might help!



Then the wolf shall be a guest
of the _____,
and the _____



shall lie down with the kid;
the _____ and the young lion
shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the _____
shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the _____ shall eat hay like the ox.

The _____ shall play
by the cobra's den,



baby leopard
calf bear
lamb lion



The Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

Answer to puzzle on front: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Answer to "Peace Among Animals" puzzle: lamb, leopard, calf, bear, lion, baby.