

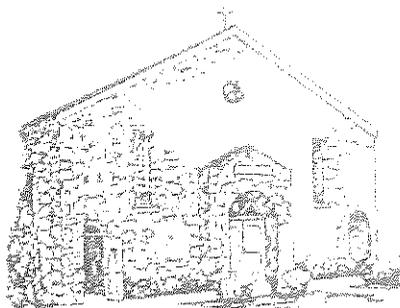
Catholic Communities

Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

St. Peter Catholic Church

Sunday
January 4, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord



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

January 4, 2026 – Epiphany of the Lord

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

BFF'S

There will be a donut and beverages breakfast Sunday, January 11th after Mass.

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

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation classes will be after Mass today.

CPC BABY BOTTLES

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

THANK YOU

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, gifts and greetings this Christmas Season. Blessings to you now and in the New Year.
Deacon Larry

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

Happy New Year

2026 ❄️ *

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

FISH FRIDAYS

Archbold Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's begin January 9, 2026 thru April 3, 2026, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 419-446-7495 for carry out orders, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Archbold.

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., Jan. 4	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Giovanni Stella Al Holland Frank Grime
Mon., Jan. 5		NO MASS	
Tues., Jan. 6	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Jan. 7	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Jan. 8	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., Jan. 9	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Jan. 10	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., Jan. 11	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Marcel Bonin Al Holland,

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 - for a prosperous and blessed New Year

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 – January 11, 2026

Greeters / Gifts	Mary Bird / Shelly Gruman
Proclaimer	Shelly Gruman
Servers	Will Maginn
Ushers	Angie Beauregard/Terry Kovar
Money Counters	Barb Bruggeman/Terry Kovar/Joanna Marry

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for December 25 & 28, 2025

Christmas (12/24 10 envelopes)	\$ 420.00
Loose Offerings	\$ <u>1,259.00</u>
TOTAL CHRISTMAS	\$ 1,679.00

Sunday Offertory (12/28 9 envelopes)	\$ 755.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 295.00
BUDGET	\$ <u>1,747.00</u>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 697.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

CPC Jar & Votives	\$ <u>30.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 2,759.00

(Christmas, Sunday Offertory, & Other)

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of January 4 – January 10

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821) was born in New York City to a wealthy, virtuous, and influential family. She married a businessman, and together they lived on Wall Street. They attended an Episcopalian church where Elizabeth was very active in charitable works to the poor. When her father-in-law died, she became like a mother to her husband's six younger siblings, in addition to her own five children. During a trip to Italy she was introduced to Catholicism, and she converted to the Catholic Church following the death of her husband. After losing her family fortune, Elizabeth spent her life working to improve education and provide for the poor, as well as the needs of her family. She established the first Catholic school in the nation, and also founded the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious community. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native-born citizen of the United States to be declared a saint. She is also the patron of widows and those who have lost parents or children. Her feast day is January 4th.

St. John Neumann (1811-1860) was born in Bohemia in what is now the Czech Republic. He entered the seminary, and when the day came for his ordination to the priesthood, his bishop fell ill and couldn't proceed with the ceremony. However, because Bohemia had an over-abundance of priests, John's ordination was never rescheduled. Undeterred in pursuing his priestly vocation, John decided to go to America to seek ordination. He came to the United States in 1836 as a missionary priest to serve America's European immigrant population. He was ordained in New York, joined the Redemptorists, and was later consecrated a bishop. He is famous for knowing twelve languages and for being the first American man and American bishop to be canonized. St. John Neumann left his impact on the United States by building a vast number of churches, schools, hospitals, and orphanages. The number of parochial school students greatly increased in his diocese. St. John Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the laity in the United States, especially in his promotion of devotion to the Holy Eucharist. His feast day is January 5th.

St. Andre Bessette (1845–1937) was born the eighth of twelve children to a poor working class family in Quebec, Canada. He was weak and sickly from his birth. When he was nine, his father died in a lumber accident; when he was twelve, his mother died of tuberculosis. He then worked at various odd jobs until he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a lay brother at age 25, serving as porter for Quebec's Notre Dame College for much of his life. Andre welcomed and prayed for the people he met, especially those who were ill or suffering. When an epidemic of sickness broke out, Andre demonstrated the gift of healing. He gave all the credit to St. Joseph, to whom he had a great devotion. Over the years, when word of his sanctity spread, tens of thousands of people came to Bessette for prayer and healing. He worked all day to receive them in person or answer their letters. When his Order wanted to purchase land on Mt. Royal, Bessette buried St. Joseph medals on the property. The owners yielded, the land was sold to the Order, and Andre worked to have a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph built on the property. It is still in use to this day. When he died at the age of 91, it is said that a million people visited his coffin. St. Andre Bessette's feast day is January 6th.

St. Raymond of Penafort (1175–1275) was born in Spain to the noble family of Aragon. As a child he received an excellent education and displayed a great love for the Blessed Mother. After studying and teaching philosophy and law he entered the Order of Preachers. He preached the Crusades and encouraged the faithful to defend their civilization from foreign threats. To aid his preaching, Raymond requested that his fellow Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas, write his epic *Summa Contra Gentiles* for the conversion of non-Catholics, especially Muslims. It is said that at least 10,000 Muslims were converted to the Catholic faith as a result of Raymond's evangelistic labors. Together with King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom (Mercedarians), a group that worked to free Christians enslaved by the Moors. Known for his great mind and great sanctity, St. Raymond was the Pope's personal confessor and close adviser. As a trained lawyer, he was also chosen to compile the Church's legal documents into one source of canon law which was then used for centuries. He also wrote a manual of moral theology for confessors. St. Raymond is famous for the miracle of sailing from the island of Majorca to Barcelona using his cape for a raft, in protest of the King of Aragon's refusal to dismiss his mistress. St. Raymond of Penafort is the patron of lawyers and canon lawyers. His feast day is January 7.

St. Apollinaris Claudius (2nd c.), also called St. Apollinaris of Hierapolis, was a bishop in what is today Turkey. He became famous for his polemical writings against the heretics of his day, showing that their theological errors were taken from the pagans. His most famous work was an *Apologia* for the Christians addressed to Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 177 A.D. In it he reminded the Emperor of a miracle he received because of the Christians: when his army was nearly defeated in an attempt to conquer the Germanic barbarians, it was the prayers of the Christians among his soldiers which obtained the needed relief and the military victory, even though Christianity was illegal. In light of this miracle, Apollinaris requested the Emperor's protection of Christians from persecution. St. Apollinaris' work earned him the moniker, "Apollinaris the Apologist." His writings are largely lost, and what we know of his work comes to us from other early Christian writers including St. Jerome and Eusebius. His feast day is January 8th.

St. Adrian of Canterbury (d. 710 A.D.), also known as St. Hadrian, was a native of North Africa who was sent to England to accompany his friend, Theodore of Tarsus, who was appointed to the prestigious archbishopric of Canterbury. St. Adrian was originally offered and turned down the ecclesiastical position, and instead was made abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury (originally called the Monastery of St. Peter). The monastic school grew and thrived under his leadership, and became an important center of learning where many future scholars, bishops, and abbots were educated in Latin, Greek, scripture, theology, Roman law, arithmetic, and other subjects. St. Adrian himself was well known for being a great teacher of religion, math, science, and literature. He also served as the Holy Father's assistant and adviser. During the lives of Adrian and Theodore, education and learning flourished in England. After his death, his tomb became famous for miracles. His feast day is January 9th.

St. William of Bourges (1155–1209), also known as St. William the Confessor, was born to a noble family in France. He was educated under his uncle who was an archdeacon, and from a young age turned away from the world and gave himself over to religion and learning. He became a priest and later entered religious life in a Cistercian monastery, an order famous for strict discipline. St. William was known to be a cheerful man and a hard worker, and pure of heart. He was chosen to be Archbishop of Bourges in the year 1200, much to his dismay. He left the solitude of the monastery out of obedience and entered into the public life of a bishop, throwing himself wholeheartedly into serving both the spiritual and physical needs of the poor. As bishop he continued his great austerities. He had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and would spend much time in prayer at the foot of the altar. He was known for performing miracles both during his life and after his death. He died kneeling at prayer, and by request was buried wearing his hair shirt and lying in ashes. His feast day is January 10.

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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to remind you she intercedes for you before the throne of God every day!"

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.*

September 13, 1984 – "Dear children! I still need your prayers. You wonder why all these prayers? Look around you, dear children, and you will see how greatly sin has dominated the world. Pray, therefore, that Jesus conquers. Thank you for having responded to my call."

The Early Messages – Beginning 1981

The messages given by Our Lady of Medjugorje began on June 25, 1981, and continue to this day. The earliest messages from 1981 – 1983, recorded by the parish in Medjugorje (Information Center MIR Medjugorje, www.medjugorje.hr), were unfortunately confiscated and destroyed by the communists. The 1981 – 1983 messages found here were obtained from the works of Fr. Rene Laurentin, and Professor Rene Lejeune. They were originally recorded in French, and translated to English by Juan Gonzales Jr., Ph.D. Although these messages have not been validated by the parish in Medjugorje, great care was taken in their recording, translation, and compilation. We have also included messages compiled by Fr. Laurentin, and Prof. Lejeune, which are in addition to the weekly messages recorded by the parish in Medjugorje during that same period.

July 24, 1981 – The visionaries see in a distant apparition of a young woman in a long grey dress holding a baby in her arms on the hill of Crnica (now known as Apparition Hill). The first time was in the afternoon, the second time towards 6:30 p.m.

December 25, 2025 Message to Marija

"Dear children! Also today - when God permits me to carry to you in my arms little Jesus, the King of Peace, that He may fill you with the ardor of love and peace, so that every heart may be similar to His Heart in this time of grace - be resolute and courageous defenders of the love of your God, that in this time of grace He may give you His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call." (With ecclesiastical approval)

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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

---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

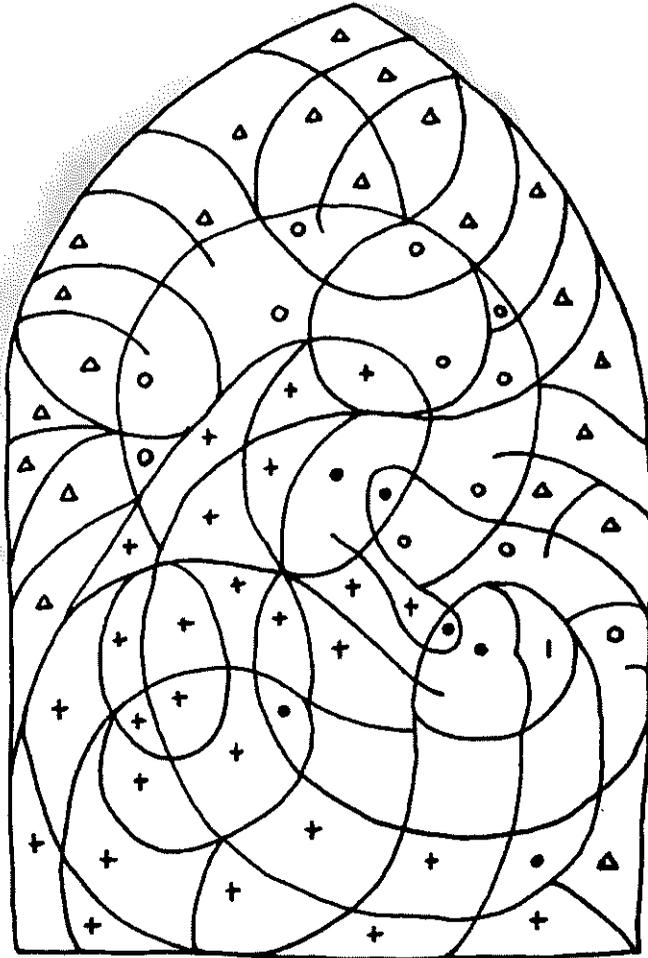
Word(s) of the week (from the
America College Dictionary)

EPIPHANY – a Christian festival,
observed on January 6,
commemorating the manifestation of
Christ to the Gentiles in the persons
of the Magi

Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.
Isaiah 60:6

The Kids' Bulletin

*Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Jan. 1
& Feast of the Epiphany: January 4 or 6, 2026*



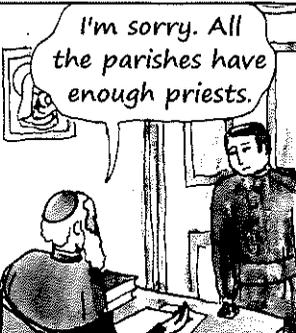
*Whose feast is it on New Year's Day?
Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:*

<i>+ Blue</i>	<i>▲ Pink</i>	<i>○ Yellow</i>
<i> Brown</i>	<i>• Skin colour</i>	

Saint John Neumann

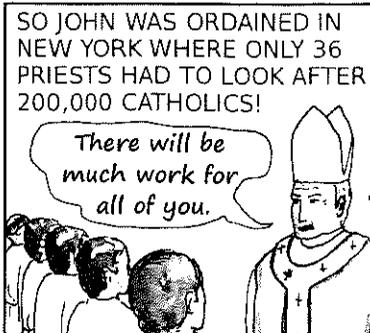
January 5

JOHN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN BOHEMIA IN 1811. HE STUDIED FOR THE PRIESTHOOD BUT THE BISHOP WOULD NOT ORDAIN HIM BECAUSE THEY HAD SO MANY PRIESTS!



I'm sorry. All the parishes have enough priests.

SO JOHN WAS ORDAINED IN NEW YORK WHERE ONLY 36 PRIESTS HAD TO LOOK AFTER 200,000 CATHOLICS!



There will be much work for all of you.

FR. JOHN WORKED IN A COUNTRY CHURCH THAT HAD A DIRT FLOOR AND NO STEEPLE.



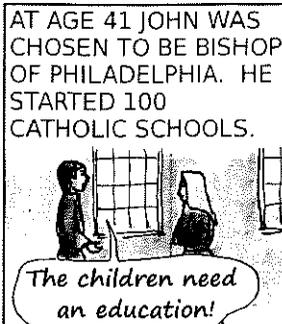
We can't afford to build it better!

It takes us two hours to get here. Can you come to our house next?



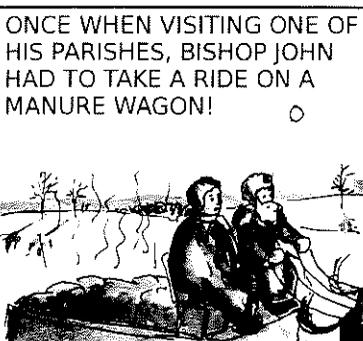
HE TRAVELED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, OFFERING MASS IN PEOPLE'S HOUSES.

AT AGE 41 JOHN WAS CHOSEN TO BE BISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA. HE STARTED 100 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

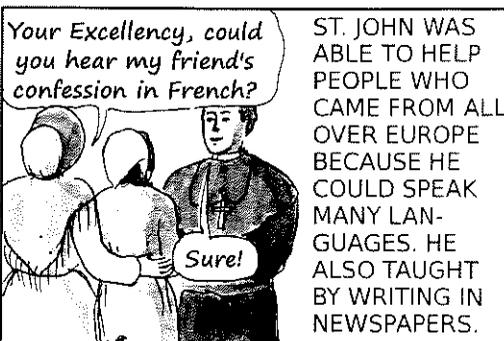


The children need an education!

ONCE WHEN VISITING ONE OF HIS PARISHES, BISHOP JOHN HAD TO TAKE A RIDE ON A MANURE WAGON!



Your Excellency, could you hear my friend's confession in French?



Sure!

ST. JOHN WAS ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM ALL OVER EUROPE BECAUSE HE COULD SPEAK MANY LANGUAGES. HE ALSO TAUGHT BY WRITING IN NEWSPAPERS.

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN WORKED TIRELESSLY TO HELP THE POOR PEOPLE WHO WERE SETTLING IN AMERICA. HE DID NOT LET HIS OWN POVERTY SLOW HIM DOWN. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE TO USE OUR TALENTS TO BRING GOD TO THE WORLD NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE WE HAVE.

Octave of Christmas Word-Find



*Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below?
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.*

ANGELS	GLORY	PRAISE
ANIMALS	GOD	SAVIOUR
BABY	HOLY	SHEEP
BARN	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SING
BORN	MANGER	SKY
COLD	MARY	STABLE
FIELDS	MOTHER	WONDER
FOUND	NIGHT	WORSHIP

W P M S I N G N I G H T
 O R A T A N I M A L S B
 N A S A N G E L S R H E
 D I A B M O T H E R E T
 E S V L A D J O S E P H
 R E I E R Y E L T H H L
 G L O R Y E S Y M O E E
 F B U T H E U S K Y R H
 O A R W O R S H I P D E
 U B A R N F I E L D S M
 N Y R M A N G E R O F G
 D O D C O L D P B O R N

On the eighth
 day of
 Christmas we
 honour in a
 special way

The Epiphany

At the beginning of the new year we celebrate both Mary, the Mother of God and the Epiphany, which is when the wise men came from far away to worship baby Jesus.

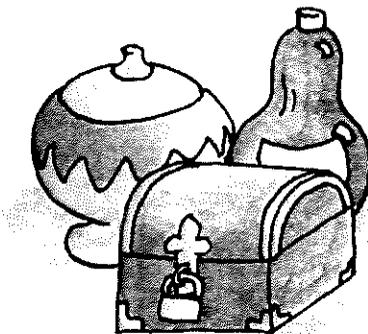
Imagine that you are living a long time ago in Bethlehem and your parents have invited a poor family to stay at your house: a mother, a father and a new baby.



One day something amazing happens: some rich men from a far away country come to see the baby and bring expensive treasures for him! Do you know who the family is now? Who is the baby?

The baby is Jesus, of course, and the mother is Mary. She holds Jesus on her lap so the wise men can bow down to Him and worship Him. Mary cooperated with God to bring Jesus into the world so that we could all see and love and worship Him.

Can you thank Mary today for bringing Jesus to us?



Answer to Octave of Christmas Word-Find:
Mary the Mother of God