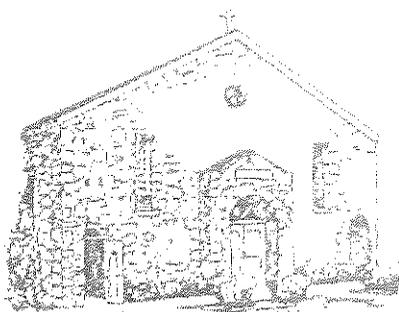


# Catholic Communities

Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

## Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church



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

## St. Peter Catholic Church



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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:olomfayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) with the exact verbiage requested. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals

January 18, 2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

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

**BFF'S**

BIG BFF Sunday, January 25, 2026. Come and enjoy breakfast after Mass in the basement.

Dates available if your family would like to provide donuts and beverages are 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. Next class will be Sunday, February 1, 2026 after Mass.

**2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Please pick up your contribution statement on the table in the back.

**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

If are not receiving contribution envelopes and you want to please fill out form on the table in the back.

**PROTECTING OUR YOUTH**

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric or by any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419)214-4880; or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch, Toledo, OH 43604.

**ST. PETER NEWS**

**EUCCHARISTIC 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. 21 – Fayette Community dinner 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Fayette Methodist Community Center

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

Feb. 12 – Fayette Opera House – Bean Creek Coffee House 7 p.m.

Feb. 28 – Fayette Opera House – John & Jenn – 7 p.m.



**NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – January 25, 2026**

<b>Greeters / Gifts</b>	Mike Maginn Family
<b>Proclaimer</b>	Mary Bird
<b>Servers</b>	Will Maginn
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil & Tami Baker
<b>Money Counters</b>	Barb Bruggeman/Joanna Marry/Barbara Roby

**SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT**

Reported for January 11, 2026

Sunday Offertory (11 envelopes)	\$ 1,325.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 81.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 341.00)

**OTHER COLLECTIONS**

CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 20.00
Maintenance	\$ 150.00
Christmas	\$ 50.00
Postage Help	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,631.00</b>

(Sunday Offertory, & Other)

## SAINTS OF THE DAY ([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of January 18 – January 24

**St. Margaret of Hungary** (1242–1271) was the daughter of King Bela IV of Hungary, and niece of the famed St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Her royal parents made a vow to God that if Hungary was saved from the Mongol invasion they would dedicate Margaret to religion. God heard their prayer and the country was saved. The king and queen then entrusted four-year-old Margaret to be raised and educated in a Dominican convent. At the age of ten Margaret was transferred to the Convent of the Blessed Virgin founded by her parents, built on an island her parents named after her. Margaret spent the rest of her life there, dedicating herself to prayer and severe penances. She opposed her father's attempts to arrange her political marriage with the King of Bohemia, even though her suitor obtained a dispensation from the pope to release her from her religious vows so that she could enter into matrimony. Margaret made her solemn vows as a Dominican nun at the age of eighteen. Although a beautiful princess, she took the most menial tasks in the convent and dedicated her life to serving the poor and sick. She was considered a saint during her life and after her death. Many miracles, especially the curing of illnesses, were attributed to her intercession. She died at the age of 28. Her feast day is January 18.

**St. Canute IV of Denmark** (1042 – 1086 A.D.), also known as Canute the Holy, was one of thirteen sons born to the king of Denmark. Canute later succeeded his brother to the throne and reigned as king from 1080 to 1086. He was a devout Catholic, a zealous propagator of the faith, and a brave warrior, in addition to being a man of prayer, penance, austerity, and charity towards the poor and weak among his people. The happiness of his people and the interests of the Church were his motivation, often putting him in opposition to the aristocracy. He fought against the barbarian nations and worked to strengthen the power of the monarchy, but some of his laws were unpopular and caused unrest among the people. Canute sought to expand Denmark's territory and believed he had a claim to the English throne. In 1085 he gathered his fleet and planned an invasion of England to overthrow William the Conqueror, a plan which was never realized. Instead, a revolt broke out against Canute, causing him to take refuge inside St. Alban's Priory in Odense. Canute, his brother, and seventeen of his men were pursued and killed by rebels in front of the altar. He was named a martyr for the faith, and many miracles were reported at his tomb. He was canonized in the year 1101, the first Danish saint. St. Canute is the patron saint of Denmark. His feast day is January 19.

**St. Sebastian** (d. c. 288 A.D.) was born in Gaul, present-day France, to wealthy Italian parents. According to tradition he went to Rome to serve and encourage the Christians who were being persecuted under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. To do so effectively and without suspicion, he enrolled in the Roman army as an officer. In this position he did much to encourage the faith of the Christians in the face of brutal martyrdom, and in the process made many new converts through his gift of healing. Once he was discovered to be a Christian, he was seized by Roman officers, tied to a tree, and shot through with arrows. He survived this, and was healed by St. Irene of Rome. Being fully recovered, he returned to preach to Diocletian himself. Diocletian then had him beaten to death with clubs. St. Sebastian is the patron of many causes, most notably of archers, athletes, police officers, soldiers, and against plague victims and enemies of religion. St. Sebastian's feast day is January 20th.

**St. Agnes** (c. 291–304 A.D.) was born to a noble Roman family. She was a beautiful young woman of twelve or thirteen years of age when many suitors desired her hand in marriage. Instead of marrying, St. Agnes committed herself to a life of consecrated virginity as a spouse of Christ. She was then denounced to the authorities as a Christian during the persecutions of Roman Emperor Diocletian. She was condemned to be dragged naked through the streets into a brothel to be sexually abused. She miraculously escaped from this predicament with her virginity preserved, and was then condemned to be burned at the stake. Again, by a miracle, her persecutors were unable to carry out her sentence. Finally, they put her to death by beheading. Of all the virgin martyrs, St. Agnes is held in the first place by the Church. She is one of the seven women, besides the Virgin Mary, commemorated by name in the Roman Canon of the Mass. St. Agnes' name means 'chaste' and she is the patroness of girls, chastity, engaged couples, virgins, rape victims, and the Girl Scouts. Her feast day is January 21st.

**St. Anastasius the Persian** (7th c.) was the son of a Persian sorcerer. He became a Zoroastrian soldier in the army of Khosrau II, the Persian monarch who absconded the True Cross of Christ from Jerusalem and took it to Persia in 614. St. Anastasius inquired about the mysterious Cross and the Christian religion and as a result soon converted to the true Faith, left the army, received baptism, and became a monk at a monastery in Jerusalem. He lived there seven years until he was called by God to martyrdom among his people. He went to Caesarea to preach, which was then under Persian rule. He was captured and subject to cruel tortures. He was promised freedom and a high position in the kingdom if he would simply denounce his faith, which he refused. St. Anastasius was strangled and beheaded. His feast day is January 22.

**St. Marianne Cope** (1838–1918), also known as St. Marianne of Molokai, was a German-born American immigrant. She worked in a New York factory before entering the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse. She spent her early years serving as a leader in health care and education. When the Hawaiian government was searching for a religious order to run a station for victims of leprosy, the Syracuse sisters volunteered immediately. Mother Marianne and six other sisters left for Hawaii in 1883. She devoted 35 years to caring for those afflicted with Hansen's disease (leprosy) in Molokai, Hawaii. She also opened a hospital and a school for girls on the island of Maui, and took charge of the home St. Damien of Molokai established for men and boys. Mother Marianne changed life on Molokai by introducing cleanliness, dignity, and fun into the colony. Despite her direct contact with leprosy patients over many years, she was not afflicted by the disease, which some consider miraculous. She was canonized in 2012 and her feast day is January 23.

**St. Francis de Sales** (1567–1622) was born to a noble family in France. He enjoyed a privileged upbringing and education, earning a doctorate in law and theology. He was a well-liked and intelligent man, yet quiet and reserved. When struggling with thoughts of his possibly being predestined to eternal damnation, Francis went into a deep two-year depression. God healed him of this fear, and afterwards Francis consecrated himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He later became a priest, rejecting the lucrative career and advantageous marriage his father had prepared for him. As a priest, St. Francis became a prolific writer and preacher, and at the age of 35 was made bishop of the Calvinist stronghold in Geneva, Switzerland, at the height of the Protestant revolt against the Church. Through his gentleness, preaching skill, zeal for the faith, and his clear explanations of Catholic doctrine, he returned thousands of obstinate heretics to the true Faith. He also used sign language to convert the deaf. St. Francis de Sales is a Doctor of the Church, known especially for his writings on practical spiritual direction for lay people. He is the patron of teachers, the deaf, the Catholic press, confessors, educators, and authors. His feast day is January 24th.



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

*By Jane Tufant Harvey*

“Ask Her...to remind you that she is here to help lead you to Heaven.”

**MESSAGES OF MEDJUGORJE**

*Up-to-date messages may be obtained at <http://www.medjugorje.org>*

*On the 25<sup>th</sup> of day of each month the Queen of Peace gives a message to the visionary, Marija Pavlovic, for the whole world.*

September 27, 1984 – “Dear children! You have helped me along by your prayers to realize my plans. Keep on praying that my plans completely I request the families of the parish to pray the family rosary. 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.*

August 2, 1981 – Mariha sees the Virgin in her room: “All of you together go to the meadow at the Gumno. A great battle is about to take place. A battle between my Son and satan. Human souls are at stake.” The visionaries, accompanied by about 40 local people, went to the prairie of Gumno, about 200 yards from Vicka’s house. Our Lady said: “Everyone here may touch me.” After many people had touched her, a black stain appeared on her dress. Marija cried. Marinko invited the people who were present to go to Confession.

*The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen - with an introduction by Matthew Kelly*

“If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself. You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy.”

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

---Faith Formation after Mass  
Jan. 18, Feb. 1 & Feb. 15

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

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

**SERVANT** – a person in service of  
another

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.



# POPE SAINT FABIAN

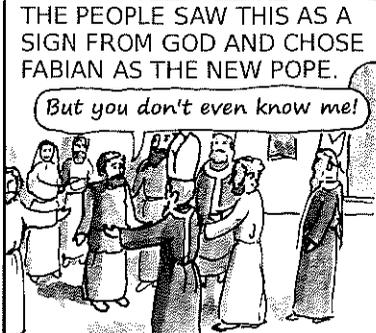
JANUARY 20

SAINT FABIAN WAS A ROMAN FARMER. WHEN THE POPE DIED HE WENT TO ROME WHERE THEY WERE CHOOSING A NEW POPE. SUDDENLY A DOVE LANDED ON HIS HEAD.



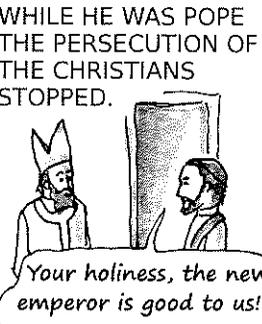
I wonder who will be chosen.

THE PEOPLE SAW THIS AS A SIGN FROM GOD AND CHOSE FABIAN AS THE NEW POPE.



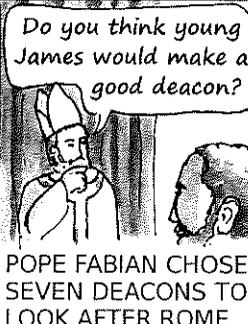
But you don't even know me!

WHILE HE WAS POPE THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHRISTIANS STOPPED.



Your holiness, the new emperor is good to us!

Do you think young James would make a good deacon?



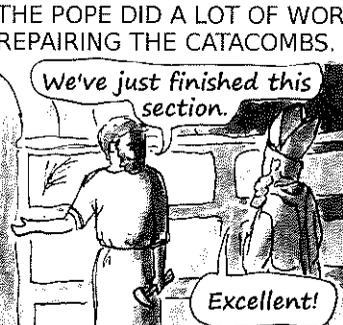
POPE FABIAN CHOSE SEVEN DEACONS TO LOOK AFTER ROME.

HE ALSO SPOKE OUT AGAINST HERESY.



Take this message to the bishop who is teaching heresy.

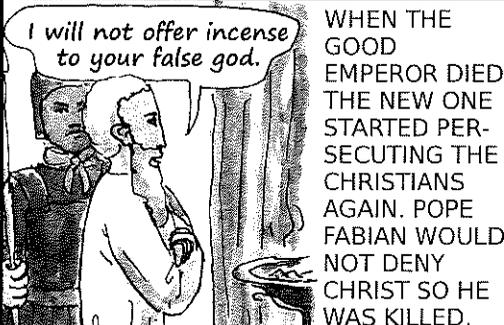
THE POPE DID A LOT OF WORK REPAIRING THE CATACOMBS.



We've just finished this section.

Excellent!

I will not offer incense to your false god.



WHEN THE GOOD EMPEROR DIED THE NEW ONE STARTED PERSECUTING THE CHRISTIANS AGAIN. POPE FABIAN WOULD NOT DENY CHRIST SO HE WAS KILLED.

WE CAN LEARN FROM THE STORY OF SAINT FABIAN THAT GOD CAN DO GREAT WORK WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE. SAINT FABIAN DID NOT EXPECT TO BECOME POPE, BUT WHEN HE DID HE WORKED HARD FOR THE CHURCH. IF YOU EVER GET CHOSEN TO DO A BIG JOB REMEMBER THAT GOD WILL HELP YOU DO IT.



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

Word-Find

# PSALM 40

*See if you can find all the words that are in CAPITALS.  
Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.*

I have WAITED, waited for the LORD,  
and He stooped TOWARD me and HEARD my cry.  
And He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn to our God.

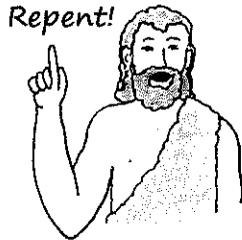
SACRIFICE or OFFERING You wished not,  
but EARS OPEN to OBEDIENCE You gave me.  
HOLOCAUST or sin-offerings You sought not;  
then I said, "Behold I COME."

"In the WRITTEN scroll it is prescribed for me,  
to do Your will, O my God, is my DELIGHT,  
and Your law is WITHIN my HEART!"

I announced Your JUSTICE in the vast assembly;  
I did not restrain my lips, as You, O Lord, know.

-----  
-----!

# John the Baptist: Was He the Messiah?



Everybody thought that John the Baptist was a great preacher and prophet. Some people thought that he might even be the Messiah who would save their people. But John knew that was not his job. When Jesus came to him at the river to be baptized, John pointed at Him and told the people, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" He told the people that he was not the great one; Jesus was.

Saint John the Baptist is an example to all of us. If we are really good then our lives will show other people the way to Jesus.



John the Baptist taught the people by telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized. God wants some people to teach about Him by teaching and preaching to the people. But for most of us, the best way to teach others about God is by living a good life and loving God. If you really do your best to love God then your life will be like St. John the Baptist's and point the way to Jesus.



What is something that you can do today to lead someone to Jesus?

Answer to puzzle on front: I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God.  
Answer to Psalm 40 Word-Find: O Lord I come to do Your will.