

Catholic Communities
Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

**Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church**

**St. Peter
Catholic Church**

Sunday
February 8, 2026
5th Sunday Ordinary Time



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

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, Ohio 43502
Rectory – 419-446-9288
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.

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

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

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

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

Tami Baker
Bookkeeper

OLOMBBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Doug Williams
Bookkeeper

Mary Bird
CRE

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

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

February 8, 2026 – 5th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

BFF'S

There will donuts and beverages after Mass. Thank you to the Eli Eberly family for supplying the yummy treats.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation class after Mass February 15, 2026.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open next week on Wednesday, February 11 & Thursday, February 12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 - ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 a.m.
St. Peter – 7:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

APRIL COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Lady of Mercy is in charge of the April 15, 2026, Fayette Community Meal at the Fayette Methodist Community Life Center. There will be a meeting after Mass on February 15, 2026 by the Cry Room for all who would like to help. If you cannot attend and would like to help, please contact Sherry Renner.

HELP WANTED

St. Vincent de Paul is in need of a few volunteers. Please see Marge Crowell or call her 419-237-2362 if you are interested.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

If are not receiving contribution envelopes and you want to please fill out form on the table in the back and either put in collection basket or turn into the office.

2026 LENTEN STUDY

This year's Adult Lenten Study will be Ascension Press's **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother** narrated by Edward Sri. There is a flyer with dates, time and a registration form in this week's bulletin. The registration form needs to be returned by **Thursday, February 12, 2026**. Please prayerfully consider participating in this year's program.

LEADING THE FLOCK

Please pick up Bishop Thomas' current Leading the Flock on the back table.

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

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

Feb. 18 – Fayette Community Meal – Fayette Methodist Life Center – 5 p.m. – 6p.m.

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

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Feb. 8	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Marcel Bonin
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Frank Grime Gina Dammon, Larry Durski, Kenny Durski
Mon., Feb. 9		NO MASS	
Tues., Feb. 10	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Feb. 11	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Feb. 12	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., Feb. 13	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Feb. 14	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., Feb. 15	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Dick & Susan Saaf

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

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

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller

For World Peace

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 – February 15, 2026

Greeters / Gifts	Mary Bird / Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Angie Beauregard
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Phil & Tami Baker
Money Counters	Eli Eberly / Phil Baker / Michelle Miron

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 1, 2026

Sunday Offertory (13 envelopes)	\$ 1,145.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 280.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 322.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

CPC Jar	\$ 20.00
Maintenance	\$ 25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 5.00
Postage Help	\$ 17.00
Black/Native American	\$ 5.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,497.00
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of February 8 – February 17

St. Josephine Bakhita (d. 1947) was born into a wealthy Sudanese family near Darfur. She was kidnapped when she was nine years old and forced into slavery. Her kidnappers named her Bakhita (“fortunate” in Arabic). She was sold and resold, beaten and tortured by her “owners” until 1883 when she was purchased by an Italian consul who treated her well. He brought her to Italy to work as a nanny. In 1889, the Italian courts ruled that Bakhita was enslaved illegally and declared her a free woman. She became enamored with the Catholic faith and chose to stay in Italy. Bakhita was baptized in 1890 and received her First Holy Communion from the future Pope St. Pius X. She took the Christian name of Josephine, and in 1896 entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity. She was affectionately called “Our Black Mother” by the Italians, as her amiable spirit and warm heart won the admiration of many people during her fifty years of religious life. She was known for her charity towards children and the poor, her indomitable spirit during the hardship of slavery, and her joy in religious life. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron of Sudan, and her feast day, February 8th, has been designated the International Day of Prayer to Stop Human Trafficking.

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824) was born in Germany to a devout peasant family. From a young age she received divine knowledge imparted to her through extremely detailed visions of the lives of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. As a child her guardian angel often appeared to her, and Jesus himself visited her while she was tending sheep. The suffering souls in purgatory often called upon her assistance to offer prayers and penances on their behalf. At the age of 28, after many years of longing for the religious life, Anne Catherine entered the novitiate with the Augustinians. She devoted her life to waging a spiritual battle for suffering souls, and in her great charity she accepted extreme physical, yet supernatural, sufferings which ultimately left her bedridden. This strange phenomena of physical suffering for the spiritual condition of other souls was not always accepted by others, and she endured much ridicule due to the astonishing manner in which her experiences displayed themselves. Her daily visions gave her special insight into the spiritual realm which have been recorded into now-popular books, and were used to discover what is believed to be the house of Mary in Ephesus. Her feast day is February 9th.

St. Scholastica (480–542 A.D.) was born in Nursia, Italy, to a noble Roman family, along with her twin brother, the famous St. Benedict of Nursia. Their mother died in childbirth. Scholastica was dedicated to God as a child, and from a young age both siblings sensed a special divine calling. They both entered religious life and established communities within five miles of each other; St. Scholastica led a convent near Monte Cassino where Benedict established his world-renowned monastery. Because of the isolated nature of their vocations, the siblings only met once a year at a local farmhouse to discuss spiritual matters. During what was to be their final meeting, St. Scholastica had a premonition that her death was imminent. She asked Benedict to spend the night at the farmhouse so they could continue their visit, but he refused as it was forbidden in his monastic rule. Scholastica turned her request to God and prayed that her brother would stay with her. Suddenly a great thunderstorm erupted that made travel impossible, and Benedict was forced to stay. Scholastica died a few days later, and in a vision St. Benedict saw her soul leave her body in the form of a dove. St. Scholastica is the patron of nuns and against lightning, rain, and storms. Her feast day is February 10.

Blessed Bartholomew of Olmedo (1485-1524) was a Spanish Mercedarian priest, and the first priest to arrive on Mexican soil in 1516 at the age of 31. He was chaplain for the expedition of Spanish Conquistador Fernando Cortés, who began the Spanish colonization of the Americas and the downfall of the Aztec empire. Bartholomew was well-liked by the native people. He taught them the Christian faith and exhorted them to end their practice of human sacrifice. He also defended them against injustice and restrained Cortés from acting out in violence against them. Bartholomew taught the native Mexicans devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Mercy, which they embraced. Blessed Bartholomew of Olmedo baptized more than 2500 people before he died in Mexico in 1524 at the age of 39. He was buried in Santiago de Tlatelolco. His feast day is February 11.

St. Julian the Hospitaller (4th c.) came from a wealthy noble family in Europe. Little of his life is known with certainty. According to legend he married a noble widow, and was put under a curse at some point in his life. The curse was that he would one day kill his parents. To prevent this from happening, Julian and his wife moved far away from them. Julian's parents later found their whereabouts and made an unexpected visit while Julian was away. Julian's wife offered them her bed to sleep for the night. When Julian arrived home and found his bed occupied with a couple, he slew them both assuming it was his wife with another man. When Julian learned the truth, he was horrified by his actions and spent the rest of his life in penance. He and his wife went on a pilgrimage to Rome, and on their return established a hospital to continue their penance, dedicating their lives to caring for the poor and sick. One day a leper came to stay in the hospital; after Julian cared for his wounds, the leper revealed himself to be an angel and told Julian that God granted him absolution for his sins. The hospital was built near a river that was often crossed by pilgrims on their way to the Crusades. St. Julian the Hospitaller is the patron saint of hospitality, travelers, innkeepers, boatmen, pilgrims, and knights. His feast day is celebrated on February 12th.

St. Catherine del Ricci (1522-1590) was born with the name Alessandra in Florence, Italy, to a respectable merchant family. Her mother died while she was very young, so that from her childhood Alessandra took the Blessed Virgin Mary as her mother. She was given to prayer and religious fervor, and at the age of fourteen decided to enter a strict Third Order Dominican convent, taking Catherine as her religious name. She developed into a great mystic with an intense devotion to the Passion of Christ. For many years Catherine would go into ecstasy from noon every Thursday through 4 p.m. on Friday, experiencing in a mystical manner the sufferings of Christ during his Passion. She was also given the spiritual gift of the stigmata; Christ's wounds would appear on her body through the course of the ecstasy. After enduring much humiliation for years on account of these sufferings, she was eventually accepted as a holy woman and later became prioress. Her advice was widely sought on many spiritual and practical matters. Despite being cloistered, she kept up a loving correspondence with many relatives, friends, and her spiritual children. Among those in her correspondence were three future popes, Pope Marcellus II, Pope Clement VIII, and Pope Leo XI. Her feast day is February 13.

St. Valentine of Rome (c. 270) was a priest who lived in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Little is known of his life with certainty, except that he ministered to Christians who were persecuted and imprisoned for their faith, and died a martyr. One account has it that the emperor banned all marriages and engagements in Rome, believing this was the reason Roman men were unwilling to serve in the army. Valentine defied this unjust decree and continued to perform marriages for lovers in secret. He was arrested, and while in prison he restored sight to his jailer's blind daughter, causing the jailer and his entire extended household, forty-six people in total, to immediately convert to Christianity. Upon hearing this, Claudius ordered Valentine's execution. St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended, and signed it "From Your Valentine." He was beheaded on February 14th. St. Valentine is the patron of many causes including bee keepers, betrothed and engaged couples, lovers, love, happy marriages, and young people. His feast day is February 14th.



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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

“Ask Her...to unite with you in prayer for the salvation of 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.*

October 11, 1984 – “Dear children! Thank you for dedicating all your hard work to God ever now when He is testing you through the grapes you are picking. Be assured, dear children, that He loves you and, therefore, He tests you. You just always offer up all your burdens to God and do not be anxious. 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 17, 1981 – “Do not be afraid. I wish that you would be filled with joy and that the joy could be seen on your faces. I will protect Father Jozo.” (Father Jozo was the pastor in Medjugorje who was imprisoned.)

January 25, 2026 Message to Marija

“Dear children, today, I am calling you to be prayer and a blessing for all those who have not come to know God’s love. Little children, be different from others and be positive people of prayer and love towards God, that with your lives, you may be a sign of God’s love to others. I bless you with my motherly blessing and intercede for each of you before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (With ecclesiastical approval)

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

“Counsel involving right and wrong should never be sought from a man who does not say his prayers.”

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Faith Formation after Mass
Feb. 15, Mar. 1, Mar. 5,
Mar. 29

---Feb. 18 - Ash Wed. Masses
7 a.m. – St. Peter
9 a.m. – OLOM
6:30 p.m. – St. Peter

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

CHOICE – power of choosing;
option

Before man are life and death, good and evil,
Whichever he chooses shall be given him.
Sirach 15:17