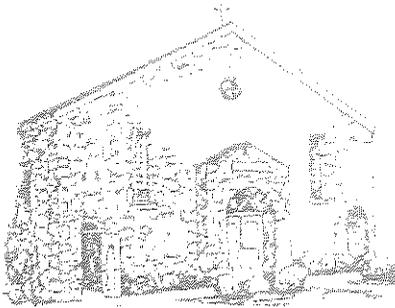


Catholic Communities
Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

**Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church**

**St. Peter
Catholic Church**

Sunday
February 22, 2026
1st Sunday of Lent



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@rtexpress.net

Tami Baker

Bookkeeper

OLOMBookkeeper@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 22, 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

2026 LENTEN STUDY

Begins today after Mass. Ascension Press's **Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother** narrated by Edward Sri will be the program.

HELPING HANDS FOR FAYETTE

Our Lady of Mercy parishioners are invited to join the Faith Formation students in collecting personal toiletry items for men, women, and children during the Lenten season this year. These items will be donated to Fayette Helping Hands. We will be collecting items until Easter, April 5. A tub will be placed in the back of the church across from the Reconciliation Room in which to place donations. Possible items are shampoo, bath soap, body wash, shaving cream, razors, combs, brushes, toothpaste, etc. We truly become the hands of Christ when we help those around us. Fayette Helping Hands is so appreciative and thanks you in advance for your donations.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Please keep this year's Confirmation candidates, Blake Kessler, Kasen Kunkle and Katie Maginn in your prayers during the upcoming weeks. Along with classwork, they have been working with their parents and sponsors throughout this Faith Formation year preparing for Confirmation on April 25, at Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. Next Sunday, March 1, they will be attending a Confirmation Retreat at St. Patrick in Bryan. On Sunday, March 22 they will be preparing and serving supper to families at Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. May our prayers and support go with them as they continue on their journey toward Confirmation.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation class March 1, March 15 and March 29 after Mass.

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.

WALK FOR LIFE

We are in need of a volunteer to take over the Walk for Life event that happens on Good Friday. Please contact the office if you are interested.

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

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

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Feb. 22	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	For the People Al Holland Gina Damman
Mon., Feb. 23	NO MASS		
Tues., Feb. 24	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Feb. 25	7:10 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Feb. 26	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., Feb. 27	9:00 a.m.	SP	Betty Zimmerman
Sat., Feb. 28	4:30 p.m.	SP	Gina Damman
Sun., Mar. 1	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Giovanni Stella For the People

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

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

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller

Issac Wiles (Marge Crowell's great grandson)
Victims of domestic violence
Pat Eisel's friend who had a stroke

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 – March 1, 2026

Greeters / Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Proclaimer	Pat Eisel
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Money Counters	Phil Baker/ Terry Kovar / Michelle Miron

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 15, 2026

Sunday Offertory (14 envelopes)	\$ 1,051.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 353.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 343.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance	\$ 400.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,804.00
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of February 22 – February 28

St. Margaret of Cortona (1247-1297) was born in Tuscany, Italy, the only child of a working-class family. She lost her mother at age seven, and had a poor relationship with her stepmother. Margaret was spoiled, willful, reckless, and beautiful, and at the age of seventeen she left her father's house in the night and became the mistress of a young nobleman. She lived with him in his family castle for nine years and bore him a son, but he did not marry her due to her lower social class. One day he did not return home from a journey, and his hound came back to the castle alone. The dog led Margaret into the nearby wood where she discovered her lover brutally murdered. This shook her to her core. Her eyes were opened to the sinfulness of her way of life, and she became deeply repentant. She left his family castle with her son and sought out the Franciscan friars for spiritual direction. She then reformed her life through intense prayer, penance, and self-discipline, eventually joining the Third Order of St. Francis, and living in strict poverty and great charity towards the poor. St. Margaret of Cortona is the patron saint of the homeless, reformed prostitutes, midwives, single laywomen, the mentally ill, and the falsely accused. Her feast day is February 22nd.

St. Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 69-155 A.D.) became a Christian in his youth, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. St. John ordained him Bishop of Smyrna (in modern day Turkey) and from this position Polycarp became one of the most illustrious of the Apostolic Fathers. His closeness with the Apostles, and the long life that he lived, enabled him to protect the Church against heresy. The account of his martyrdom is well-preserved and is one of the earliest in the Church. Knowing the government was seeking his life, he received a vision while praying that he would be burned alive. After his capture he was encouraged to submit to Caesar in order to be released, but he refused. He was then taken to a public arena to be killed. He gave an outstanding testimony, declaring that he had served Christ for 86 years. Witnesses of his execution saw the flames surround his body without burning it, and that Polycarp began to glow and emit a sweet aroma. This amazed the crowds, and his executioners were then ordered to stab him to death. St. Polycarp is the patron saint against dysentery and earache. His feast day is February 23rd.

Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, also known as Tommaso, (1831-1891) was born to a noble and pious family in Italy, the seventh of eight children. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by his uncle, a priest, who oversaw his education. He had a deep love for the faith, especially to the Passion of Christ and Our Lady of Sorrows. He became a priest at the age of 24 and opened a school in his own home. He later became an itinerant missionary throughout southern Italy. After traveling for a number of years he opened another school, this time to train priests on how to be good confessors. He also founded the Priestly Society of the Catholic Apostolate to support the missions, which gained papal approval. During his work with the poor he discerned a call to start a new religious order of sisters, the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, to minister to orphaned children. In addition to all of this, Fusco was also a parish priest, a confessor to a group of cloistered nuns, and a spiritual father to a lay group at the nearby Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He died of liver disease at the age of 59. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 2001. His feast day is February 24.

St. Walburga (710-777 A.D.) was born near Devonshire, England, the daughter of St. Richard the Pilgrim (a Saxon king) and the sister of Sts. Willibald and Winebald. When she was eleven her father and brothers went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, while her father placed her in a convent famous for its holiness. She was well educated according to her rank, became a nun, and lived there for twenty-six years. Her uncle, St. Boniface, then brought her to what is now Germany to help him evangelize that country and establish the Church there. In this missionary activity she joined her brothers who were also laboring for the faith in that country, one as an abbot, the other as a bishop. Because of her education she was able to document the travels of her brother in the Holy Land, and for this work she became the first female author of England and Germany. She was known as a miracle worker and healer both in her life and after her death. St. Walburga's relics have the miraculous property of exuding oil to which many cures have been ascribed through the centuries. St. Walburga is the patron saint of sailors, mariners, and farmers, and against hydrophobia, famine, coughs, rabies, plague, and storms. St. Walburga's feast day is February 25th.

St. Porphyry (Porphyrius) of Gaza (c. 347-420 A.D.) was born in Thessalonica in present-day Greece. Although a wealthy man, at the age of 25 he went to live in Egypt as a desert hermit. He later moved to Palestine near the Jordan River, then to Jerusalem itself. He did great penances and would often visit the holy places where Jesus lived and walked, despite his poor health. He then renounced all material goods and his inheritance and became a priest in Jerusalem at the age of 40. The relics of the True Cross in Jerusalem were entrusted to his care. Despite his protests he was ordained Bishop of Gaza, a pagan stronghold with an insignificant Christian community. Gaza's pagans were hostile, and St. Porphyry appealed to the emperor for protection and for the destruction of pagan temples, which he obtained. St. Porphyry built a Christian church on the site of the most important pagan temple dedicated to the chief god, so that he could say Mass in the place where the devil was previously most honored. St. Porphyry labored for his flock and won many converts through his miracles, though pagan opposition continued throughout his life. He was successful in spreading the Christian faith across his diocese. His feast day is February 26.

St. Gabriel Possenti (1838-1862), also known as St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, was one of thirteen children born to a well-to-do Italian family in Assisi. As a young man he enjoyed the society and the worldly life of a typical teenager. He was known as a fancy dresser and a good dancer, he possessed good horsemanship and marksmanship, he frequented parties, and twice was engaged to be married. After his graduation from school he shocked everyone by announcing that he was going to be a Passionist priest, having been inspired to his vocation by the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom his family had a great devotion. His life was then marked with prayer, sacrifice, and devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, taking the religious name Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother. He was stricken with tuberculosis about a year before he was to be ordained, and died at the age of 24. Many miracles were attributed to him after his death, including the healing of St. Gemma Galgani. St. Gabriel Possenti is the patron saint of Catholic youth, seminarians, clerics, students, and Catholic Action. His feast day is February 27th.

Pope Saint Hilary (5th c.) was Bishop of Rome from 461 to 468. Not much is known of his early life other than that he was from Sardinia. He rose to prominence in the Church when he became archdeacon under Pope St. Leo the Great, working closely with him as a trusted aid. St. Leo sent Hilary as one of the papal legates to the Council of Ephesus in 449. There St. Hilary fought bravely against the monophysite heresy, for which his life was threatened. He was forced into hiding and fled back to Rome for safety. He was so highly esteemed that after Pope Leo's death he was elected to the papacy. As pope, St. Hilary fought for the rights of the papacy in spiritual matters against the Roman Emperor, and increased organization and discipline between the bishops and the Holy See. He also did much work in building, remodeling, and decorating Roman churches and other public places. Pope St. Hilary's feast day is February 28.



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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to help you discover the peace that follows when you're able to completely surrender and accepts God's will."

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 25, 1984 – "Dear children! Pray during this month. God allows me every day to help you with graces to defend yourselves against evil. This is my month. I want to give it to you. You just pray and God will give you the graces you are seeking. I will help along with it. 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 24, 1981 – In Vicka's diary, August 25th, she writes: Yesterday, Monday the 24th at 10:45 a.m., Mirjana and I were at Ivan's house. We heard a commotion and we went out running. Outside, everybody was looking at the cross on Krizevac. At the spot of the cross, Mirjana, Jakov, Ivan and I saw the Blessed Virgin, and the people saw something like her statue, which then began to disappear, and the cross appeared again. Over the entire sky everyone saw, written in gold letters, the word "MIR" (which means peace in Croatia). Vicka's diary then reports the apparition on August 25th. A litter after Our Lady prayed for peace, a large inscription appeared on top of Krizevac. The word "MIR" was seen by the pastor and many persons from the village. The visionaries affirmed that the Blessed Virgin promised that there would still be many other signs as forerunners before the great sign in Medjugorje, and in other parts of the world.

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

"Say to yourself over and over again regardless of what happens: "God loves me!" And then add : "And I will try to love Him!""

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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

---Adult Lenten series Feb. 22,
Mar. 8 & Mar. 22 after Mass

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

MERCY – compassionate or kindly
forbearance shown toward an
offender, an enemy, or other
person in one's power; compassion,
pity, or benevolence

Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness;
in your abundant compassion blot out my offense.
Psalm 51:3