

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@rtceexpress.net

Doug Williams
Bookkeeper

Deb Herring
CRE

Sunday
April 5, 2026
Easter
Alleluia! He Is Risen



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.

Offering Envelopes

Please fill out a form on the back tables if you are not receiving offering envelopes.

Prayer Chain

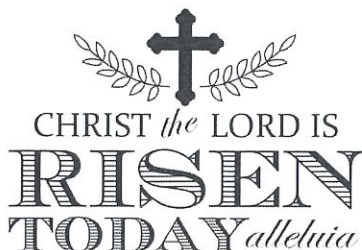
Anyone wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office.

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

April 5, 2026 – Easter



ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 7:55 A.M.
We will praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet right after the Rosary on Sunday, April 12.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 12

On one occasion, I heard these words: **My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary of St. Faustina, 699).**

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation will be April 12, 2026, after Mass.

APRIL CALENDAR

Pick up April's Our Lady of Mercy calendar on the back tables.

APRIL'S FAYETTE COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Lady of Mercy is providing the Fayette Community Meal on April 15. We need of poke cakes for desserts. If you are interested in supplying a cake, please see Sherry Renner.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

FAITH FORMATION CLOSING NIGHT

April 29, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Rosary, Mass & pizza (OLOM students are encouraged to attend)

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

Apr. 12 – Fayette Opera House – Gospel Concert 2:00 p.m.

Apr. 15 – Fayette Community Meal – Fayette Methodist Life Center – 5 p.m. – 6p.m. (Our Lady of Mercy is hosting this meal)

Apr. 25 – Down Home at the Opera House – 7:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., Apr. 5 Easter	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Giovanni Stella Frank Grime
Mon., Apr. 6		NO MASS	
Tues., Apr. 7	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., Apr. 8	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Apr. 9	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., Apr. 10	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., Apr. 11	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., Apr. 12	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Marcel Bonin Gina Damman

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

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

Shirley Taylor
Denise Miller

Linda Tilley
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 – April 12, 2026

Greeters / Gifts	Mary Bird / Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Mary Bird
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Phil & Tami Baker
Money Counters	Terry Kovar / Michelle Miron / Cindi Siegel

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for March 29, 2026

Sunday Offertory (12 envelopes)	\$ 571.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 304.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 872.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Maintenance	\$ 35.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 25.00
CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 71.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,006.00
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of April 5 – April 11

St. Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419) was born in Valentia, Spain, the son of a knight. From his parents he learned virtue and generosity to the poor. As a child he fasted every Wednesday and Friday and was tenderly devoted to the Passion of Christ and the Blessed Mother. He excelled in his studies and joined the Dominican Order with the support of his parents. He flourished in both austerity and scholarship, and became famous for performing more miracles than any other saint. His miracle-working powers began in the womb with the healing of a blind woman who touched his mother's pregnant belly. He began a preaching career across Europe that continued for twenty years. He was followed by a train of priests, nuns, penitents, and pilgrims that numbered in the thousands. When he arrived in a village his retinue would set up camp, and St. Vincent would preach to great crowds on the subjects of sin, death, heaven, and hell. He would also celebrate Mass and hear confessions daily. He slept on the floor and maintained a perpetual fast. Twice a day the "Bell of Miracles" was rung when all the sick and infirm were brought to him for cures; it was not unusual for him to perform one hundred miracles in a day. He also made scores of converts among the Muslims and Jews. St. Vincent believed that he was a special messenger of penance sent by God to prepare men for the final judgment; at that time the Black Death was ravaging across Europe killing millions, and the Great Schism was rending the Church in two. Through him multitudes were brought to penance and conversion. St. Vincent Ferrer's feast day is April 5th.

St. Juliana of Mont Cornillon, also known as Juliana of Liege (1193-1258) was born near Liege, Belgium. She was orphaned at the age of five and placed in the convent of Mt. Cornillon near Liege. She made rapid progress in virtue and grew in love for the Passion of Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Blessed Sacrament. At the age of thirteen she became a nun and devoted herself to caring for the sick in the convent hospital. She eventually became the superioress of her community. Taught in repeated visions that Our Lord wanted a liturgical feast in honor of the Holy Eucharist to be established, she worked diligently to have the feast of Corpus Christi instituted for the Universal Church, a task for which she endured much opposition. She was forced to flee her convent after its general superior excited the populace against her and her visions. She was later vindicated by the bishop and returned to her rightful place, only to be forced to flee a final time, ending her life in seclusion. The feast of Corpus Christi was finally instituted six years after her death by Pope Urban IV, who also commissioned Saint Thomas Aquinas to prepare the magnificent texts for the feast's Office and Mass. Her feast day is April 6.

St. John Baptist de la Salle (1651-1719) was born in Rheims, France, to a noble family. He was pious and smart, and his parents took great care over his moral and intellectual training. He entered seminary and was ordained at the age of twenty-seven. In St. John Baptist's era, only the noble and wealthy classes had access to a good education. His work among the poor led him to establish a home and school for rough and illiterate orphaned boys. The institution was successful and soon a second was established. St. John Baptist then dedicated his life to the cause of education, giving his wealth to the poor and resigning his respectable position as canon at Rheims. He recruited and trained men to teach in free schools he founded for the poor, which grew into a brotherhood of young men who were attracted to a life of service in teaching and catechesis. This became the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, or Christian Brothers. They took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but not Holy Orders. The Christian Brothers expanded, and in many parts of France parish priests sent young men to be trained by St. John Baptist to serve as schoolmasters in their villages. Although he was initially opposed in his innovative work, both inside and outside the Church, St. John Baptist's foundations and methods soon became the standard for education in France and spread internationally. St. John Baptist de la Salle is the patron of schoolteachers. His feast day is April 7th.

St. Julie Billiart (1751-1816) was born in Cuvilly, France, to a large and prosperous farming family. By the age of seven she knew her catechism by heart, and would gather her playmates together and teach it to them. Her spiritual progress was so remarkable that her parish priest allowed her to make an early first communion at the age of nine, at which time she took a vow of chastity. As a teenager she already had the reputation of being a living saint. When financial ruin struck her family she worked in the fields alongside the reapers. At the age of twenty-two she became paralyzed and remained a bed-ridden invalid for the next twenty-two years. However this did not prevent her from having an active life. She received Holy Communion daily, made altar laces and linens, catechized the village children from her bedside, and spent many hours in contemplative prayer. When the French Revolution erupted she gave aid to priests in her home, and soon after was smuggled to safety while hidden in a hay cart. She took refuge in the home of a countess, and due to her sanctity soon had a company of young, noble ladies gathered around her bed to whom she taught the ways of the interior life. From this St. Julie founded and led the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame dedicated to the Christian education of girls and the training of catechists. After making her vows in 1804, she was cured of her paralysis. For the next twelve years she made over a hundred journeys as she founded fifteen convents of her order. St. Julie Billiart's feast day is April 8th.

Bl. Katarzyna Celestyna (Catherine Celestine) Faron (1913-1944) was born in Zabrzez, Poland. At the age of five she was orphaned and raised by pious, childless relatives. Desiring the religious life, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in 1930. She served in the community as a kindergarten teacher and catechist. After the breakout of World War II she became the leader of her religious house, ran an orphanage, and helped the poor. She was eventually arrested by the Gestapo, charged with conspiracy against the Nazis, and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp on the feast of Epiphany in 1943, where she was assigned to manual labor digging ditches. She praised God in all her suffering and resigned herself to following His will. Due to the poor conditions she developed typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Because she completed the nine First Fridays devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she trusted that she wouldn't die without Holy Communion, as Our Lord promised. On December 8, 1943, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, she received Holy Communion as viaticum which was secretly brought to the camp by a prisoner priest. While on her deathbed she prayed intensely for various intentions on a rosary made of bread. According to witnesses she offered her sufferings for the conversion of a priest who had fallen away from the Church, who did eventually return to the true Faith. Bl. Katarzyn finally died from her illness on Easter morning. She is one of the 108 beatified Polish Catholic Martyrs killed during World War II by Nazi Germany. Her feast day is April 9th.

St. Bademus (d. 376 A.D.) was a wealthy and noble citizen of Bethlapeta in Persia. Desiring to give himself completely to God, he gave away his wealth and founded a monastery where he led a life of prayer and austerity. His sanctity was known to all, and he trained his monks to progress in devotion, virtue, and love of God. One day he and seven of his monks were abducted during the Christian persecution by King Sapor of Persia. He was chained in a dungeon for four months and whipped daily for his faith. He suffered his tortures for Christ and triumphed over them with patience and joy. One day a Christian prince named Nersan was also put into the dungeon, and, seeing the torments he would endure, apostatized from the faith in order to be released. To prove his conversion, the king ordered Nersan to slay St. Bademus on the spot. Bademus, after declaring his willingness to die for Christ, also warned Nersan of the account he would have to give to God for his actions. Nersan, timid and fearful, then killed Bademus with several awkward and misplaced blows. The pagans who were present admired the abbot's holy and resigned death, while abhorring the king's cruelty. St. Bademus' feast day is April 10th.

St. Gemma Galgani (1878-1903) was born in Italy, the fifth of eight children born to a prosperous pharmacist. When she was young, Gemma's mother and three of her siblings died of tuberculosis. When she was 18 her father died as well, leaving Gemma to help care for her younger siblings. She rejected two marriage proposals and became a housekeeper while trying to enter the religious life as a Passionist. She was rejected due to her poor health, and later became a Tertiary member of the order. Gemma developed spinal meningitis but was miraculously healed, which she attributed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Throughout her life she united herself with the Passion of Christ and experienced great suffering as a result, but not without receiving many remarkable graces as well. She experienced many mystical visions and was often visited by her guardian angel, Jesus, and the Virgin Mary. For this she was known as a great mystic, and, according to her spiritual director, developed the stigmata at age 21. After a selfless life of love given to God for the conversion of sinners, she died on the Vigil of Easter at the age of 25. She is the patron saint of pharmacists, loss of parents, back illnesses, temptations, and those seeking purity of heart. Her feast day is April 11th.



Easter Flowers

In Memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bird	Members of the Zink & Bird Families
Mr. Kenneth Bernath	Gerald & Bea Bernath
Mr. Ronald Bernath	Gerald & Bea Bernath
Mrs. Dorma Eberly	Robin Eberly, John Litteral Rettle family
Ms. Tammy Mudrack	Mynhier Simmons families Schultz / Nyari families
Mr. Ryan Eberly	The Eberly families – The Rettle Families
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Renner	Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Corey Clark	Frank Grime
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Miller	Keil family, Wagner family, Miller family, Morrison family
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Eisel	Rosemary Pontious, Eisel & Steinke families
Mrs. Joyce Bonin	Bonin & Disbrow families
Mr. Dan Lumbrezer	Bernard & Ruth Lumbrezer
Mrs. Marge Crowell	Jimmie Crowell, Rodney Moran Crowell family & Pigott family
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Baker	Butler and Menchhofer families Baker and Hertzfeld families

EASTER SYMBOLS EXPLAINED

(from catholiccourier.com)

If, like many Catholics, you cringe when you see Easter merchandise at the store as soon as Valentine's Day ends and Ash Wednesday is upon us, take heart.

Resist those ubiquitous chocolate eggs and their egg-shaped jelly bean counterparts. Keep your home free of chipper little bunnies during Lent. Then, when Easter arrives, take time to shower your home with the lavish symbols of the risen Christ and explain to your family the long, beautiful history behind those treasured traditions.

So let's start with all those eggs. Symbolically, eggs have a long history and it's easy to see why. To pagans, nothing more closely spoke of fertility and rebirth than an egg, that sterile and shelled little object that suddenly explodes into new life. It's easy to see why the church adopted eggs as symbols of returning life. And those cracked and no-longer-needed shells certainly resemble an empty tomb.

In the Roman rite, there's even a blessing for eggs at Easter, and by the 13th century people had begun coloring eggs. Why? Colors are important in our liturgy — more on that later — but in the beginning people dyed eggs bright red to symbolize Christ's blood. This was followed by an explosion of color, and by the 13th century, King Edward I of England was so into the custom that he prepared 450 magnificently dyed Easter eggs, some covered in gold leaf, for his royal court.

And how about those Easter lilies? Just peer into a lily and you can envision an empty tomb opening toward you. The white of the lily symbolizes purity, and there's a legend that the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed over his impending death, was full of lilies. Whether that's true is a question for a Middle Eastern horticulturist, but it is true that when lilies were first brought to the U.S., the fact that they were early spring bloomers made them ripe for Easter adornment.

Popes often ate lamb for Easter dinner, and many Christian households still follow this old custom. The lamb, of course, is the symbol of Christ himself — the lamb of God, the sacrificial offering.

Speaking of food, many Christian cultures prepare special breads and pastries for Easter. For example, Italian homes offer Colomba Pasquale, a dove-shaped Italian cake topped with almonds and sugar. Hot crossed buns, with the symbol of the cross frosted on top, are eaten in some countries on Good Friday.

Palms are an easy one. They've been a symbol of victory since before the time of King Solomon, and Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with a shower of palms before his Passion began. That's why they are used on Palm Sunday, and burned before the next Lent to be used as ashes on Ash Wednesday.

And those Easter bunnies? It's harder to place them in religious tradition, and no special ritual prayer exists for our cotton-tailed friends. However, again since pagan times, rabbits have been symbols of fertility, their reproductive prowess well-known throughout history. They, too, embody the rebirth that comes in the Easter season, and our culture has tasked them with delivering all those symbolic eggs that mark Easter Sunday.

The beautiful colors of Easter are echoed in the church's liturgical colors. Lent is full of purple and violet, of course, the colors of penance and sacrifice. But Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, surprises us with beautiful rose, the color of our joyful anticipation. Easter Sunday brings us pure white vestments, sometimes adorned with gold, the colors of celebration, victory, joy and rebirth.

Easter bonnets used to be prevalent, encouraged in part by the old tradition of head-coverings for women in church. Today, you still see a few. With or without a bonnet, come Easter morning, find something festive, colorful and special in your closet to add a traditional and personal "Alleluia" to the greatest liturgical celebration of our church year.

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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

“Ask Her...to help you recognize how easily you get lost in material and human things.”

MESSAGES FROM Medjugorje.org

March 18, 2026 – MESSAGE TO MARIJA

“Dear children, never forget how great is the love of God. Through that love I am with you. Do not forget how great is His mercy. Through that mercy I am showing you the way to true happiness and perfect peace. That is the way to my Son. Therefore, my children, with complete trust, abandon yourselves to my Son and do not be afraid. Do not be afraid of the future because it belongs entirely to the will of my Son. Therefore, my children, renounce everything that distances you from my Son: false happiness, false hope, false splendor. Trust my Son. Tell Him about your pains, sufferings, desires and hopes. You will feel His love and His blessing. Thank you!” (With ecclesiastical approval)

March 25, 2026 – MESSAGE TO MARIJA

"Dear children, The poison of selfishness and hatred rules human hearts and that is why you do not have peace. I am calling you, little children: be love and my extended hands to all those whom you meet. In humility, pray for peace and work on reconciliation among people, so that it may be good for every person on earth. Thank you for having responded to my call." (With ecclesiastical approval)

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

“We lose our souls not only by the evil we do but also by the good we leave undone.”

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Faith Formation after Mass
Apr. 12, & Apr. 26 (last class)

---Adult Lenten series Apr. 19
after Mass

---Confirmation – April 25,
2026 at Cathedral 10:00 a.m.

---Confirmands breakfast after
Mass April 26

---Catholic Heart Workcamp
breakfast May 3, 2026 after
Mass – come support St. Peters
youth group for their mission
trip

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

ALLELUIA – a song of praise to
God

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who
had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and
believed. **John 20:8**