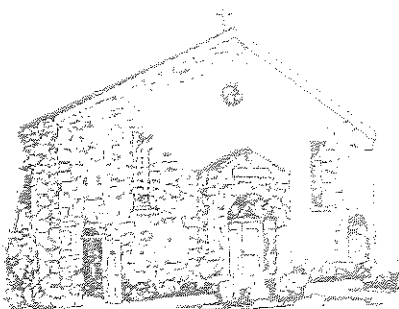


# Catholic Communities

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.

### 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](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

May 3, 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP BREAKFAST**

PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE & FRUIT – Oh My! Come enjoy breakfast prepared by St. Peter youth today after Mass. The proceeds from the breakfast will help offset some of the expenses for the youth participating in the Catholic Heart Work camp in Montague, Michigan, June 13 – 19.

**OUR LADY OF MERCY FEAST DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**

We will be meeting today during breakfast after Mass for all who would like to join the committee for the Feast Day Celebration. This is to set up the committee.

**MONTH OF MAY – MARY'S MONTH**

The Rosary will be prayed every Thursday in the month of May at 7:00 p.m. here at Our Lady of Mercy

**CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences go out the Tom Taylor family. Shirley Taylor went to be with our Lord on April 24, 2026.

**THANK YOU**



Thank you to Mary Bird, Barb Bruggeman and Ron Eisel for your dedication to the youth at Our Lady of Mercy for a successful year of Faith Formation. God Bless you all.

**GARDEN AND GROUNDS CLEAN UP**

We will be cleaning the garden and grounds on Saturday, May 16, 2026 starting at 9 a.m. 1 Corinthians 3:9 - For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

**ALTAR ROSARY**

There will be an Altar Rosary meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2026 after Mass in the basement.

**ST. PETER NEWS**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

*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**

May 2 – Aug. 29, 2026 Fayette Farmers Market – Opera House parking lot – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

May 20 – Fayette Community Meal – Fayette Methodist Life Center – 5 p.m. – 6p.m.

## ***THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE***

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Time</b></i>	<i><b>Church</b></i>	<i><b>Intention</b></i>
Sun., May 3	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	For the People Frank Grime Audrey Dominique Loman Radabaugh
Mon., May 4		NO MASS	
Tues., May 5	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., May 6	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., May 7	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., May 8	9:00 a.m.	SP	Betty Zimmerman
Sat., May 9	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., May 10	8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	OLOM SP	Marcel Bonin Dick & Susan Saaf Betty Britenriker

### **PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS**

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

Linda Tilley  
Denise Miller

Soul of Shirley Taylor  
Soul of Father Fred Duschl

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](mailto:olomprayer@olom2441.onmicorsoft.com) before noon on Tuesday.

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – MAY 10, 2026

<b>Greeters / Gifts</b>	Ron & Pat Eisel
<b>Proclaimer</b>	Pat Eisel
<b>Servers</b>	Myla Burkholder
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil & Tami Baker
<b>Money Counters</b>	Ron Baker / Eli Eberly / Terry Kovar

### SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for April 26, 2026

Sunday Offertory (13 envelopes)	\$ 651.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 341.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,747.00</u></b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 755.00)

### OTHER COLLECTIONS

Catholic Home Mission	\$ 5.00
CPC Jar & Votives	<u>\$ 26.00</u>
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,023.00</b>
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

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

Week of May 3 – May 9

**St. James the Lesser** (1st c.), also called St. James the Just, was one of the Twelve Apostles and the cousin of Jesus. Both James and his brother, St. Jude, began to follow Jesus in the second year of his ministry. St. James the Less was the first of the Twelve Apostles to whom the risen Christ appeared. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, James was given charge as bishop of the Church in Jerusalem, making him an important leader of the early Church. He was well-known for his prayer life and holiness. It is described that his knees and forehead were calloused due to long hours spent prostrate in prayer. His sanctity was such that he was respected by the Jews and considered by many to be a holy man. James the Less is the author of the New Testament epistle that bears his name. He was martyred by being thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem temple and then stoned and beaten to death as he prayed for his murderers. He died in the year 62 A.D. during the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero. St. James the Less is the patron saint of pharmacists and the dying. His feast day is May 3rd.

**St. Florian** (c. 250-304 A.D.) was a commander in the Roman army in what is now Austria. He served during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, who violently persecuted Christians. Among Florian's military duties was the organization of firefighting brigades. St. Florian was secretly a Christian and was known for miraculously saving a town from being destroyed by fire; after praying to God for help, he extinguished a raging fire with a single bucket of water. Word reached the Emperor that Florian was not enforcing the ban against Christianity in his territory. He was put under investigation and was discovered to be a Christian. In one account, it was for refusing to offer sacrifice to the gods; in another, for refusing to execute a group of Christians. He was then condemned to be tortured and executed for his Christian faith. Refusing to recant, St. Florian was then flayed alive, scourged, and martyred by being dumped in the river with a millstone attached to his body. His body was later recovered, and today his relics are venerated at a church named for him in Kraków, Poland. St. Florian is the patron saint of firefighters, chimney-sweeps, brewers, drowning victims, Austria, Poland, and against floods, fires, and battles. St. Florian's feast day is May 4th.

**St. Judith of Prussia** (13th c.), also known as St. Jutta, was born to a wealthy family in Thuringia in what is now Germany. She desired to model her life after another noble saint from her country, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who lived in the previous century. Judith was married at age fifteen to a man of equal rank, and together they raised a family. Despite their great wealth, Judith desired that they should live in a simple way and share their fortune generously with the poor. Her husband was at first displeased with her because he desired a lifestyle according to their means and rank. However, Judith persevered and eventually won him over to join her in a life of greater humility and piety. Her husband later died while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Judith to raise her children alone. Once her children were grown, she rid herself of her costly clothes, jewelry, and other possessions and joined the Third Order of St. Francis. She committed herself to serving the poor and the sick, for which she incurred mockery due to her noble rank in society. In the final years of her life she relocated to Prussia to live as a hermitess in a simple hut. There she spent her days in prayer and penance for the conversion of the pagan Prussians. After she died many miracles occurred at her grave, and she became the patron saint of Prussia. Her feast day is May 5th.

**Saint Francis-Xavier de Montmorency-Laval** (1623-1708) was one of eight children born to one of France's most illustrious families. He learned his piety from his mother, and like his namesake desired to become a priest and missionary. This dream was realized when he was appointed by Pope Alexander VII to be the first Apostolic Vicar of New France (Canada). His territory covered all of what is now Canada and the central section of what would become the United States, an enormous frontier which he undertook as a great spiritual work. He landed in Quebec in 1659 when the colonial population was just 500 people. He supported the missions, built a cathedral to the Immaculate Conception, taught devotion to Our Lady under this title, founded a seminary and an industrial school, and began the first Catholic school system in Canada. In all seasons he made long and perilous journeys by land and water to minister to his flock. When Quebec became a diocese he was consecrated as Canada's first bishop. He fought the sinister alcohol trade to the Indian tribes by having it outlawed within his territory and excommunicating those involved with it. He converted and baptized an Iroquois chief who then became a promoter of the Christian faith and won other converts among the local tribes. St. Francis de Laval was a man known for his great influence and holiness of life. His feast day is May 6th.

**St. Rose Venerini** (1656–1728) was born in Italy, one of four children of a pious physician and his admirable wife. Rose was a bright and gifted child. At the age of seven she made a vow to consecrate her life to God. However, she was later conflicted between her vow and living in the world. At the age of 20 she knew she must make a decision between marriage and the cloister, the only two options available to women of her day, both of which she esteemed. After much prayer and suffering she entered a monastery. Only a few months passed before she returned home upon the sudden death of her father. This was followed not long after by the deaths of her brother and mother. Still yearning to respond to God's call to the consecrated life, she began by gathering together the young women of her neighborhood to pray the rosary. She was struck by the cultural, moral, and spiritual poverty of the women, and their lack of basic Christian formation. This inspired her to begin a school for their instruction and human formation, which became Italy's first public school for girls. This was an innovation in her day, as teaching catechism belonged to the clergy. After facing initial resistance, the fruit of her work and the moral improvement of the women became evident to all. The Pope himself attended one of her classes and praised her work. Governors and cardinals asked her to open schools in their areas. Over the course of her life she opened 40 schools across Italy dedicated to the education and promotion of women for the uplifting and ennobling of society. "Educate to save" became her motto. Her feast day is May 7th.

**St. Victor Maurus** (d. 303 A.D.), also known as Victor the Moor and Victor of Milan, was born in Mauretania (North Africa) in a Christian household. He later relocated to Milan, Italy, as a soldier of the Praetorian Guard that served Roman Emperor Maximian during his persecution of Christians. Although Victor was a Christian since childhood, this fact was not widely known until he destroyed an altar to a pagan god. The Emperor, infuriated, had Victor imprisoned and starved for six days. The Emperor then gave him every chance to recant his faith, including offering him riches, but Victor refused each attempt. He was then tortured mercilessly, unless he would offer sacrifice to the gods, by being stretched on the rack and having molten lead poured over his body. Victor remained steadfast and boldly proclaimed his faith in Christ, declaring that the Roman gods were demons. Finally the saint was beheaded on May 8 in the year 303 A.D. The Emperor refused him burial so that wild beasts would consume his body. However, after six days the body was discovered untouched with two beasts guarding it at the head and foot. The local bishop then received permission to bury the body. A church was later erected over Victor's grave and many miracles occurred there. St. Victor's feast day is May 8th.

**Bl. Caroline Gerhardinger** (1797-1879), also known as Mother Maria Theresa of Jesus, was born into a working class family in Bavaria. Her giftedness as an educator was apparent early in her life, and she became a certified teacher at the age of 15. Although she was drawn to a quiet, contemplative life, her desire was to teach young girls to aspire to their full potential. For this she was greatly loved by her students. Responding to the needs of the time, and with the guidance of her bishop, she began a new religious order dedicated to education called the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame. This was during a period when all religious orders were closed by decree of the Bavarian government. She sent her Sisters in groups of twos and threes into the local villages to teach the poor young girls who would otherwise have no opportunity for education, a novelty in her day which grew into a new form of apostolic religious life. In this way she sought to remedy social ills through education, which she believed was just as necessary for a child as love, food, and shelter. When the Vatican negotiated the reopening of Bavaria's religious communities in 1828, the Sisters moved into a convent. Caroline took the religious name Mary Theresa of Jesus for her devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the time of her death her order had grown to 2,500 sisters. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985. Her feast day is May 9th.

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

*By Jane Tufant Harvey*

“Ask Her...to unite your human heart with her Immaculate Heart.”

**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.*

**April 25, 2026 Message to Marija**

“Dear children, I am praying for you and encourage you to a new life, a life in joy and prayer. May the Holy Spirit fill you, little children, with joy so that you may be like a spring of pure and drinkable water; that you, little children, may be in God and with God missionaries of love and peace. Your life is short here on earth and that is why I am with you to lead you towards Heaven. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (With ecclesiastical approval)

December 21, 1984 – “Dear children! Without prayer there is no peace. Therefor I say to you, dear children, pray at the foot of the cross for peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

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

“Believe the incredible and you can do the impossible.”

**DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**

My daughter, I assure you of a permanent income on which you will live. Your duty will be to trust completely in My goodness, and My duty will be to give you all you need. I am making Myself dependent upon your trust: if your trust is great, then My generosity will be without limit. (*Diary, 548*)

**WEEKLY ARTICLE FROM THE DIVINE MERCY WEBSITE**

[thedivinemercy.org/articles/great-son-mary-st-louis-de-montfort](http://thedivinemercy.org/articles/great-son-mary-st-louis-de-montfort)

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

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

---May 3, 2026 Our Lady of Mercy Festival organization of committee meeting during breakfast after Mass

---All Thursdays in May the Rosary will be prayed @ 7:00 p.m. here at Our Lady of Mercy

---May 14 Council meetings  
5:45 p.m. – Finance  
6:15 p.m. – Pastoral

---May 17 – Altar Rosary Society meeting after Mass

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

**CORNERSTONE** – a stone which lies at the corner of two walls, and serves to unite them

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

*“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

and

*“A stone that will make people stumble, and rock that will make them fall.”*

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. 1 Peter 2:7-8