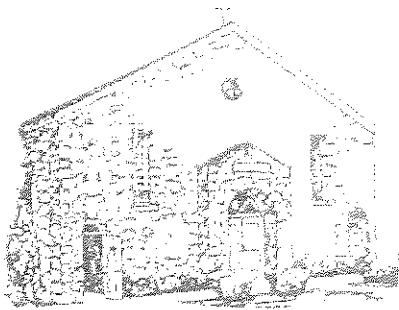


**Catholic Communities**  
**Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor**

**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@rtecexpress.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 24, 2026 – Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday

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

*Come Holy Spirit*



**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.

**OCIA – ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Has the Holy Spirit been nudging you to become Catholic? Please see the insert in the bulletin on the journey of becoming Catholic. Any questions please see Father Bill. (OCIA is formerly RCIA)

**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.

June 17 – 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 24	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Giovanni Stella Shirley Taylor
	10:30 a.m.	SP	For the People
Mon., May 25	NO MASS		
Tues., May 26	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed., May 27	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., May 28	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., May 29	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., May 30	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., May 31	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Frank Grime Mike & Joyce Dwyer
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Gina Dammon Audrey Dominique

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

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

Linda Tilley  
Denise Miller

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

**NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS – MAY 31, 2026**

<b>Greeters / Gifts</b>	Ron & Pat Eisel
<b>Proclaimer</b>	Pat Eisel
<b>Servers</b>	Myla Burkholder
<b>Ushers</b>	Ron & Pat Eisel
<b>Money Counters</b>	Phil Baker / Barb Kunkle / Michelle Miron

**SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT**

Reported for May 17, 2026

Sunday Offertory (19 envelopes)	\$ 5,846.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 182.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,747.00</u></b>
Over / (Under)	\$ 4,281.00

**OTHER COLLECTIONS**

Maintenance	\$ 20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 5.00
CPC Jar & Votives	\$ 29.00
Postage Help	\$ 13.00
Ascension	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 6,125.00</b>
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

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

Week of May 24 – May 30

**St. Simeon Stylites the Younger** (521-596 A.D.) was born in Antioch in ancient Syria (present-day Turkey). Like his namesake and predecessor, Simeon was drawn from a young age to a life of penance and austerity out of his great love for God. His mother was considered a saint. As a young boy he attached himself to a monastery of hermits. Their spiritual director, John, lived night and day at the top of a tall pillar, or “style”, within the monastery enclosure. The holy hermits who lived in this manner, separated from the world on top of a pillar, were called “stylites.” Simeon the Younger imitated John and lived on a smaller pillar erected near his larger one. Simeon continued to live in this way on three different pillars, each one higher than the next, from boyhood until his death. His final pillar was 12 meters high. During his life he was ordained a deacon and a priest. Disciples gathered around him and would climb a ladder to receive Holy Communion from his hands. He worked many miracles during the course of his life. Hearing of his great sanctity, people came from distant countries for his blessings, cures, prophesies, and spiritual advice. After his death his pillar remained a place of pilgrimage, the ruins of which still exist today. His feast day is May 24.

**St. Bede** (672–735 A.D.), also known as the Venerable Bede, was born to a wealthy family in England. At the age of seven he was sent to the Benedictine monastery to be educated by the monks. He discerned a vocation to the monastic life, and devoted himself to prayer and to the study of Sacred Scripture and Church history. After being ordained at the age of thirty, he went on to become a prolific writer and teacher. He was considered to be a genius and was widely famous for his theological works and knowledge of ecclesiastical history. He was also well-versed in all the natural sciences known in his day, making him an extraordinary scholar whose influence spread throughout Europe for centuries. During his life he was also considered to be a saint, and his writings were so filled with heavenly wisdom that a Church council ordered them to be read publicly in the churches. Bede was given the name Venerable not long after his death, and centuries later was named a Doctor of the Church. St. Bede’s feast day is celebrated on May 25th.

**St. Philip Neri** (1515–1595) was born in Florence, Italy, to the noble class. He was a dutiful child with a cheerful disposition, making him popular with all who knew him. At the age of 18 he was to begin an apprenticeship for a career in business. However, after having a mystical experience, his life was radically changed. He traveled to Rome and entrusted himself completely to God’s providence. He found living accommodations with a fellow Florentine in exchange for tutoring his sons, which Philip did with great skill. He then enrolled in philosophy and theology classes at a local monastery in order to become a priest. Although he excelled in his studies, he suddenly quit in order to spiritually serve the people of Rome. At that time, indifference, luxury, and corruption were widespread characteristics of the Roman clergy. Churches were neglected, flocks were abandoned, and the loss of faith was widespread. St. Philip Neri, with his commitment to a life of asceticism, was a contradiction to all of this malaise. With his characteristic good-naturedness, he led many to a life of virtue and love for God as he traveled through the streets of Rome. He began an oratory for laymen to gather together and practice greater spiritual discipline, which grew and became famous. In obedience to his spiritual director he finally became a priest at the age of 34. He also started a religious order known simply as “The Oratory.” St. Philip Neri is known as the “Apostle of Rome.” He is the patron of Rome and the U.S. Army Special Forces. His feast day is May 26.

**St. Augustine of Canterbury** (d. 604 A.D.), also known as St. Austin, was prior of a monastery in Rome before being called by Pope Gregory the Great to be a missionary to the British Isles. The Pope received word that the pagans of Britain would embrace the faith in great numbers if priests were sent to teach them, and previous missionaries had been unsuccessful in the holy endeavor. In order to realize the Holy Father's desire to evangelize the island, Augustine set out on a new quest at the head of forty monks in 596 A.D. When they arrived in France they heard stories of the ferocity of the Anglo-Saxons. Out of fear, Augustine returned to Rome and asked the Pope to release him from the mission. Pope Gregory encouraged Augustine in his task and sent him back. When the monks landed in Kent they were treated kindly. The King of Kent himself accepted baptism and set up a residence for St. Augustine in Canterbury. There Augustine established a church and monastery as the center of his apostolic mission. Although his labor among the pagans was slow and difficult, his work bore much fruit and England eventually became a Christian nation. Augustine was the first Archbishop of Canterbury, England, and is known as the "Apostle of England." His feast day is May 27th.

**St. Bernard of Montjoux** (c. 923–1008 A.D.), also known as St. Bernard of Menthon, was born to a wealthy and noble family in the Kingdom of Arles (present day France and Switzerland). As an adult he refused an honorable marriage and determined instead to give his life in service to the Church. He became a priest in northern Italy and spent more than four decades doing missionary work in the Alps. He built schools and churches, and is especially known for aiding travelers. The area where he ministered had an ancient, snowy, and dangerous pass winding through the mountains along which pilgrims traveled to and from Rome. To serve the pilgrims St. Bernard built a hospice at the highest point of the pass, 8,000 feet above sea level. Later he founded another hospice along another smaller pass. St. Bernard obtained papal approval for communities of priests to serve in the hospices, which have generously aided travelers for more than a millennium. The priests and their well-trained dogs (the St. Bernard breed named for the saint) would seek and rescue lost pilgrims. St. Bernard was declared the patron saint of skiers and mountain climbers by Pope Pius XI in 1923. His feast day is celebrated on May 28th.

**St. Bona** (1156 – 1207 A.D.) was born in Pisa, Italy. She experienced visions at a young age which led her into an ascetical life of penance and fasting. She dedicated herself to God at the early age of ten and became an Augustinian tertiary. At the age of fourteen she went on her first pilgrimage to Jerusalem where her father was fighting in the crusades. On her trip home she was captured and wounded by Muslim pirates and imprisoned, later being rescued by her fellow countrymen. She became fond of making pilgrimages and returned to the Holy Land many times. She also led a large pilgrimage group along the Way of St. James (Santiago de Compostela), a 1,000 mile journey. She had a great devotion to St. James, whom she had seen in a vision as a child. She was named an official guide of the ancient route by the Knights of St. James. St. Bona made the Way of St. James a total of nine times. On her tenth trip she had to return home due to illness, and died soon after. St. Bona of Pisa is the patron saint of travelers, couriers, tour guides, pilgrims, flight attendants, and the city of Pisa. Her feast day is May 29th.

**St. Joan of Arc** (1412-1431) was born in Domremy, France to peasant farmers during the Hundred Years War between France and England. She was a pious child, and from age 13 she received visions of saints, most notably St. Michael the Archangel, St. Margaret of Antioch, and St. Catherine of Alexandria, who became her special patrons. Through these visions, voices, and other interior promptings, Joan understood that she was to help the King of France regain his throne. After overcoming her own reluctance, and that of the military and ecclesiastical authorities, she heroically led the French army in battle. With her leadership they recaptured Orleans and Troyes, which allowed Charles VII to be restored to the throne of France. All the while she wore the dress of a soldier to protect her virtue and modesty. The following year she was captured by the English, imprisoned, and placed on trial under accusation of heresy and witchcraft. She was treated unjustly and illegally during her captivity, and her trial became a circus. Under political pressure she was condemned and burned alive at the stake, even though she proved herself to be blameless and fearless in character and faith. As she burned she kept her eyes on a crucifix and repeatedly called on the name of Jesus. A second Church trial twenty-five years later nullified the earlier verdict and found her innocent of all charges, paving the way for her veneration as a saint. St. Joan of Arc is the patron saint of captives, rape victims, soldiers, and France. Her feast day is May 30th.

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

*By Jane Tufant Harvey*

“Ask Her...to help you have faith that, although Satan is busy at work in this world, she is also busy praying for the protection over all that is holy.”

**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.*

January 10, 1987 – “Dear children! Today I want to thank you for all your sacrifices, but special thanks to those who have become dear to my heart and come here gladly are enough parishioners who are not listening to the messages, but because of those who are in a special way close to my heart, because of them I am giving messages for the parish. And I will go on giving them because I love you and I want you to spread my messages with your heart. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

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

“Unfortunately, many have become so enamored of the gifts the Great Giver of Life has dropped on the roadway of life that they build their cities around the gift, and forget the Giver.”

**DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**

October 2, 1936. The First Friday of the month. After Holy Communion, I suddenly saw the Lord Jesus, who spoke these words to me: **Now I know that it is not for the graces or gifts that you love me, but because My will is dearer to you than life. That is why I am uniting Myself with you so intimately as with no other creature..***(Diary, 707). \*The words of Jesus appear in boldface type.*

**WEEKLY ARTICLE/VIDEOS FROM THE DIVINE  
MERCY/DIVINE MERCY PLUS WEBSITE**

[divinemercuryplus.org/videos/pentecost](http://divinemercuryplus.org/videos/pentecost)

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

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

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

---June 21 – Happy Father’s Day, strawberry shortcake served after Mass in basement

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

**ADVOCATE** – one who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor

And when he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” **John 20:22**



The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the Catholic Church's structured process for adults to learn, prepare, and be fully initiated into the faith.

### **What is OCIA?**

OCIA, formerly known as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), is the normative process for adults and children of catechetical age to enter the Catholic Church. It emphasizes a holistic approach to faith formation, combining prayer, education, and living the Catholic faith as a way of life rather than just a ceremonial process. The program is designed to guide participants through spiritual, intellectual, and practical preparation for full initiation into the Church.

### **Stages of OCIA**

**Evangelization and Precatechumenate:** Inquirers explore the Catholic faith, engage in dialogue with a priest or parish director, and discern their interest in becoming Catholic.

**Catechumenate:** Participants, now called catechumens or candidates, receive structured instruction in Catholic teachings, participate in rites such as the Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Election, and deepen their spiritual formation.

**Purification and Enlightenment:** Typically during Lent, catechumens prepare for initiation through prayer, reflection, and learning, culminating in the Easter Vigil, where they receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**Mystagogy:** After initiation, new Catholics continue their formation, integrating fully into parish life and deepening their understanding of the faith until Pentecost.

If you are interested in starting the spiritual journey of becoming Catholic, contact Fr. Bill.