

Catholic Communities
Rev. William Pifher – Parish Pastor

**Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church**

**St. Peter
Catholic Church**

Sunday
August 16, 2026
20th 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.

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



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

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

August 16, 2026 – 20th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council's will meet on Thursday, August 20, 2026.

Finance 5:45 p.m.

Pastoral 6:15 p.m.

Adoration and rosary will be at 7:00 p.m.

HELP WANTED – FULTON COUNTY FAIR

Our Lady of Mercy is looking for volunteers to help promote the Catholic faith at the Fulton County Fair. Our times to share our faith are Tuesday, September 8, 2026, Noon – 2 p.m. and Thursday, September 10, 2026, Noon until 7 p.m. See bulletin board for the sign-up sheet. Any questions please see Sherry Renner.

OCIA SESSIONS

We are excited to announce that OCIA sessions will begin on August 23, 2026 after Mass and last approximately until 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in the Catholic faith or want to brush up on it, please plan on attending. If you have any questions please see Father Bill.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

There were a few vintage religious items that came into St. Vincent de Paul. They are on the back table in front of the cry room. Please take what you want. They all have been Blessed by Father Bill.

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO ANNIVERSARY MASS

Married couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60, or 60+ years of marriage in 2026 are encouraged to register for the Diocese of Toledo's annual Mass, Anniversaries of Marriage, Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., with Bishop Daniel E. Thomas. Registration details are available at toledoanniversarymass.org.

NEW DIRECTORY

St. Peter has graciously invited Our Lady of Mercy to join them in creating a new photo directory!! The last time we had a photo directory was in 2015. Appointment sign up's start August 15, 2026 after Mass in the cry room.

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.

August 19 – Fayette Community
Meal – Fayette Methodist Life
Center – 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Intention</i>
Sun., August 16	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Jeannette Tidwell
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Shirley Taylor Mike Salinas
Mon., August 17	NO MASS		
Tues., August 18	6:30 p.m.	SP	Betty Britenriker
Wed., August 19	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs., Aug. 20	9:00 a.m.	OLOM	For the People
Fri., August 21	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat., August 22	4:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun., August 23	8:30 a.m.	OLOM	Giovanni Stella
	10:30 a.m.	SP	Gina Dammon Shirley Schrock

PRAYERS FOR / FROM PARISHIONERS

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

The Soul of Father James E. Auth
Denise Miller

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 – August 23, 2026

Greeters / Gifts	Shelly Gruman / Marge Crowell
Proclaimer	Angie Beauregard
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Angie Beauregard / Terry Kovar
Money Counters	Terry Kovar / Michelle Miron / Cindi Siegel

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for August 9, 2026

Sunday Offertory (12 envelopes)	\$ 826.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 150.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 771.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Votives & CPC Jar	\$ 20.00
Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Postage Help	\$ 70.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 1,166.00
(Sunday Offertory, & Other)	

SAINTS OF THE DAY (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of August 16 – August 22

St. Roch, also known as St. Rocco (d. 1327), was born in Montpellier, France, the pious son of the city's governor. He was born with a red cross on his chest, a sign that the Virgin Mary answered his mother's prayer to heal her barrenness. His parents died when he was twenty, after which he gave his wealth to the poor and handed the government of the city over to his uncle. Free from earthly cares, he set off as a pilgrim for Italy. When he came upon a town badly struck by the plague, he sojourned there to help the sick. He cured many people by making the Sign of the Cross over them. These miracles occurred at every plague-infested area that he passed through on his way to Rome. When he reached Piacenza he himself contracted the disease in his leg, and awaited death in a remote forest hut. Providentially, a count's hunting dog found and befriended him, brought him food, and licked his wounds. A spring arose nearby, providing fresh water. The count, who followed his dog one day, discovered the saint and aided him in his recovery. Slowly St. Roch's health was restored, after which he returned to his native Montpellier. He refused to disclose his identity to the townspeople so that he could remain poor and unknown. This secrecy aroused suspicion that he might be a spy, and he was cast into prison by his own uncle, who did not recognize him. St. Roch died in prison five years later. His identity was then discovered by the red cross birthmark on his chest. At his funeral, many miracles attested to his sanctity, and a church was erected for his veneration. St. Roch is the patron saint of dogs, surgeons, invalids, bachelors, and against plague and pestilence. His feast day is August 16th.

St. Hyacinth (1185-1257) was born of noble lineage and reared in a Polish castle. His parents took great care of the development of his mind and soul, entrusting his education to his uncle, a priest who became the Bishop of Krakow. Hyacinth excelled in his studies and was sent to the best universities in Europe. After earning two doctorates, he visited Rome in 1220 and met St. Dominic, who had recently received papal approval for the founding of the Order of Preachers. Hyacinth became one of the first Dominican friars and was sent to establish the order in Poland. He was so effective in his preaching for the salvation of souls that he also preached in many other countries including Austria, Prussia, Lithuania, Bohemia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, and China. He founded many monasteries and churches, and multitudes were converted to the faith through his astounding miracles, even the extraordinary feat of raising a dead boy to life. One day he was saying Mass in Kiev when enemy Tartars invaded the city. After Mass he fled with the Blessed Sacrament, but he stopped when he heard a voice from a statue of the Virgin Mary asking that he take her with him. Although the statue was much too heavy to carry, he found that it became so light that he lifted it with ease. When he came to the Dnieper river with the Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Mother in his arms, he, along with his companions, walked dry-shod across the river as they fled from the Tartars. Worn out from his labors, he died on the Feast of the Assumption. St. Hyacinth is the patron of Lithuania, Krakow, and Poland. His feast day is August 17th.

St. Helen, also known as St. Helena (d. 327 A.D.), was a woman of humble means from Asia Minor. She married the future Roman Emperor Constantius Chlorus, and their son Constantine was born c. 272. Constantius divorced Helen in c. 293 to marry Emperor Maximian's daughter for the sake of political gain. When her son Constantine became the Roman Emperor, St. Helen was given the imperial title "Augusta" and was treated like royalty. After Constantine legalized Christianity across the Roman Empire, St. Helen, a Christian convert, went to the Holy Land in search of the actual cross on which Christ was crucified, despite being in her 80s. She questioned local Christians and Jews and learned that the cross was buried under the Temple of Venus. Helen had the temple demolished and excavated. There she discovered the Holy Sepulcher, three crosses, the board with Pilate's inscription, and the nails which pierced Jesus' Sacred Body. In order to determine which cross was the Lord's, the Bishop of Jerusalem touched them to a corpse, causing the man to come back to life. A second miraculous healing of a sick woman confirmed the discovery of the True Cross. Christians flocked to Jerusalem to venerate the Holy Cross. St. Helen then visited all the holy places of Jesus' life and built many churches over their locations, including Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane. St. Helen is the patron of divorced people, empresses, difficult marriages, converts, and archeologists. Her feast day is August 18th.

St. John Eudes (1601–1680) was born in Normandy, France, to a farming family. His devout parents consecrated him to the Blessed Virgin Mary when he was a child. At the age of fourteen he took a vow of chastity, and studied under the Jesuits where he earned the reputation of being a brilliant student. After his ordination to the priesthood he ministered to his countrymen who were suffering from an outbreak of the plague. He later became a missionary priest, traveling throughout France and preaching strong sermons to large crowds in churches, open fields, and in the courts of the royalty and nobility. The force of his sermons was bolstered by his great sanctity; he was considered to be a prodigy and the greatest preacher of his age. He was instrumental in spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary throughout France during a time when religious fervor had grown cold. He was responsible for influencing the Church to establish these two devotions with liturgical feasts, himself composing their Mass and Office. St. John Eudes founded several organizations including the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, which provided a new life for repentant prostitutes, and the Society of Jesus and Mary (the Eudist Fathers) specialized in improving the training of seminarians by promoting greater virtue and dedication to the preaching of parish missions. His feast day is August 19th.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) was one of seven children born to a noble family in Burgundy, France. All seven children, six sons and one daughter, were offered to the service of God by their devout mother. Before St. Bernard was born, a holy man foretold of his great sanctity. As a child Bernard was given an excellent education. He excelled at his studies, and also possessed a personal charm that attracted many people to him. He prayed about his vocation, and at the age of twenty-two left his worldly wealth to become a Cistercian monk. Four of his brothers joined him at the monastery in Cîteaux, along with many others belonging to the Burgundian nobility. He later founded and became abbot of the Abbey of Clairvaux, which rapidly grew to over 700 monks and 160 daughter-houses. Bernard, with his natural charisma, was also a skilled arbiter and counselor who proved to be instrumental in the support of the true pope of Rome against the schism of a rival anti-pope. Bernard's reputation for holiness and piety was widely known. He traveled throughout Europe as a preacher and became one of the most famous and influential men of his century. He was a man of reform, and was effective in opposing the appointment of unworthy men to episcopal offices, while others reformed themselves at his censure. St. Bernard composed many theological works and wrote tenderly on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is a Doctor of the Church, and the patron of beekeepers and candlemakers. His feast day is August 20th.

Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914) was born Giuseppe Melchiorre, one of ten children from an impoverished family living in Venetia, then under the political control of the Austrian Empire. His parents valued education and ensured that Giuseppe walked nearly four miles to school every day. Drawn to the priesthood, he received a scholarship to enter one of the best seminaries of his day, and was ordained in 1858. After the death of Pope Leo XIII, who made him cardinal, he was elected Supreme Pontiff in 1903. Saint Pius X was a man of virtue, sanctity, and zeal, and a great defender of the Catholic faith against heresy. He ranks as one of the greatest reforming popes in history. In his eleven-year pontificate he contributed to reforms in papal elections, seminary life, Eucharistic practice, liturgy, biblical studies, the Divine Office, catechesis, the organization of the Roman Curia, and canon law. He was also known as a pastoral pope for encouraging Catholic social action as well as the development of personal holiness, piety, and a daily lifestyle which reflected deep Christian values. He promoted the reading of Sacred Scripture by all the lay faithful, and harshly denounced the evil of Modernism as "the summation of all heresies." He also lowered the age of First Holy Communion to the age of reason. He was particularly devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Confidence. Pope St. Pius X is the patron of pilgrims and first communicants. His feast day is August 21st.

St. John Kemble (1599-1679) was born in England to a prominent Catholic family when Catholicism was outlawed in the country. He was ordained a priest in 1625 and ministered in England as an itinerant priest for fifty-three years. Although persecution of Catholics was rampant, in his particular region Catholics were generally not harassed. In the infamous "Popish Plot" of 1678, Protestant politicians began a violent crackdown on Catholics, particularly on priests. Although 80 years old at the time, Father John Kemble was arrested. He was warned in advance but declined to leave his flock, saying, "According to the course of nature, I have but a few years to live. It will be an advantage to suffer for my religion and, therefore, I will not abscond." Although he was found innocent of any involvement in the "Popish Plot," he was condemned for being a Catholic priest and sentenced to death by being hanged, drawn, and quartered on August 22, 1679. His last words, addressed to the crowd were: "The failure of the authorities in London to connect me to the plot makes it evident that I die only for profession of the Catholic religion, which was the religion that first made this Kingdom Christian." He was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970. St. John Kemble is one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. His feast day is August 22.

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

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to remind you that it's not just about "going" to Mass; it's about "living" the Mass."

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.*

March 7, 1985 - "Dear children! Today I call you to renew prayer in your families. Dear children, encourage the very young to prayer and the children to go to Holy Mass. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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

"A man may stand for the justice of God, but a woman stands for His Mercy."

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

(from Divine Mercy Daily)

I suddenly saw the Lord Jesus, radiant with unspeakable beauty, and He said to me with kindness, **My chosen one, I will give you even greater graces that you may be the witness of My infinite mercy throughout all eternity.** (*Diary, 400*). **The words of Jesus appear in boldface type.*

WEEKLY ARTICLE/VIDEOS (Diocese of Toledo)

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, discover the inspiring story of one of America's own martyrs. American Martyr: **The Stanley Rother Story** tells the true story of Blessed Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma farm boy who became a missionary priest in Guatemala and gave his life rather than abandon the people he served. The feature-length documentary will be in theaters for three days only: August 25-26 in English, narrated by Martin Sheen, and August 27 in Spanish, narrated by Fr. Rafael Capó. Please see the film at a participating theater near you.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---August 20 – Council meetings
Finance – 5:45 p.m.
Pastoral – 6:15 p.m.

---August 20 – Adoration &
Rosary – 7:00 p.m.

---Sept. 19 – Save the Date –
Our Lady of Mercy Feast Day
Celebration

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

SHIELD – anything used or
serving to protect

May God have pity on us and bless us,
May he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.
Psalm 67:2-3