

Church of Saint Edward the Confessor

785 Newark Road • Granville, Ohio 43023



Christmas Carol

This night is the long night, It will snow and it will drift, White snow there will be till day,
White moon there will be till morn, This night is the eve of the Great Nativity,
This night is born Mary Virgin's Son, This night is born Jesus, Son of the King of glory,
This night is born to us the root of our joy, This night gleamed the sun of the mountains high,
This night gleamed sea and shore together, This night was born Christ the King of greatness,
Ere it was heard that the Glory was come, Heard was the wave upon the strand,
Ere'twas heard that His foot had reached the earth, Heard was the song of the angels glorious,
This night is the long night, Glowed to Him wood and tree, Glowed to Him mount and sea,
Glowed to Him land and plain, When that His foot was come to earth.

Christmas 2016



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2 – Saints Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of Stevens
& Olsofka Families by Jean Stevens

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 a.m. Aura Canizares (RIP) by Dave & Rocio Moore

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 –

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of McCabe Family
by Monna McCabe

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 – Saint John Neumann, Bishop

9:00 a.m. Aura Canizares (RIP) by Gilma Ospina

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

9:00 a.m. Therese Caggiula (RIP)
by Suzanne & Jaron Shook

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

5:00 p.m. John Ronan (RIP) by N.C.H.S. Class of 1959

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of
St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Tom Martin (RIP) (Anniversary)
by the St. Vincent de Paul Board

Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.

LECTORS:

(From volunteer sign-up)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

(From volunteer sign-up)

ALTAR SERVERS:

(From volunteer sign-up)

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:

Gary & Chris Carter, Jenny Wells

GIFT BEARERS:

5:00 p.m. Clair & Julie Schell

8:15 a.m. Volunteer

10:45 a.m. Sharon Martin

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD JANUARY 1, 2017 – YEAR A

PRELUDE

TBD

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: Sing of Mary (#698)

GLORIA: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict
(text only on hymnal inside cover)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 67:

May God bless us in his mercy. (p. 54)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 55)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS:

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#109)

HOLY: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

MEM. ACC.: "We proclaim..."

from Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

AMEN: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

LAMB OF GOD: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

COMMUNION: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
(#91)

COMMUNION 2 (5:00): TBD

COMMUNION 2 (8:15 instrumental): O Sanctissima

COMMUNION 2 (10:45 Choir)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

(vs. 1 sung by Al Pyzik in Polish –
see "Notes from the Loft")

CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#93)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m. Beth Spieles

8:15 a.m. Karen Bovenizer

10:45 a.m. Randy Kerr

8:15 A.M. INSTRUMENTALISTS

Ty Zangmeister, trumpet

Björn Ludwig, violin

SUNDAY NURSERY

The Nursery/Playroom for young children is open during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. New volunteers are needed to keep this ministry going strong! For more information and to be added to the Sunday schedule, contact the new Coordinator, Lauren Alspach at 330-760-0756 or Lauren.Alspace@gmail.com.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Molly McDonough and Garrett Campbell who were married here at the church December 31st. May each day of their married life bring them closer to our loving God.

WELCOME!

You may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray you will find peace, hospitality and friendship with us.

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR....

I can think of no more fitting sentiments for the New Year than the following from Tennyson. Let us all "ring in the Christ."

In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells]

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Author: Lord Alfred Tennyson, date published 1850

ONLINE GIVING


Thank you for your generous support during 2016. One-time gifts to the Parish can be made through the Online Giving Program ~ see the link on our website. Please contact the office if you need assistance in setting up an account 740-587-3254. **Upcoming collection:** January 8th SVdP Conference.

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK**Sunday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary**

Normal Mass Schedule – 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Monday, January 2

No Eucharistic Adoration

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

Men's Group for Rediscovery – 7:30 p.m. – Lounge

Wednesday, January 4

PSR – See schedule

Men's Faith Sharing Group – 7:00 p.m. – Lounge

RCIA

There is no RCIA session this week as we finish our holiday break. RCIA resumes next Tuesday, January 10th **at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge**. Our topic is an introduction to the Sacraments, and anyone is invited to attend.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION – 2017

The PSR schedule of classes this week is:

This Wednesday, January 4

Grades 1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A... classes from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

15 minute break for dismissal and arrival

Grades 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B... classes from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, January 8

Grades 5, 6, 7, 8... Classes from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Grade Pre-K/K... 10:45 a.m. to the end of Mass

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

🎵 At the 10:45 Mass this weekend, the choir sings "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." This is a Polish carol, and Al Pyzik is singing the first verse in the original Polish. Here are the words and a literal translation: *W żłobie leży! Któż pobieży kołędować małemu Jezusowi Chrystusowi, dziś nam narodzonemu? Pastuszkowie przybywajcie jemu wdzięcznie przygrywajcie jako Panu naszemu.* [In a manger He lays! Who will go to sing carols to the little Jesus Christ, born this day for us? Shepherds come play gratefully for Him, for He is our Lord.]

~ Paul, 740-587-3254, music@saintedwards.org

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

The Sunday offertory collection for December 18th was \$16,233. The collection for December 25th was not available as of the bulletin deadline.

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Due to the New Year holiday, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on January 2nd.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION SUNDAY

Conference members will be at the doors of the church to receive your generous donations after all the Masses next weekend, January 7/8. Thank you for your financial support to help those in need in our area.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION MONTH 9 – BABY SHOWER**

To all who spiritually adopted a baby last March, thank you for your prayers. Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month. We are now planning a baby shower for your spiritually adopted baby. There will be a port-a-crib in the Gathering Space from January 7th through January 15th to accept your gifts. **Most needed items are: diapers sizes 3 to 6, wipes, baby wash and lotion, diaper cream, pacifiers, bottles, sippy cups, infant and toddler toys, crib sheets, receiving blankets, and clothes preemie to size 3 toddler.** These items, along with many more, are available to your newborn baby at Heartbeats. If you have other items you would like to bring, contact John Koenig at johnk@alink.com. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FIRST SUNDAY ROSARY

Come one and all! You are invited to pray the Rosary with your St. Edward community ~ before the 10:45 a.m. Mass! **Please join us today** at 10:20 a.m. in the Church. Rosaries and guides will be handed out in the Gathering Space. We look forward to praying together!

LATE SUNDAY MASS

There will be a late Sunday Mass on **January 1st, the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God** (New Year's Day) at 5:15 p.m. as part of the regular Sunday Mass schedule at Saint Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street, Columbus. For more information call the Cathedral at 614-224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.



CHRISTMAS SEASON ALTAR FLOWERS
In Memory of: Family by Mary Verdon

MINISTRY SCHEDULES MAILED

The Ministry Schedule for January 8th – March 26th has been mailed. If you misplace your hard copy, the schedule is available on the St. Edward website www.saintedwards.org. From the Home page, select Liturgy/Sacraments then Ministry Schedule.

ST. EDWARD BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible Study will resume on January 12th at 9:30 a.m. in classroom 8. We will be continuing the same study of Matthew. Books are still available. For more information, call Gayle Blubaugh at 740-739-6740 or email gablubaugh@columbus.rr.com.

**JOIN US FOR THE “MARCH FOR LIFE” IN D.C.!!**

Save the date, and make plans now!! Join our Knights of Columbus, and many of our parish families as we travel with Licking County Right to Life to Washington, DC, for the 2017 March for Life. We depart late evening on Thursday, January 26th, and return late on Friday, January 27th, so it's just one day out of school or work for this loving sacrifice and adventure. Cost is \$75.00 per person, but scholarships are readily available. Contact Paul Gassman at 740-334-8898 or Mike Maurer at 740-348-6377.

SCHEDULING MASSES FOR 2017

The parish office is taking Mass intention requests for March-December 2017. To best fulfill as many requests for weekend Mass intentions as possible, **we ask that parishioners limit the number of requests for weekend dates to three per year.** To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, the \$10.00 stipend must be offered at the time of request. For Mass requests, please fill out the green envelope in your envelope collection packet, use any envelope marked “Parish Office” and put it in the collection basket or use ONLINE Giving.

**2017 SANTA'S ATTIC COLLECTION**

The Women of St. Edward will be collecting gently used Christmas Decorations for the 8th Annual Santa's Attic Sale, to be held November 4, 2017. Donations will be accepted Saturday, January 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The 2016 sale was a HUGE success due in part to generous donations from our charitable community members. Again, we are asking you to *please*, bring us your unwanted, gently used decorations and *help us help others* by making our 2017 event bigger yet!

Our ministry is also searching for volunteers to help during the drop-off with sorting and packing all donations, and unloading trucks on Monday morning January 16th at Mid-Ohio Warehouse (Santa's Attic) 550 Wehrle Avenue in Newark. Unloading will begin at 9:30 on Monday morning. Come join the fun! Any questions please contact us saints.attic4st.eds@gmail.com.

"2017" The Edwardians! Of Church of St Edward the Confessor

Men and women – Fifty (50) and up age group of parishioners.

Monthly scheduled events from Jan 01, 2017 to July 31, 2017

January 10, 2017 Pizza, Salad, Sub = Fun Penny Bingo Night, St. Edwards Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m., \$ 7.00 per person. "BINGO!" Watch your copper investments grow! Bring your pennies as we play one penny a card bingo following dinner. Dinner will be pizza, salad, yard long sub sandwich and beverages for \$7.00 per person for a great evening of fun! 50/50 Raffle. **Reservations due and paid by Friday, January 6, 2017.**

February 16, 2017 (Thursday) Winter Fest Dinner, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 6:00 p.m., \$13.00 per person. A break in the middle of winter with a hearty festive dinner and entertainment (to be announced) following dinner. **Reservations due and paid by Monday, February 13, 2017.**

February 26 – March 4, 2017 Edwardian Motor Coach Trip to Savannah. Trip sold out.

March 14, 2017 Lenten Soup Supper, St. Edwards Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m. Edwardians night to furnish soups for the Soup Supper. Edwardian Nellie Pallagi is chairman of organizing the soups for the evening. Contact Nell (740-587-1060) with name of soup or Nell will contact you regarding what crock pot donation of soup you would like to bring. Twenty-plus crock pots needed. Soup Supper donations welcomed. Full details to follow.

April 11, 2017 Deluxe Motor Coach Trip to Chrism Mass, St Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus. Leave St Edward's at 10:30 a.m. Lunch to be decided upon in Columbus, some adventure in afternoon and attend Chrism Mass and return to Granville. Bus not handicap accessible. Itinerary and price at a later date.

May 9, 2017 Catered Buffet Dinner with program to be announced. Parish Hall.

June 18th and 19th, Two Day Motor Coach Trip to Marietta. Price to be determined. Leave St. Edward's at 8:30 a.m. We will have a docent tour of the newest Minor Basilica in the USA, Basilica of St. Mary's of the Assumption in Marietta. Attend noon Mass followed by lunch. Buffet Dinner and overnight at the Lafayette Hotel. Tuesday we will board the Valley Gem at 9 a.m. for a hot breakfast, lunch and a buffet dinner of fresh grilled salmon and steak while we cruise the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers going through three locks. Bus not handicap accessible. **Price and full details later date.**

July 11, 2017 Mystery Day Deluxe Motor Coach Trip – A day you will long remember. Lunch served. Hint # 1. As ole 53 year old "Frog" chomped on his cigar, gave his horse a tap and said to no one in particular, "I'm going to go and find me a pig." Hint #2. This 90 acre mystery destination has just what you would expect: sarsaparilla in the cooler, deer heads mounted on the wall, turkey feathers hanging on hooks and the occasional squirrel-skin cap nailed to a post. Bus not handicap accessible. **Price and full details later date.**

For details on any activity, email lindawoolard@windstream.net or phone 740-323-3105.

Note: You may pay for multiple events with one check.

For all events, make check payable to

THE EDWARDIANS

Mail to Linda Woolard, 481 Beacon Road, Newark OH 43055

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Gentle and Loving

Loving God,
 who is revealed through the simple birth
 of your Son Jesus,
 in the gentle and loving touch of Mary
 and the secure and protecting touch
 of Joseph,
 help us to know you this day.
 May our lives find a home with you,

and our families be secure under
 your protection.
 May the blessings of home, parents,
 family, and community
 be a spark of new life and profound love.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity
 of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Treasure and Ponder in Your Heart



Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21. Mary pondered the words of the shepherds in her heart. With Joseph, she understood the message the angel announced as one of God's love coming into the world. In every family, in every culture, the message of love in the birth of a child is a reflection of the greatest love of God joining our humanity as the infant Jesus. As St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Galatians, we are not just children of God—we are God's heirs.

The readings today are a blessing as we begin to understand the depth of the love of God at the birth of Mary's child. Mary shares Jesus' birth with more than Joseph and the shepherds and others who drop by. Mary becomes our mother, too, as she accepts giving birth in a stable on the edge of town, and as she welcomes the curious onlookers and the revelry of shepherds. As we reflect on our blessings, and treasure them in our hearts, may our celebrations in turn be a welcome to others to share in our joy.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

Sts. Basil and Gregory are two of the great doctors of the Church from the East. They worked toward unity of faith, particularly combatting heresies and articulating doctrine. The Letter from St. John stresses that we are to allow the Church's teachings to remain in us, and that we are to remain in the Son and the Father. How do you open yourself to do that? Let us pray today for unity of all Christians, East and West. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Tuesday, January 3

See What Love the Father Has Given Us

It is still the Christmas season. Your crèche and your tree are still set out. Gather around the crèche, and take time to reflect on today's First Reading from 1 John, especially 3:1. "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." Discuss this verse, along with John's emphasis that God is love. This might be your Christmas season Scripture verse to memorize and share. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Wednesday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

The founder of the first Catholic school in the United States, Elizabeth Ann Seton was persistent in her faith, and in her desire to ensure that her children receive a solid education that included tenets of Catholicism. She is a model for families to hand on their faith to their children, as well as for catechists and Catholic school teachers. In your prayer today, be reminded of her words that "prayer is a habit of lifting the heart to God." *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*

Thursday, January 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

John Neumann (1811–1860) was born in Bohemia but moved to the United States when he was ready for ordination, in 1836. He served the rural areas near Buffalo, New York, for four years, and then joined the Redemptorists in Pennsylvania. After he was named the bishop of Philadelphia in 1852, he served with the same tireless energy, building new churches and attracting Catholic immigrants to his parishes and schools, and providing them with his own catechisms. His ministries were directed to the poor, to children, and all works of mercy. *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.*

Friday, January 6

St. André Bessette, Religious

Canonized in 2010, Brother André Bessette (1845–1937) served the sick from the entire area of Montreal, Canada, where he was born and lived his entire life. Accepted, after some initial concern, into the Congregation of the Holy Cross, he lived out his years as a doorkeeper, welcoming everyone who came to his door. His devotion to St. Joseph was particularly evident in the healings done by his hand using oil from a lamp. He insisted that he did not heal, but that it was St. Joseph who was the healer. *Today's Readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Mark 1:7–11 or Luke 3:23–28 or 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38.*

Saturday, January 7

Whatever You Ask, God Hears

The First Reading today begins with a reminder that our prayers are heard: "He hears us in whatever we ask." However, prayer is not a demanding task, but one that reflects that we hear God as well. Mary reminds us in the Gospel to do whatever Jesus tells us. We must listen with ears of faith before we ask anything of God. Take a familiar prayer: pray it slowly, reflectively, and without distraction. *Today's Readings: 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6a, 9b; John 2:1–11.*



The Edwardians!

A Senior Ministry – Men and Women age 50 and up

Greetings:

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardener who make our souls blossom.

I am very grateful for every Edwardian who attended an event this year. A humble “thank you” is extended to you for making 2016 a wonderful year. Some of the highlights during the past year: The Forever Young Band played for the St. Valentine’s Dinner Dance; we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with dinner; there was a seven-day trip to Boston and New Haven, CT; St. Edward hosted the first Annual Bishop’s Senior Luncheon to be held outside of Franklin County, and we had one of the record high number in attendance at 270 from the 26 counties of the diocese; and all enjoyed a super Christmas Luncheon with Santa Claus. Every event was fantastic because of you, an Edwardian, who made it great by attending and participating! I thank everyone for all of your help during events and look forward to a wonderful year full of special events planned just for you!

As we welcome 2017, may you have a very happy, prosperous and healthy year and watch our souls blossom. Linda A. Woolard

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST INVITE

The Men’s Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfasts will meet on the following Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Day Y Noche, 134 E. Broadway, Granville on Saturday, January 7th and 14th. Join fellow men of the parish for fellowship, faith sharing and food. Hope to see you there as we continue our pilgrimage through this holy season and into the New Year 2017!!!

JOB OPENING

St. Vincent de Paul Housing Facilities is seeking an Executive Director for The Haven Men’s Shelter and the new Gardens on 6th Street, a Transitional Living Program. www.svdphaven.org Strong interpersonal skills, grant writing and fundraising skills

required. Additional information can be requested by emailing svh@svdphaven.org.

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**3 FAST WAYS TO FIND US:**

1. In Facebook type: Saint Edwards Catholic Church
2. In Facebook search us @SaintEdwardsChurch
3. While in a search engine, type: fb.me/SaintEdwardsChurch or m.me/SaintEdwardsChurch

**WELCOME SUNDAY**

Welcome Sunday is January 8th after both Masses. The Knights of Columbus will be providing the coffee and donuts. If your family or business would like to be a sponsor for Welcome Sunday, please contact Scott Scholten at 740-258-3287. All money collected in the jug on the donut tables is for our “Pennies For Heaven” campaign. Your generous donations go directly to support our Seminarians as well as to promote vocations. We thank you for your contributions!

This month, the **Teams of Our Lady ministry group** will host the Welcome Table. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, plan to visit. Members of **Teams of Our Lady** will also be available to welcome and register new parishioners.

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

There is a Stewardship binder available on the Welcome table at Donut Sunday for anyone wishing to sign up for new Ministries. Please stop by if you have new interests and/or want to begin serving our Parish Family in a new Ministry.

EQUAL EXCHANGE INTERFAITH COFFEE PROGRAM

The Women of St. Edward will have Fairly Traded coffee, hot chocolate and chocolate candy bars for sale in the Hall. As part of the Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Program, the sale of fairly traded coffee helps small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, and

Asia build a better economic future for their families and communities.

WHAT IS TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Teams of our Lady is a movement of “Married Spirituality” which brings together Christian couples united by the Sacrament of Marriage; and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament of Marriage. Stop by the Welcome Table to meet couples here at St. Edward involved in this ministry!

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the lost and found box in the Parish Hall for items we have found including: a Fitbit, gold-colored key, necklace, glasses, hats and gloves, children’s book & toys, jackets, and a hooded sweatshirt. Check the kitchen counter for items from food donations.

THE BLESSING OF HOMES

The custom of blessing homes on Epiphany (January 8th this year) developed because the feast commemorates the time that the three magi visited the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Traditionally, after the blessing, the initials of their names were written in chalk on the lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters and crosses will read as follows:

20+C+M+B+17

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: **Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**. They also abbreviate the Latin words "**Christus Mansionem Benedicat**," which means "**May Christ bless this home**." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of the blessing. The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal word in this holy season. With time, the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, the three magi presented their gifts to You in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to Your greater glory. We pray

"Our Father, Who art in Heaven..."

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect Your love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES

Fr. Stash Dailey, Administrator of Holy Family Parish, Columbus, invites you to join him on a Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes, June 19 – June 30, 2017, celebrating the **100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima**. The program will also include visits to Lisbon, Santarem and Nazare in Portugal and Gavarnie and St. Jean de Luz in France. For details contact Liz Grinder at the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 1-877-276-7279, email lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net or see the website www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com. Reservation deadline is March 15, 2017.

CLASSES FOR 2 YEAR OLDS WITH COMMUNICATION AND/OR SOCIALIZATION CHALLENGES

On January 3rd, classes will resume at St. Edward's Church for 2 year olds with communication and or socialization challenges. The classes are tentatively scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12 to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The children work in groups of 6 with two teachers and "play" to improve their communication and socialization skills.

TEACHERS NEEDED

A preschool for children of 2 years of age with challenges in communication and socialization, needs teachers for the 2016-2017 school year. The classes are 2 days a week, tentatively from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Preference will be given to applicants with an undergraduate degree in any area of child development.

FREE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR FOR THOSE WITH AUTISM

Participants should have 2nd grade (approximately) reading skills. They will work one-on-one with mentors in small groups on Mondays from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. **beginning January 9th**. Children will work on non-competitive physical activities including: stations, music, dancing, yoga, crafts, games, cooking, interviewing, drama, etc. Children are asked to bring a meal to eat with the other children. This program was created to improve social and communication skills, to allow for sensory issues and a child's need for routine, to develop executive skills, and to reduce anxiety with new situations, new activities and new people.

These programs are sponsored by the Language Experience Center, a nonprofit organization. Children of all races, colors, and national/ethnic origins are welcome. Classes are held at Saint Edward Catholic Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Please contact Barbara Lechner, Ph.D, at 740-587-7214 or talkdoc43023@msn.com to enroll or for more information.

2017 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S & MEN'S CONFERENCES

Save the date. Ohio Expo Center, Cardinal Hall. The 10th Annual Catholic Women's Conference, "Courageous Faith Contagious Joy," is February 18th from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Catholic Men's Conference "Calling Men Into the Breach," is February 25th from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH MATERIALS

The USCCB's Poverty Awareness Month (January) materials include an online and print calendar with daily ways to learn about poverty, get inspired by how communities are responding, and take action with others. You can also sign up for daily reflections. For these and other resources, go to www.povertyusa.org or contact Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

The Catechism Corner

Happy New Year. To begin the new calendar year, we begin reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1, in the Prologue, section I, entitled "**The Life of Man – To Know and Love God.**" Paragraph 1 reads in part: "God infinitely perfect and blessed in himself...created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength...." The staff of the Catechism Corner wishes you a blessed New Year 2017. May it truly be a year that you seek God, get to know Him better and love Him more. Happy New Year 2017.

ST. EDWARD CENSUS TOTALS DECEMBER 2016

An annual census report from the diocese includes the following statistics of our parish members by age group (total 3,586):

| Age | Total | Age | Total |
|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 0-5 | 198 | 25-34 | 360 |
| 6-13 | 427 | 35-44 | 456 |
| 14-17 | 272 | 45-54 | 506 |
| 18-20 | 199 | 55-64 | 477 |
| 21 | 71 | Over 64 | 430 |
| 22-24 | 153 | | |

The total number of registered families = 1,141.

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

Sometimes memories can keep us from experiencing the fullness of new life, even following the reception and graced forgiveness from the Sacrament of Penance. If you have experienced abortion in your life and the memory continues to haunt you, perhaps inviting Jesus often into that memory will open your spirit to the peace only He can give. Begin by praying "Jesus, I don't want to be chained any longer to the memories of my abortion. Please come and heal me." To share the graces of this journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry Confidential lines are 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit our website at bethesdahealing.org. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BethesdaHealing.

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Eric and Renee Guerin,
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STEWARDSHIP

The blessing included in the First Reading from the Book of Numbers is one with which most of us are familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing as it was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. It is important to note that it begins with "The Lord bless you."

All blessings come from God. One error we make is to conclude that blessings always mean happiness or security or prosperity. God knows what blessings we need, even if we do not. The key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship – knowing all blessings come from the Lord, and our need to be appreciative of them.

To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us ever in His care. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

During this continued Christmas season, it is well to remember and repeat the classic statement by the character Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' immortal *A Christmas Carol*: "God bless us, everyone," for certainly He does. www.catholicsteward.com.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE ~ JANUARY 1 PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Let us pray... O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need. Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required... "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

"If the soul is sick, one must begin by treating the soul. Do you have faith? Do you believe that God can do something for you? Go confess yourself to the priest...then go to communion..." ~SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE

Sunday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Meditation: In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name *Jesus* on the eighth day according to the Jewish custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name Jesus because that is the name given by God's messenger before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. This name signifies Jesus' identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means *the Lord saves*. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace, mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name *Jesus* signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation. Peter the Apostle exclaimed that there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved (Acts 2:12). In the name of Jesus demons flee, cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; His name is exalted far above every other name. The name *Jesus* is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through Jesus, with Jesus and in Jesus that we pray to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Mary was "full of grace" not only for being chosen to be God's mother but in her total openness to be filled with that love of God. We too are constantly "graced" and we too can be full of grace not because we were baptized into the Catholic community, but by our own total, active identification with the way of Jesus by our opening up to the call of God as it unfolds in the unique circumstances of our own lives. We do this through total and unconditional service of those around us. It is a formidable challenge at times, but it also brings countless joys. To be a true Christian – a true disciple and follower of Christ is demanding but not insurmountable; it is not for the hypocrite or faint of heart. To be a true Christian is to first go beyond mere lip service calling Jesus "Lord, Lord" but not living according to Christ's way – it is for those who truly believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord, Savior and Redeemer; those who see Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd who allow them to be lovingly led by Christ; those who want to be "doers of the Word and not hearers only" (James 1:22). Prove to Christ, to the world, and to yourself that you are Christian.

Monday, January 2 ~ Season of Christmas

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28 This is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those

who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Meditation: John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament Prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! John saw from a distance what the Messiah came to accomplish – our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father.

Prayer: O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by the example and teaching of the Bishops, Saints Basil and Gregory, grant, we pray, that in humility we may learn your truth and practice it faithfully in charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, Messiah and Savior of the world. The Catholic Church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: *Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word.* By your life, by your faith, do you point others to Christ by your witness and example as John the Baptist did?

Tuesday, January 3 ~ Season of Christmas

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-34 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Meditation: John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb who offered his life up for us on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Corinthians 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction. It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which delivers us from sin.

Prayer: O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Alphonsus Liguori once wrote: "God hath given Him a Name which is above all names. And He commands that this name should be adored by the Angels, by men, and by devils: That in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth. If, then, all creatures are to adore this great name, still more ought we sinners to adore it, since it was in our behalf that this name of Jesus; which signifies Savior, was given to Him; and for this end also He came down from Heaven, namely, to save sinners: 'For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, and was made Man.' We ought to adore Him, and at the same time to thank God Who has given Him this name for our good; it is this name that consoles us, defends us, and makes us burn with love."

Wednesday, January 4 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Holy Gospel: John 1:35-42 John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus

turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the *Messiah*," which is translated *Christ*. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called *Cephas*," which is translated *Peter*.

Meditation: Jesus invites each of us to "come and see" for ourselves that his word is true, life-giving and everlasting. "Come and see" is God's invitation for fellowship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. Saint Augustine tells us something very important about God and how he relates to us: "If you hadn't been called by God, what could you have done to turn back? Didn't the very One who called you when you were opposed to Him make it possible for you to turn back?" It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his grace, mercy, and help we could not find him.

Prayer: O God, who crowned with the gift of true faith Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's burning zeal to find you, grant by her intercession and example that we may always seek you with diligent love and find you in daily service with sincere faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When two of John's disciples began to seek out Jesus, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What are you looking for?" In other words, what were they looking for in Jesus, and what were they aiming to get out of life? Jesus asks each of us this very same question: "What's the goal of your life? What are you aiming for and trying to get out of life?" So, what is your response? Think about it, pray about it, then take up Jesus' invitation.

Thursday, January 5 ~ Season of Christmas **Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51 Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: The fig tree was a symbol of God's blessing and peace. It provided shade from the midday sun and a cool place to retreat and pray. It is very likely that Nathaniel had meditated "under the fig tree" on the Messianic prophecies and prayed for their fulfillment in his time. Perhaps he dozed off for a midday nap and dreamed of God's kingdom like Jacob did when he saw a vision of the ladder which united earth with heaven (ref. Genesis 28:12-17). Nathaniel accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord because Jesus spoke to the need of his innermost being – the desire to know God personally and to be united with him in his glory. Jesus' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that he himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven". God had opened a door for Jacob that brought him and his people into a new relationship with the living God. In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God.

Prayer: O God, who called the Bishop Saint John Neumann, renowned for his charity and pastoral service, to shepherd your people in America, grant by his intercession that, as we foster the Christian education of youth and are strengthened by the witness of brotherly love, we may constantly increase the family of your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Nathaniel was very skeptical. He didn't like Nazareth (as noted by his cynical quip) and didn't want to have anything to do with people who came from such a place. How could the Messiah come from a town at the crossroads with gentiles and people of other religions? Perhaps we are like Nathaniel at times. We reject others out of rivalry or prejudice, or we keep them at a distance because we find fault

with something about them – the schools they went to, the street they live on or neighborhood they grew up in, the kind of car they drive, or on a more global scale their manner of speech, the way they dress, their customs, or whatever we dislike about them and “their kind.” Rather than argue with his friend, Philip took the wiser strategy of inviting Nathaniel to “come and see” for himself who this Jesus claimed to be. Clever arguments rarely win people to the gospel, but a genuine encounter with the person of Jesus Christ can transform one's life forever. Remember the words of Saint Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

Friday, January 6 ~ Season of Christmas

Saint André Bessette, Religious

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:23-38 When Jesus began his ministry he was about thirty years of age. He was the son, as was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Meditation: Luke states that Jesus was thirty years old when he began his public ministry. Why did Jesus spend thirty years in obscurity in the village of Nazareth when his purpose for coming to earth was to save us the world from destruction? This is significant for at least a couple of reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was responsible and faithful in the mundane duties of family life. Before he embraced public duties, he showed his fidelity and concern for domestic duties. Tradition has it that Joseph died when Jesus was young. Jesus assumed the responsibility for caring for his mother. Jesus taught his disciples the precept that “he who is faithful in little, will be faithful in much” by his personal example. If we want to be fit to carry on the Lord's mission today, we must learn faithfulness in great matters by first being faithful in little matters at home, at work, at school, in everyday life circumstances.

Prayer: Lord our God, friend of the lowly, who gave your servant, Saint André Bessette, a great devotion to Saint Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted, help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots, and help us to understand our heritage – where and whom we come from. Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17) traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the chosen people. Luke's genealogy in today's gospel traces Jesus' lineage all the way back to Adam, father of the human race. In doing so Luke stresses the real humanity of Jesus. Jesus came not just to save the chosen people but all humankind as well. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. He is the Savior of the world. In him we receive adaption as sons and daughters of the living God.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
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