ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH GRANVILLE, OHIO

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
9:00 a.m. Special Intentions of Bob Pallagi by Bob Pallagi

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 –
Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Megan & Kyle Barrick by Scot & Adrienne Evans

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 –
Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs
9:00 a.m. Roger Shaw (RIP) (Anniversary) by Julie Weber

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 –
Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
9:00 a.m. Skip & Jeanne Russell (RIP) by Peter & Sharon Thomas

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
9:00 a.m. John C. Kinney (RIP) by Diane Kinney

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Chris White (Birthday) by Diane Kinney

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 –
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:15 a.m. John Ronan (RIP) by Bev & Jeff Wieber
10:45 a.m. Joe Heist (RIP) by Grandchildren
4:30 p.m. The Living and Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish
Mass at Swasey Chapel, Denison University

Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
5:00 p.m. Cliff Kirchner, Leann Kirchner, Mary Klark, Gary Kristensen, Jerod Long
8:15 a.m. Kathy Stukus, Phil Stukus, Mary Maltry, Sharon Martin, Lisa Sloan
10:45 a.m. Paul Gassman, Rebecca Gassman, P.J. Gassman, Noelle Gremling, Lynn Harden, Mark Harden, Frances Hiebel, Charlie Hohman, Kathy Kiebel

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 – YEAR A

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY RITES
ENTRANCE: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (#442)
GLORY TO GOD:
A New Mass for Congregations (hymnal insert)

LITURGY OF THE WORD
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 103:
The Lord is kind and merciful… (p. 203)
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 204)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
PREPARATION OF GIFTS:
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God (#648)
HOLY, MEM. ACC. B, AMEN:
Land of Rest Mass (hymnal insert)
LAMB OF GOD:
Holy Cross Mass (hymnal insert)
COMMUNION: Seed, Scattered and Sown (#353)
COMMUNION 2: TBD

CONCLUDING RITE
SENDING FORTH: Sent Forth by God’s Blessing (#385)

POSTLUDE

CANTORS:
5:00 p.m. Steve Schlicher
8:15 a.m. Karen Bovenizer
10:45 a.m. Michael Flanigan

LECTORS:
5:00 p.m. Kevin Skinner, Cathy Wine
8:15 a.m. James Matesich, Sarah Rundell
10:45 a.m. Jason Winterhalter, Sandy Wolfe

ALTAR SERVERS:
5:00 p.m. Nathaniel Hock, Daniel Pappas, Luke Pappas
8:15 a.m. Braden Householder, Andrew Harms, Bryan Harms
10:45 a.m. Eli Winterhalter, Ian Johnson, Evan King

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:
Phil & Kathy Stukus and Mickey Smith

GIFT BEARERS:
5:00 p.m. Diane Kinney
8:15 a.m. Diana Ronan
10:45 a.m. Heist Family Grandchildren

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. For more information and to be added to the Sunday schedule, contact the new Coordinator, Lauren Alspach, at 330-760-0756 or Lauren.Alspach@gmail.com.
1. It has been a very eventful week here at St. Edward:
   - *That Man Is You!* resumed last Saturday morning with about 25 participants.
   - *Walking With Purpose* saw about 90 women come for their first session.
   - The RCIA process began last Tuesday evening.
   - The Edwardians has a harvest meal here for about 90 parishioners on Tuesday.
   - The funeral rites for Gil Plute and Shirley Collmar were celebrated on Thursday and Friday mornings.
   - Ellie Horton and Todd Harrold were married on Saturday.

   May the good God be always a part of what we do here in His name, in both the joyful and somber occasions.

2. Next Tuesday morning, September 19th, will mark the Thirteenth Anniversary of the Dedication of our new church. See below a prayer “House of God” that was in the program for that event. May God grant His peace to those who were with us then and now are in the Kingdom. St. Edward the Confessor, pray for us.

### The House of God

O God, look how your prayerful people makes song ring out in your temple to honor the Church whose feast we gather to celebrate.

This house rises up and is rightly dedicated to you, here your people receive from the altar your consecrated body and drink of your holy blood.

Here, the holy waters wash away the sins of those who have erred and wipe away their punishment; the invincible tribe of Christians is begotten and anointed.

Here, the sick are made healthy, the week find strength and sight is given to the blind; here, O Christ, you free us from all guilt; every fear and sadness is cast away.

Here, the ferocious hold of the devil is broken, the stubborn beast is afraid as he releases those held captive and flees into the depths of the abyss.

This is the place truly known as the Court of the heavenly King, the shining gate of heaven that welcomes all those in search of life’s homeland.

Winds cannot shake it, nor assail it nor storms clouds penetrate; dark creatures lurking in the shadows are terrified of this house.

Therefore, we beg you say yes to our prayers with serenity; watch over your servants who celebrate the joys of your temple with love.

Let no storm disturb our life; may our days be glad and our nights serene; may none of us know the fires of hell when the world perishes.

On this day when you look upon the temple dedicated to you, bestow your joy on us forever.

---

# 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.

# OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The Sunday offertory collection for Sunday, September 3rd was $11,100.50, and for Sunday, September 10th, it was $8,297.25. The Online Giving total for the month of August was $22,058.09.

# WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Eleanor Horton & Todd Harrold, who were married here at the church September 16th. May each day of their married life bring them closer to our loving God. The altar flowers this weekend are from their wedding.

---

## EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday, September 17**
- PSR – See schedule.
- St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting – Noon – Classroom 7
- Choir – 9:30 a.m. – Loft
- Youth Kick Off Events – See article.

**Monday, September 18**
- Eucharistic Adoration – 9:30 a.m. until Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – Chapel
- *Walking With Purpose* – 7:00 p.m. – Hall

**Tuesday, September 19**
- Anniversary of New Church Dedication (2004)
- RCIA – 7:00 p.m. – Hall
- Men’s Group for Rediscovery – 7:30 p.m. – Lounge

**Wednesday, September 20**
- Rosary Makers – 9:30 a.m. – Lounge
- Respect Life Committee – 9:30 a.m. – Conference Room
- PSR – See schedule.
- Men’s Faith Sharing Group – 7:00 p.m. – Lounge

**Thursday, September 21**
- Scripture Study – 9:30 a.m. – Classroom 8
- Choir – 7:00 p.m. – Loft

**Saturday, September 23**
- *That Man Is You!* – 6:45 a.m. – Parish Hall
IN SYMPATHY
We pray for: Helen Barbour, mother of parishioner Deacon John Barbour; parishioner Shirley Collmar, mother of parishioner Kristine Brewer; and parishioner Gilbert Plute, husband of parishioner June Plute and father of parishioners David Plute and Richard Plute; and Tom McDonough, father of parishioner Joe McDonough. May they receive the eternal treasure of everlasting life.

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
On Facebook, search SaintEdwardsChurch.

RCIA
The next RCIA Inquiry Session is this Tuesday evening, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Our topic is Catholic Liturgy. Anyone in the parish is invited to attend. If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about Catholicism and the Church’s process for becoming Catholic, please encourage them to contact Mike Millisor in the Religious Education Office (587-4160 or reled@saintedwards.org) for more information.

LIFETEEN ST. ED’S YOUTH MINISTRY
Mission – “Leading youth closer to Christ.” Our Mission as a Youth Ministry team, is an on-going action of leading youth and their families into a closer relationship with Christ because we know that a life with Christ is a decision to be made each day as an intentional disciple. In all three ministries, TAG, EDGE and IGNITE, we strive to be relational with our students and promote peer ministry so that the youth can truly be the Church of today.

Vision – “Creating intentional disciples within the Church to be leaders of their peers and families that help shape their communities in the name of Christ.” Our St. Ed’s students are all leaders in their communities of peers, family, and extracurricular activities. We empower youth to lead in the name of Christ and to continue to shape the future by being active members of their Church for years to come.

LET’S GET STARTED FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF MINISTRY!

TAG and EDGE (3rd-7th Grade)

Fall Kickoff – September 17th – 3:00-6:00 p.m.
We will begin with games and food and have a brief faith message with time of Worship, followed by a short Color Run challenge and Dunk Tank.

1st Youth Ministry Sessions:
EDGE – October 8th – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., including the 10:45 a.m. Mass lead by the EDGE students.
TAG – October 11th – 5:15-6:30 p.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m. (depending on 1st or 2nd hour PSR)
October 22nd – All Youth and families invited to Lynd’s Fruit Farm Corn Maze – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

*Parents and Families are invited to attend the TAG Ministry Adoration, from 6:00-6:30 p.m., in the church every TAG Wednesday. You are also invited to attend the 10:45 a.m. Mass with your EDGE student every EDGE Sunday. We would love to see you there with your student supporting the TAG and EDGE ministries for your student*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
The Adult Faith Formation Committee needs new members! The Committee would love for you to join our ministry and help to inspire our parishioners and light a fire of faith. Do you know of engaging Catholic speakers or programs you know about or have experienced elsewhere? The committee offers a great opportunity to get involved here at St. Edward. For more information, contact Mike Millisor (740-587-4160 or reled@saintedwards.org).

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
2017-2018

This Week’s Schedule:

Today Sunday, September 17
Grades 5, 6, 7, 8... Opening Parent/Student/Teacher Assembly at 9:30 a.m., in the Parish Hall.
Classes begin after assembly and dismiss at 10:30 a.m.

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

This Wednesday, September 20

Grades 1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A... Classes from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
--- 15 minute break for dismissal and arrival ---

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

Registrations for the 2017-2018 PSR School are still being accepted. Go to www.saintedwards.org, click on the Faith Formation tab at the top of the screen, and then click on the PSR tab. Follow the instructions, and then you also have the option at the end of the registration to pay the registration fees by clicking on the Online Giving tab. If you already have an account established (e.g., parish contributions), you can also select PSR Registration Fees. If you don’t already have an account, it takes just minutes to establish one.

For further information, contact Mike Millisor or Sarah Sween in the Religious Education Office (740-587-4160 or reled@saintedwards.org or sarah@saintedwards.org). Calendars for the entire 2017-2018 school year are available on the website and on the bulletin board outside the PSR Office.
IGNITE (8th-12th grade)
Student Leadership Team
Retreat is September 16th-17th, ending with the Fall Kickoff!

Fall Kickoff – September 17th – 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
Inflatables, 9-Square, Lawn Games, Dunk Tank, Barbecue, ending with Worship in the church.

September 24th – No Ignite
October 1st – Guys and Girls Groups – 7:00-9:00 p.m., at St. Ed
October 8th – IGNITE – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
October 15th – IGNITE – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
October 22nd – Lynd’s Fruit Farm Corn Maze – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

This weekend, we switch to a different Mass setting (Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, Lamb of God). We will use this setting from now until the beginning of Advent.

The first verse of today’s Communion song corresponds with one of the two proper Communion antiphons for this Sunday’s Mass (pg. 205 of the hymnal, “The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ…”). We often sing hymns that correspond with antiphons because they are scriptural and appropriate for that particular Mass. When we sing them, we are united not only with the Church in all places around the world, but also with the Church throughout the centuries.

ONLINE GIVING

A Special Collection for Catholic Charities is available through Online Giving. This emergency collection for those affected by the recent hurricanes, will support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, as they reach out to provide humanitarian aid.

Also, support for extraordinary expenses incurred in Parish for repairs and maintenance costs can be made through Online Giving.

New to the Parish? Or would like to give Online Giving a try? Please use the link on the parish website at www.saintedwards.org, and select “Sign up for a New Account” to register. Please call the office if you have any questions or need assistance. Thank you.

SPECIAL COLLECTION ~ HURRICANE AID

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested, and Bishop Campbell has approved, a special collection from the Diocese of Columbus for those affected by the recent hurricanes. These funds will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and other Catholic agencies as they reach out to provide humanitarian aid. This collection will occur here at St. Edward this weekend. Please be generous.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON STARTS WHEN...

~ Santa Cleans out his Attic.
~ The Women of St. Edward gather volunteers.
~ Thousands of gently used Holiday Decorations are readied.
~ People from all over flock to St. Edward with Holiday Spirit.
~ $$$ collected funds the charitable works of WOSE.
~ Homes everywhere are filled with new decorations.
~ St. Edward spreads Holiday Cheer.
~ Don’t miss the Santa’s Attic Sale, Saturday, November 4th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Let the Season begin. Many elves needed. To volunteer, contact Selma Lesher at 740-927-3805 or email santas.attic4st.eds@gmail.com.

Come join us for a powerful, and life-transforming series, and be the man, husband, and father that God is calling you to be! Learn through this series what it means to be a man for Christ in our society. That Man Is You! is a weekly program that includes a short video lecture, with coffee and donuts, followed by small group discussion. Invite your friends, family, and co-workers to join us! TMIY! is based on Church teachings, wisdom of the saints, and top research of modern science, presented in an interactive format.

WHERE: St. Edward’s Parish Hall
WHEN: September 23rd
TIME: 6:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., Sharp. This is a great time for Catholic Men’s Fellowship.
For more information, please contact Tim Collins at 740-587-7667 or tmc8004@gmail.com.
A HIGH ADVENTURE CAMP THAT FOSTERS HIGH ADVENTURE FAITH

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is a six-day, five-night residential camp for Middle School and High School youth. Each summer, hundreds of lives are transformed as young people encounter the person of Jesus through the Church and the Sacraments. High Adventure activities typically include: jet skis, paintball, blobbing, archery, zip lining, rock climbing, ropes course, giant swing, mountain boarding and much more!

CYSC offers a truly Catholic and safe environment with daily catechesis that awakens faith and builds missionary disciples. Registration for the Summer 2018 opens October 1st, so mark your calendar to visit www.cysc.com and register!

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITION OF LOURDES

Join Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P., Spiritual Director, on a pilgrimage to Paris, Nevers, Lisieux, and Lourdes, February 5-13, 2018. (We are excited that Fr. Michael Gribble has joined the pilgrimage.) Pilgrims will visit the Miraculous Medal Shrine Notre Dame and other sites in Paris, as well as the convent where St. Bernadette lived in Nevers; where her incorrupt body rests. We will also visit Lisieux, and the places associated with the life of St. Therese, “The Little Flower,” before continuing to join in the celebrations for the Feast and the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions. Point of interest: We will visit the Carmelite Convent where St. Therese spent her life as a Carmelite nun. One of three saint relics in St. Edward altar – St. Therese “The Little Flower!”

Rate from New York/JFK: Based on minimum of 22 passengers – $2,959.00 per person sharing double room. Single Room Supplement: $350.00 p.p. A $400.00 deposit p.p. by November 9, 2017, and final payment due by December 15, 2017. Mail to: Catholic Travel Office, 5505 Granby Road, Rockville, MD 20855, or contact 877-276-7279 or Catholictraveloffice@comcast.com.

Linda Woolard extends an invitation to join her and other parishioners on this trip to Lourdes. Contact her for an all-inclusive pricing, full details and registration forms.

Details on any activity, email lindawoolard@windstream.net or phone 740-323-3105. Note: You may pay for multiple events in one check. FOR ALL EVENTS, make check payable to THE EDWARDIANS.

Mail to: Linda Woolard, 481 Beacon Road, Newark, OH 43055-5204.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE
OPENING YOUR HEART

“For I know the plan I have for you, says the Lord.
Plans for welfare, not evil, to give you a hope and a future.”

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Walking with Purpose is a women’s Catholic Bible Study held on Mondays, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall, from now through April 16th (a total of 22 sessions following the Granville School calendar). The program aims to bring women to a closer relationship with Christ. Personal study and small group discussions at WWP each week link our everyday challenges with the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

New registrations are welcomed. For more information, contact Anna Hofer at amariehofer@hotmail.com or 740-334-0170. You can go to www.walkingwithpurpose.com for more information about this Bible Study.
SEPTEMBER SVDP VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month, we recognize John Murphy. He has been with our Conference a relatively short time but he jumped in with both feet. He is a dispatcher, visitor and also volunteers at the Haven. John is ready at a moment’s notice to assist our neighbors when there is a time-sensitive need.

John takes the charge of sustainability programs very seriously. He joined the Newark Think Tank on Poverty. He has been instrumental in starting the SVDp Microloan program in Licking County. He volunteered to be on the three-member board with particular emphasis on the mentoring aspect of the program. He has also trained to be a facilitator for the Getting Ahead program. His passion is assisting prisoners with re-entry into society.

SVDP FOOD PANTRY SEPTEMBER NEWS

We had a very busy summer at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. The pantry served more than 100 families more than 100 families more this summer compared to last. Needless to say, we are in need of food. Donations of canned vegetables, fruit and soup would greatly be appreciated for the St. Edward collection on September 24th.

We are also in need of volunteer drivers to take families home during services times. The drivers work in pairs and are asked to volunteer for one service a month for two hours. The service times are Tuesday, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you are interested, please call Chuck Dilbone at 740-877-8738.

As a volunteer at the pantry, you get the opportunity to meet many interesting and wonderful people. A great example of this is one of our single mothers who has two older children. She is always very appreciative of our pantry and especially the volunteers. During an August service, this mother told one of our volunteers how very proud she was of her oldest daughter. She went on to tell the volunteer how her daughter was home packing for college as she had earned a full scholarship to Notre Dame! The volunteer was thrilled to hear this great news and rejoiced with the mother. This is just one example of the many positive interactions that take place at the pantry. We thank you for your continued support.

DIOCESAN CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MASS

St. Francis de Sales will be hosting a Diocesan Charismatic Catholic Renewal Mass on Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in Johnson Hall before the Mass, starting at 6:00 p.m.

GRIEFSHARE®

Are you grieving the death of a family member or friend? GriefShare is a 13-week video seminar series beginning Sunday, September 24th, at St. Edward Church, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Parish Lounge. This weekly series is for people who are suffering a deep hurt from the loss of a spouse, child, family member, or friend through death. GriefShare features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics. The seminar is designed to help you face these challenges and move forward. For additional information or registration, please visit the link at www.saintedwards.org, or contact Bill or Mary Hoekstra at 740-587-0164 or griefshare43023@gmail.com.

HELPING HANDS – A KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SERVICE OUTREACH

On Saturday, September 23rd, our Knights Council at St. Edward, will have a service outreach day for people in need within our Parish and local community. The goal is to provide labor and assistance for necessary home repairs and maintenance or minor home improvements to those in need. We are currently seeking volunteers to serve in this ministry, and also collecting applications for assistance. The number and priority of projects selected will be dependent on the urgency of the need, available volunteer manpower and timing. To sign up as a volunteer, or to submit an application for assistance, please call the Helping Hands Message Line at 740-527-0517 or email lickingcountyhelpinghands@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC MEN’S LUNCHEON CLUB EVENT

The next Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club will feature the annual address to the men’s luncheon club by the Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. Please join us for this inspiring talk on Friday, October 6th, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. This month’s luncheon is sponsored by St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820. Holy Mass begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch and Bishop Campbell’s talk until 1:15 p.m. No reservations necessary. Cost of $10.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!

For information on Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc, or contact George Harvey, CMLC President, at george.harvey@tvssohio.com.
SACRED HEART CONGRESS

In need of a mini retreat? Please join us for the 6th Annual Sacred Heart Congress, Saturday, October 14th, from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Christ the King Catholic Church located at 2777 East Livingston Avenue, Columbus. Registration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 7:00 a.m. The Congress begins with Fatima Rosary and Litany of the Sacred Heart. Confessions will be heard throughout the day.

Keynote Speakers this year are Sister Joseph Andrew, O.P., a foundress of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Father John Paul Mary, MFVA, EWTN, Director of Pilgrimages at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, AL, and Father Stash Dailey, Spiritual Director of Sacred Heart Columbus and Administrator of Holy Family Parish. The Mass Celebrant will be Father David Schalk, Pastor of Christ the King Church. There is no cost for the Congress. There will be a freewill offering.

We hope to see you for a morning packed with spiritual blessings! Visit www.sacredheartcolumbus.org to register or call Scott Williamson at 614-798-1792

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

God still heals today! Do we think that His miracles of healing were for another time in history? Every time our Bethesda program meets with the people who participate with varied situations and circumstances, we leave the evening knowing without a doubt that His mercy was in and with each of us. Each person who has had an abortion experience has a unique story. The gentle Shepherd provides a priest for Confession, and a companion who knows the pain and has new grace and peace. Please come. He is waiting for you.

Bethesda Healing Ministry Sessions occur 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential lines are 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157, or visit our website at bethesdahealing.org.

The theme throughout today’s readings from Holy Scripture has to do with forgiveness. We must always appreciate that forgiveness is a two way street. We need to seek forgiveness as all of us are likely to do. However, forgiveness is also something we need to grant to others.

Some scholars consider Matthew’s Chapter 18 from where our Gospel Reading comes today as perhaps among His most personal teachings to His disciples and others as spiritual leaders. There is no question that the Lord is in the process of preparing His followers for the time when they (we) must continue His Kingdom without His physical presence. He is trying to build up the sense of fellowship and cohesion among His flock.

Thus, He focuses on how to build up cooperation and unity in those who work to build His Kingdom. He makes it clear that for us to accomplish that, it requires forgiveness and reconciliation. The lesson for us is quite basic: we need to know and appreciate and understand the grace of Jesus and respond by learning how to forgive our sisters and brothers (all sisters and brothers in our Christian and Catholic fellowship).

Christ always forgives us if we come to Him with a humble and repentant heart, and He expects the same from us. We need to forgive others just as we are forgiven. As Jesus warns us in today’s Gospel: “So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother (and sister) from your heart.”

catholicsteward.com
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)

"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God’s heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart.” ~Saint Padre Pio

Monday, September 18 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:1-10 When Jesus had finished all his words to the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, “He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us.” And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come here, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.” When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Meditation: A Roman official boldly sought Jesus with a daring request. What made him confident was that Jesus would receive his request and act favorably towards him. Like a true soldier, he knew the power of command. And he saw in Jesus both the power and the mercy of God to heal and restore life. In the Roman world the position of centurion was very important. He was an officer in charge of a hundred soldiers. In a certain sense, he was the backbone of the Roman army, the cement which held the army together. Polybius, an ancient writer, describes what a centurion should be: “They must not be so much venturesome seekers after danger as men who can command, steady in action, and reliable; they ought not to be over-anxious to rush into the fight, but when hard pressed, they must be ready to hold their ground, and die at their posts.”

Prayer: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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: The centurion who approached Jesus was not only courageous, but faith-filled as well. He risked the ridicule of his cronies by seeking help from an itinerant preacher from Galilee, and well as mockery from the Jews. Nonetheless, he approached Jesus with confidence and humility. Augustine notes that the centurion regarded himself as unworthy to receive the Lord into his house: “Humility was the door through which the Lord entered to take full possession of one whom he already possessed.” Jesus commends him for his faith and immediately grants him his request. Are you willing to suffer ridicule in the practice of your faith? When you need help, do you approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?

Tuesday, September 19 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-17 Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.” This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.
Meditation: The scriptures make clear that God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (see Ezekiel 33:11); he desires life, not death. Jesus not only had heart-felt compassion for the widow who lost her only son, he also had extraordinary supernatural power – the ability to restore life and to make whole again. Jesus, however, as an observant Jew incurred grave risk by approaching the bier, since the Jews understood that contact with a dead body made oneself ritually impure. His physical touch, however, not only restored life but brought freedom and wholeness to soul as well as body. This miracle took place near the spot where the prophet Elisha raised another mother's son back to life again (see 2 Kings 4:18-37). Jesus claimed as his own one whom death had seized as its prey. By his word of power he restored life for a lad marked for death. Jesus is Lord not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus triumphed over the grave and he promises that because he lives (and will never die again), we also shall have abundant life with and in him both now and forever (John 14:19). Do you trust in the Lord Jesus to give you abundant life and everlasting hope in the face of life's trials, misfortunes, and moments of despair?

Prayer: O God, who grant us to venerate the memory of the Martyr Saint Januarius, give us, we pray, the joy of his company in blessed happiness for all eternity. 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: How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places the gospel records that Jesus was "moved to the depths of his heart" when he met with individuals and with groups of people. Our English word "compassion" doesn't fully convey the deeper meaning of the original Hebrew word which expresses heart-felt "sympathy" and personal identification with the suffering person's grief and physical condition. Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion when he met a widow and a crowded funeral procession on their way to the cemetery? Jesus not only grieved the untimely death of a young man, but he showed the depth of his concern for the woman who lost not only her husband, but here only child as well. When a member of the parish dies, how do you respond to the death of a member of the parish? What about the deceased's family members? Perhaps you may not know them well, but as a member of the parish community, should we not pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased, and extend heartfelt compassion and sympathy for the family? Of course we should. For this is an important aspect of community, of belonging to a parish, and what being a member of Christ body is all about.

Wednesday, September 20 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Andrew Kim, Priest and Martyr; Saint Paul Chong, Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:31-35 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.' For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine, and you said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Meditation: So, what do children's games have to do with the kingdom of God? The children in Jesus' parable react with disappointment because they cannot convince anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that when they play their music at weddings, no one dances or sings; and when they play at funerals, it is the same dead response. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 — there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is a proclamation of good news and of great joy for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse. Why did the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus meet with resistance and deaf ears? It was out of jealousy and spiritual blindness that the scribes and Pharisees attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and they attributed Jesus' table fellowship as evidence for messianic pretense. They succeeded in frustrating God's plan for their lives because they had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus.

Prayer: O God, who have been pleased to increase your adopted children in all the world, and who made the blood of the Martyrs Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon and his companions a most fruitful seed of Christians, grant that we may be defended by their help and profit always from their example. 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: Have you ever sat back and thought about those things that can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus' time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of God's kingdom. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice...
Thursday, September 21 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13 As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: Look at how Jesus’ simple two-word invitation of “follow me” changed Matthew’s life forever. Matthew would never be the same person again after his encounter with Jesus. So why did Jesus choose a tax collector rather than a religious-minded person, such as a scribe or Pharisee trained in the law of God? Jesus wanted disciples who were willing to receive his word and be taught by him. Matthew was both willing and eager to jump at the opportunity to follow Jesus and his band of disciples. So what made Matthew so willing to exchange his wealthy business for the uncertain future of working with a missionary preacher – a preacher who bluntly told his followers that they would have to give up the comfort and security of their own homes, lands, and possessions to serve him? The Gospels do not tell us what must have passed through Matthew’s mind when Jesus called him. Matthew very likely had heard Jesus on some occasion speaking to the crowds about God’s kingdom and the heavenly treasure that awaited those who chose to follow as Jesus’ disciples. When Jesus called Matthew his response was immediate and positive. There was no hint of hesitation or uncertainty. He didn’t tell Jesus that he needed some time to think it over. And he didn’t go home to discuss it with his family or friends, or consult an advice column, blog or Facebook posting. He just left his office and began to join Jesus’ company as one of his disciples.

Prayer: O God, who with untold mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm in following you. 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: Jesus’ defense for associating with outcasts and needy people was quite simple. He likened his ministry to that of a town physician who paid house visits to those who were sick, rather than those who were well. Jesus came to seek out those with the greatest need. Unfortunately, the orthodox of Jesus’ day were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed their care. Their religion was selfish because they didn’t want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners. Just as a true physician seeks healing of the whole person — body, mind, and spirit, Jesus, likewise, offers wholeness of life to all who need God’s mercy. Jesus not only heals, but he restores and transforms us and gives us new life in his Holy Spirit. Jesus’ two-word invitation “follow me” is extended to each and every one of us. What is your RSVP to this great invitation – the greatest invitation you will ever receive! One that has true rewards in this life, and for all eternity!

Friday, September 22 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:1-3 Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

Meditation: Are you ready to serve the Lord and to support the work of the gospel with your personal resources? During his three years of public ministry Jesus traveled widely. The gospel records that a band of women accompanied Jesus and the twelve apostles. This was a diverse group of women; some came from rich and prominent families; some had been prostitutes, and others had been afflicted with mental and physical infirmities. We know that Mary Magdalene had lived a very troubled life before Jesus freed her from seven demons. She was privileged to be the first to see Jesus as the risen Lord. As the wife of King Herod’s chief financial officer, Joanna was a wealthy lady of the court. It’s unlikely that these two would have ever met under other circumstances. What brought them together and united them in a bond of friendship, service, and loyalty to Jesus? Certainly Jesus and his message of the kingdom of God had transformed them. Unlike the apostles, who took great pride in being the chosen twelve, these women did...
not seek position or demand special privileges. Jesus had touched them so deeply that they were grateful to do anything for him, even menial service. They brought their gifts and resources to Jesus to use as he saw fit. Or are you more like the status-conscious apostles who were concerned for their position, or like the women who were content to serve Jesus quietly and generously with their personal resources? In our fallen state, our natural tendency is to want to be served and placed first and to avoid giving too much of ourselves to the service of others. And besides, who really prefers to take the lowly place of a servant who puts the needs of others before their own needs?

**Prayer:** Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you With all our heart. 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:** Our privilege as children of God and disciples of Jesus is to serve as Jesus served with humility, selfless love, generosity, joy, and a willingness to do whatever God asks of us. God, in his turn, gives us every good gift and grace we need to carry out our task and mission. God in his infinite power needs no one, but in his wisdom and love, he chooses to entrust his work through each one of us. His Holy Spirit equips us with all that we need to love and serve others. No one is unimportant or unnecessary in God’s economy. The least in his kingdom find a home and a mission at Jesus’ side. Do you know the joy of serving Jesus in company with others who love and serve him willingly?

**Saturday, September 23 ~ Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 8:4-15 When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable. “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.” After saying this, he called out, “Whosoever has ears to hear ought to hear.” Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, “Knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that they may look but not see, and hear but not understand. “This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart

**Meditation:** Jesus’ parable of the sower is about those who hear his word. There are different ways of accepting God’s word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to the things of God. Then there is the shallow hearer who fails to think things out or think them through; such a person lacks spiritual depth. They may initially respond with an emotional fervor; but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else. Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is forever too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God’s word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn.

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace, gave the Priest Saint Pio of Pietrelcina a share in the Cross of your Son and, by means of his ministry, renewed the wonders of your mercy, grant that through his intercession we may be united constantly to the sufferings of Christ, and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection. 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.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2017