

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 2018



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

9:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 –

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 –

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

9:00 a.m. Dr. Edward J. Starinchak (RIP) by Fran Starinchak

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 –

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Shaw Family
by Ken & Sandy McCullough

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28 –

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

5:00 p.m. John & James Ronan (RIP)
by Diana Ronan & Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 –

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

8:15 a.m. Dee Hartman (RIP) by Dave & Kim Chupka

10:45 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.

DECEMBER 29/30

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:00 p.m. Jack Wolf, Grace Wolf, Sarah Carpenter
8:15 a.m. Andy Sanchez, Luke Sanchez, Augustus Wilson
10:45 a.m. Eli Winterhalter, Sam Hannig, Adeline Hannig

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 p.m. Mary Klark, Gary Kristensen, Jerod Long,
John Martin, Monna McCabe-Ashcraft
8:15 a.m. Rita Baldwin, Jane Dugan, Norbert Schaefer,
Lori Corder, Rick Corder
10:45 a.m. Barb Doran, Margo Downing, Von Downing,
Emily Dunbar, Paul Gassman,
Rebecca Gassman, PJ Gassman,
Noelle Gremling, Jennifer Zarins

LECTORS:

5:00 p.m. Chuck Peterson, Kevin Skinner
8:15 a.m. Selma Leshner, Sarah Rundell
10:45 a.m. Jim Patin, Jason Winterhalter

GIFT BEARERS:

5:00 p.m. Diana Ronan
8:15 a.m. Dave & Kim Chupka
10:45 a.m. Volunteer

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:

Dorothy Oberfield, Robin Van Order

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 23, 2018 – YEAR C

PRELUDE

8:15 & 10:45: Rorate caeli (chant/organ)

Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Drop down, ye heavens from above; let the skies rain down
the Just One.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (#39)
No Gloria

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 80:

Lord, make us turn to you... (p. 42)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 42)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS:

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (#42)

SANCTUS: chanted (#932)

MEM. ACC.:

We proclaim your death, O Lord... (#10 on p. 16)

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#936)

COMMUNION: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#38)

COMMUNION 2: TBD

CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH:

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (#45)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Sandy Wolfe

8:15 a.m.: Kevin Skinner

10:45 a.m.: Kayla Drummond

SUNDAY NURSERY

The Nursery/Playroom for young children is open during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. New volunteers are needed. For more information and to be added to the Sunday schedule, contact our nursery coordinator, Shannon Hughes 740-404-9427 or dchsmh@gmail.com.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The regular Sunday collection amount for December 16th was not available for the early bulletin deadline.

ONLINE GIVING

The upcoming Diocesan Collection on December 25 is for Diocesan Charities. Also, please remember St. Edward in your year-end and Christmas giving ~ Thank you! If you don't have an account in the Online Giving Program with St. Edward Church, please create an account from the link on the Parish website. Click on the green  button. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

FLOCKNOTE

Do you Flocknote? **Please join our Flocknote community to receive updates and information about St. Edward.** Join our Flocknote messaging system from our parish website www.saintedwards.org.

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

Unfortunately, this bulletin had to be prepared by December 12th and may not be as timely as I wished. Please forgive this necessity. Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Already, the church is adorned for Christmas and all our preparations as individuals and a parish for the Feast are completed. On behalf of our staff, Deacon Barbour, and myself, I wish all of you the merriest of Christmases. I pray that the birth of Jesus may fill all your hearts, especially those spots where there could be sadness.

I thank you all for your tremendous generous response to the Giving Tree and especially to those who labored to make it a success.

All is in place now. May God give us all a happy Christmas! Please read below the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis on Christmas:

Christmas and the Imagination of Charity

Mary gave *birth*; she gave us Jesus, the *Light* of the world. A simple story that plunges us into the event that changes our history for ever. Everything, that night, became a source of hope...

The faith we proclaim tonight makes us see God present in all those situations where we think he is absent. He is present in the unwelcomed visitor, often unrecognizable, who walks through our cities and our neighborhoods, who travels on our buses and knocks on our doors.

This same faith impels us to make space for a new social imagination, and not to be afraid of experiencing new forms of relationship, in which none have to feel that there is not room for them on this earth. Christmas is a time for turning the power of fear into the power of charity, into power for a new imagination of charity...

In the Child of Bethlehem, God comes to meet us and make us active sharers in the life around us. He offers himself to us, so that we can take him into our arms, lift him and embrace him. So that in him we will not be afraid to take into our arms, raise up and embrace the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned...

In this Child, God invites us to be messengers of hope. He invites us to become sentinels for all those bowed down by the despair born of encountering so many closed doors. In this Child, God makes us agents of his hospitality.

Moved by the joy of the gift, little Child of Bethlehem, we ask that your crying may shake us from our indifference and open our eyes to those who are suffering. May your tenderness awaken our sensitivity and recognize our call to see you in all those who arrive in our cities, in our histories, in our lives. May your revolutionary tenderness persuade us to feel our call to be agents of the hope and tenderness of our people.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

The Christmas Mass music plans are:

- ♫ **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve** will have Children's Choir, organ/piano, flute, and violin. Organ prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.; Children's Choir sings at 4:40 p.m.
- ♫ **9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve** will have Adult Choir, Bell Choir, organ/piano, and violin. Prelude music begins at 8:30 p.m.
- ♫ **10:00 a.m. Christmas Day** will have cantor, organ/piano, trumpet, and violin. Prelude music begins at 9:40 a.m.

May the peace of Christ be with you in these blessed days. Come quickly, King of Kings!

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

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Food Pantry Collection

Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. – Loft

Children's Choir – 11:45 a.m. – Loft

Monday, December 24

No Eucharistic Adoration

See Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Mass – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 26

Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 27

Knights of Columbus – 7:00 p.m. – Hall

RCIA

There are no RCIA sessions during this holiday break. The next session is Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will begin a study of the Sacraments, and anyone is invited to attend.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION – 2018-2019

NO CLASSES – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Classes for Grades 5-8 and Pre-K/K resume

Sunday, January 6

Classes for Grades 1-4 resume Wednesday, January 9



CHRISTMAS ~ NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24 ~ 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 ~ 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Mass Schedule

Monday, December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1 ~ 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. **You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year at our Christmas Masses.**

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, December 24th and Monday, December 31st.



Dynamic Catholic
 "Find your Greatness"
 Church of the Resurrection
 Saturday, March 16, 2019
 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Ticket cost \$25.00

Please plan to attend this *inspiring* event focused on creating a vibrant spiritual life and reinvigorating the faithful

You, your family and friends are invited to join a *Dynamic Catholic* event entitled "Find your Greatness" where participants will learn how to strengthen the 4 signs of an engaged Catholic – *prayer, study, evangelization and generosity.*

Applying a game-changing strategy, Dynamic Catholic's Dr. Allen Hunt will create a personal plan to master and enrich these 4 life-giving spiritual habits transforming and inspiring participants to become highly engaged Catholics!

Purchase your tickets today for this transformative event: Register online at DynamicCatholic.com/NewAlbany or go to the parish website: <https://www.cotrna.org/> and click on the "Find your Greatness" icon. Tickets will also be on sale after the Sunday Masses at St. Edward this weekend in the Religious Education Office.

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 P.M. MASS

Parishioners are asked to allow plenty of time to arrive for our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. This is a very popular Mass and is attended by many families with young children. Please allow time for seating so that everyone can enjoy our Instrumentalists starting at 4:30 p.m. followed by our Children's Choir at 4:40 p.m.

We ask ALL parishioners and guests to allow our ushers to seat as many people as safely and quickly as possible. Saving seats is discouraged due to the large volume of guests here to enjoy our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Edward. Thank you for your cooperation!



JOIN US!! MARCH FOR LIFE – WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 18, 2019!!

Mark your calendar and make plans now. St. Edward's Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a charter bus, along with the Licking County Right to Life, for parishioners, friends and family. Departure late evening, Thursday, January 17th, and return late evening, Friday, January 18th. This is a busy but impactful day of adventure, mission and witness to our Nation's Capital. **Early bird pricing \$50.00 per seat, before December 31st. The regular price is \$70.00 per seat. Scholarships will be readily available. Contact Paul Gassman (740-334-8898) or Mike Maurer (740-348-6377) for more information.**

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

In the fullness of time, Christ came as our infant King. He invites each of us to come to Him for healing and hope, even from an abortion of long ago. He is waiting! Come and see! Group meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Call Bethesda Healing Ministry for support. You will not be alone in your journey. At Bethesda, we walk with you and pray with you. Please call us on confidential lines: 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit our website at www.bethesdahealing.org.

WORD ON FIRE ~ THE MASS

Starting in January 2019! Walk through the Liturgy of the Mass with Bishop Barron and you'll **be transformed** through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass **brings us out of the fallen world** and into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are **intimately joined** with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist.

The Mass will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively you can participate in **the source and summit of the Christian life. Join us on Sunday January 6th, 2019 from 9:20-10:30 a.m. in the Lounge; the presentation will be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday January 9th.**

CLOSER TO HOME... STEWARDSHIP AT ST. EDWARD

An invitation to you to be involved in **St. Vincent de Paul**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thrift Store – Volunteers are needed for pricing, cash register and stocking. The more we can do with volunteers, the more money we have for our ministries. Call Barb Scholten at 740-258-3230.

Monthly Conference Collection – Volunteers to be at the entrances of the church to take donations after Mass. This is once a month. Call Mary Murphy at 740-258-3538.

Home visitors – New volunteers are needed to accompany experienced visitors on home calls. Call Kathi Jackson at 740-920-4348.

Dispatchers – The volunteer would commit anywhere from 4 hours a month to several times a week to pulling messages off the client Help Line answering machine. The dispatcher would then forward the message to the appropriate Church to arrange the visit. This is done from the comfort of your own home so it is perfect for mothers of young children. Call Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871.

Food Pantry – Drivers needed to take the visitors home with their food. There are two volunteers in each car. The pantry is open on Tuesday evenings 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. The pantry could also use "shopping assistants," intake personnel and stockers. Call Chuck Dilbone at 740-877-8738.

Micro Loan Mentors – We have teams of two that mentor loan recipients for the duration of their loan. The idea is to start with monthly meetings to help our neighbors learn budgeting tips. Call John Murphy at 740-927-4867.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:



THINKING OF RETIRING?



263 Deo Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055
www.safemoneyplaces.net

740-366-1110/Toll Free 1-866-366-1110

Brian Van Winkle
 Parishioner

Christmas Flowers

In Memory of:

Dr. Donald B. Adams, by June Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. John Holmes; Mr. John W. Holmes and
 Mrs. William Sayre by Helen Anderson
 Rudy Schwab by Vince & Anne Arnold
 Michael & Helen Terlecki; and Helen Barbour
 by Dcn. John & Cindy Barbour
 Robert Becher by the Becher Family
 Rev. Mr. Paul Belhorn by Pat Belhorn
 Louis F. Behrman and Arthur Bledsoe
 by Art & Peggy Bledsoe
 Albert L. & Blanche Dantzer by Keifer & Cheryl Boggess
 The Mullen, Levak and Carlson Families
 by Lorraine Carlson
 Norma Carpenter; Vilma Rempillo; Jonjie Rempillo;
 Eden Tibor and Dominga Tibor
 by Kendall & Jeanette Carpenter
 Kathleen M. Goodwin by Don & Kris Charlton & Family
 Judy Feid by Andrew & Cheryl Crawford
 John & Clara Welsch by Dave & Kathy Conway
 Art Curatti by Jean Curatti
 Josephine Dager by Joe & Tatla Dager
 Bill Doran; Daniel Wheeler; and Jean Wheeler
 by William & Mary Doran
 Living & Deceased Members of the Downing and
 Brielmaier Families by Von & Margo Downing
 Oswald & Irene Duque by Rosalie Duque
 Randy Dusenberry and Riley Grace Dusenberry
 by Deb Dusenberry
 John & Mary Rosa; Robert Rosa; Deborah Rosa;
 Leslie Manley; and Vivian Clapp by Vernon & Mary Ellis
 The Enke, Ryan and Murphy Families
 by Msgr. Paul P. Enke
 Mark Evans, Robert & Virginia Evans and
 John & Davidine O'Neill by Dan & Peggy Evans
 The Families of Charles & Marie Flautt and
 Leonard & Ann Ott by Marty & Carol Flautt
 James & Mary Fondriest by Joe & Jean Fondriest
 Living & Deceased Members of the Wagner and
 Fox Families by Leo & Suzanne Fox
 Dr. Stanley Phillips and Deceased Members of the
 Gaul and Behan Families by David & Patty Gaul
 Jack & Judy Feid by John & Janet Gordon
 Ivan Hall by Ruby Hall
 Matthew Thomas Hess; the Wade and Hess Families
 by Tom & Ruth Ann Hess
 Mr. & Mrs. Herb Saunders by Timothy & Cynthia Hughes
 The Jauch and Myers Families by John & Marilyn Jauch
 Members of the Leshner & Mastenbrook Families
 by Robert & Selma Leshner
 Members of the Lieberth and Doerger Families
 by John & Bernadette Lieberth
 Rudy Lopo by Ursula Lopo
 Pat & George Simon by Stephanie Luellen

Living & Deceased Members of the Kiser &
 McMillan Families by Vicki & Seth Kiser
 Manolo P. Mapa, M.D. by Marissa H. Mapa
 Thomas L. Martin by Sharon Martin
 George & Louise Matesich; Rod & Fay Callander; Members
 of the John C. Matesich, Sr. Family; and Members of the
 John Kobunski Family by Jim & Amy Matesich
 Matthew Joseph Mazur by Alfred & Pamela Mazur
 Earl, Coleen & Johnny McCullough; Gailard, Rita,
 Roger & David Shaw; and Sue Border
 by Ken & Sandy McCullough
 Elizabeth Marie McDonald by Craig & Dianne McDonald
 Barbara Pritchard by the Mialky Family
 Adeline & Carl Congemi by Petrina Moran
 Mary & John Devlin; Col. John K. McGowan
 by Dr. Richard & Rita O'Brien
 Richard Oberfield by Dorothy Oberfield
 Vincent & Mary Meyer and Al & Dorothy Plageman
 by Thomas & Sharon Plageman
 Karen, Denise and Brad Petticrew
 by Jon Petticrew & Family
 Prusaczyk and Boguski Families by Joe & Ginny Prusaczyk
 Living & Deceased Members of the Reding & Klein Families
 by Helen Reding
 Jan Adam and Danuta Adam by David & Joel Roberts
 Maxine Kinney by Meghan Scott
 Jim Shea & Brenda Shea Butt by Jan Shea
 The Skufca and Stofcik Families and Dr. Ed Starinchak
 by Tony & Dottie Skufca
 Joe Olsafka and Gene Stevens by Jean Stevens
 Herb Veach by Maurya Veach
 The Kihm, McCarthy and Verdon Families by Mary Verdon
 Richard Wells by Bonnie Wells

In Honor of:

Friends at St. Edward by Helen Anderson
 Our Grandchildren: Iris, Lucas, Emma, Steffan, Fin, Lydia,
 Dylan, Jillian, Ryder and Daisy by Mark & Lynn Harden
 Jane Hinterschied (Birthday) and Ella Bennington
 by Gregg & Barb Hinterschied

Donations from:

Dave & Kim Chupka
 Charlie & Jo Ann Clarke
 Wayde & Susan Gutridge
 James Ott
 Al & Iris Pyzik
 Michael Sanna
 Ray & Cindy Stankunas



Lectio Divina

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"Let us then draw near to the Child God with great faith. We may wish to have been at Bethlehem to receive Him. Yet He is here giving Himself to us in Holy Communion with as much reality although our senses are less able to find Him. In the Tabernacle as in the Crib, it is the same God full of power, the same Savior full of tender mercy."

~BLESSED COLUMBA MARMION

Monday, December 24

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:67-69 Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Meditation: Like Zechariah, the Holy Spirit wants to give us vision, joy, and confidence in the knowledge of God's merciful love, protection, and care which he offers us through his Son Jesus Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to prepare the way that leads to Christ. Life is a journey and we are either moving towards the Lord or away from the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us each day with his life-giving Word and Spirit. Those who hunger for the Lord will not be disappointed. He will draw them to himself and show them his love and mercy.

Prayer: Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever Amen.

Contemplation: John the Baptist was born shortly before Mary delivered her son, Jesus. When John was circumcised on the eighth day according to the Jewish rite, his father Zechariah was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and with great joy. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he spoke out a prophetic word and hymn of blessing for the work of redemption which God was about to accomplish in Christ. He foresaw the fulfillment of God's promise to David and his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messianic King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish peace and security for his people. We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may each of us renew our relationship with Christ who was sent by God, out of love for us, to redeem us. If we, through our actions, have broken our relationship with God, now is the time to restore it. Begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, then the joy of celebrating the birth of He who leads us on our earthly journey along the one path to eternal life – the path of Christ.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day ~ The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region

living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Meditation: Following is an excerpt of a sermon from Pope St. Leo the Great: "Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind. And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men? Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ."

Prayer: Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us, a savior is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now Your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. Open our hearts to receive His life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: On Christmas Day it remains only for us to find in the Gospel, as we find in all the words of the Holy Gospels, the answer as to what we should do in response to the gift that has been given to us, the song that has fallen on our ears from angelic voices. And the answer is there; the birth of this mystery - of love triumphant in the face of evil - is Christ as He came to life from the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, and Christ, as we come to life in Him, through the Sacrament we share. Let us pray that our Christmas will be filled with the song of this life, and that our love will conquer all things contrary to Christ, so that we may follow the Son sent by God to redeem us, and do so with love and fidelity to the truths of Christ.

From a Sermon by Saint Augustine: Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man. You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come. Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate this festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time. He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord. Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God. Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom

we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord. For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will. For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity. Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord.

Wednesday, December 26 ~ Second Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22 Jesus said to his disciples: "Beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."

Meditation: "You will be hated by all on account of my name," Jesus says in today's gospel. A strange fate indeed for those whose lives are built on truth, love and peace. And yet it is a fate only too sadly confirmed down these many centuries to this very day. Jesus had said that all those who wished to follow him would have to take up their cross and go after him. The servant is no greater than his master. "Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am" (John 12:25-26). Stephen clearly is a perfect model of such a Christian disciple.

Prayer: Grant, Lord, we pray, that we may imitate what we worship, and so learn to love even our enemies, for we celebrate the heavenly birthday of a man who knew how to pray even for his persecutors. 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: There are some today who say "religion divides." When we hear this, today's gospel should come to mind, because so routinely turn their back on God and on his Son, Jesus Christ. By their actions, they are the ones who actually cause division – not those who live their lives in faith of God or his Son Jesus Christ – because by their actions and their lifestyles they freely choose to not follow the laws of God and the teachings of Christ; in doing so they separate themselves from the way, the truth, and the life of Christ. The beauty of this situation, though, is that God always welcomes back those who have sinned, those who have strayed. God sent his Son into this world to teach us right from wrong, to shepherd and guide us, and to lead us on the path to eternal life. With a contrite heart through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can confess our sins, receive absolution, and get back in Christ's fold. What a great thing to do in the Christmas Season – and any time of the year, for that matter!

Thursday, December 27 ~ Third Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

Holy Gospel: John 20:1a, 2-8 On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

Meditation: Today's Gospel describes the scene where Peter and the "beloved disciple" rush to the tomb of Jesus after being told by Mary Magdalene that the body is no longer there. Although the "beloved disciple" got there first, he deferred to Peter who went in first and saw the burial cloths. One of them – the piece that was wrapped around the face – was rolled up in a separate place. When the "beloved disciple" went in, "he saw and he believed" – in other words, he understood the significance of the cloth and he knew that his Lord had risen.

Prayer: O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. 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 in his first epistle testifies: What we have seen, heard, and touched we proclaim as the word of life which existed "from the beginning" (1 John 1:1-4). John bears witness to what has existed from all eternity. This "word of life" is Jesus the word incarnate, whose birth we just celebrated, but also Jesus as the word announced by the prophets and Jesus the word now preached throughout the Christian church for all ages to come. One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Christ, sent by God into this world to save and redeem us, to teach us how to live our lives, to shepherd and guide us on the path that leads to eternal life. Get to know Christ personally as your Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

Friday, December 28 ~ Fourth Day in the Octave of Christmas Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18 When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son. When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

Meditation: During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood. The joy of this Christmas Season is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes.

Prayer: O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying, grant, we pray, that the faith in you which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner of life. 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: Many ask why God did not prevent this slaughter. Human suffering is indeed a mystery. No explanation seems to satisfy our human craving to understand. These innocent children and their parents suffered for Christ. Suffering, persecution, and martyrdom are the lot of all who chose to follow Jesus Christ. There is no crown without the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and death on a cross, that our salvation was won. His death won life – eternal life for us. And his blood which was shed for our sake obtained pardon and reconciliation with our heavenly Father.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; some daily meditations or contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space or Biblical Medications for Advent* by Carroll Stuhlmüller, C.P.; 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:2018



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Abundant Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit,
Lord and giver of life,
you spoke through the prophets,
and they foretold the coming of the Savior.
You came upon the young virgin,
and she conceived in her womb the Son
of the Most High.
You gave Elizabeth your gift of knowledge,
and she called Mary “the mother of
my Lord.”
You filled John the Baptist with joy at
the sound of Mary’s greeting,
and he leaped in his mother’s womb.
We, too, desire your transformative
power in our lives.
We ask you to fill us to overflowing
so we may
boldly proclaim the coming of Christ,
give birth to him each day in our hearts,
know his presence in all we meet,
and rejoice in the sure knowledge that
he has come among us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 23, 2018

The Spirit Speaks through Elizabeth



Today’s Readings: Micah 5:1–4a; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45. When we meet Elizabeth in today’s Gospel, she is caught up in astonishing events. She is carrying a child in her old age while her husband, Zechariah, has been rendered mute after questioning an angel who gave him a message that the child would be conceived.

When her relative from Nazareth comes for a visit, Elizabeth grasps that something even greater is now happening. Her baby leaps in her womb; and Elizabeth, bursting with the Holy Spirit, knows at once the news that Mary has come to tell her. She is overwhelmed that her relative has been chosen to bring to birth the promised Messiah, and she recognizes God’s abundant blessing in both Mary and this child.

Mary, who had shared the news from the angel Gabriel with Joseph alone, now hears Elizabeth’s words echoing the words of the angel. Gabriel had called Mary “favored one”; Elizabeth calls her “blessed among women.” The angel had said the child to be born would be “holy, the Son of God”; Elizabeth calls him “Lord” (Luke 1:35).

Both Gabriel and Elizabeth echo Micah’s long-ago prophecy of the Messiah: “his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace.”

With Christmas nearly here, let us welcome Christ into our hearts with the same joy that Elizabeth did, and pledge to be instruments of his peace in our families and our world.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 24

Giver of All Gifts

Our gifts are bought and ready to be presented to loved ones. David, too, wants to give a gift—a house for God. God reminds David that God is the giver of all gifts, that all David has is from him. God shows his generosity by promising David a different kind of “house”—a kingship through his descendants that will last forever. Jesus, King over all peoples, fulfills the promise. We give thanks for God’s extravagant gift of his Son. *Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Finally the waiting is over and we celebrate the birth of Jesus. When you place the image of the Infant Jesus in the manger of your crèche, remember this is no ordinary child! Jesus, the Word, was present in the beginning; and the world was created through him. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” How blessed we are that our God desires to dwell with us. Let us rejoice that Emmanuel—God with us—is born! *Today’s Readings (Mass during the Day): Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4, 5–6; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18.*

Wednesday, December 26

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Even as the Church joyfully celebrates the birth of Jesus for three more weeks, the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, refocuses us on the cost of discipleship. Stephen, a deacon in the early Church, was stoned by a mob while preaching the Gospel. With his dying breath, he begged God to forgive his killers. What is the cost of discipleship for us? Do you need to forgive someone who has wronged you? *Today’s Readings: Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.*

Thursday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

John and his brother James were fishermen who abandoned their nets and their father when Jesus called them to follow him. Although the authorship of the Gospel of John has been debated since AD 200, many Church fathers have attributed it to the Apostle John. The “beloved disciple” mentioned several times is believed to be John himself, who rested on Jesus’ breast during the Last Supper, remained with him at the Cross, and “saw and believed” at the empty tomb. *Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.*

Friday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Today we remember the boys Herod slaughters when he learns that Jesus, the “newborn king,” has escaped his grasp. He cannot abide a rival king even though his own people are joyful at Jesus’ birth. When we believe someone has taken something that is rightfully ours, we too can become enraged. What a different response Jesus counsels—to turn the other cheek! *Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:5–2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.*

Saturday, December 29

Living in the Light of Christ

John juxtaposes light and darkness to compare our words with our deeds: “Whoever says he is in the light, yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness.” The Church continues to celebrate this holy Christmas Time; lights still brighten our homes and yards to welcome Christ, our Light. But do we truly live in the light? The test given by John is whether we harbor hatred for anyone. It is never too late to request or give forgiveness, to give up a grudge, to reconcile with another. Only then will we truly live in the light of Christ, whose forgiveness and mercy toward us have no bounds. *Today’s Readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.*



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION DECEMBER 23



We are asking each parish family to consider making a Christmas gift to the pantry either by **donating canned fruit, soup, tuna, mac & cheese or personal items – especially toilet paper. You may also make a cash donation to the pantry by designating in the memo**

section of your check “St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.” We are so grateful for the contributions we receive. Thank you for helping to make the Christmas season a blessed one for each of the families that we serve at the pantry.

2019 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

The Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the Diocese of Columbus 2019 Catholic Man of the Year. This annual award – to be presented on Friday, February 1, 2019 at the Men’s Luncheon – recognizes one lay man who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the “good and faithful servant.” The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, December 28th. For details, nomination instructions and the required nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmoy>. Email the completed nomination form and up to five supporting testimonials to catholicmanoftheyear@gmail.com. Submit a nomination and let us know why your husband, father, son, uncle, brother or friend is the Catholic Man of the Year!

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GRANT AGREEMENT PAYMENT REQUEST

The Grant Agreement Payment request has been submitted for the three Grants awarded to St. Edward the Confessor from The Catholic Foundation:

Community Health Clinic Grant – *To provide basic medical care to uninsured citizens of Licking County, in the amount of \$10,000.*

Knights of Columbus Grant – *Knights of Columbus Bus trip – Right to Life March in the amount of \$1,500.*

St. Edward Church Grant – *Church of St. Edward the Confessor’s project – Improvements to Church Organ, in the amount of \$5,000.*

St. Edward the Confessor is blessed to have received these grants from The Catholic Foundation that will fund programs for the **Community Health Clinic, our Knights of Columbus as well as for repairs to our Church’s Organ.** The Catholic Foundation is blessed by the support of our Catholic community and it is through their generosity that this grant is possible. By connecting the financial gifts of our donors with ministries and programs like the Church of St. Edward the Confessor, they can help strengthen and build the ministry of Jesus on this Earth. We are praying for those who have made this grant possible through the Catholic Foundation. Thank you to The Catholic Foundation!

We are grateful to the donors who contribute to the Catholic Foundation to make these grants possible. Everyone can contribute at any time to our parish endowment fund or to the funds used for grants like the Community Health Clinic programs, the Knights of Columbus bus trip or for improvements to St. Edward Church organ project. If you would like more information on contributing to existing funds that support our ministries, or would like to work on a planned gift of your own, please contact Dan Kurth at The Catholic Foundation (DKurth@catholic-foundation.org or 614-443-8893).

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)



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When you hear the Scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest; rather, look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

Learn how you can be active in your Catholic faith by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.

NEW CHURCH PHONE SYSTEM

The new phone system is here! Thank you again for the contributions made to the iGiveCatholic campaign which helped with the funding of the new phones.

STEWARDSHIP INTEREST FORM

If you are interested in serving in any of our parish ministries, you can access descriptions on the Stewardship tab located on the top banner on our parish website homepage www.saintedwards.org. From that tab, you can read about Parish Organizations, Liturgical Ministries, Parish Ministries & Community Life. For more information or to let us know you are interested in any ministry, fill out the Stewardship Form. You will find that link on our home page (middle/right column.) We certainly hope that you will find a ministry to share your time and talent!

STEWARDSHIP ~ TIME ~TALENT ~TREASURE



The Fourth Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son’s birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.

Today’s Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary’s actions immediately after her “yes” to the angel Gabriel’s message. “Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth.” Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

Our Blessed Mother’s example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us – our time, our talents, our material possessions – we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

We will be stewards after our Mother’s own heart. – catholicsteward.org

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