

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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 Vigil Mass

5:00 p.m. Clement Hohman (RIP) (Birthday)
by Charles & JoAnn Hohman

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 –

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 a.m. Intentions of Maureen Greer
by Steve & Gayle Blubaugh

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 –

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

9:00 a.m. Special Intentions of Anna Las by Anna Las

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 a.m. Kevin Enke (RIP) by the Parish Staff

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 –

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9:00 a.m. Jim Masterson (RIP) by Jan Shea

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

5:00 p.m. Ivan Hall (RIP) by Ruby Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

10:45 a.m. Jeannine Schmidt (RIP)
by John & Marilyn Jauch

Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.

JANUARY 5/6

LECTORS:

5:00 p.m. Steve Blubaugh, Cheryl Boggess
8:15 a.m. Jim Bidigare, Bill Hoekstra
10:45 a.m. Tom Bressoud, Roy Brewer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 p.m. S.A. Beaver, Kim Chupka,
Paula Coleman, Mark Coleman, Dave Conway
8:15 a.m. Rita Baldwin, Cindy Barbour, John Casale,
Sue Casale, Jane Dugan
10:45 a.m. Annie Lach, Dave Burd, Lorraine Carlson,
Stephanie Dodd, Barb Doran, Margo Downing,
Von Downing, Emily Dunbar, Noelle Gremling

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 30, 2018 – YEAR C

PRELUDE

TBD

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#86)

GLORIA: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 84:

Blessed are they... (p. 53-54)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 54)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS:

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (#92)

SANCTUS, MEM. ACC. A, AMEN, AGNUS DEI:

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

COMMUNION: The First Nowell (#110)

COMMUNION 2: TBD

CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH:

Angels We Have Heard on High (#97)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Kayce Long

8:15 a.m.: Steve Schlicher

10:45 a.m.: Randy Kerr

INSTRUMENTALISTS

TBD

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:00 p.m. Kevin Bollo, Sarah Carpenter, Nathaniel Hock

8:15 a.m. Andrew Coffey, John Coffey, Gardner Jonathon

10:45 a.m. Kara Bergeron, Annabell Bergeron, AJ Burd

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:

Mary Ossa, Paula BeVier

GIFT BEARERS:

5:00 p.m. Ruby Hall

8:15 a.m. Volunteer

10:45 a.m. John & Marilyn Jauch

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, at 740-404-9427 or dchsmh@gmail.com.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The Sunday Offertory collection for December 16th was \$9,623.25. The Sunday collection amount for December 23rd was not available for the early bulletin deadline.

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

1. As we observe today the Feast of the Holy Family, let us pray for our own families, the families of our parish and the families of our world that are separated, estranged or under severe stress. O, Holy Family of Nazareth, watch over us all.
2. As we prepare to turn the calendar of the year next weekend, Feast of the Epiphany, let us consider the following prayers as we begin 2019:

Blessing for a New Year

Remember us, O God: from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children as the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. Amen –*Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

Epiphany Blessing

O God of light and peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: bless us abundantly and dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that, like the wise men, we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls, and return from his presence to live as he has taught, now and for ever and ever. Amen. –*Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*

Invocation for Peace

God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the pleas of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness... Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that, our way of life will always be that of Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen. – Pope Francis

IN SYMPATHY

We pray for Christian E. Gacek, nephew of Msgr. Paul P. Enke. May he live forever in the light of God’s love. Also, we extend the sympathy from our parish to Josh Tennant at the death of his dear friend Felice. May she rest in peace.

ONLINE GIVING

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.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

- 📖 He is born! Glory to God in the highest! On this feast of the Holy Family, we continue to rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ as we celebrate this blessed Christmas season. O tidings of comfort and joy!
- 📖 Many thanks to all of the choir members and cantors (adults, youth, and children), Steve Schlicher and the Bell Choir, and all of the instrumentalists who share their musical gifts during this blessed season and throughout the year. Thanks also to the families of the musicians for their support. We are richly blessed here at St. Edward. May God watch over and guide our parish in the year to come! ~ Paul (740-587-3254, music@saintedwards.org)

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, December 30 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. – Loft
- Monday, December 31**
No Eucharistic Adoration
No 9:00 a.m. Mass
Vigil Mass ~ 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary**
Mass ~ 10:00 a.m.
Office Closed
- Thursday, January 3**
Choir – 7:00 p.m. – Loft

RCIA

There are no RCIA sessions during this holiday break. The next session is Tuesday, January 8th 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**

IN YOUR KINDNESS.... Special Donation

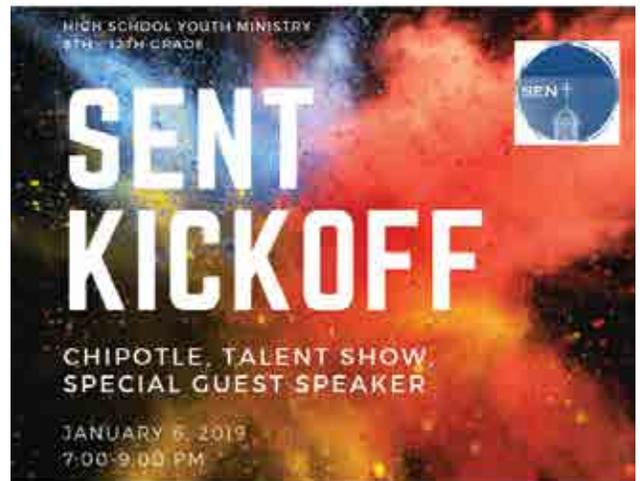
Msgr. Enke’s nephew, Christian Gacek, died suddenly last week and his family will be needing some financial assistance. If you can help them, please contribute by sending a check to the parish office made out to **St. Edward Church, with Fr. Enke’s nephew** in the memo. You can also contribute via Online Giving using the *Memorial Fund*. Thanks so much.

SENT January Calendar

January 6 – **Winter Kickoff**, 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

January 13th – **CLUB Worship**, “Life Olympics,”
7:00-9:00 p.m.

January 27th – **CLUB Service**, Meals for
St. Vincent with the Pre-Med Club
at Denison University, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Discipleship Groups Gather**

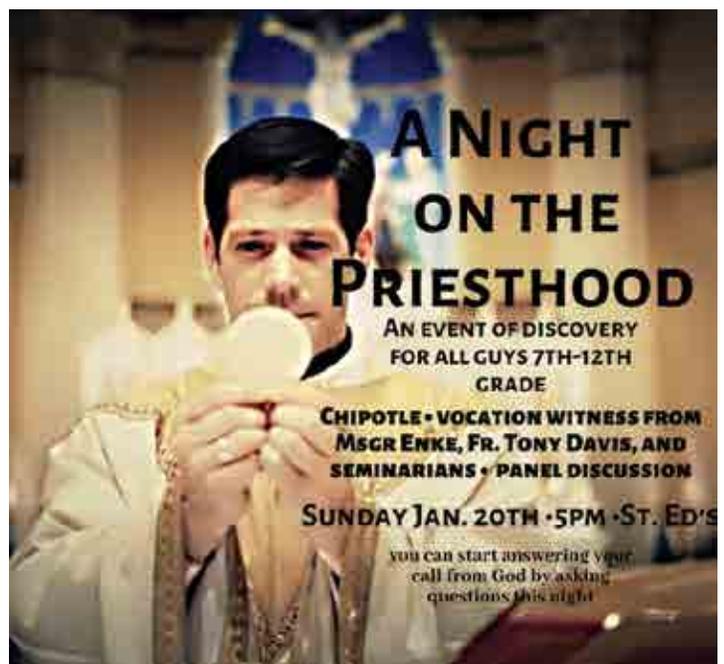
January 14-26 and January 28th-February 9th

**COMING HOME**

On January 3rd, all young adults ages 18-28 are invited to *Coming Home* at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Evening begins with a taco bar dinner, with a message and small group time and closing with praise and worship Adoration.

January 20th –
A Night on the Priesthood –
5:00 p.m.
7th-12th grade guys.

For young men of our parish who have questions about the priesthood, whether they feel called or not.



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



A Call to Prayer

God our Father,
you sent your beloved Son into the world
to share in our humanity.
From all time, you chose the Virgin Mary to
give birth to him,
and placed him in a human family.
With Mary, his mother, and Joseph,
her husband,
to nurture and care for him.
Still, you called him away from them to be
with you in your house

to study the Scriptures and commune with
his true Father.
We ask you to call us too, so that,
as much as we love our parents, our siblings,
and our children,
and desire to spend time with them,
we never forget that we need to spend time
with you each day,
to praise you, to thank you, to pour out our
hearts to you,
and to ask for your guidance.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 30, 2018
Honor Your Father and Mother



Today's Readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:41–52. When we are young and first learning the Ten Commandments, one that hits home is the Fourth Commandment: “honor your father and mother.” As we grow older, we realize that this commandment is not just about children obeying parents, but that it applies to our lives as much or more when we are adults.

The Book of Sirach, a Wisdom book from the Hebrew Scriptures, describes the goodness that comes from following this command at all stages of one's life. Sirach also defines what it means to honor: to care for, to be considerate,

to be kind; and what it means *not* to honor: to revile or to be a cause of grief.

When Jesus' parents find him in the temple, they have great anxiety, but Jesus explains that he needs to be in his Father's house. He has not stayed at the temple to dishonor Mary and Joseph, but rather to give honor to his Father.

Why is this commandment important? What would family life be like if children, including grown children, truly honored their parents at all times? Would we become less self-centered? Would elderly people experience less loneliness? What example would our children see?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 31

A New Beginning

On this last day of the year, our thoughts turn to resolutions for the new year. We can always think of areas of our life where we need to start over, and can look for ways to walk more closely with the Lord. Perhaps you could occasionally serve a meal at a homeless shelter, since this is a need every day of the year. How is the Lord asking you to serve his people this year? *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today we honor the Mother of God—and our mother—and recall her essential role in salvation history. The Gospel finds her after the visit of the shepherds, keeping “all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Her prayer and reflection give her strength for the joyful and sorrowful days ahead. We can follow her example so that when sad times come, we have trust that God will bring good from them. *Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Wednesday, January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

John's letter warns early Christians not to be deceived by false teachings. Fourth-century friends Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen had a deep life of prayer lived out in a monastery and also served as bishops. Eloquent speakers, they discredited a heresy common in their day. Years of prayer deepened their relationship with the Lord and kept them from being deceived. Prayer and study of the Scriptures help us come to know God and his truth. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Thursday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

John the Baptist calls Jesus “Lamb of God” and “Son of God.” Gabriel tells Mary his name will be Jesus (meaning “Yahweh saves,” Luke 1:31), Son of the Most High, Ruler forever. An angel tells Joseph in a dream that Jesus will be Emmanuel (which means “God is with us,” Matthew 1:18–23). We are grateful to know these names, which help us to know the One they signify. The name of Jesus is itself a powerful prayer, always to be uttered with reverence and awe. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Friday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Soon after Jesus invites Andrew to stay with him, Andrew calls his brother Simon, saying he has found the Messiah. New Yorker Elizabeth Ann Seton embraced the Catholic Church, much to the chagrin of her family, after attending Mass while visiting Italy. A young widow with five children, she shared Jesus by opening the first American Catholic parish school and establishing a religious community. How are you being invited to “stay” with Jesus? Have you found the Messiah? How do you share him with others? *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*

Saturday, January 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

Jesus continues to call Apostles in the Gospel, and still calls today. John Neumann heard that call and came to America as a missionary. Ordained a priest in New York, he ministered to immigrants in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. As the first American member of the Redemptorist order, he longed for a life of prayer in community. Instead, he was named bishop of Philadelphia, where he opened one hundred Catholic schools. He once took a vow never to waste a moment of time—quite an examination of conscience for us! *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.*





ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – ST. EDWARD CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE PARISH

For the fiscal year October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

YOUR St. Vincent de Paul Conference, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering. This work is performed in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

People in need call the SVdP help line where a Vincentian volunteer gathers basic information about their request for help with rent, utilities, shelter, gasoline, etc. A team of two Vincentians meets with the family/person, preferably in their home, to evaluate their needs. Many have lost their jobs, their homes, are overwhelmed with medical expenses, are facing utility shutoffs, lack enough food to feed their families, are homeless, or just need someone to listen, pray with them and hear that God loves them. If you are interested in becoming a Vincentian, we are always in need of your help, here at the conference level.

This report is for the fiscal year that closed at the end of September. During that period we helped an average of 22 families/month, with an average cost of \$192/family. This new fiscal year we are serving 30 families/month. We are experiencing greater need per family than we have in the recent past. During October, November and this current month, we have visited several families with children facing eviction; owing rent of 2 months or more. This translates into these families needing more than the \$200 our conference can provide. At the same time, donations are decreasing. Please consider increasing your donation, or if you don't donate to our Parish Conference please consider doing so.

Your Conference Vincentians personally met or consulted and advised via phone conversation 281 families (681 people).

REVENUE

Parish, Conference Members & other Donations	\$77,690	
SVDP Center Food Pantry	\$ 4,160	
2017 Christmas Giving Tree Program – cash & gift cards only	<u>\$ 8,740</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$90,590

EXPENSES

Family Aid*	\$61,860	
SVDP Center Food Pantry	\$ 4,115	
St. Vincent Haven Homeless Shelter	\$15,400	
2017 Christmas Giving Tree Program	\$ 9,560	
Society Dues & Operational Expenses	<u>\$ 699</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$91,634</u>

TOTAL YEAR DEFICIT

(\$ 1,044)

A surplus from the previous year covered this deficit.

IN KIND DONATIONS – Gifts donated for Christmas Giving Tree Program 2017 \$10,521

*Family Aid consists of the following:

- \$ 18,275 provided 85 families with rent
- \$ 4,052 provided shelter to 23/individuals or families with children
- \$ 17,904 provided 107 families with electric, gas, water and phone
- \$ 10,129 provided 78 families with food, clothing, medicine, gasoline, car repairs and other needs
- \$11,500 to other Licking County SVDP Conferences, Systemic Change program and St. Lawrence Haven lunch program

Last year's (2017) Christmas Giving Tree program helped 58 families (183 children) with clothing, toys and food, residents of the St. Vincent Haven Homeless Shelter, and to provide gas cards to the Thrift Store and Food Pantry. Seniors were helped with 30 baskets of love.

You helped provide over 513 nights of shelter (\$30/person/night) to homeless men at the St. Vincent Haven by providing funds needed to keep the Haven operational. In addition to a night of shelter these funds help to provide assistance to obtain employment, address substance abuse or mental health issues, identify and secure post-shelter housing and provide clothing and personal hygiene products.

There are many things that can't be quantified. We listen, refer those we help to other programs and agencies, help them navigate the system, bring them to Church, dry tears, hold hands, give hugs, pray, give hope, bring love and so much more!!

Our conference and many other **volunteers** from St. Edward are involved in the day to day operation of the **St. Vincent de Paul Center**. This center is a separate entity from the SVdP Conference here at St. Edward. It is a multi-purpose outreach center comprised of a **THRIFT STORE** and **FOOD PANTRY** operated by the SVdP conferences of St. Edward, St. Francis, Blessed Sacrament, St. Leonard, Church of the Ascension, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Representatives from these Conferences, **volunteers** from those churches, and community volunteers all work together to make it a success. Profits from the thrift store, food supplied by the parishes and the Food Pantry Network, along with grants and donations made directly to the Center, cover its financial needs. When our conference receives donations designated for the food pantry, the funds are passed directly to the food pantry to help stock their shelves.

Please consider the Thrift Store at the SVdP Center when donating furniture (greatest need), household items or gently used clothing. They have a truck to pick up or deliver large items. THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP. They now carry brand new mattresses, bed frames, some appliances and some clothing. Please consider shopping and volunteering at the Center!

St. Vincent Haven Shelter for men, has provided over 9,023 nights/yr of shelter, food, and counselling thanks to your support of the SVDP Thrift Store, your parish SVDP Conference, the annual dinner/auction at the Elk's club and the Golf Outing at Denison Golf Course. Your 4 hour volunteer shift reduces employee wages equivalent to costs for two Residents to stay for one night. Mentors and volunteers are welcomed.

The Gardens on 6th provides apartments for 24 families with children. Residents are required to be employed, pay modest rent, learn to budget, cook, properly maintain an apartment and helped to reunify with estranged family members

SVDP Micro Loan Program: These loans are a superior option to predatory Payday/Title Loans. A microloan program is available to those who do not qualify for conventional loans at a low interest rate of 3%. With the successful repayment of the loan, the amount collected in interest is returned to the borrower. Loans are available to handle extraordinary expenses like a car repair or medical expenses, not daily expenses such as rent or utilities. Volunteers are needed to mentor loan recipients to provide financial education and support. This process can lead to an improved credit score for those who successfully complete the program. To date this program has granted 22 loans for a total value of \$10,200. 7 have been successfully paid in full, 3 defaults and the rest are current.

Help us show the compassion of the Catholic Church to the needy of Licking County. The Church hopes that we see Christ in all those that we meet, and treat them with dignity and respect.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS, YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING, AND MOST ESPECIALLY YOUR PRAYERS. PLEASE COME JOIN US.

Lectio Divina

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is His will."

~SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

**Monday, December 31 ~ Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
Saint Sylvester I, Pope**

Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

Meditation: Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother. From the time of the Apostles the Christian faith has insisted on the incarnation of God's Son "who has come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2). Jesus became the partaker of our humanity so we could be partakers of his divinity (2 Peter 1:4). God's purpose for us, even from the beginning of his creation, is that we would be fully united with Him. When Jesus comes God is made known as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By our being united in Jesus, God becomes our Father and we become his sons and daughters.

Prayer: Come, O Lord, to the help of your people, sustained by the intercession of Pope Saint Sylvester, so that, running the course of this present life under your guidance we may happily attain life without end. 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.

Contemplation: Saint Gregory of Nyssa, one of the great early Church fathers (330-395 AD) wrote: "Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?" If we are going to behold the glory of God, we will do so through Jesus Christ. Let each of us give thanks from the heart to God the Father for sending his only begotten Son to redeem us, and to show us the one path that leads to eternal life.

**Tuesday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~**

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and

praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Meditation: What's the significance of a name? For the Jewish people the giving of a name had great importance. When a name was given it represented what that person should be in the future. An unknown name meant that someone could not be completely known. To not acknowledge someone's name meant both denial of the person, destruction of their personality, and change in their destiny. A person's name expressed the reality of his or her being at its deepest level. A Jewish child was named at the time of circumcision, eight days after birth. This rite was instituted by God as an outward sign to single out those who belonged to the chosen people. It was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his posterity.

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

Contemplation: In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name Jesus on the eighth day according to the Jewish custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name Jesus because that is the name given by God's messenger before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. This name signifies Jesus' identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means the Lord saves. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man will save his people from their sins (ref. Matthew 1:21). In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace, mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name "Jesus" signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation. Peter the Apostle exclaimed that there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved (ref. Acts 2:12). In the name of Jesus demons flee, cripples walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. His name is exalted far above every other name (ref. Philippians 2:9-11). The name Jesus is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through and in Jesus that we pray to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians have died with one word on the lips, the name of Jesus. Do you exalt the name of Jesus and pray with confidence in his name?

About this Solemnity: "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the 'Seat of Wisdom.' " (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 721)

Wednesday, January 2 ~ Ninth Day in the Christmas Season Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28 This is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Meditation: John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, Messiah and Savior of the world. The Christian church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: *Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word.* Which begs the question: Do you point others to Christ by the life you lead, by the lifestyle you embrace, by what you choose to do and not do, by your witness and example?

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

Contemplation: John the Baptist did such a great job of stirring the peoples' expectation of the Messiah's arrival, that many thought he might be the Messiah himself, or at least the great prophet Elijah who was expected to reappear at the Messiah's coming (ref. Malachi 4:5, Deuteronomy 18:15). John had no mistaken identity. In all humility and sincerity he said he was only a voice bidding people to prepare the way for the coming of the King. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament Prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Do you recognize your identity as a child of God and a citizen of heaven? If not, it's never too late to change!

Thursday, January 3 ~ Tenth Day in the Christmas Season The Most Holy Name of Jesus

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

Meditation: John calls Jesus the Lamb of God and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction. It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which can deliver us from sin. When John says he did not know Jesus he was referring to the hidden reality of Jesus divinity. But the Holy Spirit in that hour revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. We can only know who Jesus truly is through the Holy Spirit who reveals him to us. Do you seek to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ?

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

Contemplation: From apostolic times, the Church has professed that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:10-11). Through the particular efforts of St. Bernardine of Siena, devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus was promoted through the inscription of the monogram of the Holy Name (IHS) and the addition of the name of Jesus to the Hail Mary. Pope Sixtus V first granted an indulgence for the uttering of the phrase used so often by Pope John Paul II and included among the pious invocations of the current *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*: "Praised be Jesus Christ!"

About the Holy Name of Jesus: This feast marks no progress in the development of the Church year. It merely embellishes the occasion just observed when the Child received the Name Jesus as had been foretold by the angel. The feast is meant to impress on us Christians the dignity of the Holy Name. It is a relatively new feast, stemming out of devotional piety. Nevertheless, it is not difficult to find in it some liturgical or ancient Christian dogma. What did a name signify originally? The name should express the nature of a thing. Thus Adam in paradise gave the animals names in accordance with their being. Among the Jews God's name expressed His essence, Yahweh, i.e., I (alone) am who am (and cause all else to be). The Jews had the highest respect for the name of God, a reverence that finds continuation in the Our Father: "Hallowed be Thy Name." Persons who played prominent roles in the history of salvation often received their names from God Himself. Adam — man of the earth; Eve — mother of all the living; Abraham — father of many nations; Peter — the rock. The Savior's precursor was given the name God assigned him. According to divine precedent, then, the name of the Redeemer should not be accidental, of human choosing, but given by God Himself; His name should express His mission. We read in Sacred

Scripture how the angel Gabriel revealed that name to Mary: "You shall call His name Jesus." And to St. Joseph the angel not merely revealed the name but explained its meaning: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." The Messiah should not only be the savior, but should be called Savior. With Jesus, therefore, the name actually tells the purpose of His existence. This is why we must esteem His name as sacred. Whenever we pronounce it, we ought to bow our heads; for the very name reminds us of the greatest favor we have ever received, salvation.

Friday, January 4 ~ Eleventh Day in the Christmas Season **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

Holy Gospel: John 1:35-42 John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah," which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas," which is translated Peter.

Meditation: John calls Jesus the Lamb of God and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from death. The blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb who offered his life up for us on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Cor. 5:7), delivers us from everlasting death and destruction. It is significant that John was the son of a priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). In Jesus he saw the true and only sacrifice which can deliver us from sin. How did John know the true identity of Jesus, as the Messiah? The Holy Spirit revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the God? The Holy Spirit makes Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us freely of his Spirit that we may comprehend the great mystery and plan of God to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

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

Contemplation: Jesus invites each of us to "come and see" for ourselves that his word is true and everlasting. "Come and see" is God's invitation for fellowship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. Saint Augustine tells us something very important about God and how he relates to us: "If you hadn't been called by God, what could you have done to turn back? Didn't the very One who called you when you were opposed to Him make it possible for you to turn back?" It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his grace, mercy, and help we could not find him. Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was – the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to know Jesus personally, power to live the gospel faithfully, and courage to witness to others the joy and truth of the gospel. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to draw us near to himself.

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:2018



NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Due to the New Year's holiday, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Monday December 31st.



FIRST SUNDAY ROSARY

You are invited to pray the Rosary with your St. Edward community ~ before the 10:45 a.m. Mass on January 6th at 10:20 a.m. in the Church. Rosaries and guides will be handed out in the Gathering Space.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of:

Barbara Casale and Thomas Barbush
by John & Sue Casale

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

New Year's Mass Schedule

Monday, December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1 ~ 10:00 a.m.



GIVING TREE THANK YOU

Thank you for making the 2018 Giving Tree program a big success. Your generous giving provided Christmas presents for 177 children, Christmas dinner for 64 families, care packages for 30 elderly people, and countless necessities for the SVdP Haven residents. Thanks also to the gift sorters, shoppers and 8th grade Confirmation volunteers. The reactions from the recipients of these gifts were striking. They were so grateful and often in disbelief that others would be so generous. Thank you for making this possible. May your generosity be rewarded with endless joy. Best Christmas season wishes.



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*.

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

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.

WORD ON FIRE ~ THE MASS

Starting January 6, 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.**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE ~ WORLD DAY OF PEACE JANUARY 1

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried...

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance, we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman... Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother," and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

Pope Francis, Invocation for Peace, 6/4/14 Used with Permission. © Libreria Editrice Vaticana



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION SUNDAY

Conference members will be at the doors of the church to receive your generous donations after all the Masses next weekend, January 5/6. Thank you for your financial support to help those in need in our area.



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.

THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE STUDY



Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. In this study, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible – Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach, and Ecclesiastes – Wisdom will teach you how to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life. In everything from friendships to finances, from making decisions to attaining peace of mind, Scripture offers a vision for happiness and well-being. With this program, you will learn how to gather, gain, and grow in wisdom, and you will experience the joy it brings to your life.

Join us for "*Wisdom: God's Vision for Life*" at 9:30 a.m. in Room 7 beginning January 10th and continuing every Thursday through February 28th. Cost is \$20.00 payable at the first session. Questions to Gayle Blubaugh at 740-739-6740 or gablubaugh@columbus.rr.com.

NEW MINISTER SCHEDULES

The schedule for January – March has been emailed via Flocknote. A few copies are mailed to our non-Flocknote parishioners. Also, copies are available in the Altar Server side of the Sacristy and on our parish website on the Liturgy / Sacraments page.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for your support on December 16th for Drew Cottrell's "**Make a Difference Project**" to honor his great grandfather by helping to raise money for Alzheimer's Awareness.



SANTA'S ATTIC COLLECTION 2019

The Women of St. Edward will be collecting gently used Christmas decorations for their 10th Annual Santa's Attic Sale to be held November 2nd. **Donations will be accepted Saturday, January 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

The 2018 sale was a HUGE success due in part to generous donations from our charitable community members. Again, we are asking you to *please* bring us your unwanted, **gently** used decorations and *help us help others* by making the 2019 event successful as well!

The Santa's Attic committee is seeking volunteers to help during the drop-off times to sort and package all donations in the Hall and take them to Marty's Attic by our parish garage.

WELCOME SUNDAY

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

STEWARDSHIP

There are St. Edward Ministry sign up sheets at the Stewardship table. If you are interested, you may sign up for a parish ministry

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

All new members of the parish, please stop by the **Welcome Committee table. The Welcome Committee would like to meet you and give you a small gift from the parish.** Also, new families can register.

EQUAL EXCHANGE INTERFAITH COFFEE PROGRAM

The Women of St. Edward will have Fairly Traded coffee and chocolate candy bars for sale in the Hall. As part of the Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Program, the sale of fairly traded coffee helps small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia build a better economic future for their families and communities.



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."
(1 John 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

Learn how to share your gifts and Catholic legacy by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

Sometimes memories can keep us from experiencing the fullness of new life, even following the reception and graced forgiveness from the Sacrament of Penance. If you have experienced abortion in your life and the memory continues to haunt you, perhaps inviting Jesus often into that memory will open your spirit to the peace only He can give. Begin by praying "Jesus, I don't want to be chained any longer to the memories of my abortion. Please come and heal me." To share the graces of this journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry. He is waiting for you. The ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Call us on confidential lines: 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit our website at www.bethesdahealing.org.

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)

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!

**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.

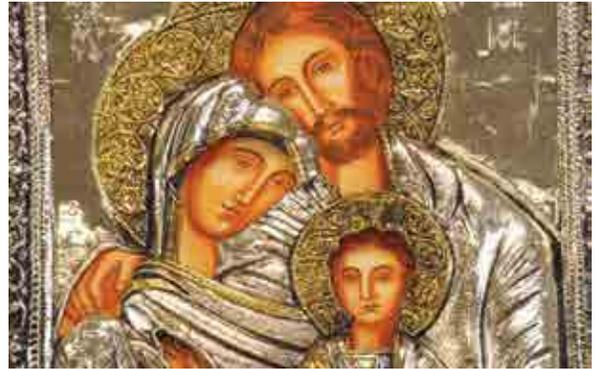
Monthly Conference Collection – Volunteers to be at the entrances of the church to take donations after Mass. This is once a month. Call Mary Murphy at 740-258-3538.

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.

**STEWARDSHIP
TIME ~TALENT ~TREASURE**


The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life.

The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: “Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.” This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The “Holy Couple” carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully.

We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family. On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in 2019, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars. Let's make 2019 a year in our parish like never before. Happy Feast Day, parish family!

– catholicsteward.org

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