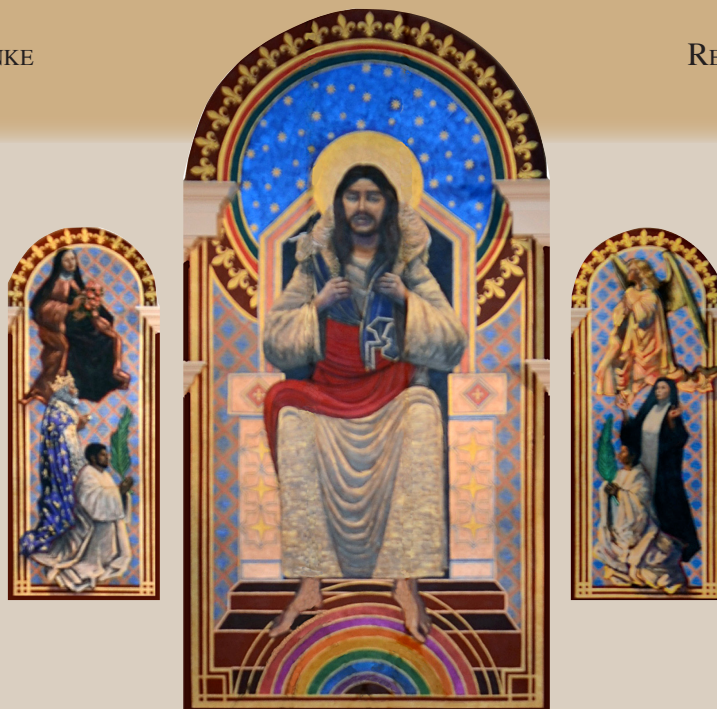


Church of Saint Edward the Confessor



PASTOR:
MSGR. PAUL P. ENKE

DEACON:
REV. MR. JOHN BARBOUR



COME NOW, KING OF HEROES! DO NOT
DELAY TOO LONG! WE HAVE NEED
OF MERCIES! THAT YOU WILL FREE US!

785 NEWARK-GRANVILLE ROAD • GRANVILLE, OHIO 43023 • WWW.SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

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PRAYER CHAIN
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Mass Schedule

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY: 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY: TEMPORARY 10:00 A.M.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:
TBA IN BULLETIN

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:
MONDAY-FRIDAY:
9:00 A.M.

CONFESSIONS:
SATURDAY: 4:00-4:30 P.M.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

Parish Office: 740-587-3254
Fax: 740-587-0149

E-mail: church@saintedwards.org



MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 12 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:00 a.m. Randy Dusenberry †
by Deb Dusenberry and
August Sugar † by Stephen &
Janice Schroeder

Monday, July 13

9:00 a.m. Catherine Abraham †
by Joe & Ginny Prusaczyk

Tuesday, July 14 – Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Theresa Shook †
by Mary & Gene Klark

Wednesday, July 15 – Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Mark A. Enke †
by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

Thursday, July 16 – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Fr. Ronnie Boccali †
by Charles & JoAnn Hohman

Friday, July 17

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

Saturday, July 18

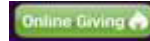
5:00 p.m. Keifer Boggess †
by the St. Vincent de Paul
Conference

Sunday, July 19 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:00 a.m. Barney & Rita Smith †
by the Smith Family and the
Living & Deceased Members of
St. Edward Church

Daily Mass: Mondays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m. The other daily Masses will be celebrated privately by Msgr. Enke. We will continue the taped Mass for the weekends. Find the link on the parish website at www.saintedwards.org.

ONLINE GIVING




There is a collection this weekend for our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Additional donations may be made for: The SVdP Food Pantry please use "Food Pantry" Fund; and "The Haven" Fund to provide the much needed support to the Haven.

Sign-up for Online Giving from the St. Edward website home page www.saintedwards.org. Note: If your credit card has been changed, expired, or was compromised, you will need to login to update your online account to continue your online contributions. As a safeguard, the program will automatically suspend your contributions if one of these events occurs. Please contact the Parish Office if you need help.

SUPPORTING ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH

We are so blessed to have such faithful and supportive parishioners. During this crisis, St. Edward the Confessor will continue to support our devoted employees and hard-working vendors. If you are able during this time, please consider continuing your financial support of our parish so that we can continue supporting our employees and many small business vendors that need to be paid on a timely basis.

- We would like to encourage parishioners to use the  link available from our parish website www.saintedwards.org.
- If you pay by check, mail to: St. Edward Church, 785 Newark Granville Road, Granville, Ohio 43023. It is not necessary to include all the weekly envelopes, just use one. We will post your total donation to your record. A **separate check is preferred** for: Mass stipends and St. Vincent de Paul.

If you have any questions about your current offertory, you can contact the Parish Office by emailing Cheryl at church@saintedwards.org or calling 740-587-3254. The office is on shortened hours but we continue to monitor email.

We will continue to pray for you and your family's health and safety during this time, and please continue to pray for us. Thank you.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The Sunday collection for June 24th-30th was \$7,316.00 and July 1st-7th was \$8,252.00. The Holy Father/Peter's Pence collection was \$777.00. Online Giving donation total for June 24th-July 6th was \$13,268.00.

**15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 12, 2020 – YEAR A**
PRELUDE

TBD

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: prescribed Entrance Antiphon
(chanted)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 65: The seed that falls on good ground... (arr. O. Alstott)
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
(arr. O. Alstott)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

SANCTUS/SAVE US/AMEN/AGNUS DEI: chanted
COMMUNION (5:00 p.m.): Now We Remain (cantor solo)
COMMUNION (10:00 a.m.): TBD

CONCLUDING RITE

RECESSIONAL: TBD

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Kevin Skinner
10:00 a.m.: Sandy Wolfe

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

♪ Today's Responsorial Psalm is Psalm 65. Echoing both the First Reading and the Gospel, It reminds us that "the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." Today, let us pray that even in these challenging times, we will be open to receiving the seed of God's Word. May that seed always grow within us and bear good fruit.

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

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK**Sunday, July 12**

Mass – 10:00 a.m. – Church
St. Vincent de Paul Collection

Monday, July 13

Mass – 9:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration – after Mass until Noon

Friday, July 17

Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Church
The Church is open for prayer until noon

Saturday, July 18

Confessions – 4:00-4:30 p.m. – Priest Sacristy –
Follow signs.

Mass – 5:00 p.m. – Church

Sunday, July 19

Mass – 10:00 a.m. – Church

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

1. This weekend, we will begin welcoming the first batch of this year's First Communicants to our 5:00 p.m. Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. It's just one more disruption of how we usually do things here at the parish. I ask that you keep our children and their families in your prayers. Their names are included in the Parish School of Religion article.
2. Today, is Appeal Sunday for the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. There are pledge envelopes on the tables at the main entry of the church. Please take one with you. This is surely the year, above all others that we need to pull together and make our gift to the diocese and our parish. You may have already received a letter from me with an envelope directed to the diocese. You can use either option, just please make that pledge!
P.S. I intend to increase my gift by \$500.00 this year. Will you consider joining me?

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Are you thinking of becoming Catholic? Are you interested in supporting those in the process of becoming Catholic and in learning more about the Catholic Faith? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, please contact Sarah Rundell at rundells@denison.edu or at 614-726-2367, for more information on RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, and for information on how to become involved. RCIA will start in September.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome these families who have joined our parish: Bill & Joan Franks and Joseph & Irene Kennedy. The Welcome Committee would like to meet you when our Welcome Sundays resume (normally the first Sunday of the Month during the school year). We hope you feel at home here at St. Edward Parish.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

**St. Edward First Communicants this weekend:
Saturday, July 11th:**

*Harper Babaryk, Liam Barbour, Dominic Barbuto,
Brianna Reed*

Sunday, July 12th:

*Caston Alspach, Lincoln Elder, Isla Stewart, Emily
Walter, Anna Zigan*

This weekend begins our First Communion Masses! We will be having First Communion during the normally scheduled Saturday and Sunday Masses from July 11th-August 16th. I will be at the Masses to answer questions, give masks, and help give direction. First Communicants will be seated with your family in one of the front pews on the wings around the altar. We will follow the safety rules that are already used by the rest of the Parish. Msgr. Enke will guide you when it is time to receive Communion. Feel free to ask for help! All of us would be happy to help you in any way we can.

PSR BOOKS from last year are available for pickup upon request. Student materials will be bagged ahead of time and set out to minimize risk.

Need for TEACHERS!!

Are you **possibly interested in teaching PSR either online or in person?**

If there is any possibility you could teach, assistant teach, online teach, or substitute teach, please, let me know! Thank you for any support you can provide! Contact Rebecca Bucknam at reled@saintedwards.org.

FLOCKNOTE

Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE



CLICK
HERE

JOIN FLOCKNOTE ~ THE ST. EDWARD FLOCK!

Text Church785 to 84576 to receive St. Edward Church Flocknotes via email or text. We are using Flocknote to communicate parish news each week, especially during these coming weeks about returning to Mass. Please signup to stay informed about all the latest news. In addition, we would love to have you signup for one of our parish ministry groups.

SYMPATHY

We pray for: Benedetto Catalanotto, father of parishioner Cecelia Doll; Esther Coffey, former parishioner; and Beverly Pittenger, mother of parishioner Cindy Kalis. In the presence of God, may they find light, happiness and peace.



2020 BISHOPS ANNUAL APPEAL

"Living the Joy of the Gospel," the theme of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, inspires us, as people of faith, to share joyfully the Good News of Christ to those who most need to feel His love. Works of kindness and assistance, sometimes in the smallest way, can bring about a profound change in a person's life.

Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we have an opportunity to bring about a positive change in the lives of many of God's people. Through your generosity, you are supporting the various ministries and programs that are vital in spreading His love.

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the Appeal, at which time you can make your gift or pledge. **Our parish has been asked to raise \$98,266.23.** We can accomplish this if, after prayerful consideration, everyone gives what they can. Any amount raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to be used for our particular needs.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION WEEKEND

Please put your donation in the SVdP basket at the back of the church after Mass this weekend July 11/12. Thank you for your financial support to help those in need in our area.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

We ask for your continued support of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Please mail your contribution to the church or you can use **Online Giving** and select "SVdP" and/or "Food Pantry" fund. Or make donation checks payable to "St Vincent de Paul" and mailed to: Saint Vincent de Paul Center, 135 Wilson Street, Newark, OH 43055. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a family member, or someone close to you, would like to be added to the St. Edward Prayer Chain, please call Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 or email ckk1@att.net. If you would like to volunteer to be a member of this ministry, please contact Cindy.

SCHEDULING MASSES FOR 2021

THE PARISH OFFICE IS scheduling Mass intention requests for next year. To best fulfill as many requests for weekend Mass intentions as possible, **we ask that parishioners limit the number of requests for weekend dates to three per year. To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, the \$10.00 stipend must be offered at the time of request.** For Mass requests, please fill out the green envelope in your envelope collection packet; use any envelope marked "Parish Office" and put it in the collection basket; or make Mass stipend payment via Online Giving.

SCHEDULING 2020 ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers can be requested in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. Call the parish office at 740-587-3254 to inquire about available dates. The suggested donation is \$50.00. There are no altar flowers during Lent; on wedding weekends flowers from the wedding are used; and during the Christmas/Easter seasons, poinsettias/lilies decorate the church.

EXPECTING A NEW ADDITION TO YOUR FAMILY?

Congratulations to you! As you prepare for your child's birth, don't forget to prepare for their Baptism! Expectant parents must attend a baptismal preparation class and choose godparents who fulfill Church requirements. For more information, contact Cheryl Boggess in the Parish Office at 740-587-3254.



**THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit."

– MATTHEW 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Learn how you can share your material goods by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.

UPDATING CENSUS INFORMATION**ADULT CHILDREN**

Please notify the parish office by calling 740-587-3254 or email barb@saintedwards.org, if your young-adult children have moved out of the house. Encourage them to register on their own here at St. Edward or at a Catholic Church close to where they live.

FAMILY CONTACT INFO

Do you have a new email address? Cell phone number? Have you moved? Help us to keep our parish membership information up-to-date!

LIVING I DO

Have you and your spouse developed any skills or hobbies together recently? Get out of the movie groove and discover something new about your spouse by beginning a new activity together, whether it's German cooking or photography or biking. Whatever you do, the learning process together will make for laughter and some meaningful memories.

QUO VADIS RETREAT

Attention all Catholic young men entering 9th-12th grade. Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! You are invited to attend the Quo Vadis Retreat, spending time with other young men discerning God's call. Quo Vadis is led by priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Columbus and is supported by the Diocesan Office of Vocations. Quo Vadis will be held July 26th-July 29th. The cost of the retreat is \$40.00. For more information or to register, go to <https://faceforwardcolumbus.com/quo-vadis/> or contact Michael Haemmerle at columbusquovadis@gmail.com.

PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we turn to you in our time of need knowing fully that you are a source of consolation, comfort and solace.

Comforter of the Afflicted, Hope of the Sick, help those throughout the world who have the Coronavirus; bring them strength, perseverance and healing.

Patron of the Dying, deliver the souls of those who are dying of the Coronavirus into the merciful arms of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Joseph Most Courageous, help those on the front lines of this pandemic with health of mind and body and assist them with their challenges and strife. And finally, in times of fear and anxiety, take us under your loving protection and aid us from on high. Amen. – Pope Francis

THE POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER FROM THE DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Pope Francis has made families the focus of his monthly prayer intention! The **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network** shares the following as his prayer: "We pray today's families may be accompanied with love, respect, and guidance."

Much writing about the family, for example in letters of the Pope and bishops, emphasizes the mission or tasks of the family – what the family should do, and what we expect of families.

But the intention of this month shifts a bit to what we should do for the family to make their mission possible. This is important because we know the many challenges facing the family today. We see photos of children separated from parents, homeless and refugee children, and the tyranny of the cellphone which interrupts family conversation.

So it is appropriate and indispensable that we pray in accord with the Pope's intention that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect, and guidance. To accompany means to support, encourage, walk with and stand up with and for families.

Who can do this? I think of Church and civil authorities, but first of all, I look to the family itself and to other families. It starts there, with grandparents, relatives and friends. In accepting the Sacrament of Matrimony, every Christian family pledges to be a sign, witness, model and encouragement to accompany to other families. The Sacrament gives grace and power to do this in imitating the Holy Family.

- *With love by reaching out, helping if there is need, by sharing wisdom and experience.*
- *With respect, not interfering, but assisting; not replacing, but honoring. The Catholic Catechism (#2219) speaks of respect IN the family for the old and young, the weak and the strong.*
- *With guidance, by setting a good example for other families, and by praying for God's Spirit to guide their members.*

Indeed, in this month let us all pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

– Peter Schineller, SJ, the Pope's
Worldwide Prayer Network (USA & Canada)

STEWARDSHIP ~ TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE

In today's Gospel from Matthew, our Lord shares the Parable of the Sower who scatters seed on many different kinds of land. This is a wonderful analogy for the stewardship way of life, demonstrating the slow and steady, yet powerful effect this lifestyle will have on those who fully embrace it.

In this parable, some of the seeds land on a path where birds carry them off before they can begin to take root. Other seeds land on rocky ground with little soil. As soon as things begin to heat up, they get scorched and die. Then there are seeds that land on soil cluttered with thorns which choke the seeds just as they are beginning to grow strong.

Finally, there are seeds that land on deep and healthy soil. These seeds produce abundant fruit.

This is where the stewardship way of life comes in. When we give the best of our time, talent and treasure to serve God and others, we create lives filled with that rare "good soil" needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive.

How does this happen? Stewardship living removes the "rocks" of mistrust from our lives as we develop an unshakable faith that God will always provide for our needs. It clears away the "thorns" of worldly ambition that make us self-centered, fill us with needless anxiety and stifle our focus on God. Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the sacraments which continuously nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives.

Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life, allowing the Sower to do His work in us, slowly and steadily. The Master Gardener will surely produce miraculous fruits through us.

– catholicsteward.com

*Sponsor of the
Week*



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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

“No one can become blessed, unless he ascends above his very self, not by an ascent with the body, but with the heart.” ~SAINT BONAVENTURE

Monday, July 13 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Saint Henry

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:34-11:1 Jesus said to his Apostles: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s enemies will be those of his household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.” When Jesus finished giving these commands to his Twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.

Meditation: Why does Jesus describe his mission and the coming of God's kingdom in terms of conflict, division, and war? Jesus came in peace to reconcile a broken and sinful humanity with an all-merciful and loving God. Jesus also came to wage war, to overthrow the powers and principalities arrayed against God and his kingdom. What are these powers? Jesus describes Satan as the ruler of this world whom he will cast out (John 12:31). The battle Jesus had in mind was not an earthly conflict between nations, but a spiritual warfare between the forces of Satan and the armies of heaven. The scriptures make clear that there are ultimately only two powers or kingdoms – God's kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. John contrasts these two kingdoms in the starkest of terms: We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).

Prayer: O God, whose abundant grace prepared Saint Henry to be raised by you in a wonderful way from the cares of earthly rule to heavenly realms, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may hasten towards you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Jesus spoke about division he likely had in mind the prophecy of Micah: a man's enemies are the men of his own household (Micah 7:6). The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship or anything else above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. It is possible that family and friends can become our enemies, if the thought of them keeps us from doing what we know God wants us to do. True love for God compels us to express charity towards our neighbor who is created in the image and likeness of God. Jesus declared that any kindness shown and any help given to the people of Christ will not lose its reward. Jesus never refused to give to anyone in need who asked for his help. As his disciples we are called to be kind and generous as he is. Jesus sets before his disciples the one goal in life that is worth any sacrifice and that goal is the will of God which leads to everlasting life, peace, and joy with God.

Tuesday, July 14 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin ~ the "Lily of the Mohawks"

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24 Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the nether world. For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Meditation: If Jesus were to walk down the streets of any community – your neighborhood, perhaps – what would he say? Would he issue a warning like the one he gave to Chorazin and Bethsaida? And how would you respond? Wherever Jesus went he did mighty works to show the people how much God had for them. Chorazin and Bethsaida had been blessed with the visitation of God. They heard the good news and experienced the wonderful works which Jesus did for them. Why was Jesus upset with these communities? The word woe can mean misfortune, calamity, distress, sorrow, sadness, misery, grief, or wretchedness. It is as much an expression of sorrowful pity and grief as it is of dismay over the calamity and destruction which comes as a result of human folly, sin, and ignorance.

Prayer: O God, who desired the Virgin St. Kateri Tekakwitha to flower among Native Americans in a life of innocence, grant, through her intercession, that when all are gathered into your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, they may magnify you in a single canticle of praise. 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.

Prayer to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, our elder sister in the Lord, discreetly, you watch over us; may your love for Jesus and Mary inspire in us words and deeds of friendship, of forgiveness and of reconciliation. Pray that God will give us the courage, the boldness and the strength to build a world of justice and peace among ourselves and among all nations. Help us, as you did, to encounter the Creator God present in the very depths of nature, and so become witnesses of Life. With you, we praise the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Amen.

Contemplation: Repentance demands constant change – a change of heart, a change of mind, and always a call to change the way we live our life. God's word is life-giving and it saves us from destruction – the destruction of heart, mind, and soul as well as body. Jesus' anger is directed toward sin and everything which hinders us from doing the will of God. In love he calls us to walk in his way of truth and freedom, grace and loving-kindness, justice and holiness. Do you receive his word with faith and obedience or with doubt and indifference?

Visit the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site: <https://www.katerishrine.com/>

Wednesday, July 15 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27 At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

Meditation: In today's gospel Jesus thanks the Father in heaven for revealing to his disciples the wisdom and knowledge of God. His prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. What makes us ignorant and blind to the things of God? Certainly intellectual pride, coldness of heart, and stubbornness of will shut out God and his kingdom. Pride is the root of all vice and the strongest influence propelling us to sin. It first vanquishes the heart, making it cold and indifferent towards God. It also closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. What is pride? It is the inordinate love of oneself at the expense of others and the exaggerated estimation of one's own learning and importance. Jesus contrasts intellectual pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are "childlike" (not childish) in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in the one who is greater, wiser, and more trustworthy. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" who is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility,

the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (ref. Book of Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6).

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure, we may benefit from his great learning and constantly imitate the ardor of his 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: Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – he is the perfect revelation of God. One of the greatest truths of the Christian faith is that we can know the living God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. The essence of Christianity, and what makes it distinct from Judaism and other religions, is the knowledge of God as our Father. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Jesus is the revelation of God – a God who loves us completely and unconditionally.

Thursday, July 16 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Meditation: God offers to each of us the greatest of relationships - union of heart, mind, and spirit with himself, Jesus Christ, who is the very author and source of love (1 John 4:8,16). God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional, and unstoppable. Nothing can deter him from ever leaving us, ignoring us, or treating us unkindly. He will love us no matter what. It is his nature to love. That is why he created us - to be united with him and to share in his love and unity (1 John 3:1). God is a trinity of persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and a community of love. That is why Jesus challenged his followers and even his own earthly family to recognize that God is the true source of all relationships. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love.

Prayer: May the venerable intercession of the glorious Virgin Mary come to our aid, we pray, O Lord, so that, fortified by her protection, we may reach the mountain which is Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel: O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein You are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. O show me herein You are my Mother. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (mention your request now).

Contemplation: God did not intend for us to be alone, but to be with others. That is why he gives us virtually unlimited opportunities for developing relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Why does Jesus seem to ignore his own relatives when they pressed to see him? His love and respect for his mother and his relatives (and for all people) is unquestionable; we must live accordingly.

About the Memorial to Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God. Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular. Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251, and gave him the scapular with the following words, which are preserved in a fourteenth century narrative: "This will be for you and for

all Carmelites the privilege, that he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church in 1726.

About the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: If you have not already done so, have a priest enroll you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or popularly known as the "Brown Scapular" and begin wearing it as a sign of your love for Our Lady. A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once. The Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars or the scapular medal, which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary. The medal needs to be blessed by a priest, but the cloth scapulars do not require a blessing (separate from enrollment).

Wearing the Brown Scapular is not an automatic guarantee of salvation. It is not a magical charm, nor is it an excuse to live in a way contrary to the teachings of the Church. It is a sacramental which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and is a sign of one's decision to follow Jesus as did Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. In addition to being an introduction into the Family of Carmel, the Brown Scapular is an expression of our belief that we will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayer of Mary. While sacramentals prepare us to receive grace if we are in the right disposition, the Church emphasizes that only sacraments can confer sanctifying grace. (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1670)

Friday, July 17 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8 Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Meditation: What does the commandment "keep holy the Sabbath" mean for us? Or better yet, what is the primary intention behind this command? The religious leaders confronted Jesus on this issue. The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his work, both in creation and redemption. It was a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf. It was intended to bring everyday work to a halt and to provide needed rest and refreshment. Jesus' disciples are scolded by the scribes and Pharisees, not for plucking and eating corn from the fields, but for doing so on the Sabbath. In defending his disciples, Jesus argues from the scriptures that human need has precedence over ritual custom. In their hunger, David and his men ate of the holy bread offered in the Temple. Jesus also quoted of the Sabbath work involved in worship in the Temple. This kind of work was usually double the work of worship on weekdays. Jesus then quotes from the prophet Hosea (6:6): I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. While the claims of ritual sacrifice are important to God, mercy and kindness in response to human need are even more important.

Prayer: O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The message of today's gospel can be complimented by contemplating on this prayer by Saint Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make us to walk in your way: Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance; where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor annoyance; where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice; where there is peace and contemplation, there is neither care nor restlessness; where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter; where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness; this we know through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

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