

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. Psalm 80



## *Church of Saint Edward the Confessor*

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### **Mass Schedule**

#### **SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

SATURDAY: 5:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY: 8:15 A.M.  
10:45 A.M.

#### **HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

TBA IN BULLETIN

#### **WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9:00 A.M.

#### **ADORATION:**

MONDAY: 9:30 A.M.-12:00 NOON  
FRIDAY: 9:30 A.M.-12:00 NOON

#### **CONFESSIONS:**

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

#### **BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

MONDAY NOON

**E-mail:** [church@saintedwards.org](mailto:church@saintedwards.org)



## MASSES THIS WEEK

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**10:45 a.m.** John Grayson (RIP)  
by Grayson Family

**Monday, December 20**

**9:00 a.m.** Art and Ruth Durwin (RIP)  
by James and Patricia Ott

**Tuesday, December 21**

**9:00 a.m.** Anthony Skufca, Jr. (RIP, Anniversary)  
by Anthony and Dorothy Skufca

**Wednesday, December 22**

**9:00 a.m.** Teresa Rincon (RIP)  
by Maria McDermott

**Thursday, December 23**

**9:00 a.m.** Jaron L. Shook (RIP)  
by Suzanne Shook

**Friday, December 24 – Nativity of the Lord**

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

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

**Saturday, December 25 – Nativity of the Lord**

**10:00 a.m.** Living & Deceased Members  
of St. Edward Parish  
No 5:00 p.m. Mass today

**Sunday, December 26 – Holy Family**

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

**10:45 a.m.** Vilma Rempillo (RIP)  
by Kendall and Jeanette Carpenter

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021 – YEAR C

### PRELUDE

10:45 a.m. Choir: *Rorate Caeli* (Drop down, ye heavens)

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (#51)

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Ps. 80: Lord, make us turn to you... (p. 42)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 43)

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS (10:45 a.m. Bell Choir):

Creator of the Stars of Night

SANCTUS, SAVE US, AMEN, AGNUS DEI:

chanted (#859, #10, #861, #863)

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

### CONCLUDING RITE

RECESSIONAL: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (#68)

### CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Kevin Skinner

8:15 a.m.: Beth Spieles

10:45 a.m.: Cole & Cian McDermott



## NOTES FROM THE LOFT

*"Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name."*

*Psalm 96*

The scheduled music plans for the Christmas Masses are:

♪ **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve** will have Children's Choir prelude, cantor(s) during Mass, organ/piano, and trumpet. Organ prelude by Val Matula begins at about 4:30 p.m., and Children's Choir sings at about 4:40 p.m.

♪ **9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve** will have Adult Choir, Bell Choir, organ/piano, trumpet, and violin. Prelude music begins at 8:30 p.m.

♪ **10:00 a.m. Christmas Day** will have cantor, organ/piano, trumpet, violin, and bell tree. Prelude music begins at about 9:45 a.m. May God bless us and our world in these final days of Advent. Come, Emmanuel!

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



*"I rejoiced when they said unto me,  
let us go into the house of the Lord."*

*Psalm 122:1*

We welcome all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship here today. To our visitors, 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.





## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

## DECEMBER 18-19: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER
<b>Saturday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Karen Kolbe John Martin Stephanie Manley	Erin Lane	Kevin Bollo Claire Skinner
<b>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</b>	Stephanie Dodd Bill Hoekstra	Tori Helgerman	Iain Helgerman Augustus Wilson
<b>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</b>	Richard Hoben Peter Thomas	Thomas Bressoud	Andrew Cottrell Claire Cottrell

## DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER
<b>Friday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Rita Baldwin John Martin	Tori Helgerman	Arianna Carter
<b>Friday, 9:00 p.m.</b>	S. A. Beaver Rebecca Gassman Noelle Gremling Beverly Knoderer	Erin Lane	Jonathan Gardner Isaac Gardner Kevin Bollo

## DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER
<b>Saturday, 10:00 a.m.</b>	Mary Maltry Juanita Swickard Kris Whiting Emily Dunbar	Michael Whiting	Amanda Dunbar

## DECEMBER 26: HOLY FAMILY

	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER
<b>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</b>	Rita Baldwin Beverly Knoderer	Barb Mattei-Smith	
<b>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</b>	Rebecca Gassman Paul Gassman		

## DECEMBER 31: SOLEMNITY OF MARY

	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER
<b>Friday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Rita Baldwin	John Fitzpatrick	

## SUPPORTING ST. EDWARD CHURCH

*"Each one must do as he has purposed in his heart,  
not grudgingly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The offertory for December 12	\$	9,319.52
Online Giving was	\$	3,727.00
Christmas Collection	\$	4,105.00
Retirement Fund	\$	2,656.00

**If you no longer need envelopes,  
please contact the Parish Office.**

## ONLINE GIVING HAS BEEN UPDATED

We now have a new version of Online Giving. To donate online, go to the St. Edward website at [www.saintedwards.org](http://www.saintedwards.org) and click on the "DONATE ONLINE" button.

If you have used the Online Giving Program for recurring contributions, it will be necessary to create a new password for your account. Simply select the "Lost Password" link and follow the directions. If you have ever given using the "one-time option," you can now easily make a gift without an account. You can always set up an account later.

Thank you for your patience as we transition to the new version of Online Giving!

**Note:** For changes to your credit card, log in to update your online contribution account. The program automatically suspends your contributions if changes have occurred to your card.

For help, contact Cheryl Boggess at the Parish Office.

## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

As we begin the last week of Advent time, I remind all to be sure to check out our Masses for Christmas: Christmas Eve at 5:00 and 9:00 p.m., and also 10:00 a.m. on the day of Christmas. The day following, Sunday, December 26th, is the Feast of the Holy Family, with two Masses at the usual Sunday times at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. (There is no Saturday evening Mass on Christmas Day at 5:00 p.m.) Please join us to keep Christmas Festivities.



Dear Parishioners near and far,

As we near Christmas and the end of the year, I ask all to consider making a special gift this year to your parish as we continue to suffer financially from the effects of the Coronavirus. With so many still not physically attending Mass, our collections have been severely compromised. We really do need your help in this season where many have been so generous in the past. We have been able to retain all our parish staff and carry on through the challenges. God willing, and with your generous response, we will continue to do so. You are all in our prayers and ask you to keep us in yours during these difficult days. May our Infant Savior bless you and yours always.

God Bless, Msgr. Paul Enke



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**St. Edward Extra Confession Time**  
December 22 – 7:00-8:00 p.m.

### St. Edward Christmas Masses ~ The Nativity Of The Lord

December 24 – Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 p.m. (Children's Choir sings at 4:30 p.m.)  
9:00 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day Mass  
10:00 a.m.

## *This Week at St. Edward*

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Sunday, December 19**

**Masses** – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal** – 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
in the Choir Loft

**Monday, December 20**

**Mass** – 9:00 a.m.,

Adoration after Mass until noon

**Walking with Purpose** – 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall



**Tuesday, December 21**

**Mass** – 9:00 a.m.

**Bell Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 22**

**NO PSR**

**Thursday, December 23**

**Mass** – 9:00 a.m.

**Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 24**

Parish office will be closed.

**Mass** – 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 25**

**Mass** – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass

No 5:00 p.m. Mass

### PRAYER CHAIN

*"Give me a person of prayer, and such a one will be capable of accomplishing anything."*

~ St. Vincent de Paul

Parishioners will pray for you, a family member, or a friend. Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 or email [ckk1@att.net](mailto:ckk1@att.net) for prayers. To pray for others, please contact Cindy for information.



Thank you to those who have contributed towards flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The list with the above information will be in the December 26th bulletin.



### GIVING TREE THANK-YOU

Thank you for making the 2021 Giving Tree program a big success. Your generous giving enabled Christmas presents for 142 children (clothing, toys, and \$2,500.00 in gift cards for supplemental gifts), Christmas dinner for 53 families (\$2,700.00 in grocery gift cards), and necessities for the St. Vincent Haven residents (\$2,100.00 in gift cards). Many thanks also to the volunteers that sorted gifts, shopped, and distributed them. 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.



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**9:30 a.m. to Noon – Mondays and Fridays**

**"My Lord and my God, I firmly believe that you are here, that you see me, that you hear me. I adore you with profound reverence..." (Jn 20:28)** Eucharistic Adoration offers us the unique opportunity to be in the true presence of God through the Exposition of the Holy Eucharist. Come and join in this faith-filled devotion to Our Lord. Eucharistic Adoration is held every Monday and Friday after Mass starting at 9:30 a.m. until noon.



### "THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE"

**Saturdays at 7:00 a.m., Coffee and Donuts.**

**NO MEETING ON DECEMBER 25 or JANUARY 1**

All men in the parish are invited to attend *That Man Is You!* Contact Tim Collins at [tmc8004@gmail.com](mailto:tmc8004@gmail.com) for information.



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Keeper of Promises

Father,  
you keep your promises  
to Sarah, to Hannah,  
to Elizabeth, to Mary,  
to your people Israel.  
You have promised to heal the world

and to fill it with your love  
like water fills the sea.  
Help us to wait in hope.  
Give us food for the journey  
that our eyes might see your salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Sunday, December 19, 2021 Blessed Are You Who Believed



*Today's readings: Micah 5:1–4a; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45.* In the season of Advent, we look to those who watched and waited for Jesus when he first came into the world. The people of Israel, who first heard the words of the prophets, were waiting. The prophets spoke God's Word to them and gave them hope. They described the one who would come and the kingdom he would bring. Micah says his greatness extends to the ends of the earth.

Mary waited for the messiah throughout her early life. But she waited for Jesus in a way unique to her. When she was invited to be part of this completely new thing God was doing, she said yes with her whole heart. And then she set out.

Elizabeth's words to Mary communicate something important. "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary is blessed because she knew that God was a keeper of promises. As we wait in hope, we can meditate on this truth. Take some time to think about what we hope for. We often worry about the conditions of the world. The weight of its brokenness can be hard to bear. But God keeps promises. In the words of the prophets and in the life of Jesus, a new possibility is revealed. Take some time today to meditate on the possibility of a world filled with God's love, governed by justice and peace to the ends of the earth.

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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

***"If the princes and rulers of this world are privileged to make merry over the sons of their flesh, what a mountain of reasons we have for exulting over the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior!" ~SAINT PETER CANISIUS***

### **Monday, December 20 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent**

*O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens; come and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** In a great leap of faith and trust in the angel Gabriel's message, Mary says without hesitation: "Yes!"..."Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be to me according to your word." For us Christians, the moment of that "Yes" is a turning point in the history of the world. As it is also even for those who do not know Christ or who refuse to believe in his divine origin. It is the moment of the Incarnation, when the Word became flesh and began to live among us as one of us. The world would never be the same. In a way, this is a more important moment than Christmas, but it is understandable that we should tend to celebrate more the visible presence of God in Jesus at Bethlehem. Mary had yet to learn what that "Yes" involved but it was made unconditionally and it was never withdrawn. Through a life joy and celebration, and of trials and tribulations, challenges, fears and anxieties – of which we can know only a fraction – right up to those terrible moments as she stood beneath the Cross and saw her only Son die in agony and shame as a public criminal, Mary never once withdrew that "Yes" she gave to God through the angel Gabriel. Mary is truly a loving and faithful child of God – how do each of us compare in this regard?

**Prayer:** O God, eternal majesty, whose ineffable Word the immaculate Virgin received through the message of an Angel and so became the dwelling-place of divinity, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, grant, we pray, that by her example we may in humility hold fast to your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** There is a crystal clear message in today's gospel. Each of us have been called in our own special way to give birth to Jesus in our lives and in our own environment in which we live, work and interact with one another. We too have been called to say "Yes" – an unconditional and resounding "Yes" to following Jesus. In this last week of Advent, just days before Christmas, wow is the time for us to renew that pledge with Mary's help and example.

### **Tuesday, December 21 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**



*O Dawn, splendor of eternal light, and sun of justice, come,  
and shine on those seated in darkness, and in the shadow of death.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45** Mary set out in those days and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

**Meditation:** In Monday's and Tuesday's gospel narratives we heard about the two annunciations – to Zechariah and to Mary – about the birth of two special children, John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Obviously, both mothers, cousins, were each very excited about the birth of their first child. They were anxious to share together their joy and happiness, just as mothers do today with family and friends. In one way, it would make sense for Mary to visit Elizabeth, because the younger should visit the older. On the other hand, Elizabeth should be the one to visit because Mary's child was a person of such rank and dignity, God's own Son. In a way, the story is more interested in the children than in the mothers. And Luke uses his Infancy Narrative as a vehicle to present something in advance that is worth thinking about – one of the hallmarks of Jesus' future life. It is of service to others that he illustrates. Jesus later on in sacred scripture will say: "I have come to serve and not to be served." And so today, still in his mother's womb, he comes to visit his cousin, John, rather than wait at home to be visited. A subtle, yet very important characteristic of Christ for us to note, and for us to imitate as his disciples.

**Prayer:** Hear in kindness, O Lord, the prayers of your people, that those who rejoice at the coming of your Only Begotten Son in our flesh may, when at last he comes in glory, gain the reward of eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer ~ Saint Peter Canisius:** O God, who for the defense of the Catholic faith made the Priest Saint Peter Canisius strong in virtue and in learning, grant, through his intercession, that those who seek the truth may joyfully find you, their God, and that your faithful people may persevere in confession you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** In these last days of Advent, have you reached out to help someone in need? Have you "served" anyone in some special way, in living witness to Christ our Savior? There is still time to do something in these days before Christmas – a family in need in the parish that the pastor may know of, or someone in the neighborhood or parish who you might reach out to by inviting them into your home at Christmas, or riding to Church for Mass. In a world where so many are high-maintenance people demanding to be served, let's think about how we can best serve others by seeing the face of Christ in them, and reaching out to them from our hearts with the love of Christ enflamed in our hearts.

### **Wednesday, December 22 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent**

*O King of the Gentiles and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one;  
come, and deliver man, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:46-56** Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever." Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

**Meditation:** Today's gospel, referred commonly as *The Magnificat*, is not what one would have expected to hear from the lips of a simple village girl named Mary. It is Mary's response to the greeting she received from her cousin Elizabeth – a song is full of joy, especially because Mary recognizes that God has acknowledged the presence of a simple girl living in a small place who, in the eyes of the world, is deemed a person of no consequence. But, where God is concerned, everyone is of equal consequence because we are all children of God, equal in his eyes.

**Prayer:** O God, who, seeing the human race fallen into death, willed to redeem it by the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that those who confess his Incarnation with humble fervor may merit his company as their Redeemer. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Despite what we may think about ourselves, always remember that God has great things in store for his people. It is again a vision of the Kingdom, of God's will being done on earth. It is indeed Good News. All this is very much in line with the picture of Jesus when one reads the gospels. It is in the gospels where the poor, the weak, the marginalized, the outcast and the sinful have a special place in the eyes of Jesus. We, too, can rejoice with Mary in the long list of good things that we have been gifted with by our loving Lord. Those gifts are not just for our enjoyment. Our task is, in accordance with those God-given gifts, abilities and talents, to make sure that the love of God is tangibly experienced by the poor, the weak, the marginalized, the outcast and the sinful in our own midst. The realization of what Mary sings about in today's gospel will only take place when we all work together with Jesus to bring it about.

**Thursday, December 23 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent**  
**Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

*O Emmanuel, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior:  
Come to save us, O Lord our God.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:57-66** When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

**Meditation:** Elizabeth is firm in her faith and determined to see that God be glorified through this child. The name "John" means "the Lord is gracious." In the birth of John and in the birth of Jesus the Messiah we see the grace of God breaking forth into a world broken by sin and death and without hope. John's miraculous birth shows the mercy and favor of God in preparing his people for the coming of its Lord and Savior, Christ the Savior, the Son of God.

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, as we see how the Nativity of your Son according to the flesh draws near, we pray that to us, your unworthy servants, mercy may flow from your Word, who chose to become flesh of the Virgin Mary and establish among us his dwelling, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer ~ Saint John Kanty:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by the example of the Priest Saint John of Kanty we may advance in knowledge of holy things and by showing compassion to all, may gain forgiveness in your sight. 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 God acts to save us, he graciously fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes our faith "alive" to his promises. The question always comes down to this, though: Do you make your life an offering to God, along with your family, and all that you possess? God wants to fill us with his glory all the days of our lives, from conception, to birth, through every moment of our earthly lives, until our death. As Advent draws to a close and we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, renew the offering of your life to God, and from your heart give him thanks for his mercy and favor towards you.

**Friday, December 24, 2015 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Advent**  
**Christmas Eve Day ~ Daytime Gospel**

*Behold, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son into the world.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:67-69** Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our



fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**Mediation:** The Holy Spirit gave Zechariah a vision for his own son as a prophet and forerunner who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Like Zechariah, the Holy Spirit wants to give us vision, joy, and confidence in the knowledge of God's merciful love, protection, and care which he offers us through his Son Jesus Christ. Like the Baptist, we too are called to prepare the way that leads to Christ. Life is a journey and we are either moving towards the Lord or away from the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us each day with his life-giving Word and Spirit. Those who hunger for the Word of the Lord will never be disappointed. He will draw them to himself and show them his love and mercy.

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

**Contemplation:** When John was circumcised on the eighth day according to the Jewish rite, his father Zechariah was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and with great joy. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he spoke out a prophetic word and hymn of blessing for the work of redemption which God was about to accomplish in Christ. He foresaw the fulfillment of God's promise to David and his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messianic King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish peace and security for his people. We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God.

**Saturday, December 25, 2015**

### **Solemnity of Christmas ~ The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

*Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God,  
Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14** *(Revised Standard Version translation)* In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

**Prayer:** Grant we pray, almighty God, that as we are bathed in the new radiance of Your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deed. 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:** In the quiet of your home read and ponder the power of this "Christmas Gospel" and join with the angelic choirs of heaven and glorify God, giving thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, our Savior and Redeemer. Blessings for a Merry Christmas!

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Advent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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frlumpe:2021





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 20

#### Nothing Impossible

“Nothing will be impossible for God.” It is easy to be discouraged when confronting a struggle. People have cried out to God throughout salvation history, longing to heal the brokenness in their lives and in the world. God’s solution came in a way beyond their comprehension: God coming to experience human life and thereby redeem it. Consider illustrating this Gospel passage or copying the Scripture. While you are reflecting, meditate on these words: “Nothing will be impossible for God.” What are the seeming impossibilities in your life? Where might God provide solutions beyond your imagination? *Today’s readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

### Tuesday, December 21

#### The Visitation

Imagine yourself alongside the newly pregnant Mary as she goes “in haste” across eighty miles of rough terrain, seeking out someone also experiencing a miraculous pregnancy. What did she see, hear, and think about as she was walking? We know that John the Baptist leapt for joy within his mother at the sound of Mary’s voice. What do you think Elizabeth felt when John leapt for joy? *Today’s readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

### Wednesday, December 22

#### He Has Lifted Up the Lowly

Mary proclaims the Magnificat, her song of praise to God, in Luke 1:46–56. Copy the Scripture. Which words particularly speak to you? While reading the Scriptures, we see how God has acted in history. This can help us to see what God is doing today. How do you see God acting as Mary proclaims? *Today’s readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–8; Luke 1:46–56.*

### Thursday, December 23

#### Great Mercy

In today’s Gospel, the birth of John is described as “the Lord had shown his great mercy toward” Elizabeth. When have you experienced God’s mercy? God kept the promise to Elizabeth, and in doing so, kept the promise of the prophets of old, that one would come who would prepare the way of the Lord. *Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10, 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

### Friday, December 24

#### Nativity Scene

Laying out a Nativity can be a contemplative experience. If you have already set up a Nativity, spend some time sitting before it in silent prayer. What do you notice? Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi put together the first Nativity? Nativities have helped Christians to pray about the incarnation for hundreds of years. *Today’s readings: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

### Saturday, December 25

#### Joy to the World!

Today we celebrate the incarnation, God becoming human that we might share in God’s divine life. We might wonder why God would choose to become something so vulnerable as a new baby. Why would God want to enter into the human condition, with all its limitations? Why would God enter into a world with sadness and suffering, and death? He came to open the way to a new possibility: a kingdom marked by justice, peace, and life. God’s love is more than anything we can imagine, and God’s will is for us to live in that love. *Today’s readings: Night: Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14; Dawn: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20; Day: Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14.*







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No previous Bible Study experience is required. We will have meetings on Monday evenings beginning February 7 and Wednesday mornings beginning February 9. **Sign up after all Masses in the Gathering Space January 8 and 9. You can order a book when you register by January 19 for a \$23.00 fee or at [www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com).**

### ORDERING YOUR PRIORITIES: BUILDING A LIFE WELL-LIVED

#### WWP ZOOM STUDY BEGINNING JANUARY 24

Are you feeling overwhelmed? What might change if we figured out how to build lives that we like? *Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well-Lived* is a practical Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. A *Walking With Purpose* ministry coach will walk alongside your group the first two Zoom sessions. All you need are the *Ordering Your Priorities* study guide (which you can order from the WWP online shop), your Bible and a free Zoom account! Each session will last one hour and will be offered for eight consecutive weeks.

**For more information on WWP, contact:** Monica Addis at 740-927-3913 or [monica.addis@icloud.com](mailto:monica.addis@icloud.com); Noelle Gremling at 614-323-8335 or [ngremling@gmail.com](mailto:ngremling@gmail.com); Barb Hinterschied at 740-403-3736 or [bhinterschied@gmail.com](mailto:bhinterschied@gmail.com); or Janice Schroeder at 419-265-0266 or [sjschroed313@gmail.com](mailto:sjschroed313@gmail.com); or go to [walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com) under "Bible Studies for Adult Women."

## YOUTH GROUP

Dear Youth Group,

This **Sunday, December 19th**, there will be no youth group. I hope you enjoy your break.

Merry Christmas,

Steven Arias, Youth Minister



There will be no Youth Group during the local schools' Christmas Breaks. There is no Youth Group on December 19, December 26 and January 2.

Steven Arias, Youth Minister  
[youth@saintedwards.org](mailto:youth@saintedwards.org)

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**PSR Christmas and Winter Break:**  
**Wednesday, December 15, 2021-**  
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PSR Schedule is available online at [saintedwards.org/PSR](http://saintedwards.org/PSR) and in the Gathering Space.

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## PREPARING FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD AT ST. EDWARD CHURCH

*"No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."*

*John 3:5*

Congratulations on the upcoming birth of your child! Our parish celebrates Baptisms on the second Sunday of every month immediately after the 10:45 a.m. Mass. To prepare for a Baptism, new parents attend a Baptismal Preparation Class and choose godparents for the child. At least one godparent must be a practicing, fully-initiated Catholic who is at least 16 years old. Please contact Cheryl Boggess at 740-587-3254 in the Parish Office for more information about godparents and Baptismal Preparation as soon as possible.

## *Know Your Saints*

### **Saint John of the Cross's Story**

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery – through death to life – strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and, like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely – to experience the dying of Jesus – as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the Gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49 – a life short, but full.

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## STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTION DECEMBER 19, 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MI 5:1-4A; PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; HEB 10:5-10; LK 1:39-45

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

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

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

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

– Stewardship Reflections by [Catholic Stewardship Consultants](#)

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