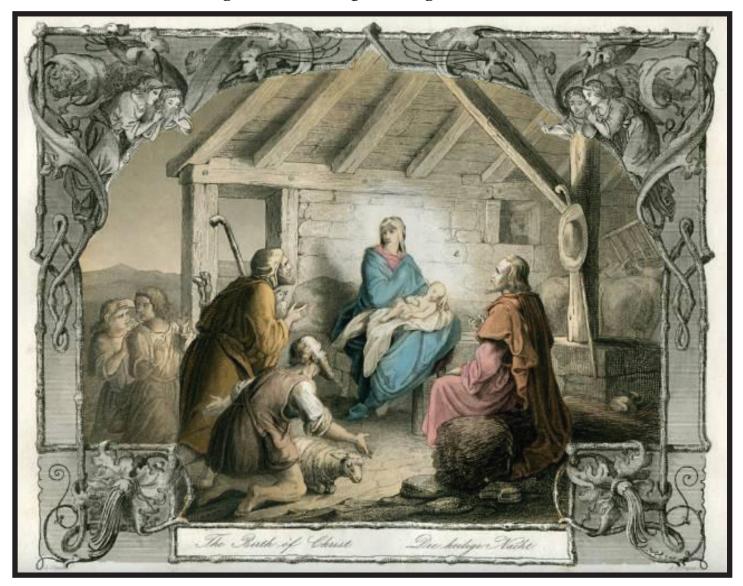
Church of Saint Edward the Confessor

785 Newark-Granville 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.





MASSES THIS WEEK

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sunday, December 26 -

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members

of St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Vilma Rempillo (RIP)

by Kendall & Jeanette Carpenter

Monday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00 a.m. Father Joseph Klee by David & Joyce Thiel

Tuesday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. Keifer Boggess (RIP, Birthday)

by Mark & Paula Coleman

Wednesday, December 29 -

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

9:00 a.m. Mary Alice Millisor (RIP)

by Msgr. Enke & Parish Staff

Thursday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Dee Hartman (RIP) by Dave & Kim Chupka

Friday, December 31 - St. Sylvester I, Pope

5:00 p.m. George Stevenson (RIP)

by Rose Anne Stevenson

Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

5:00 p.m. Vilma Rempillo (RIP) by Kendall Carpenter

Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany of the Lord

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of

St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Ida Bowers (RIP) by Bill & Mimi Hagedorn

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

☐ Christ is born! Let us rejoice! As we celebrate this blessed season, I would like to thank all of our music ministers – our Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir, Funeral Choir, cantors, organists, and instrumentalists. They are truly a blessing to our entire parish. I continue to be inspired and humbled by their commitment, dedication, and willingness to sing, ring, and play. Having a music minister for a parent, child, or spouse means that everybody must sacrifice and adjust their schedules and plans, so a tremendous thank-you to their families as well. Finally, thank you to all who lift your voices in song and prayer from the pews and the sanctuary. May God bless you, your families, our parish, and our world this Christmas!

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 26, 2021 – YEAR C

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#81)

GLORIA: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict (text on inside front cover or p. 6)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 84:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house... (p. 54) GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 54)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (#83)

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

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict COMMUNION: The First Nowell (#108)

CONCLUDING RITE

RECESSIONAL: Angels We Have Heard on High (#82)

CANTORS

8:15 a.m.: Dave Conway 10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

TRUMPET

8:15 a.m.: Adam Spieles

10:45 a.m.: Adam Spieles & Shelby Heist



"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.

This Week at St. Edward

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sunday, December 26

Masses - 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Monday, December 27

Parish Office will be closed. No Adoration today.

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 28

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 29 NO PSR

Thursday, December 30

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Friday, December 31

Parish Office will be closed. No Adoration today.

Mass - 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Saturday, January 1

5:00 p.m. Mass

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

(†)	Ministry	Scheduler	Pro
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DECEMBER 26: HOLY FAMILY					
	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER		
Sunday,	Rita Baldwin	Barb Mattei-			
8:15 a.m.	Beverly Knoderer	Smith			
Sunday,	Rebecca Gassman	David Baker	Amanda		
10:45 a.m.	Paul Gassman		Dunbar		

DECEMBER 31: SOLEMNITY OF MARY				
	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVER	
Friday, 5:00 p.m.	Rita Baldwin Sandy McCullough	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 19 was not ready at the time of printing of the bulletin.

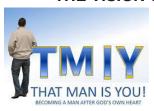
If you no longer need envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

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 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.

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 is in this bulletin.

"THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE"



Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.
Coffee & Donuts
NO MEETING ON JANUARY 1.

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

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 for prayers. To pray for others, please contact Cindy for information.

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

On behalf of Deacon John Barbour, myself and the entire staff of our parish and preschool, I wish to extend our best wishes for a joyous season and a very happy new year. For those who are traveling we wish you all a safe journey and a wonderful visit with family and friends. *May the Christ Child of Bethlehem bless you and your loved ones*.

Please read below an excerpt from the Christmas sermon by Meister Eckhart from centuries ago. It's a fascinating way to explain the Incarnation:

The Birth of God in me

The greatest good that God ever performed for us was that He became a human being. I ought to tell a story that is very apposite here.

There were a rich husband and wife. The wife suffered a misfortune through which she lost an eye, and she was much distressed by this. Then her husband came to her and said: "Madam, why are you so distressed? You should not distress yourself so because you have lost an eye." Then she said: "Sir, I am not distressing myself about the fact that I have lost my eye; what distresses me is that it seems to me that you will love me less because of it." Then he said: "Madam, I do love you." Not long after that, he gouged out one of his own eyes and came to his wife and said: "Madam, to make you believe that I love you, I have made myself like you; now I, too, have only one eye."

This stands for us, who could scarcely believe that God loved us so much, until God gouged out one of His own eyes and took upon Himself human nature. This is what "being made flesh" is.

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.



Walking with Purpose transforms the hearts and lives of women by providing Bible Studies that enable women to know

Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE: BEHOLDING YOUR KING SIGN UP JANUARY 8/9

We'll study King David, select Psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This ninelesson Bible Study includes:

- Prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament and their effect on people, past and present
- Psalm 23, the most familiar of all the Psalms, which has comforted people throughout the centuries
- God's steady purpose in both the Old and New Covenants, and the promises He kept to all of us

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.

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; Noelle Gremling at 614-323-8335 or ngremling@gmail.com; Barb Hinterschied at 740-403-3736 or bhinterschied@gmail.com; or Janice Schroeder at 419-265-0266 or sjschroed313@gmail.com; or go to walkingwithpurpose.com under "Bible Studies for Adult Women."

Know Your Saints

The Holy Innocents, Feast Day December 28th: Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence, he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the East came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn King of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered Him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

Reflection: The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth – a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus' death and Resurrection.

From FranciscanMedia.org (accessed December 17, 2021)

Saint Thomas Becket, Feast Day December 29th: "A strong man who wavered for a moment, but then learned one cannot come to terms with evil, and so became a strong churchman, a martyr, and a saint – that was Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on December 29, 1170. His career had been a stormy one. While archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at the age of 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into Church affairs. Nevertheless, in 1162, he was made archbishop, resigned his chancellorship, and reformed his whole way of life! Troubles began. Henry insisted upon usurping Church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome. But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety, and remained in exile for seven years. When he returned to England, he suspected it would mean certain death. Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favored by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury cathedral. Thomas Becket remains a hero-saint down to our own times.

Reflection: No one becomes a saint without struggle, especially with himself. Thomas knew he must stand firm in defense of truth and right, even at the cost of his life. We also must take a stand in the face of pressures – against dishonesty, deceit, destruction of life – at the cost of popularity, convenience, promotion, and even greater goods.

Saint Thomas Becket is a Patron Saint of: Roman Catholic Diocesan Clergy

From FranciscanMedia.org (accessed December 17, 2021)

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)

"I feel as though I am with Mary and Joseph beside the Crib. It is good to be there. Outside are the cold and the snow, images of the world, but in the little cave, lit by the light of Jesus, it is sweet and warm and light." ~Saint Thomas Becket

Monday, December 27 ~ Octave of Christmas Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

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

Meditation: The placement of today's Gospel seems to "rush" in the life of Jesus from his birth – which we celebrated just two days ago – to his resurrection, describing the scene where Peter and the "beloved disciple" rush to the tomb of Jesus after being told by Mary Magdalene that the body is no longer there. But this gospel points to the great love that John the Apostle and Evangelist – the beloved disciple – had for Jesus Christ as the Word Incarnate, the Messiah, the Son of God, the one whose birth we just celebrated. Although the "beloved disciple" got there first, he deferred to Peter who went in first and saw the burial cloths. One of them – the piece that was wrapped around the face – was rolled up in a separate place. When the "beloved disciple" went in, "he saw and he believed" – in other words, he understood the significance of the cloth and he knew that his Lord had risen. And the promise of salvation of all mankind began with the birth of Jesus. I suggest that today you read John 1:1-18 today as well.

Prayer: O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his birth and resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Christ, sent by God to save and redeem us, to teach us how to live our lives, to shepherd and guide us on the path that leads to eternal life. Get to know Christ personally as your Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

Tuesday, December 28 ~ Octave of Christmas Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18 When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son. When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then

was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

Meditation: During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. The joy of this Christmas Season is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes.

Prayer: O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying, grant, we pray, that the faith in your which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner of life. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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.

Contemplation: Many ask why God did not prevent this slaughter. Human suffering is indeed a mystery. No explanation seems to satisfy our human craving to understand. These innocent children and their parents suffered for Christ. Suffering, persecution, and martyrdom are the lot of all who chose to follow Jesus Christ. There is no crown without the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and death on a cross, that our salvation was won. His death won life – eternal life for us. And his blood which was shed for our sake obtained pardon and reconciliation with our heavenly Father.

Wednesday, December 29 ~ Octave of Christmas Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-35 When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Meditation: When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who are receptive and eager to receive him. Are you receptive? Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord with you?

Prayer: Almighty and invisible God, who dispersed the darkness of this world by the coming of your light, look, we pray, with serene countenance upon us, that we may acclaim with fitting praise the greatness of the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Thomas Becket: O God, who gave the Martyr Saint Thomas Becket the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice, grant, through his intercession, that, renouncing our life for the sake of Christ in this world, we may find it in heaven. 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.

Contemplation: There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow.

But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take way.

Thursday, December 30 ~ Octave of Christmas

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:26-30 There was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Meditation: What do you hope for? The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. Hope grows with prayer and age. Anna's hope in God and his promises grew with age! She never ceased to worship God in faith and to pray with hope. Her hope and faith in God's promises fueled her indomitable zeal and fervor in prayer and service of God's people.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the newness of the Nativity in the flesh of your Only Begotten Son may set us free, for ancient servitude holds us bound beneath the yoke of sin. 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.

Contemplation: A logical question is how do we grow in hope? The answer is simple: by placing our trust in the promises of God the father and his son, Jesus Christ, and relying not on our own strength, but on the grace and help of the Holy Spirit. As Fr. Thomas Merton once wrote: "We are not perfectly free until we live in pure hope. For when our hope is pure, it no longer trusts exclusively in human and visible means, nor rests in any visible end. He who hopes in God trusts God, Whom he never sees, to bring him to the possession of things that are beyond imagination." (*Excerpted from "No Man is an Island"*)

Friday, December 31 ~ Octave of Christmas Saint Sylvester I, Pope

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

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: Almighty ever-living God, who in the Nativity of your Son established the beginning and fulfillment of all religion, grant, we pray, that we may be numbered among those who belong to him, in whom is the fullness of human salvation. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Sylvester: 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, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

Saturday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth forever.

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, 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. 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. In this New Year, reinvigorate your relationship with Jesus Christ, live your life in witness to Him, and experience the joys of authentic discipleship by listening to Jesus, learning from him, and following in his footsteps!

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 and Christmas* 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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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Help Us to Grow

Father, through the holy family, you have made all families holy. You have given them as a model for us as we walk through life together. Help us to be ever more merciful. Help us to forgive one another and to do small things with great love. Help us to grow together in holiness. Give us the wisdom to imitate Mary, holding all great mysteries in our hearts. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 26, 2021 All Families Are Made Holy



Today's readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128: 1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21 or 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52 or 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28; Psalm 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24; Luke 2:41–52. Little is known about the life Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in Nazareth. From the time they returned from Egypt until the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, the only story that appears in Scripture about the family is the founding of Jesus in the temple. A close reading of this text shows that they were observant Jews and they went to Jerusalem each year for Passover. It also can be seen that they traveled with their extended family, so they had other significant relationships in their lives. They had regular family struggles. Mary asks, "Why have you done this to us?" She sounds like many mothers who are

raising adolescents. Their family life is a model for ours, but it must have been very ordinary indeed.

Imagine what that can mean for us.

Jesus knows our hearts and our struggles because he lived them too. God entered into a family and set the family apart as a place of sanctification. The holy family makes all families holy. The family is an ordinary place filled with ordinary love, peace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness. It is a place to grow in holiness. This week, as you go about your routine, imagine how you are connected to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, across time and space, to their home in Nazareth. If you are preparing a meal or folding the laundry, you are doing holy work, just as they did.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist. He and his brother were early disciples of Jesus and witnesses to the resurrection. He traveled to Ephesus, where he composed his Gospel and letters, and later wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. It is traditional to bless wine and cider on the Feast of St. John. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.*

Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

When Herod massacred all baby boys under two years of age, he sought to eliminate the threat the messiah posed to his power. His horrific, violent act epitomizes a truth we know even today: those who benefit most from the world's brokenness and injustice will always oppose the transformation God has promised. The infant Jesus needed protection, protection God provided in the person of St. Joseph. The deaths of the children were profound violations of the law of God. God is the God of life. God raised the infants to be saints, that the profound injustice of their deaths might be transformed: from death to life, that is the way of our God. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.*

Wednesday, December 29 Simeon: Waiting in Hope

God had promised Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the salvation of Israel. The child Jesus, not yet six weeks old, is brought to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. What must it have been like for him to feel the fulfillment of the promise? What desires of your heart are you awaiting God to fulfill? *Today's readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.*

Thursday, December 30 Anna the Prophetess

Anna the prophetess "spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Israel." The hope that she has held onto has been realized before her eyes, and she cannot keep it to herself. She goes out into the world to be the bringer of the Good News, to bring hope. When we celebrate Christmas, we are making present the incarnation through which God continues to bring about a renewed world. Christians are to testify about our hope, just as Anna did. How can you share your hope today? *Today's readings:* 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.

Friday, December 31 Word Made Flesh

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The evangelist John tells us the cosmic significance of the birth of Jesus. Because John uses the language of philosophy and poetry, it can be hard to grasp what he means. But because he uses these elevated ways of speaking, it is possible to approach the inexplicable mystery that is contained in the incarnation. Read today's Gospel. What word or phrase sticks out to you most? Copy it and meditate on it as you pray this week. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Saturday, January 1Mary, the Holy Mother of God

"Mary's central place in this great mystery of God dwelling among us led her to a place of contemplation. Though she was the one chosen to bring Jesus into the world, she did not have all the answers. Praying the Rosary, we have the opportunity to contemplate like Mary, deepening our reflection while our words proclaim the memorized prayers. Pray the Rosary today and ask Mary to help you to hold all these things in your heart. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*







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

Steven Arias, Youth Minister youth@saintedwards.org

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10876

Thursday, January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It heralds the season of Epiphanytide. The word Epiphany is derived from the Greek word *epipháneia* which is defined as manifestation or appearance. *Epipháneia* originates from the verb *phainein* meaning to appear, specifically, the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of Earth. It celebrates the Revelation of God Incarnate as Jesus Christ. In the first centuries of the Christian Era, the winter solstice was kept on January 6th. To counter the pagan rituals associated with the winter solstice, the church used the day to celebrate the many manifestations, or Epiphanies, of Jesus and His divinity. Also known as Three King's Day, Western Christians primarily consider the Feast of Epiphany as the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus in Bethlehem.

Popular customs to mark the day include singing, eating Three King's Cake, winter swimming, taking down the Christmas decorations, and chalking the door. What is chalking the door, you may ask? Christians chalk the door of their home with the marking 20 † C † M † B † 22. 2022 refers to the year. The crosses stand for Christ. "CMB" are the initials for the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The "CMB" is an abbreviation for the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat,* "May Christ bless this house." Chalking the door may also be attributed to the hospitality showed to the Magi by the Holy Family. You might consider chalking your door and invite the presence of God into your home for this season of Epiphanytide until the next.

Please take a blessed piece of chalk to mark your door... Happy New Year!

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This Christmas Season, old memories might arise and cause stress. We can help.





STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTION DECEMBER 26, 2021 — FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 SM 1:20, 22, 24-28; PS 128:1-5 or PS 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; COL 3:12-21 or COL 3:12-17; or 1 JN 3:1-2, 21-24; LK 2:41-52

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 12 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 2022, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

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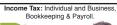
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