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Senior Visits Ministry

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spoocl53@outlook.com

Eucharistic Adoration

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julie.kunsman@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Cindy Kendrick 740-366-2871 ckk1@att.net

Maintenance

Floyd Lahmon

Diane Kinney, Kevin Kinney



Pastor
Msgr. Paul P. Enke

Deacon
Rev. Mr. John Barbour



Free us through prayer and bring us to conversion of heart, Free us through fasting and bind us to those who hunger, Free us through almsgiving and empty us from the clutter of our consumption.

Oh God, help us to be at peace with you, with ourselves, and with each other.

May we come to the joy of Easter, proclaiming Peace.
Amen.

Dominican Sisters of Peace

785 Newark-Granville Road • Granville, Ohio 43023 www.saintedwards.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule

Holy Day Mass Schedule Weekday Mass Schedule

Confessions

Bulletin Submission Deadline

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

TBA in bulletin

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Monday Noon | maggie@saintedwards.org



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 12 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:15 a.m. Mike Millisor (RIP) by The Scullys

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

Monday, March 13 – St. Christina of Persia, Martyr

9:00 a.m. Raphael Moscinki (RIP) by Dale & Linda Panko

Tuesday, March 14 - St. Placidio Riccardi, Monk

9:00 a.m. Peggy Franks (RIP) by Kathleen Gummer

Wednesday, March 15 - St. Zachary, Pope

9:00 a.m. Mary Zwick (RIP) by Dave & Clarita Denius

Thursday, March 16 - Sts. Hilarius & Tatianus, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. Karen Sullivan (RIP) by Tim Sullivan

Friday, March 17 - St. Patrick, Bishop

9:00 a.m. Joe Valente by Dale & Linda Panko

Saturday, March 18

5:00 p.m. Carl Engblom (RIP) by Mary Vernon

Sunday, March 19 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

10:45 a.m. Tatla Dager (RIP) by Chuck & Terri Cera

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 12, 2023 – YEAR A

PRELUDE

10:45 a.m. Choir: Ps. 42/43: As the Deer Longs (Hurd)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING: From the Depths We Cry to Thee (#130)

No Gloria during Lent
LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 95: If today you hear his voice...

(p. 78)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ... (p. 79)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY: Shepherd of Souls (#362)

SANCTUS: chanted (#859)

MYSTERY OF FAITH: Save us, Savior... (arr. Weber)

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#863)

COMMUNION: I Heard the Voice of Jesus (#462) COMMUNION 2 (Cantor/Choir): Communion antiphon

(various settings)
CONCLUDING RITES

CLOSING: Jesus, Remember Me (#416)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: TBD

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

ST. EDWARD EASTER FLOWER

MEMORIALS

Due March 26 - If you would like to make a donation



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

☐ Every Mass has designated antiphons: texts intended to be sung or recited at specific moments. (Some Entrance and Communion antiphon options are printed in our hymnal along with the readings.) For many years, antiphons have been an essential part of Mass here at St. Edward's. Frequently, the hymns that we sing correspond with the antiphons, and so do many of our choir selections. During Lent, the Communion antiphon is often chanted a cappella. Today's Communion antiphon about the water of eternal life comes from the words of Jesus in John's Gospel. We sing a paraphrased version in verse two of our Communion hymn, and a fuller version is then sung by the cantor/choir. Singing antiphons is one way that we can unite our prayer with the entire universal Church.

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

March is the month dedicated to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph Prayer: Joseph, son of David, and husband of Mary; we honor you, guardian of the Redeemer, and we adore the child you named Jesus. Saint Joseph, patron of the universal church, pray for us, that, like you, we may live totally dedicated to the Savior. Amen.



The flowers in the Gathering Space are given in honor of the 90th birthday of Frank Chester by his family.

Schedule Mass Intentions



Requests for Mass Intentions on weekends fill up fast. There now are a few weekends still open for Mass Intentions.

- There are various openings for weekday Mass Intentions beginning in April.
- If you request a Mass Intention for a certain day, but that day has been previously scheduled, your intention can be scheduled on another day.
- Please contact Maggie at the church office at maggie@saintedwards.org to schedule a Mass Intention for a deceased or living loved one, or for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary.
- To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, a \$10.00 stipend is requested for Mass Intentions.



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

Psalm 122:1

WELCOME all visitors and parishioners who have

come to worship 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. Children are always welcome at Mass! We hope you will return regularly to worship at St. Edward Church! If you would like to be a member of St. Edward Parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket, or stop by the Church Office, or call us at 740-587-3254. *God bless you!*

I WANT TO JOIN ST. EDWARD PARISH!
NAME
EMAIL
PHONE (CELL)
PHONE (HOME)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 12, 2023

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Mass - 10:45 a.m.

PSR - 9:30 a.m.



Adult Faith Discussion Group - 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge

Choir - 9:30 a.m. on Choir Loft Youth Group - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Holy Face of Jesus & Chaplet of Divine Mercy

MONDAY. MARCH 13

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Eucharist Adoration after Mass

NO Preschool

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Soup Supper – 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall Lenten Speaker - 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall Stations of the Cross - 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Bell Choir – 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY. MARCH 15

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool Donuts & Dogs with Dad

Walking with Purpose – 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge PSR - 6:00-7:00 p.m.

High School Confirmation 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Oil Painting Workshop - 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Parish Hall Men's Faith & Rosary Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool - St. Patrick's Celebration

PSR Sacrament Prep – 6:00 p.m. in classroom 7

LENTEN STUDY - 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall Choir - 7:00 p.m.

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

FRIDAY. MARCH 17

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool - St. Patrick's Celebration

FISH FRY 4:00-7:00 p.m. Dine-In or Drive-Thru

NO Oil Painting Workshop

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Hard as Nails Retreat - 6th & 7th Grades, 9:00 a.m.-noon Hard as Nails Confirmation Retreat - 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Confessions – 4:00 p.m.

Mass - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Mass - 10:45 a.m.

Second Collection - Catholic Relief Services

SVDP – 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge

Choir – 9:30 a.m. on Choir Loft

Hard as Nails YOUTH RETREAT – grades 8-12, noon-8:00 p.m.

FISH FRY NEWS March 17, 24



Confirmation Class -Sign up for Service Hours! Desserts are needed! Please bring your desserts to the kitchen between

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Thursdays or on Friday mornings. Thank you!



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	
MARCH 11-12: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday,	S. A. Beaver	Eugene Gray	Kevin Bollo	
5:00 p.m.	Sandy McCullough		Arianna Carter	
Sunday,	John Casale	Lisa Smith	Bryan Harms	
8:15 a.m.	Sue Casale		Andrew Harms	
Sunday,	Von Downing	Roy Brewer	Francis Aransky	
10:45 a.m.	Margo Downing		Avery Warling	
MARCH 18-19: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday,	Ava Vadala	Sharon	Case Long	
5:00 p.m.	Mandy Vadala	Stancavage	Jude Long	
Sunday,	Rick Corder	Thomas	Leah Moberg	
8:15 a.m.	Lori Corder	Bressoud	Peter Moberg	
Sunday,	Andrea Harvey	Laura Collins	Claire Cottrell	
10:45 a.m.	Peter Thomas		Andrew Cottrell	

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR



Today, Sunday, March 12, is Spring Forward Day for our clocks, etc. Don't forget.

Last week, snowdrops down the street. This week, daffodils in my backyard and in the

Rosary Garden. Once again, the ancient meaning for the word "Lent" is spring. It's starting to surround us in the midst of our Lenten season.

Once again, may that spring take root in your own hearts and actions, especially in our Tuesday evening practices: soup suppers, reflection, and Stations of the Cross.

Friday Fish Fries are also a wonderful time to be with each other on our Lenten journey. Thanks especially to Jim and Kathy Jackson for their great leadership and to the many, many volunteers who give of themselves in service to our community and guests! May God bless you all!



WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOUR RETURN TO ST. EDWARD

This Lenten Season, we hope you will return to be a part of the parish! We're waiting for you. You are missed. You are always welcome no matter what.



USHERS NEEDED FOR EASTER!

Please see Ginny Prusaczyk to sign up or call her at 740-973-4989. Thank you.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)

Please pick up your Rice Bowls in the Gathering Space. Rice Bowls is a program for parishes that serves the poor in over 100 countries. You may return your Rice Bowl to the church or donate through online giving. Thank you.

Pray Stations of the Cross at Home!



Did you know? You can pray The Stations of the Cross at home or wherever you want, using the same booklets that we use in church on Tuesdays. Simply go to our parish website at http://saintedwards.org/

stations to find:

- a YouTube video complete with images of our Stations of the Cross
- mobile-friendly pdf files with images and text
- a printable text-only pdf file

Many thanks to Fr. Jeremy Harrington, OSF, who wrote the text and granted permission for us to reprint it and publish it on our website.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

"Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your wound shall quickly be healed."

from Isaiah 58:7-10

During Lent, the Women of St. Edward suggest we focus on a Corporal Work of Mercy each week and give it our attention. St. Faustina said, "When we offer mercy to others, we become Christ's hands and feet in the world; in responding to His command to love our neighbor as we love Him, we find the Gospel peace he wants to give us."

The Corporal Works of Mercy, found in Matthew 25:34-36, give us a model for how we should treat others, as if they were Christ in disguise. From the Catechism of the Catholic Church - 2447: The works of mercy are the charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God: He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warm and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

The week of March 12 ~ Shelter the Homeless

I was ... a stranger and you welcomed Me.

Matthew 25:35



Shelter the homeless is the fourth corporal work of mercy. It is a terrible problem to be without adequate housing, and one of the most striking examples is the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph could not find shelter when they went to Bethlehem: "There was no room for them in

the inn" (Lk 2:7). After Jesus left Nazareth, He needed shelter. Jesus alluded to His personal challenge with adequate housing when He remarked, "The Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head" (Mt 8:20; Lk 9:58). (From thecatholicspirit.com.)

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them.

What We Can Do to Provide Shelter to the Homeless

- We can start with family members in need of housing.
 Welcome them into your home.
- Come to the aid of families in the community who are driven from their homes due to tragedies such as fire or eviction.
- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for the needy, such as Habitat for Humanity.
- Support the Men's Haven by volunteering or by joining a parish team to provide meals. Contact Barb Hinterschied at bhinterschied@gmail.com.
- Provide blankets to be given to the homeless at shelters like the Salvation Army.

Image used with permission of catholicapostolatecenter.org



Soup at 6:00 p.m. Speakers at 6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

"The Last Four Things"

Tuesday, March 14 *"Heaven"*Speaker: Steven Arias –

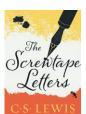
Speaker: Steven Arias – St. Edward Youth Minister

Tuesday, March 21 "Hell"

Speaker: Pushkar Baum – St. Edward Office Manager



LENTEN STUDY



Thursdays, at 7:00 p.m. ~ until March 30 in the Lounge

Led by Dcn. John Barbour & Dana Updegrove

March 16 – chapters 14-19 March 23 – chapters 20-25 March 30 – chapters 26-31

Would you like insight into the devices, tactics and strategies being used by the Evil One

against us? C. S. Lewis in his book, *The Screwtape Letters*, gives an entertaining and insightful series of letters written by Senior Demon, Screwtape, advising Junior Demon how to derail a human subject's journey to salvation. *Learn to recognize how we are being played by the demonic and how to fight against them. Hope to see you at the Lenten Study!*

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

MARCH 5

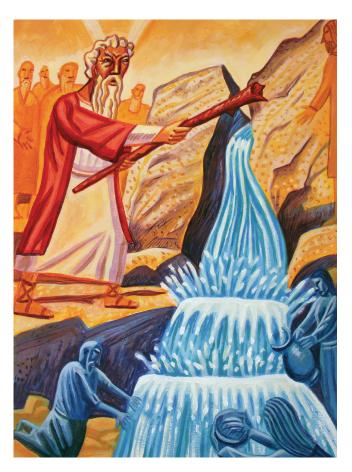
Offertory \$ 15,496.00 Online \$ 5.628.00

Contribution Statements have been prepared. If you would like to have yours, please contact the office at 740-587-3254. If you no longer need envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

Please consider **ONLINE GIVING.** Sign up on the St. Edward website home page at <u>www.saintedwards.org</u>. If already giving online, please update any changes to your credit card on your online account. For help, contact the Parish Office.

March Diocesan Second Collections
Catholic Relief Services – March 19

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Look Deep

All-knowing God,
you see deep into our hearts
and understand all that we need.
Thank you for meeting us
in the everyday messiness of our lives.
Look upon us with compassion
and mercy.

Free us from anything that blocks a true relationship with you and quench the spiritual thirst

we carry today.

Pour your love into our hearts anew and guide our paths to eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 12, 2023 God Sees Our Hearts

Today's readings: Exodus 17:3–7; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 5:1–2, 5–8; John 4:5–42. The Third Sunday of Lent marks the midpoint on our journey from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. Day by day the invitations to turn our hearts toward God and receive his gifts of mercy and love intensify. The midday encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well amplifies the invitation extended on Ash Wednesday to "return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12).

We can imagine Jesus approaching each new encounter seeking to intuit, "What does their heart need from me?" Jesus immediately perceived the deepest needs of the woman's heart and pivoted the conversation from physical thirst to spiritual thirst. His willingness to ignore the social norms

of the time and speak to her with frank familiarity reminds us that God's invitation to relationship is for everyone, no matter our past, our gender, our ancestry, our place in life.

Jesus reveals his divine purpose to this outcast woman and offers her the hope of eternal life. Our second reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, echoes this remarkable promise, "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (5:5).

Throughout Lent, God summons us unceasingly. The woman at Jacob's well represents every one of us. When God looks deeply into your heart today, what spiritual thirst needs to be quenched?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 13

Look for the Prophets

Prophets are people specially chosen to be messengers of God's Word in their time and place. Our Scriptures tell story after story about the persistence of prophets and resistance to their message. Prophets often surprise us in their simplicity and ordinariness. Take a moment today to look for the prophets God has sent in the here and now. Open your heart to the message they offer. *Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 14 70 × 7

Today's message cuts right to the heart. Forgiveness is hard. But it is a requirement of discipleship. Jesus calls us to forgive and forgive and forgive again. Take this command to prayer today. Whom do you still need to forgive? It might even be yourself. Write a letter to Jesus specifically naming whom you need to forgive, the reason, and ask for help to take the next step. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8 and 9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 15

Living Witnesses

Pope Francis reminds us that "all of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord" (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 121). No matter our occupation or place in life, we are first and foremost teachers of our faith. We teach with our words, but even more through our actions, gestures, and choices. Our ultimate purpose is to allow our life to speak the faith we carry within. This is how we give glory to God. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 16 Listen to My Voice

The Lord commands, "Listen to my voice" (Jeremiah 7:23). The psalmist echoes, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95:7–8). The voice of the Lord that comes to us daily through the season requires our openness. While serious, challenging, and straightforward, our Lord clearly speaks the path of life for us. He tells us how to live, how to love, how to pray, how to give, how to forgive. Do you allow his voice to guide your life? Take these thoughts to prayer. *Today's readings: Jeremiah* 7:23–28; *Psalm* 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; *Luke* 11:14–23.

Friday, March 17 St. Patrick

Patrick and his monks ministered to the people of Ireland in the early fifth century. The monks based their spirituality on that of St. Jerome and St. Augustine, who affirmed that no person can walk without a guide. The monks practiced an early form of confessional counseling, inviting people to acknowledge their sins and repair the conduct of their Christian lives. This week marks the midpoint of Lent. How are you doing toward creating a clean heart? There is still plenty of time before Easter to seek the sacrament of reconciliation and make needed adjustments in daily choices. *Today's readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 18 Cultivate Humility

Humility is a virtue that exudes from our very being. The virtue is conveyed with our eyes, with our demeanor, and with our spirit, even before words reveal our true selves. A spirit of humility is cultivated through a life of gratitude for the blessings we have received and with sincere awareness of our dependence upon the generous giver of those blessings. There is always room to grow so we call upon the words of the psalmist in our daily prayer and ask for a humble spirit. *Today's readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*





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)

The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen. +PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH OF POPE LEO XIII

Monday, March 13 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:24-30 Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth: "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

Meditation: When Jesus went to his home town and spoke in the synagogue, his statement that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people was rather startling to those in attendance. He then angered them when he complimented the gentiles who seemed to have shown more faith in God than the "chosen ones" of Israel. They regarded gentiles as "fuel for the fires of hell." Jesus' praise for "outsiders" caused them offence because they were blind-sighted to God's mercy and plan of redemption for all nations. The word of warning and judgment spoken by Jesus was met with hostility by his own people. They forcibly threw him out of the city and would have done him harm had he not stopped them. The Lord offers us freedom and pardon and the grace to walk in his way of righteousness. His discipline is for our good that we may share his holiness (Hebrews 12:10). "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates reproof is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1). Do you seek the Lord for instruction and help so you can grow in holiness?

Prayer: May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. 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: What limits God's grace and power in our lives to undergo change and transformation of mind and heart? Our indifference and lack of faith for starters! The prophets confronted God's people with their indifference and unbelief. God's grace and mercy is offered freely to those who seek it with sincerity, repentance, and faith. When Naaman, a non-Jew went to Jerusalem to seek a cure, the prophet Elisha instructed him to bathe in the river. In faith he obeyed and was healed. Jesus did not hesitate to confront his own people with their indifference and unbelief. Have you looked at where your faith life is? Are you indifferent? Are you lukewarm about your faith, and how you live out your faith? If so, it's time to set your faith on fire. But you need first to rid yourself of those things which hold you back – whatever they

may be. Pray that you will rid yourself of these barriers. Then free from those things which hold us back, may our faith lives flourish and bear much fruit.

Tuesday, March 14 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Meditation: Who wouldn't be grateful to have someone release them from their debts? But can we really expect mercy and pardon when we owe someone a great deal? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that. Jesus made it clear that there is no reckonable limit to forgiveness. And he drove the lesson home with a parable about two very different kinds of debts. The first man owed an enormous sum of money – millions in our currency. In Jesus' time this amount was greater than the total revenue of a province – more than it would cost to ransom a king! The man who was forgiven such an incredible debt could not, however bring himself to forgive his neighbor a very small debt which was about one- hundred-thousandth of his own debt. The contrast could not have been greater!

Prayer: May your grace not forsake us, O Lord, we pray, but make us dedicated to your holy service and at all times obtain for us your help. 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 no way we could repay God the debt we owed him because of our sins and offenses. Only his mercy and pardon could free us from such a debt. Despite how we may feel at times toward people in our lives, there is no offense our neighbor can do to us that can compare with our debt to God! If God has forgiven each of us our debt, we, too must forgive others the debt they owe us. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross – which atoned for our sins – each one of us have been forgiven a debt beyond all reckoning. It cost God his very own Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to ransom us with the price of his blood. Jesus paid the price for us and won for us pardon for our sins and freedom from slavery to our unruly desires and sinful habits. God in his mercy offers us the grace and help of his Holy Spirit so we can love as he loves, pardon as he pardons, and treat others with the same mercy and kindness which he has shown to us. God has made his peace with us. Have you made your peace with God? Have you reconciled yourself with God? Especially during Lent we are called to reconcile ourselves with God and with one another. A healthy trip to the confessional to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a first and important start. Have you been to confession lately? If not, why not?

Wednesday, March 15 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19 Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

Meditation: Notice how Jesus consistently taught reverence for God's law – reverence for God himself, for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbor lest wrong or hurtful desires master us. Reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love – love of God and love of neighbor. What is impossible to men and women is possible to God and those who put their faith and trust in God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the Lord transforms us and makes us like himself. We are a new creation in Christ (ref. 2 Cor. 5:17) because "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). God gives us the grace to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think as he thinks, and to act as he acts. The Lord loves justice and goodness and he hates every form of wickedness and sin. He wants to set us free from our unruly desires and sinful habits, so that we can choose to live each day in the peace, joy, and righteousness of his Holy Spirit (ref. Romans 14: 17). To renounce sin is to turn away from what is harmful and destructive for our minds and hearts, and our very lives. As his followers we must love and respect his commandments and hate every form of sin. Do you love and revere the commands of the Lord?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, schooled through Lenten observance and nourished by your word, through holy restraint we may be devoted to you with all our heart and be ever united in prayer. 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: How do you look upon the laws of God? Negatively? Positively? Pick-and-choose when it suits you (the old "cafeteria Catholic" approach)? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the Ten Commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law. It placed burdens on people which God had not intended. Jesus, however, made it very clear that the essence of God's law – his commandments and his way of life – must be fulfilled. So, once again, how do you view God's law? How do you put God's law into action and practice in your daily life?

Thursday, March 16 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Today marks the mid-point in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-23 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Meditation: Jesus himself encountered personal opposition and battled with Satan when he was put to the test in the wilderness just before his public ministry. He overcame the evil one through his obedience to the will of his Father. Some of the Jewish leaders reacted vehemently to Jesus' healings and exorcisms and they opposed him with malicious slander. How could he get the power and authority to release individuals from Satan's power? They assumed that he had to be in league with Satan. They attributed his power to Satan rather than to God. Jesus answers their charge with two arguments. There were many exorcists in Palestine in Jesus' time. So Jesus retorted by saying that they also incriminate their own kin who cast out demons. If they condemn Jesus they also condemn themselves. In his second argument he asserts that no kingdom divided against itself cannot survive for long. We have witnessed enough civil wars in our own time to prove the destructive force at work here for the annihilation of whole peoples and their land. If Satan lends his power against his own forces then he is finished. How can a strong person be defeated except by someone who is stronger? Jesus asserted his power and authority to cast out demons as a clear demonstration of the reign of God. Jesus' reference to the finger of God points back to Moses' confrontation with Pharaoh and his magicians who represented Satan and the kingdom of darkness (see Exodus 8:19).

Prayer: We implore your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as the feast of our salvation draws ever closer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly towards the worthy celebration of the Paschal Mystery. 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: We live in a world of compromise. And yet, there are some aspects of our life that we just cannot afford to compromise on – especially our faith life: the laws of God, the teachings of Christ, and the teachings of the one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Remember, the teachings of the Church have their foundation in the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, and are applied to contemporary situations. Jesus makes it clear that there are no neutral parties. We are either for Jesus or against him, for the kingdom of God or against it. Once we start going down the road of compromise, we turn against God and Jesus, because we begin to place our will above and before the will of God (sound familiar – Adam and Eve?). There are two kingdoms in opposition to one another – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness under the rule of Satan. If we disobey God's word – if we compromise God's word – then we open to door to the power of sin and Satan in our lives. If you want to live in freedom from sin and Satan, then your house – your life and all you possess – must be occupied by Jesus where he is enthroned as Lord and Savior. Is the Lord Jesus the Master of your home, heart, mind, and will?

Friday, March 17 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Optional Memorial: Saint Patrick of Ireland

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Meditation: The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law and their ritual requirements. They made it a life-time practice to study the six hundred and thirteen precepts of the Old Testament along with the numerous rabbinic commentaries. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose. What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will. What, then, makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves.

Prayer: O God, who chose the Bishop Saint Patrick to preach your glory to the peoples of Ireland, grant, through his merits and intercession, that those who glory in the name of Christian may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deeds to all. 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: In light of today's gospel the following prayer of Saint Anselm is worth contemplating today: "We love you, O our God; and we desire to love you more and more. Grant to us that we may love you as much as we desire, and as much as we ought. O dearest friend, who has so loved and saved us, the thought of whom is so sweet and always growing sweeter, come with Christ and dwell in our hearts; that you keep a watch over our lips, our steps, our deeds, and we shall not need to be anxious either for our souls or our bodies. Give us love, sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Give us in our hearts pure love, born of your love to us, that we may love others as you love us. O most loving Father of Jesus Christ, from whom flows all love, let our hearts, frozen in sin, cold to you and cold to others, be warmed by this divine fire. So help and bless us in your Son."

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of Catholic Culture.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 12, 2023







SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

Please spiritually adopt an unborn baby. Every day, over 2,000 babies

are killed by abortion in the United States. They have so little protection, only the hand of God can end this massacre. Prayer is the best way to help them – the most effective. Say this prayer every day for nine months to save a baby's life!

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Jeremiah I:5
Please pray! This baby is counting on you. Remember to pray daily for your spiritually adopted baby and for the baby's parents. During your earthly life, this spiritually adopted child of yours is known only to God, but in the world to come, you may meet the child whose life was spared by your prayers. We pray that you spend eternal happiness together with your spiritually adopted child. To spiritually adopt your unborn child, register at the table in the gathering space on the weekend of March 25, 2023 or complete the form below and place it in the basket in the gathering space or email receive monthly updates on your baby's progress and access to additional information.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name
Baby's name
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· Divine Chaplet

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03/12

- **Lenten Movie Night** 03/26
 - · Movie: Silence
- · Popcorn and snacks 6-8 PM
 - Prayer

PSR

Next Sacrament Prep Class is Thursday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil on April 8th. Register now for "HARD AS NAILS" Retreats at saintedwards.org/psr.

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Know Your Saints

St. Patrick ~ was born in the 4th century. He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd. He worked in terrible conditions for six years, drawing comfort in the Christian faith that many of his people had abandoned under Roman rule. Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him. He travelled over 200 miles to Wexford, where a ship was waiting to enable his escape. Upon arrival in England, he was captured and returned to slavery. He escaped after two months and spent the next seven years travelling Europe and furthered his Christian education. Again, a dream convinced him that the Irish people were calling him to return to Ireland. Patrick was made a Bishop by Pope Celestine in the year 432 and with a small band of followers, travelled to Ireland to commence the conversion. In Ireland, Patrick confronted the King, knowing if he could gain his support, he would be safe to spread the word. To convince the King of his religion, Patrick grasped a Shamrock and explained that there was but one stem on the plant, but three branches of the leaf, representing the Blessed Trinity. Impressed with his sincerity, the king granted him permission to preach his faith. The pagan Druids feared their loss of power and commanded that he make snow fall. Patrick declined to do so, stating that this was God's work. Immediately, it began to snow, only stopping when Patrick blessed himself. He drove paganism (symbolized by the snake) from the lands of Ireland.

Patrick and his followers spread their faith throughout Ireland with great effect. He died on March 17 in the year 461 at the age of 76. His influence is still felt to this day, as nations the world over commemorate him on March 17th of every year.



MARCH 12, 2023 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT EX 17:3-7; PS 95:1-2, 6-9; ROM 5:1-2, 5-8; JN 4:5-42 OR JN 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42

Today's readings on this third Sunday of Lent present us with the theme of "thirst" and show us that a stewardship way of life can both satisfy our spiritual thirst for Christ and help us to satisfy Christ's thirst for souls. Our first reading, from the book of Exodus, begins with the words, "In their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses." What little faith and lack of trust they show after all God has done to free them from slavery. But Moses cried out to God for help, and sure enough, God provided generously to satisfy their thirst. He continues to provide generously for us these many centuries later.

Our Gospel passage from John recounts the life-changing encounter Christ has with the Samaritan woman at the well, beginning with His words to her, "Give me a drink." Then, He adds, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Christ is speaking the very same words to us today. These two verses encapsulate the call to stewardship. Christ asks us to "give him a drink" by sharing what we have with Him and with others for His sake. Yet, it is Christ Himself who provides the water - the living water that is

God has chosen to include us in His plan for bringing all people to salvation through Him. We live out our part in His plan through a stewardship way of life. This Lent, let us resolve to respond to His call with passion and commitment. Let us do our part to quench His thirst.

- Catholic Stewardship Consultants: www.CatholicSteward.com

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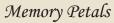
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