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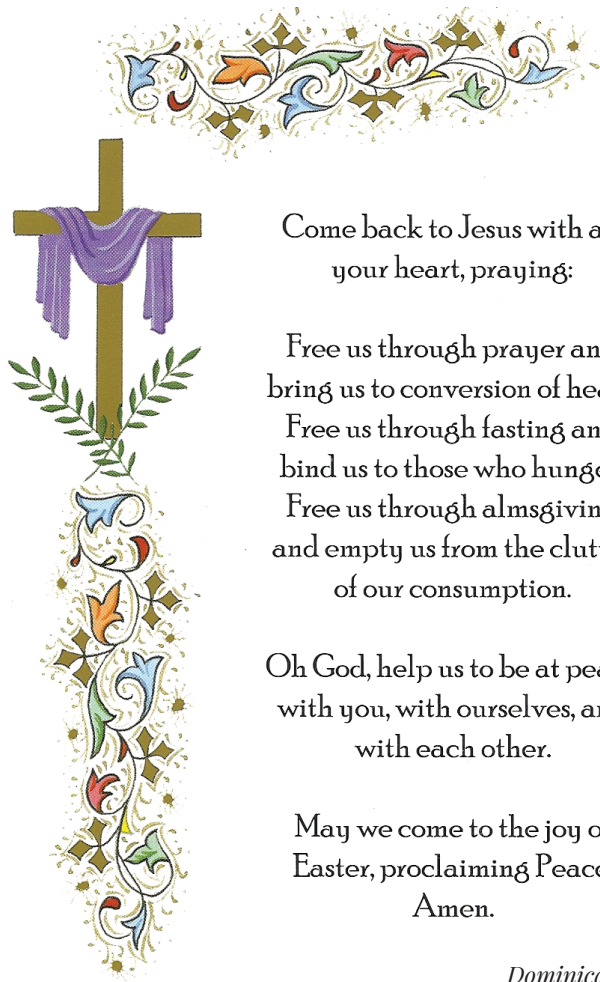
Maintenance
Floyd Lahmon
Diane Kinney, Kevin Kinney



CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Pastor
Msgr. Paul P. Enke

Deacon
Rev. Mr. John Barbour



Come back to Jesus with all
your heart, praying:

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

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule Weekday Mass Schedule

TBA in bulletin
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

Confessions

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

Bulletin Submission Deadline

Monday Noon | maggie@saintedwards.org



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 19 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, Laetare Sunday

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

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

Monday, March 20 –

ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9:00 a.m. Kiser/Gentile Families (Birthdays) by Vicki Kiser

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

9:00 a.m. John Lieberth (RIP) by Bernadette Lieberth

Thursday, March 23 – St. Turibius, Bishop

9:00 a.m. Amy Barrows (RIP) by Angela Cornelius

Friday, March 24 – St. Oscar Romero, Martyr

9:00 a.m. Susan Cramer (RIP) by Dale & Linda Panko

Saturday, March 25 – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

5:00 p.m. Jacob Andolina (RIP) by Priano Family

Sunday, March 26 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

10:45 a.m. J. Richard Lumpe (RIP) by Fr. Michael Lumpe

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2023 – YEAR A

PRELUDE

Laetare Jerusalem (organ and/or chant)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (#490)

No Gloria during Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 23: The Lord is my shepherd... (p. 81)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ... (p. 81)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY: Precious Lord, Take My Hand (#675)

SANCTUS: chanted (#859)

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

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#863)

COMMUNION: Amazing Grace (#449)

COMMUNION 2 (10:45 a.m. Choir): The Love of God (G. Sewell, 2015)

CONCLUDING RITES

CLOSING: Jesus, Remember Me (#416)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Kayce Long

8:15 a.m.: Jim Bidigare

10:45 a.m.: Randy Kerr



ST. EDWARD EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

Due March 26 – If you would like to make a donation for Easter Flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use your Easter Flower Offering envelope or fill out this coupon and put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office by Sunday, March 26. A listing of memorials will be published in the Easter bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20.00.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By _____



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

♪ Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday. It is named for the first word of the designated entrance chant: *Laetare*, meaning "rejoice." Like Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent), today is a day of joy. Let us rejoice in God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness as we anticipate the joy of Easter.

♪ At today's 10:45 a.m. Mass, the Choir sings a short piece entitled "The Love of God." Written by Greg Sewell in 2015, its words offer a powerful meditation on God's love: *The love of God is like a stream of cool, refreshing water; a stream both deep and wide with grace, and full of lasting joy. This love of God is something more than men and women know of without the quick'ning of the Spirit, who leads them to freedom. The love of God, the love of God, it flows above, below, beyond; and when we give ourselves to God, it flows through us, touching the lives of those we love, of those we meet, of those we lead to God.* [Text © 2015, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-731140.]

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

March is the month dedicated to St. Joseph

From Saint Joseph Prayer by Pope Leo XIII:

Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. Even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now **defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity.** Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, following thine example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.



USHERS NEEDED FOR EASTER!

Please see Ginny Prusaczyk or call her at 740-973-4989.

Also, you can sign up in the Gathering Space.

Thank you.



Lenten
Penance
Service

The Penance Service is at 7:00 p.m. this Tuesday, March 21. There will still be a Soup Supper and speaker, but no Stations of the Cross this Tuesday.



"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) _____

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Laetare Sunday

Mass – 8:15 a.m.

Mass – 10:45 a.m.

Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services

SVDP – 9:15 in Lounge

PSR – 9:30 a.m. (NO 8th Grade PSR)

Adult Faith Discussion Group – 9:30 a.m.

Choir – 9:30 a.m. on Choir Loft

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT – noon-8:00 p.m. at St. Edward

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass

Preschool

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Soup Supper – 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

Lenten Speaker – 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

PENANCE SERVICE – 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Walking with Purpose – 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge

PSR – 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Practice – 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 23

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

LENTEN STUDY – 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Choir – 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

FISH FRY – 4:00- to 7:00 p.m. – Dine-in or Drive-thru

NOTE – another Fish Fry added next Friday, March 31!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Confessions – 4:00 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass – 8:15 a.m.

Mass – 10:45 a.m.

NO PSR

NO Adult Faith Discussion

Choir – 9:30 a.m. on Choir Loft



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS
MARCH 18-19: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Ava Vadala Mandy Vadala	Sharon Stancavage	Case Long Jude Long
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Rick Corder Lori Corder	Thomas Bressoud	Leah Moberg Peter Moberg
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Andrea Harvey Peter Thomas	Laura Collins	Claire Cottrell Andrew Cottrell
MARCH 25: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Leann Kirchner Cliff Kirchner	Charles Peterson	Olivia Priano Aaron Wolf
MARCH 26: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Sharon Martin Kathy Stukus	Philip Stukus	Tori Helgerman Paul McDonald
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Richard Hoben Annie Lach	Sheila Heist	Ella Clark Shelby Heist

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR



This weekend, we observe Laetare Sunday, from the Latin “to rejoice.” At the pulpit, you will notice that pink flowers replace the Lenten dried flower arrangement, another reminder that we are to have a joyful heart as we draw closer to Easter. Could we not, then, all do our best to bring that joy to others, especially to those in our own families and parish?



Holy Week

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK ~ EASTER

Palm Sunday, April 1 and 2

Mass on Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m. Mass ~ Procession outside

If weather is bad, gather in Gathering Space

Holy Thursday, April 6

Mass at 7:00 p.m. – No 9:00 a.m. Mass

Good Friday, April 7

Mass at 12:30 p.m. – No 9:00 a.m. Mass

Holy Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m. – No 5:00 p.m. Mass

Gather outdoors for fire, then to Gathering Space for Exsultet

Easter Sunday, April 9

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

WITH SYMPATHY



The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of parishioner Jerome T. “Jerry” Datz. His funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28th. May he rest in eternal peace in the presence of God.



FISH FRY NEWS

March 24 and March 31. **Note that a fifth Fish Fry has been added on March 31! Desserts will be needed!**

Please bring desserts to the kitchen on Thursday or by Friday morning. Thank you!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWLS

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. Please return your Rice Bowl to the Box in the Gathering Space or donate through online giving. Thank you.



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.

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?*

Week of March 18 ~ Visit the Sick

I was ill and you cared for Me.

Matthew 25:35-36



Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them. Mother Teresa once remarked that the greatest poverty was not hunger and homelessness. Rather, the greatest poverty is "being unwanted, unloved and uncared for." We can help remedy this kind of poverty by making room in our weekly schedules to visit the sick, the homebound, and those in nursing homes – whether they are family, friends, or complete strangers. Dr. Robert Stackpole, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy said, "The socially isolated elderly are usually not far away. Simply volunteer with the Meals-on-Wheels program and you will find them."

Read more at thedivinemercy.org

Image used with permission of catholicapostolate.org

What You Can Do to Visit the Sick and Homebound

- **Contact the church office for a list of parishioners who are homebound or at a senior center.**
- Volunteer for Meals on Wheels at Licking County Aging Program, 740-345-0821.
- Volunteer to play cards/games and/or visit those at Middleton at 740-587-0059, Otterbein at 740-321-0400, Sharonbrooke at 740-366-7333, or AlterCare at 345-9197.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick and the dying.
- Send flowers or cards to those who are in the hospital, homebound or at a senior center.
- Visit a homebound or seriously ill member of your parish.

Lenten SOUP Suppers

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 21

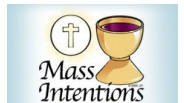
"Hell"

Speaker: Pushkar Baum – St. Edward Office Manager



Schedule Mass Intentions

There now are very 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.

LENTEN STUDY



March 23 – chapters 20-25

March 30 – chapters 26-31

Thursdays, at 7:00 p.m.~

until March 30 in the Lounge

Led by Dcn. John Barbour & Dana Updegrove

Get insight into the devices, tactics and strategies being used by the Evil One against us as we study the **C. S. Lewis book, *The Screwtape Letters***. It 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!***

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Help Us See

Good and gracious God,
you see our inner life,
and bring light to the darkness.
Thank you for shining your loving
kindness
on our desire to know your Son.
Lift our hearts with joy today.
Help us inhale the signs of spring hope
coming to life around us.
Cast your holy light on the shadows
of our lives
and heal our spiritual wounds.
Gift us with the desire to see the world
with the eyes of faith
through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Spiritual Sight

Today's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, a name inspired by the entrance antiphon, “Rejoice, O Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:10). Today, we momentarily pause from some of the penitential observances of Lent. With joy, our eyes turn toward Easter. This spirit of rejoicing is reflected in our liturgies, which differ from the other Sundays of Lent. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. The priest may wear rose-colored vestments, ordinarily worn only on one other day of the liturgical year, the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday.

The Scripture readings also highlight reasons to rejoice. Jesus proclaims to his disciples, to a blind man on

the side of the road, and ultimately to all of us, “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). Perceiving the deepest needs of the man’s heart, Jesus performs a miraculous healing. He restores the man’s physical sight to offer him spiritual sight. Through his subsequent encounters with Jesus, the healed man comes to see, believe, and follow him.

Today we are invited to wake up from our blindness. Jesus looks into our hearts and desires to illuminate our intrinsic goodness. He offers us the gift of spiritual sight to see God’s essence radiating through all human reality. Shall we follow the blind man’s lead and joyfully look at the world and all those we meet with the eyes of faith?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 20

St. Joseph

Today we lift up Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph, who embodied virtue as a father, dedicated worker, compassionate husband, and faithful listener. In fact, our sacred Scriptures recount his choices but never his words. Four times Joseph listens to the angel sent by God to guide his choices, and each time he courageously answers with quiet, trusting obedience. Make time today to emulate his prayer stance by quieting your heart and listening. *Today's readings:* 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.

Tuesday, March 21

Holistic Healing

The healing power of Jesus is on full display in the Gospel story about the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. As with most healing stories attributed to Jesus, being “made well” is twofold. Jesus restores both physical health and implores those who are healed to seek spiritual health by avoiding sin. Lent offers us the path to wholeness. Healing comes in a variety of forms. Where do you need Jesus' healing touch today? *Today's readings:* Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 22

The Lord is Near

The responsorial psalm today gets right to the hopeful theme of Lent: God desires to be close to us. The descriptions of the Lord as kind, merciful, slow to anger, gracious, kind, compassionate, faithful, attentive, just, and holy lead to the acclamation that “the LORD is near to all who call upon him” (Psalm 145:18). Place Psalm 145 on your bathroom mirror or over your kitchen sink where you will be reminded throughout each day of God's enduring desire to be in relationship

with us. *Today's readings:* Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 23

Sent by God

Jesus makes a bold claim to the Jewish community: “the Father has sent me.” As he says this, Jesus implores them to heed his voice and trace his living presence to the promises made to Moses. They respond with blind resistance. We have the gift of a much longer view on this interchange between Jesus and the community. Do we respond with faith or skepticism? *Today's readings:* Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.

Friday, March 24

Close to the Brokenhearted

Our responsorial psalm tenderly proclaims the promise that the Lord is “close to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:19). Part of the human condition is the experience of loss, disappointment, rejection, grief, and depression. Our faith offers us confident consolation that the Lord saves “those who are crushed in spirit” (34:19). Remember that we are never alone in our despair; the Lord never forgets us but especially leans in to be close when we are low. *Today's readings:* Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.

Saturday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

The word *annunciation* means “announcement.” In our faith story, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary changes the course of history. Lent reminds us that God is announcing good news to us in a variety of forms and through the most unexpected messengers. Attend to the angels in our midst, sent by God to inspire, encourage, challenge, and affirm us. The week began with Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. Today's feast bookends our week of rejoicing. What good news is God offering us today? *Today's readings:* Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.



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.

+PRAYER OF PETITION FOR SAINT JOSEPH’S BLESSING: *Bless me, O dearly beloved father, Saint Joseph; bless my body and my soul; bless my resolutions, my words and deeds, all my actions and omissions, my every step; bless all that I possess, all my interior and exterior goods, that all may redound to the greater honor of God. Bless me for time and eternity, and preserve me from every sin. Obtain for me the grace to make atonement for all my sins by love and contrition here on earth, so that after my last breath I may, without delay, prostrate at thy feet and return thee thanks in heaven for all the love and goodness thou, O dearest father, hast shown me here below. Amen.* [Follow this prayer with the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and Glory Be, prayed three times, in thanksgiving to God for the graces and prerogatives bestowed on Saint Joseph.]

Monday, March 20 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Lent Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph is usually celebrated on March 19, but has been transferred to March 20 this year since the liturgy of the Lenten Sundays take precedence.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Meditation: Joseph's faith was put to the test when he discovered that his espoused wife was pregnant. Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish Mary. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Joseph was a worthy successor to the great patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He followed the call of God through the mysterious circumstances that surrounded the coming of Jesus. God entrusted this silent, humble man with the unique privilege of raising his only Son as a growing child. Joseph is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God the Father has not left us alone, but has given us his only begotten Son as our Savior. Where does your faith need to be strengthened? Ask the Lord to increase your faith and trust in his word.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. 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: Ask yourself: Are you prepared to obey the Lord in everything? Everything?! Faith in God's word and obedience to his commands go hand in hand. Joseph, like Mary, is a model of faith and justice. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a "just man." St. John Chrysostom once wrote: "The concept of 'just' here signifies the man who possesses all the virtues. By 'justice' one at times understands only one virtue in particular, as in the phrase: the one who is not avaricious is just. But 'justice' also refers to virtue in general. And it is in this sense, above all, that scripture uses the word 'justice'. For example, it refers to: 'a just man and true' (cf. Job 1:1), or the two were just (cf. Luke 1:6). Joseph, then, being just, that is to say good and charitable..."

Tuesday, March 21 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 5:1-16 There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there. After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a Sabbath.

Meditation: Water has the power to transform everything it touches – water brings life, healing, and restoration. Jesus offers himself as the source of this living water which he will pour out upon his disciples in the gift of the Holy Spirit. The signs and miracles which Jesus performed manifest the power and presence of God's kingdom and they demonstrate the love and mercy God has for his people. In the pool at Bethesda we see an individual's helplessness overcome by God's mercy and power. On this occasion Jesus singles out an incurable invalid, helpless and hopeless for almost forty years. He awakens hope when he puts a probing question to the man, "Do you really want to be healed?" And he then orders him to "get up and walk!"

Prayer: May the venerable exercises of holy devotion shape the hearts of your faithful, O Lord, to welcome worthily the Paschal Mystery and proclaim the praises of your salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Contemplation: God wants to free us from the power of sin and make us whole. But he will not force our will. The first essential step towards growth and healing for us is the internal desire for change. If we are content to stay as we are, then no amount of coaxing will change us. And if this is the case then we need to ask ourselves: how stubborn and/or prideful are we? Everything that God does for us, everything that Jesus does for us is out of love for us. The Lord manifests his power and saving grace towards those who desire transformation of life in Christ. The Lord approaches each of us with an important and probing question: "Do you really want to be changed, to be set free from the power of sin, and to be transformed in my holiness?" How we respond has life-long implications.

Wednesday, March 22 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 5:17-30 Jesus answered the Jews: "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work." For this reason they tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God. Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, the Son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for what he does, the Son will do also. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes. Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the

Father has life in himself, so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation. "I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me."

Meditation: God's actions always reveal to us his mercy and his justice. Do you recognize his action in your life, his saving grace and love, and the purifying fire of his Spirit who convicts us of sin and transforms us in his holiness? God's love and mercy never ceases, even on the Sabbath. Jesus continues to show the Father's mercy, even on the Sabbath day of rest. When they charged that Jesus was making himself equal with God, he replied that he was not acting independently of God because his relationship is that of a Father and Son relationship.

Prayer: O God, who reward the merits of the just and offer pardon to sinners who do penance, have mercy, we pray, on those who call upon you, that the admission of our guilt may serve to obtain your pardon for our sins. 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: If we wish to see how God reacts to sin and how he responds to our sinful condition, then we must look to God's Son, Jesus Christ, whom God sent into this world to redeem us and to save us. The mind of Jesus is the mind of God, and the words of Jesus are the words of God. Jesus also states that his identity to the Father is based on complete obedience. Jesus always did what his Father wanted him to do. His obedience was not based on submission or power, but on love. The unity between Jesus and the Father is a unity of love. We are called to submit our lives to God with the same love and obedience which Jesus demonstrated for his Father. Jesus states that to accept him is life and to reject him is death. Are you ready to follow the Lord and to leave behind whatever is false and contrary to his will?

Thursday, March 23 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Lent **Optional Memorial: Saint Turibius**

Holy Gospel: John 5:31-47 Jesus said to the Jews: "If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is not true. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true. You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept human testimony, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life. "I do not accept human praise; moreover, I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me; yet if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Meditation: Do you know the joy of embracing the teachings and challenges in the gospel? Do you understand the joy of fully submitting yourself to Jesus Christ? Jesus' opponents refused to accept his divine authority and claim to be the only Son from the Father. They demanded evidence for his Messianic claim and equality with God. Jesus answers their charges with the supporting evidence of witnesses. The Mosaic law had laid down the principle that the unsupported evidence of one person shall not prevail against a man for any crime or wrong in connection with any offence he committed (see Deuteronomy 17:6). At least two or three witnesses were needed. Jesus begins his defense by citing John the Baptist as a witness, since John publicly pointed to Jesus as the Messiah and had repeatedly borne witness to him (see John 1:19, 20, 26, 29, 35, 36). Jesus also asserts that a greater witness to his identity are the signs he performed. He cites his works, not to point to himself but to point to the power of God working in and through him. He cites God as his supreme witness.

Prayer: We invoke your mercy in humble prayer, O Lord, that you may cause us, your servants, corrected by penance and schooled by good works, to persevere sincerely in your commands and come safely to the paschal festivities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus asserts that the scriptures themselves, including the books of Moses, point to himself as the Messiah, the promised Savior. The problem with the scribes and Pharisees was that they did not believe what Moses had written. They desired the praise of their fellow humans and because of that they were unable to recognize and understand the word of God. Their pride made them deaf to God's voice. God reveals himself to the lowly, to those who trust not in themselves, but in God. The Lord opens the ears of those who are eager to hear his voice and he fills their hearts and minds with his love and wisdom. So we must ask ourselves: Are you an eager student of God's word and do you listen to it with faith and trust? If not, why not?

Friday, March 24 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: John 7:1-2,10,25-30 Jesus moved about within Galilee; he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill him. But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly but as it were in secret. Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, "Is he not the one they are trying to kill? And look, he is speaking openly and they say nothing to him. Could the authorities have realized that he is the Christ? But we know where he is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from." So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a hand upon him, because his hour had not yet come.

Meditation: What can hold us back from doing the will of God? Fear, especially the fear of death, can easily rob us of courage and the will to do what we know is right. Jesus met opposition and the threat of death with grace and determination to accomplish his Father's will. Jesus knew that his mission, his purpose in life, would entail sacrifice and suffering and culminate with death on the cross. But that would not be the end. His "hour" would crush defeat with victory, condemnation with pardon and freedom, and death with glory and everlasting life. He willingly suffered and went to the cross for our sake, to redeem us from sin and to restore our relationship with God the Father. Saint Augustine once noted: "Our Lord had the power to lay down his life and to take it up again. But we cannot choose how long we shall live, and death comes to us even against our will. Christ, by dying, has already overcome death. Our freedom from death comes only through his death. To save us Christ had no need of us. Yet without him we can do nothing. He gave himself to us as the vine to the branches; apart from him we cannot live."

Prayer: O God, who have prepared fitting helps for us in our weakness, grant we pray, that we may receive their healing effects with joy and reflect them in a holy way of life. 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: Despite how modern, sophisticated, or knowledgeable we may look upon or feel about ourselves, no one can be indifferent toward Jesus for long. What Jesus said and did – his teachings, his signs and wonders – he did in the name of God. Jesus not only claimed to be the Messiah, God's Anointed One. He claimed to be in a unique relationship with God and to know him as no one else did. To the Jews this was utter blasphemy. The religious authorities did all they could to put a stop to Jesus because they could not accept his claims and the demands he made. We cannot be indifferent to the claims which Jesus makes on us. We are either for Jesus or we are against him – there is no middle ground; the choice is always ours. We can try to mold Jesus to our own ideas and preferences or we can allow his word to free us from our own ignorance, stubborn pride, and deception. Do you accept all that Jesus has said and done for you with faith and reverence or with disbelief and contempt? The consequences are enormous, folks, both in this life and in eternity. Everything that Jesus did was for our salvation – every man woman and child past, present and future. As God said to those on Mount Tabor: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Please listen to Jesus, folks – hear what he is saying to you, open your mind and your heart to him, convert from the ways of the world to the ways of Christ; follow him.

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

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2 Corinthians 9:7

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March Diocesan Second Collections

Catholic Relief Services – March 19



The Food Pantry needs this week are canned fruit, canned vegetables and canned soup. Please put donations in the box in the Gathering Space or the wooden box outside of the Parish Office. Thank you for your continuous donations!



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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Bishop Fernandes & All Bishops to Share the Word of Christ

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Young Men to Heed the Call to Become a Priest

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All Sick & Homebound Parishioners

~The St. Edward Prayer Chain Will Pray for Your Needs~

Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 for prayers.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION BEGINS NEXT WEEK



Innocent babies are being killed in our land. The Ohio Department of Health reports that 20,716 Ohio babies were aborted in the year 2021. This injustice is on the scale of the Holocaust. It is one of the "sins that cry to heaven" (CCC 1867). Even though we may not be directly involved in this practice, we might be culpable through our indifference (CCC 1868-9). By spiritually adopting a baby in danger of abortion, our prayers for God's grace can make a difference between whether a baby is born or aborted. To spiritually adopt a baby, simply say the following daily prayer for a period of nine months: *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) **Next week, there will be a table in the Gathering Space for you to register to receive monthly updates on your adopted baby's progress.**

PARISHIONERS INVITED TO ECUMENICAL PANEL DISCUSSION

What: A panel from United Way, Coalition of Housing, Mental Health America, Children and Family First and a representative from Newark Think Tank on Poverty will share their insights on the issues facing people in poverty who live in Licking County.

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Granville

When: March 26, at 3:00 p.m.

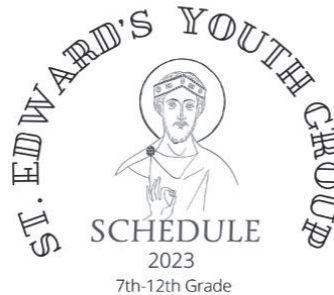
Who: The Granville Ecumenical Community

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To apply, click on the Scholarship link at www.saintedwards.org.

Former applicants who have not been recipients of the awards may reapply. Any attachments to the applications, such as letters of recommendation, should be emailed to church@saintedwards.org. Completed applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted on or before noon, May 19th, 2023.



MARCH

03/19

Youth Group Retreat

- Youth Group Retreat
- Theme: RELATIONSHIPS
- Talks, Games, Fun, Friendship & Prayer
- Hosted by Hard as Nails Ministry
- Lunch and Dinner are Provided
- Retreat cost: \$50.00 per person

12-8 PM

03/26

Lenten Movie Night

- Movie: Silence
- Popcorn and snacks
- Prayer

6-8 PM

PSR



CONFIRMATION is MARCH 29

Confirmation Practice is

Wednesday, March 22 from 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil on April 8th

~ Rebecca Bucknam, PSR Director

CONTACT PSR by E-MAIL reled@saintedwards.org

Sponsor of the Week



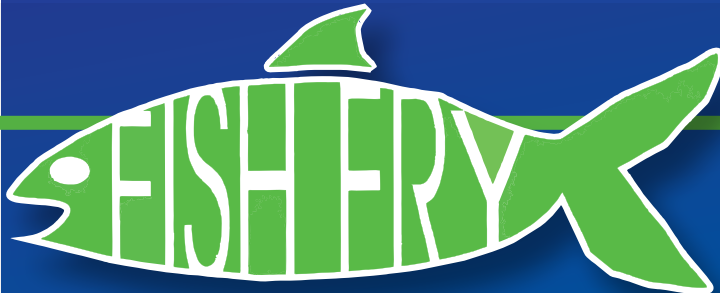
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Know Your Saints

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Joseph was a “righteous man” (Matthew 1:18) and was a carpenter. “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Matthew 13:55). He wasn’t rich. When he took Jesus to the Temple, he offered a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). Luke and Matthew mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). He was compassionate. When he discovered Mary was with child after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame. He was obedient to God. When an angel came to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” He did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25). Later, when the angel told him that his family was in danger, he left everything he owned and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23). We know Joseph loved Jesus and his one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return, settled in the obscure town of Nazareth. And when Jesus stayed in the Temple, Joseph and Mary searched with great anxiety for him. (Luke 2:48). He is the patron saint of fathers and carpenters.

from www.catholic.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A; PS 23:1-6; EPH 5:8-14; JN 9:1-41 OR
JN 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Today’s readings on this Fourth Sunday of Lent are filled with contrasting images – God’s vision versus human vision, the light of Christ versus the darkness of sin, spiritual blindness versus spiritual sightedness. Embracing a stewardship way of life can free us from spiritual blindness, allow us to see as God sees, and help us to reflect the light of Christ’s love in the way we live our daily lives.

Our Second Reading, from Ephesians, begins, “... You were once in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Because of our Baptism, we have the “light” of the Blessed Trinity dwelling within us. In the difficulties and messiness of daily life, it’s easy to forget this glorious truth about ourselves. It can also be difficult to determine whether we truly are living in a way that reflects Christ’s light. The stewardship way of life, with its emphasis on the rightly ordered use of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure, gives us a guide we can consult on a daily basis to help ensure that we really are living as “children of the light.” In our Gospel passage from John, Christ restores sight to a man born blind.

The man says that Christ “opened my eyes.” These Lenten days are an excellent time for us to ask Jesus to open our eyes, too. Let us ask Him to show us where we may be suffering from spiritual blindness, perhaps even in subtle ways in our use – or misuse – of time, talent, and treasure.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, let’s intensify our efforts in any of these areas where we have become a little blinded so that by Easter, we are truly living as children of the light.

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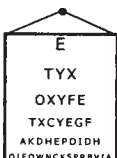
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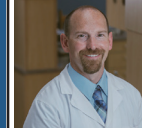
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