



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

785 NEWARK-GRANVILLE ROAD, GRANVILLE, OHIO 43023 | (740)587-3254 | WWW.SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Behold

I AM THE HANDMAID
OF THE LORD.
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.
LUKE 1:38

PASTOR

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

DEACON

Rev. Mr. John Barbour

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

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

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 10 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15 a.m. Jim & Lucille Bidigare (RIP) by Jim Bidigare

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

Monday, December 11 – Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope

9:00 a.m. Timothy J. Lucas (RIP) by Patrick Lucas

Tuesday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 a.m. Rev. James Brooks (RIP, Anniversary of Ordination)
by Anne Marie Geiger

Wednesday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

11:00 a.m. Memorial Mass for Dave Denius

7:00 p.m. Penance Service

Thursday, December 14 – St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. Prudence G. Lucas (RIP) by Patrick Lucas

Friday, December 15 – Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Betty Crock (RIP) by Bob & Joanne Smithberger

Saturday, December 16 – Advent Weekday

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

Sunday, December 17 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT;

Gaudete Sunday

8:15 a.m. David Gaul (RIP) by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

10:45 a.m. Victoria Helgerman (Birthday)
by Stephanie Helgerman

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023 – YEAR B

PRELUDE

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.: Variations on WACHET AUF (Wake, O Wake)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: On Jordan's Bank (#41)

No Gloria during Advent

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 85: Lord, let us see your kindness...
(p. 36)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 37)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: Comfort, Comfort, O My People (#60)

SANCTUS: chanted (#860)

MEM. ACC.: We proclaim your death, O Lord... (#10 on pg. 16)

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#864)

COMMUNION: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (#597)

COMMUNION 2 (10:45 a.m. Choir): A Voice Cries Out,
"Prepare the Way of the Lord" (Larson)

CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#42)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Paul Radkowski

8:15 a.m.: Michael Flanigan

10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

Notes from the Loft

♪ Today's Responsorial Psalm is taken from Psalm 85, which has long been associated with the Season of Advent, as was Psalm 80 which we sang last weekend. We pray that God will indeed let us see his kindness and grant us salvation, and we look forward to Christ's coming – a time when "justice and peace shall kiss."

♪ At the 10:45 a.m. Mass this weekend, the choir sings "A Voice Cries Out, 'Prepare the Way of the Lord.'" Arranged by Lloyd Larson. This has been a St. Edward's Advent standard for many years. It pairs textual excerpts from today's first reading with music that conveys the intensity and urgency of the prophet Isaiah's words. This week, may we prepare the way of the Lord, both in our hearts and in everything that we do.

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



WITH SYMPATHY

The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Varasso, beloved wife of David Varasso.

The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of David Denius, beloved husband of parishioner Clarita Denius.
May they rest in eternal peace in the presence of God.



ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

Please sign up to be an altar server! Contact Dcn. Barbour to arrange training.

ADVENT NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING DATES:

Wednesday, December 13: 5:00 to 5:50 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20: 5:00 to 5:50 p.m.

RSVP Dcn. John at barfamilybour@yahoo.com. Each session is limited to four students. One parent must attend the session with their student.

Fr. Tim: I invite you to pray as I bow toward the congregation:
"Lord, give him the homily You want me to hear. Give me the ears to hear it, the heart to receive it, and the grace to put it into practice in my life."



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls.



*"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 _____

A Word from Your Pastor



John the Baptist is the Biblical figure that bridges the two Testaments. He is the last of the prophets of old and the precursor of the Messiah. To prepare the way of the Lord is a twofold task. First, we must open ourselves to the Word that expresses God's will in our hearts. Once we have done this, we must make it known. By word and deed, we are invited to follow John's example to prepare the way of the Lord and to make Jesus Christ known.

Baptized by the Holy Spirit and by fire, we have within us all that is needed to open a way in the desert of the world. While we can mourn losses and know sadness for what has been left behind, we have a greater responsibility to look ahead. "Make ready the way of the Lord!"

The Season of Advent has become a season that is full and overly busy with external activities. "Making ready" has been seen as something we do "out there" instead of something that happens to us when we have the proper disposition "in here," that is, within our own hearts and persons. John was clear with his message because he had spent years in the desert preparing to fulfill his role. Do we take time during Advent to allow God's Message to sink in?

This year, we will be a bit pressed to get everything ready for our Christmas celebration since Christmas falls on a Monday. The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are the same day. So, it is even more necessary for us to step aside from the fray in order to prepare our hearts. In the next two weeks, be sure to take some time to slow down. Let the Lord speak to your heart and enjoy some quiet moments of reflection before, after, and even during your rush to get everything done. Advent is the Season of expectation and waiting. So, hurry up and wait!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor

Advent and Christmas Schedule

PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Parish Advent Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Advent Mass Times

Second Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10th at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Third Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Fourth Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m.

(one morning Mass only)



Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m. – Children's Choir Prelude at 4:30 p.m.

9:00 p.m. – Choir/Bells Prelude at 8:30 p.m.



Christmas Day Mass

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. – Vocal/Instrumental Prelude at 9:45 a.m.

(one Mass only)

Holy Family Masses

Saturday, December 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Christmas Poinsettias



LAST DAY TO ORDER MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to make a donation for poinsettias for the church during the Christmas season, please fill out the information below and return by **Monday, December 11th** to have your loved one's name in the bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20.00. (Checks payable to St. Edward Church.) Please include the following::

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Donated By: _____

The list with the above information will be in the December 24th bulletin.

**USHERS NEEDED FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
CHRISTMAS SIGN-UP FOR USHERS
Please sign up in the Gathering Space.**



Pictures with Santa! December 10

Santa is coming to St. Edward! Join us December 10 any time from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for crafts, cookie decorating, and pictures with Santa. All ages welcome, you are never too old for a picture with Santa. Hosted by The Knights of Columbus.

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lector:	Altar Servers:
December 16-17: Third Sunday of Advent			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Mandy Vadala Ava Vadala	Barb Mattei-Smith	Arianna Carter Aaron Wolf
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Rick Corder Lori Corder	Thomas Bressoud	Colin Oncken Kiera Oncken
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Emily Dunbar Noelle Gremling	Dana Updegrove	Amanda Dunbar Rylee Gray

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass – 8:15 a.m., Fr. Hayes

Mass – 10:45 a.m., Fr. Hayes

PSR – 9:30 a.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal – after 10:45 a.m. Mass

OCIA – noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Party with Santa – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Mass – 9:00 a.m., Fr. Ghiloni

Preschool

Adoration after Mass to 11:30 a.m.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Eucharist People – Potluck & Discussion, 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Visitation with Clarita Denius – 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Mass for Dave Denius – 11:00 a.m. & Luncheon Afterwards

Advent Reconciliation Service – 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Women of St. Edward – 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Confession – 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Holy Land Olive Wood Carvings in Gathering Space

Supporting St. Edward Church

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



OFFERTORY

December 3

\$ 11,429.08

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

DECEMBER DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

Retirement Fund – December 10

Diocesan Charities- December 25



HOLY LAND CARVINGS AT ST. EDWARD CHURCH ON DECEMBER 16 AND 17

Our mission is to support and strengthen the presence of Christianity in the Holy Land by selling their beautiful olive wood artifacts here in the United States.

The carving of the Olive Wood Tree has been inherited since the time of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Due to ongoing difficult circumstances and decrease in tourism, the Christian community has suffered many hardships and many Christian families have left their homes in search of work and safety. We have been blessed and grateful to have the opportunity to travel to different parishes around the U.S. for the past 15 years to support these less fortunate Christians.

We encourage you to look over their beautiful hand-carved items. We value your support. We will be accepting cash, credit cards and checks.

May God bless you and keep you safe,

The Holy Land Shepherds

www.theholylaneshop.com 810-394-5291

Mass Intentions

Contact Maggie Barno to schedule Mass Intentions at maggie@saintedwards.org.

If you desire a specific date/s, please contact Maggie at least six months before the desired date. If the date you request for a Mass Intention is already taken, we will try to schedule your Mass on a date that will suit you. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, a \$10.00 stipend is requested when Mass Intentions are scheduled.



SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 20

St. Edward's Dance

A Night Under the Stars

Tickets on Sale December 23

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Come, Peaceable Kingdom

Almighty God,
you are the giver of peace,
the source of harmony.
Guide us to follow your will
so that we may be united

in thought and act
and look forward to a time
when the wolf is guest of the lamb.
and all the earth knows you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Kings Rule, God Reigns



Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12. Isaiah's prophecy reinforces the vision that a new king will come from the "holy mountain" upon which Jerusalem will be built. The scene that Isaiah imagines is much like the Garden of Eden, where animals have no enemies and the kingdom is peaceful. The prophet puts forth the hope that one day God will reign over the earth and the will of God will bring true harmony and peace.

The refrain for Psalm 72 parallels justice and peace. Peace will result when a king governs with justice, when the poor are rescued and saved. To govern with integrity, the king must be blessed. From that blessing, "all the tribes of

the earth" can be blessed. Listen carefully to this psalm that proclaims that a leader protects and serves those who are defenseless, vulnerable, and victims of injustice. What better way to anticipate the second week of Advent than to find a way to treat with kindness a victim of injustice? What better way to "think in harmony," as St. Paul states in the second reading, than to seek reconciliation with a family member or friend? Keep in mind St. Paul's instruction to "welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomes you."

The reading from Romans today speaks of endurance, encouragement, unity, harmony, and hope. Each day this week, as you contemplate John the Baptist's call to repent, read Romans 15:4–9 and choose a different phrase to ponder.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 5 Be Strong and Hope

In the first reading, Isaiah imagines the peaceful wonders that will come to pass when the Son comes to save. Scripture envisions a beautiful and peaceful world, as we glory in salvation. The images of the desert blooming with flowers, the lame leaping, and streams bursting forth in the desert are all ample subjects for quiet reflection as we await the nativity of the Lord. Just as the bystanders to the cure of the paralytic witnessed something “incredible,” so do you during your day. Watch for the incredible. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 6 St. Nicholas

“Comfort, give comfort to my people,” begins the reading from Isaiah. These are apt words for the optional Memorial of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, prostitutes, sailors, and repentant thieves, among others. To celebrate this day, many traditions have arisen involving candy and small gifts. Some consider St. Nicholas the “real Santa” because of his acts of charity, especially to the poor. Celebrate this fourth-century holy and generous bishop by being kind to another. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3 and 10ac, 11–13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

Wednesday, December 7 St. Ambrose

In the Gospel today, Jesus invites the crowds to find solace in him, saying, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Today too we find hope in these words, knowing that we can give our burdens over to God. On the Memorial of St. Ambrose (340–397), we recall someone who unburdened many people by helping them resolve conflicts. He was an eloquent defender of the faith. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the refrain of the responsorial psalm sings of God’s “marvelous deeds,” then the Letter to the Ephesians tells of our adoption by God. Finally, in the Gospel, faith is proclaimed in Mary’s words, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” Celebrate Mary’s yes to God through an action for another. *Today’s readings: Genesis 3:9–15; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, December 9 Flowers of Hope

The optional Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin is dear to many Mexican Catholics because it celebrates the appearance of Mary to a peasant. After Mary’s appearance, Juan’s cloak was inscribed with the Virgin’s face and filled with flowers. This proved to the bishop that Juan Diego was the Blessed Mother’s messenger and that the bishop should build a shrine at Tepeyac Hill. Juan Diego, canonized in 2002, was the first Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. Put a fresh flower today on your table and share the story of St. Juan Diego with a friend. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 48:17–19, Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6, Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto

While lighting the first two candles on your Advent wreath today, make a commitment to continue joyful expectation during Advent. Pray the Rosary or the Magnificat and observe yourself becoming less stressful during this time of many demands from the secular world. Today’s memorial remembers the birthplace of Mary, in Palestine. *Today’s readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*



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 December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence." +SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, December 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Damasus I, Pope

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:17-26 One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the one who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When the paralyzed man was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the cripple of his physical ailment. This man had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body as well. The Lord is ever ready to bring us healing of body, mind, and soul. His grace brings us freedom from the power of sin and from bondage to harmful desires and addictions. Do you allow anything to keep you from Jesus' healing power?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. 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: Is there anything in your life that keeps you from receiving the blessings of God's kingdom? The prophets foretold that when the Messiah came to usher in God's kingdom the blind would see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk (Isaiah 35:5-6). Jesus not only brought physical healing, but healing of mind, heart, and soul as well. Jesus came to bring us the abundant life of God's kingdom (John 10:10). But that new life and transformation can be stifled by unbelief, indifference, and sinful pride. Sin cripples us far more than any physical ailment can. Sin is the work of the kingdom of darkness and it holds us in eternal bondage. There is only one solution and that is the healing, cleansing power of Jesus' forgiveness. In this Season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds, let us humble ourselves, let us be honest with ourselves, and let us conform ourselves to Christ, who was sent by God to redeem us.

About Saint Damasus: Saint Damasus was Supreme Pontiff from 366 to 384. He was a very learned man, well versed in the Scriptures. He commissioned Saint Jerome to complete the translation of the Bible into the Latin language. Shortly after his reign the 72 books of the Bible, hitherto scattered in different parts of the Orient, were collected into one volume. He defended the rights of the Holy See, and beautified

the Roman resting places of the Christian dead and of the saints. He also confirmed the practice of singing the Psalms day and night in the churches and adding a "Glory Be" at the end of each Psalm.

Tuesday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

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

Meditation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Prayer: O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. 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: Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King" (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called "Jesus", which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

Web site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin including prayer intentions and Mass intentions: <http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/>

Wednesday, December 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Meditation: The Jewish people used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting." Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness." Oxen were yoked two by two. Jesus invites us to be yoked with him, to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus also says his "burden is light." There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you?

Prayer: May the glorious intercession of the Virgin and Martyr Saint Lucy give us new heart, we pray, O Lord, so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday in this present age and so behold things eternal. 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 the Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messianic King who ushers in the reign of God. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would establish God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (ref. Matthew 6:10). In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sin and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. Do you trust in God's love and submit to his will for your life? If not, why not?

Thursday, December 14 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15 Jesus said to the crowds: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Meditation: John the Baptist is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets: to be fingers pointing to Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John proclaimed Jesus' mission at the Jordan River when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (ref. John 1:29). John saw from a distance what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross — our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who point the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus the Messiah. Jesus confirms that John has fulfilled the promise that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus declares that John is nothing less than the great herald whose privilege it was to announce the coming of the Messiah. Jesus equates the coming of his kingdom with violence. John himself suffered violence for announcing that the kingdom of God was near. He was thrown into prison and then beheaded. Since John's martyrdom to the present times the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and persecution at the hands of violent men. The blood of the martyrs throughout the ages bear witness to this fact. The martyrs witness to the truth — the truth and love of Jesus Christ who shed his blood to redeem us from slavery to sin and Satan and the fear of death. The Lord Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit to overcome fear with faith, despair with hope, and every form of hatred, violence, jealousy, and prejudice with love and charity towards all — even those who seek to destroy and kill.

Prayer: O God, who gave the Priest Saint John of the Cross an outstanding dedication to perfect self-denial and love of the Cross, grant that, by imitating him closely at all times, we may come to

contemplate eternally your glory. 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.

A Prayer of Saint John of the Cross: O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in You. Let Your mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.

Contemplation: God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith in Christ. But for most of us our call is to be dry martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and truths of the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we faithfully follow the Lord Jesus. What attracts others to those who follow the truth of God and his son, Jesus Christ? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. He will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to witness to the joy and freedom of the gospel?

Friday, December 15 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Meditation: The prophets remind us that God's kingdom is open to those who are teachable and receptive to the word of God. Jesus' parable challenges us to examine whether we are selective to only hear what we want to hear. The children in Jesus' parable react with dismay because they cannot get anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that if they play their music at weddings, no one will dance or sing; and if they play at funerals, it is the same. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 – "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." Are you in tune with the message of the kingdom or reign of God? Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is good news and it produces true joy and spiritual freedom for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse to listen.

Prayer: Grant that your people, we pray, almighty God, may be ever watchful for the coming of your Only Begotten Son, that, as the author of our salvation himself has taught us, we may hasten, alert and with lighted lamps, to meet him when he comes. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

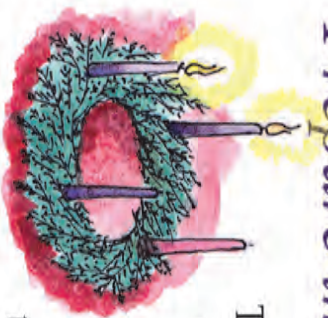
Contemplation: Why did the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus meet with deaf ears and with stiff resistance? It was out of jealousy and spiritual blindness that the scribes and Pharisees attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and they attributed Jesus' table fellowship as evidence for messianic pretense. They succeeded in frustrating God's plan for their lives because they had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus' message. What can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of heaven. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy and favor in God's grace. Have you come to experience the joy of the Advent season? Do you know the joy of the Gospel? Is your life in tune with Jesus' message of hope, salvation and redemption through him? 'Tis the season to get in tune with what Christ brings to each of us!

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

frlume:2023



Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?



First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"



Answers to Isaiah 40 Word Find: The Messiah is coming!
Answer to front page: Saint John the Baptist.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

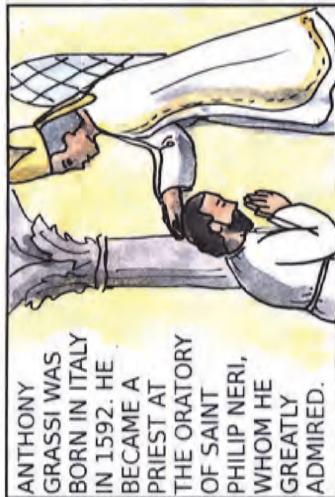
I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert,
"Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make straight
his paths!"



What did God send before Jesus to prepare the people for His coming?
Connect the dots to find out!

Blessed Anthony Grassi

December 13



BLESSED ANTHONY HAD A GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LADY AND OFTEN VISITED HER SHRINE AT LORETO. DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A STATUE OF OUR LADY THAT YOU CAN PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO? PRAY OFTEN TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER- SHE WILL ALWAYS HELP US GROW CLOSER TO HER SON JESUS.

ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND



A Z I O N B O S O M T H
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M I G H T H A P E N S E
S I D R E C O M P E N S E
S I N A G E N T L Y R I O S
R E S A R D C A R Y K L
N G O H M J U D A H I N E
T B E F O R E S Y O U N G
H G R U L E S Y O U N G

Find the words in CAPITALS in today's first reading in the puzzle.
Then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end!

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.



Food Pantry needs are grape jelly, tuna, canned corn. Please put Food Pantry donations in the box in the Gathering Space or the wooden box outside of the Parish Office. Your continuous donations are a blessing to others. Thank you!

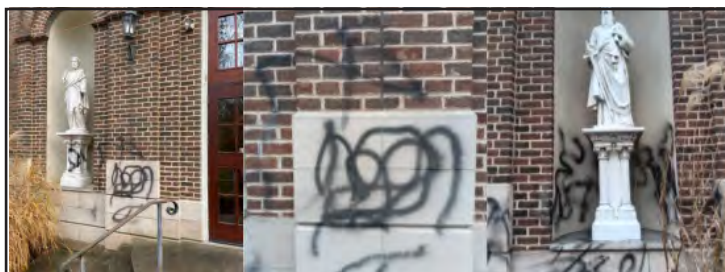
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The 2023-2024 OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation – formerly RCIA) Sundays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are invited! For questions, contact Dcn. John Barbour at 740-366-4124.



Vandalism at St. Edward's Church

Saturday, December 2, 2023, members of the St. Edward Men's Group gathered in the vestibule of the church and noticed that there was something on the doors of the church facing Newark Granville Road. It was discovered that someone had spraypainted the statues of Peter and Paul, the doors and the bricks, and the light fixture on the ground. This has been reported to the Granville Police and the Diocese of Columbus. Our maintenance staff and generous parishioners are working to clean it up. We pray for those who have done this and hope that it will not happen again.

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to Return to God
For all War-torn Countries
in the World
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Bishop Fernandes & All Bishops

For Young Men to Heed the Call to Become a Priest
For St. Edward's Youth Group
For Sick & Homebound Parishioners
All Staff, Teachers, Volunteers & Members of St. Edward.
Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 for prayer requests.

National Eucharistic Revival



The National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative called for by the Bishops of the United States, is preparing for Year Two – the Year of Parish Revival (June 2023-June 2024). ***The Eucharistic Revival is a historic and transformative national movement to help the faithful fall in love with Jesus, especially in the Eucharist,*** and be inspired and equipped to share that love with others. (For a helpful infographic providing an overview of the three-year process and other information, go to www.eucharisticrevival.org.)

NEXT MEETING – December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Group Discussions

St. Edward is hosting the second parish-wide small groups discussing the Eucharistic Revival study titled ***Becoming Eucharistic People: The Hope and Promise of Parish Life*** by Timothy P. O'Malley, with a monthly potluck and discussions that will go through March 2024.

THE YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

To assist in the formation and catechesis of our Eucharistic Culture, questions will be provided by Dcn. John. Full answers are in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

“Every day, Jesus humbles Himself just as He did when He came from His heavenly throne into the Virgin womb; every day, He comes to us and lets us see Him in lowliness, when He descends from the bosom of the Father into the hands of the priest at the altar.”

– St. Francis of Assisi:

EUCHARISTIC QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Q: The Catechism tells us that the Eucharist is a Sacramental Sacrifice that must be considered three ways. What are those three ways? (CCC1358):

1. Thanksgiving and praise to the Father; **2.** Sacrificial memorial of Christ and His Body; **3.** The presence of Christ by the power of His Word and of His Spirit.

St. Thomas Aquinas: *“As in the life of the body, after a man is born and becomes strong, he requires food so that his life may be preserved and sustained, so also in the spiritual life, after being fortified, he requires spiritual food, which is Christ’s Body.”*

Reflection on Lectionary Readings



DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IS 40:1-5, 9-11; PS 85:9-14; 2 PT 3:8-14; MK 1:1-8

We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

St. Peter describes the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today, saying God “is patient with you, not wishing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance.” Yet, in the same passage, we receive this warning: “The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out.”

How are we to assimilate these two truths – the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves “in holiness and devotion.” Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent “reset” – to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, John the Baptist instructs us to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” We must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let’s be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

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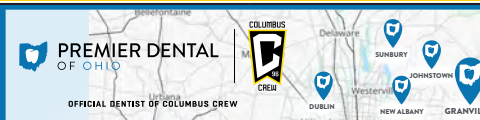
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