



CHURCH OF  
**ST. EDWARD**  
THE CONFESSOR

785 NEWARK-GRANVILLE ROAD, GRANVILLE, OHIO 43023 | (740)587-3254 | [WWW.SAINTEDWARDS.ORG](http://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 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

### Monday, December 18 – Late Advent Weekday

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

### Tuesday, December 19 – Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Tatla Dager (RIP) by Joseph Dager Family

### Wednesday, December 20 – Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Pauline Stukus (RIP) by Phil & Kathy Stukus

### Thursday, December 21 – Late Advent Weekday;

#### St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. Mary Ventura (RIP, Birthday) by Susan Hannahs

### Friday, December 22 – Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Anthony Skufka (RIP Anniversary)  
by Tony & Dottie Skufka

### Saturday, December 23 – Late Advent Weekday;

#### St. John of Kanty

5:00 p.m. Christian Carpenter (Birthday) by Maggie Barno

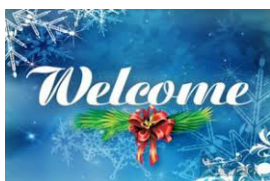
### Sunday, December 24 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

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

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

*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.”*



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

*Psalm 122:1*

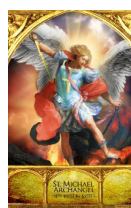
**WELCOME all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship today!** To our visitors, you may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality, and friendship with us. Children are always welcome at Mass! We hope you 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 \_\_\_\_\_



*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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### DECEMBER 17, 2023 – YEAR B

#### PRELUDE

Gaudete, mode I (organ and/or chant)

*Gaudete in Domino semper. Iterum dico, gaudete.*

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice.

#### INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#39, vs. 1-2-3)

No Gloria during Advent

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Luke 1: My soul rejoices... (p. 40)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 40)

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: My Soul Rejoices (#825)

SANCTUS: chanted (#860)

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

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#864)

COMMUNION: O Come, Divine Messiah (#44)

#### CONCLUDING RITE

SENDING FORTH: People, Look East (#43)

#### CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: Randy Kerr

10:45 a.m.: Chelsea Zigan

## Notes from the Loft

♪ Today is Gaudete Sunday, named for the first word of the entrance chant: *Gaudete*, meaning “rejoice.” We rejoice in all of today’s music. In our opening hymn, we sing “Rejoice! Rejoice!” Mary’s song of praise, the *Magnificat*, is both the Psalm and the offertory song. During Communion, we sing the joyful French Advent carol “O Come, Divine Messiah.” Our closing hymn – “People, Look East” – pairs a joyful English Advent text with another lilting French melody. *Gaudete!* The Lord is near!

Paul Radkowski, Music Director,  
740-587-3254, [music@saintedwards.org](mailto:music@saintedwards.org)

## Christmas Music

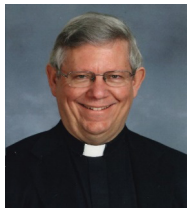
♪ **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve** will have Children’s Choir before Mass, cantor during Mass, organ/piano, and trumpet. Prelude music begins at 4:30 p.m. with instrumental carols played by Val Matula, followed by songs sung by the Children’s Choir.

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

♪ **10:00 a.m. Christmas Day** will have a small ensemble of singers, organ/piano, trumpet, violin, and bell tree. Prelude music begins at about 9:45 a.m.



## A Word from Your Pastor



The Third Sunday of Advent falls on December 17 this year, the day when we turn our gaze from the Coming of Christ at the end of time in glory toward immediate preparation for the celebration of His Coming in history at the Nativity. From this day forward, the evening prayer antiphons take up titles given to the Messiah, inviting us to reflect more on His identity: O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of All Nations, and O Emmanuel. Each day this week draws us closer to Christmas and prepares us to understand the Gift of the Child Who is born for us, the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. Next Sunday is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. We will adjust our Mass schedule for pastoral reasons, but we remind you that you do not get a "two for one" – the obligation is both to attend Mass for Sunday (either on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. or on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.) and then again for Christmas at any of the Masses of Christmas Eve (5:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m.) or on Christmas Day (10:00 a.m.). You can receive Holy Communion twice on any given day, so that won't be a problem if you choose to attend two Masses on Sunday itself. Be sure to come early for the Christmas Masses to hear our choirs.

Fourth Sunday of Advent	Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening (after 4pm) of Saturday, December 23 and throughout Sunday, December 24	Obligation may be fulfilled from the evening (after 4pm) of Sunday, December 24 and throughout Monday, December 25
Obligation may be fulfilled at:	Obligation may be fulfilled at:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipated (Saturday evening) Mass or Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent</li> <li>A Vigil Mass for Christmas on December 24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any evening Mass (after 4pm) on December 24</li> <li>Any Mass on December 25</li> </ul>

**Make plans also to bring your family to the Mass of the Holy Family on the weekend of December 30-31. We will have individual family blessings after all the Masses that weekend. Christmas is all about being a family that welcomes Christ among us. May our hearts be ready,**

*Rev. Timothy M. Hayes*

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor



### ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

**PLEASE CONTACT DCN. JOHN FOR TRAINING.**

**NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING DATES:**

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

**RSVP** to Dcn John at [barfamilybour@yahoo.com](mailto:barfamilybour@yahoo.com).

Each session is limited to four students.

**One parent must attend the session with their student.**

## Advent and Christmas Schedule

### PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

### Advent Mass Times

#### 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.



If you would like to send a Christmas Card to Father Hayes and/or Msgr. Enke, their addresses are as follows:

Fr. Timothy Hayes  
St. Edward Church,  
785 Newark-Granville Road  
Granville, OH 43023

Msgr. Paul Enke  
608 Fox Run Circle N.  
Newark, OH 43055

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lector:	Altar Servers:
<b>December 23-24: Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>			
<b>Saturday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Lisa Cannon Stefanie Manley	Erin Lane	Kevin Bollo Olivia Priano
<b>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</b>	Suzanne Fox Leo Fox	Jim Bidigare	Avery Miller Sydney Miller
<b>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</b>	Annie Lach Maria McDermott	Sheila Heist	Avery Warling Anna Beth Zigan
<b>December 24-25: Christmas Eve/The Nativity of the Lord</b>			
<b>Sunday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED
<b>Sunday, 9:00 p.m.</b>	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED
<b>Monday, 10:00 a.m.</b>	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

## 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

<b>December 10</b>	\$	<b>4,425.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	\$	<b>859.00</b>
<b>Religious Retirement Fund</b>	\$	<b>1,508.00</b>

Please consider ONLINE GIVING. Sign up on the St. Edward website home page at [www.saintedwards.org](http://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 Diocesan Charities- December 25



**Contact Maggie Barno to schedule Mass Intentions at [maggie@saintedwards.org](mailto: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.**

## This Week at St. Edward

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Mass – 8:15 a.m.**

**Mass – 10:45 a.m.**

**Children's Choir Rehearsal after 10:45 a.m. Mass  
Youth Group – 3:00-5:00 p.m. Bake cookies and pies  
for The Haven and Salvation Army shelters.**

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**Preschool Christmas Celebration with parents**

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**Preschool Christmas Celebration with parents**

**Handbells – 7:00 p.m.**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**No Preschool**

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**No Preschool**

**Choir- 7:00 p.m.**

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

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**No Preschool**

**Office Closes at noon**

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

**Confession – 4:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Mass – 5:00 p.m.**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

**Mass – 10:00 a.m. Fr. Hayes**

**One Morning Mass Only**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

**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.**

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**Mass – 10:00 a.m. One Mass Only**

**Vocal/Instrumental Prelude at 9:45 a.m.**

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

**Mass – 9:00 a.m.**

**Office Closed**



Food Pantry needs are grape jelly, tuna, hamburger helper and canned vegetables. 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!



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Rejoice! Rejoice!

God of all Names,  
you are our hope and guide on the path  
to holiness.  
O Wisdom, come and lead us to the path  
of truth.  
O Lord of Lords, come and teach  
us reverence.  
O Root of Jesse, come and show us the way  
of salvation.

O Key of David, come and open for us  
heaven's door.  
O Radiant Dawn, come and point us to your  
healing light.  
O King of Nations, come and shower us with  
mercy and grace.  
O Emmanuel, come into our hearts and  
make us one with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

O Come, O Come



*Today's readings: Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11; Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28.* Infused with a spirit of joy, the Scriptures remind us to ready ourselves with hope and gratitude.

The “O” Antiphons offer a beautiful way to heighten our attention to Christ’s coming in this last week of Advent. Based on Isaiah’s prophecies, the antiphons echo ancient titles given to the long-awaited messiah.

Daily reflection on the “O” Antiphons helps us prepare the manger of our hearts to welcome the infant. The Christ

child is Wisdom itself; he is our Lord; he descends from the Root of Jesse; he is the Radiant Dawn, the King of Nations, he is truly Emmanuel, God-with-us.

With today’s antiphon, we recall that the prophet Isaiah ascribed the quality of wisdom to the messiah, saying, “Wonderful is his counsel and great his wisdom” (Isaiah 28:29). This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus, the incarnation of divine wisdom, transmitted through the power of his words, and poured out in his daily living with us.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 18

#### O Adonai (Lord)

The Hebrew people used the title *Adonai* as a substitute for the unutterable name of God. Today's "O" Antiphon calls us to attention and reminds us that when we invoke the name of the Lord, we should do so with the utmost reverence. Today's readings: *Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72: 1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

### Tuesday, December 19

#### O Root of Jesse

Today's prophetic invocation for Jesus hearkens to the source of his human ancestry: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, / and from his roots a bud shall blossom" (Isaiah 11:1). Jesse was the father of King David and is designated as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. From the Root of Jesse, comes a branch, Jesus, from whom we graft life. Today's readings: *Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab, 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

### Wednesday, December 20

#### O Key of David

The genealogy of Jesus locates him in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah foretells, "I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder" (Isaiah 22:22). Thus, Jesus carries the power to liberate us from sin with the exquisite grace of forgiveness and to open the doors for all those asleep in the underworld. Jesus, the key to the kingdom of God, shows us the way to salvation. Today's readings: *Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

### Thursday, December 21

#### O Radiant Dawn

Today's "O" Antiphon stems from the celebrated prophecy "The people who walked in darkness / have seen a great light; / Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom / a light has shone" (Isaiah 9:1). In praying "O Radiant Dawn," we call for Jesus, the light, to break through the darkness of our lives like the dawn transforming the night sky. Christians often plan to line their sidewalks and front entryways with lights on Christmas Eve as a testimony of their joy at the arrival of the Light of the world. Today's readings: *Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

### Friday, December 22

#### O King of Nations

The Hebrew people eagerly awaited a messiah to relieve them from oppression and restore justice to the land. In her canticle in the Gospel of Luke, Mary paints a picture of their savior as one who will "scatter the proud in their conceit, cast down the mighty from their thrones, fill the hungry with good things" (Luke 1:51–53). Even though the prophet Isaiah foretold that this longed for "King of Nations" would come as a child, no one could imagine the messiah entering the world as a homeless infant. Jesus upended expectations forevermore. Today's readings: *1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

### Saturday, December 23

#### O Emmanuel

As we turn the page from Advent to Christmas, we invoke our final "O" Antiphon, calling the child Jesus *Emmanuel*, which means "God-with-us." Herein meld the most unlikely truths: the infant born in a manger is truly God dwelling among us. The infant, completely dependent upon the care and protection of his parents, is indeed the Savior of the world. Today's readings: *Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10, 14; Luke 1:57–66.*





# 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.*

***"Let my eyes take their sleep, but may my heart always keep watch for You. May Your right hand bless Your servants who love You. May I be united with the praise that flows from You, Lord Jesus, to all Your saints; united with the gratitude drawn from Your heart, good Jesus, that causes Your saints to thank You; united with Your passion, good Jesus, by which You took away our guilt; united with the divine longing that You had on earth for our salvation; united with every prayer that welled from Your divine heart, good Jesus, and flowed into the hearts of Your saints."***

**~A PRAYER COMPOSED BY SAINT PETER CANISIUS**

### **Monday, December 18 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

*O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with outstretched arm.*

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25** 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." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Meditation:** Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who are weighed down from of old by slavery beneath the yoke of sin, may be set free by the newness of the long-awaited Nativity of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. 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. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He 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?

## **Tuesday, December 19 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

*O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: Come to deliver us, and tarry not.*

**Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-25** In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years. Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."

**Meditation:** Zechariah was a faithful man who was tuned to God's voice. He was born into a priestly family and it was his privilege to be chosen to enter the inner court of the temple to offer sacrifice to God. Luke records that the people wondered at Zechariah's delay and were amazed that he was speechless when he withdrew from the inner sanctuary. They rightly perceived that he had a special encounter with God. God's angelic messenger greeted Zechariah with a blessing beyond his expectations. "Your prayer is heard! You will have a son! And his mission will be great for all of Israel." Now that seemed like a lot for Zechariah to take in all at once. Could God really do a miracle for his barren wife, Elizabeth? The angel somewhat wisely put Zechariah in his place before God's mighty action. He became speechless until the day the infant was dedicated to the Lord and given the name, John. When God draws us into his presence, he wants us to be still and quiet before him so we can listen as he speaks to our hearts and reveals his mind to us.

**Prayer:** O God, who through your Only Begotten Son have made us a new creation, look kindly, we pray, on the handiwork of your mercy, and at your Son's coming cleanse us from every stain of the old way of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** In the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist, the angel explains to Zechariah the role his son is to play in preparing the way for the Messiah. John will be great in the sight of God. He will live as a Nazarite (read Book of Numbers 6) – a person set apart for the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even within his mother's womb. And he shall be sent to the people of God, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers and children to God and one another, by turning the "disobedient to the wisdom of the just." The name John means "the Lord is gracious." When God acts to save us he graciously fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes our faith "alive" to his promises. Do you pray that "the hearts of parents and children may be turned to God and one another?"

## **Wednesday, December 20 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

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



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

**Meditation:** 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.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the coming solemnity of your Son may bestow healing upon us in this present life and bring us the rewards of life eternal. 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. Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** 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 heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives 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 yield to his grace?

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

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

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

**Meditation:** What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leapt for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

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

**Contemplation:** You are indeed blessed if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith." The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude." It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life. There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. As we move closer to the end of Advent, have you come to know during this time the joy of living a life given over to God in greater faith and trust?

### **Friday, December 22 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

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

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

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

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who are weighed down from of old by slavery beneath the yoke of sin, may be set free by the newness of the long-awaited Nativity of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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 Meditations for Advent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

rflumpe:2023





# Who Will Lead You to God?



Today's Gospel reading tells us about Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. At first people thought that he might be the saviour they were all waiting for, but he was very clear when he told them that he wasn't- there was one coming after him Who would be the truly great One.

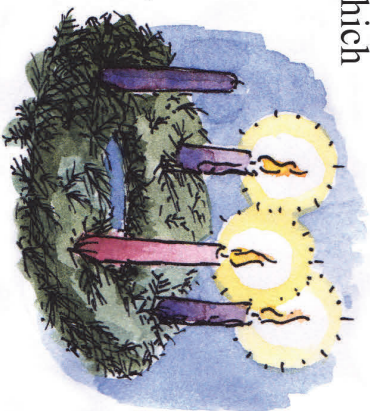
Sometimes we hear about great or important people. We know about movie stars and singers and government leaders. Who are some important people you know of?



Do those people that you've thought about help to bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and give good example? Or do they lead people away from God by doing wrong things or making fun of God's truth?



We can know which people are really great by thinking about whether they lead us closer to God, like Saint John the Baptist did, or further away from Him. Which sort of people do you want to follow?

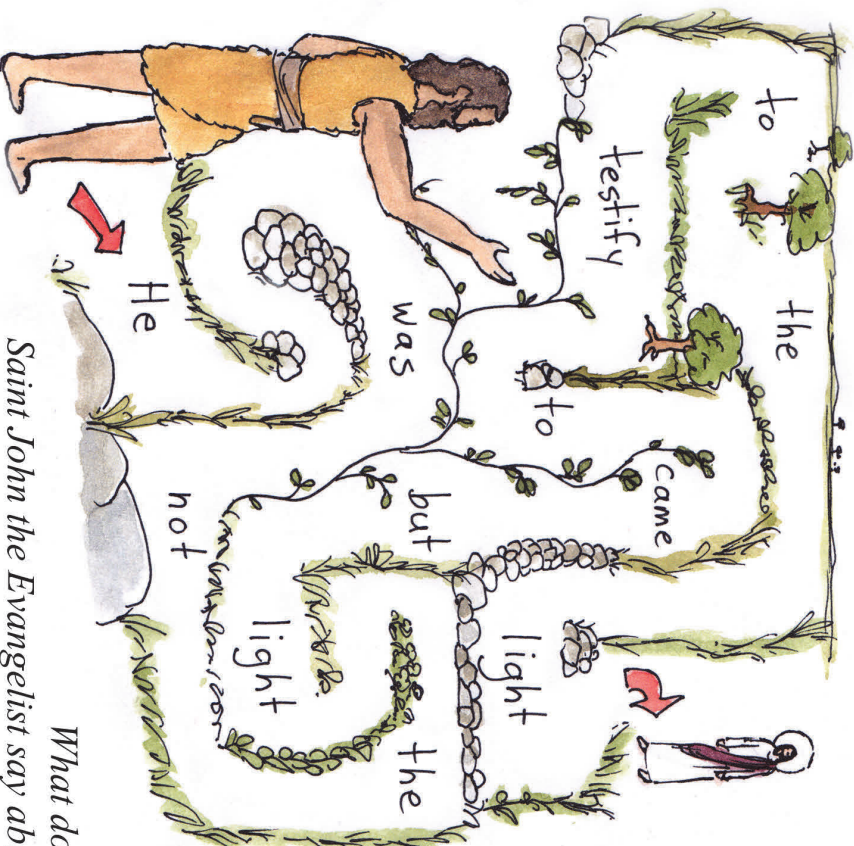


Answer to Word-find: brokenhearted.

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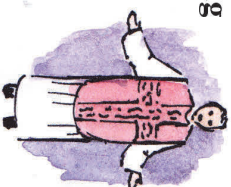
# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17th, 2023



*What does Saint John the Evangelist say about Saint John the Baptist at the beginning of the Gospel? Read the words you pass as you go through the maze.*

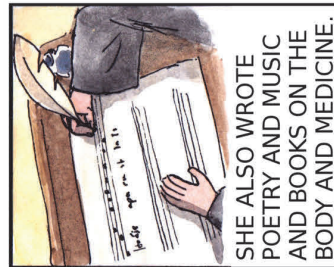
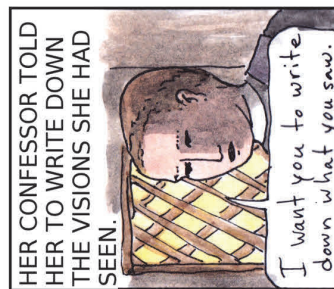
Was the priest who offered Mass today wearing pink vestments? The colour pink, or rose, is a sign of joy. We use it for the third Sunday of Advent because we are happy that we're half-way to Christmas! If you have an Advent wreath, it's time to light the pink candle!





# saint Hildegard of Bingen

## December 17



SAINT HILDEGARD KNEW A LOT ABOUT GOD FROM HER VISIONS BUT SHE WASN'T PROUD. INSTEAD SHE USED HER KNOWLEDGE AND GIFTS TO BRING PEOPLE CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH MUSIC AND SCIENCE. DID YOU KNOW THAT LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S CREATION CAN HELP YOU TO KNOW HIM BETTER TOO?

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

# The Messenger of Peace

## Word-find

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

See if you can find the words in CAPITALS from today's first reading in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks in the reading.

The SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the LORD has ANOINTED me;  
he has SENT me to bring GLAD TIDINGS to  
the POOR, to heal

the \_\_\_\_\_,  
to PROCLAIM LIBERTY to CAPTIVES

and RELEASE to the  
PRISONERS,  
to ANNOUNCE a YEAR  
of FAVOUR from the Lord  
and a day of  
VINDICATION  
by our GOD.





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- Wondering how to improve your relationship with God and others

**Sign up in the Gathering Space December 30/31 or January 6/7. The book/study guide cost is \$23.00. The registration deadline to be included in the bulk order for books is Monday, January 8.**



### WINTER DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS

St. Edward's youth group ministers to the homeless in Newark each month to provide food and clothing. The Youth Group is asking the parish to please help us with donations for our Street Homeless Outreach.

**Clothing** needs for adult men and women: Scarves, gloves, shoes, new underwear and socks, coats, sweaters.

**Travel-size toiletries:** Shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and female hygiene products.

**Food:** Granola bars, bottled water, juice boxes, chips, cookies, and other snacks.

Please drop off donations in the box in the Gathering Space. Thank you.

In Christ,  
Steven Arias,  
Youth Minister



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### BUS TRIP – MARCH FOR LIFE

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – JANUARY 18-19, 2024!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE PLANS!**

2023 was a Roller Coaster ride in our battle against abortion. More than ever, we need to band together for support as we face an uncertain future. St. Edward's Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a charter bus for the 2024 National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Departure late evening, Thursday, January 18, and return late evening, Friday, January 19. This is a busy but impactful day of adventure, mission and sacrifice to our Nation's Capital, witnessing our ongoing concerns with Abortion. Thanks to a generous grant from the Catholic Foundation, seats can be reserved for only \$40.00 each with family pricing and Scholarships available as needed. Contact Paul Gassman at 740-334-8898 or Dcn. John Barbour at 740-973-5583 to reserve a spot or for more information.

## Lord, Hear Our Prayers



**For Our Country & World to Return to God**  
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**For Catholics to Return to Church**  
**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](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org).)

### NEXT MEETING – January 16 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, DECEMBER 17:

**Q:** What is the part of the Eucharistic prayer called the anaphora? **Ans.** The prayer of thanksgiving and consecration – the heart and summit of the celebration. Read paragraph 1352 of the Catechism.

**St. Maximilian Kolbe:** “If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.”

## Reflection on Lectionary Readings



DECEMBER 17, 2023

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11; LK 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” is a Latin word, meaning “rejoice.” The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.” It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment – not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions – because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today’s Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: “He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light.” This is our calling, too – to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior – by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any “clutter” in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

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