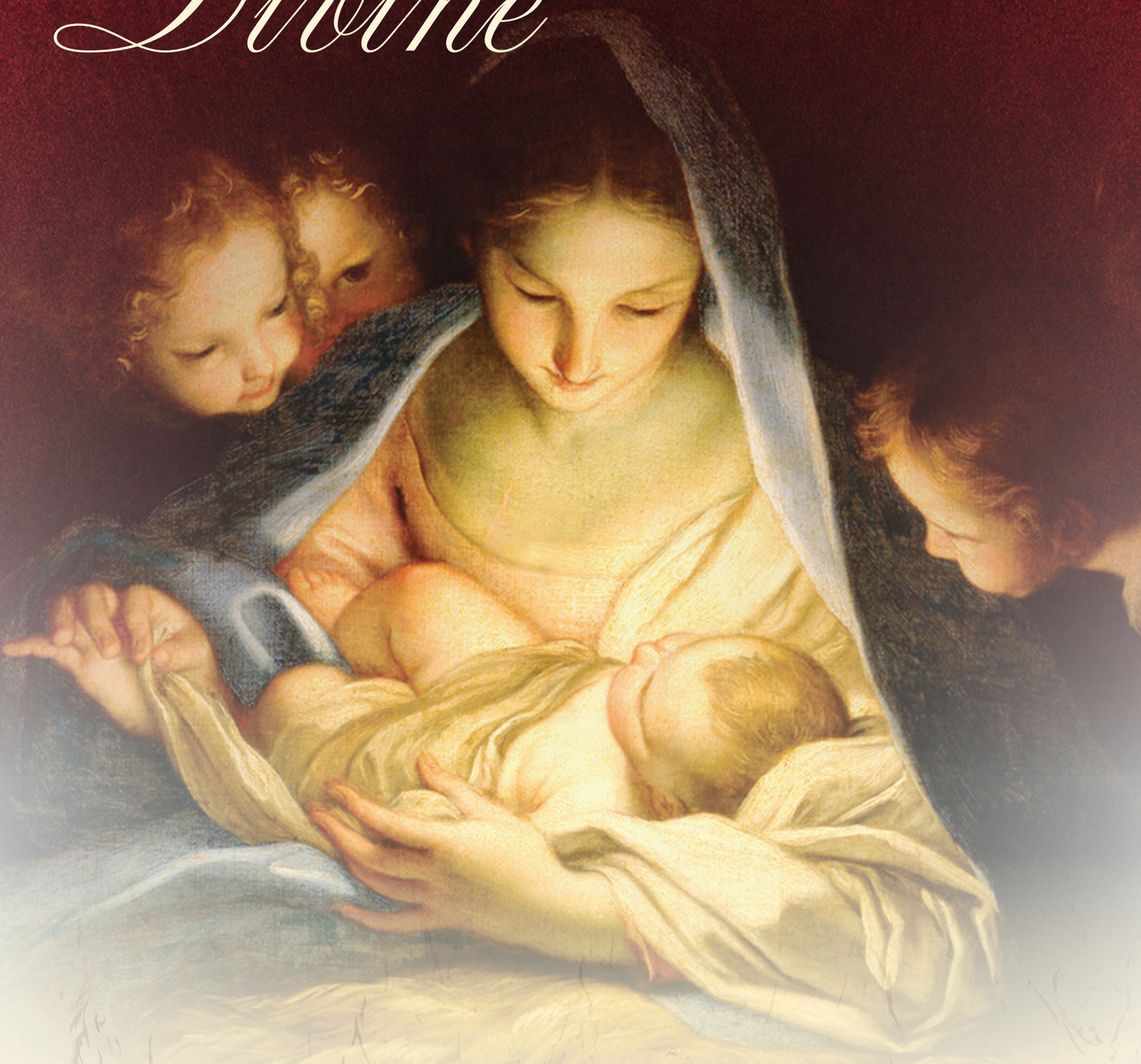


O NIGHT

Divine

CHRISTMAS
2023



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 7 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

10:45 a.m. Raymond Russell Thomas, Jr. (RIP)
by Cheryl Boggess

Monday, January 8 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10:00 a.m. Hazel Wood (RIP) by Michael Shapiro

Tuesday, January 9 – Weekday (First week of Ordinary Time)

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Ayars Family by Vicki Kiser

Wednesday, January 10 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Matt Coleman (Birthday) by Mark & Paula Coleman

Thursday, January 11 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Ron Hawk (RIP) by Marc & Tonya Hawk

Friday, January 12 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Regina Kosmalski (RIP) by Stephen Kosmalski

Saturday, January 13 – St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor

5:00 p.m. Jimmy Sowards (RIP) by Peter & Jean McCallin

Sunday, January 14 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

10:45 a.m. Pat Evans (RIP) by Dcn. John & Cindy Barbour



Fr. Tim: As I pray and bow to the congregation, I invite you to also pray, "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 _____

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 7, 2024 – YEAR B

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (#110)

GLORIA: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 72: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (p. 57)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 58)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (#88)

HOLY, WE PROCLAIM, AMEN, LAMB OF GOD: Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

COMMUNION: We Three Kings (#107)

COMMUNION 2: TBD

CONCLUDING RITES

CLOSING: Angels from the Realms of Glory (#111)

POSTLUDE

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Chelsea Zigan

8:15 a.m.: Karen Bovenizer

10:00 a.m.: Kevin Skinner

TRUMPET (Mass times TBD)

Shelby Heist

Notes from the Loft

♪ Merry Christmas! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!* As we celebrate Epiphany, we continue to sing festive carols and songs. In the United States, the most frequently sung Epiphany hymn is likely "We Three Kings." Composed for a Christmas pageant by John H. Hopkins, Jr., it has become a well-known standard since its publication in 1863. As we sing it today during Communion, may we recall the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. May we also offer our gifts to the Lord in everything that we do.

Paul Radkowski, Music Director

740-587-3254, music@saintedwards.org



Altar serving is a great family ministry. It's a great way for a family to serve the parish for the New Year and beyond.

We are looking for a few young women and men and their families to begin the process of serving the Lord at the altar during Mass. The only prerequisite for the job is to have made your First Communion, believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and a willingness to fulfill your commitment to this ministry

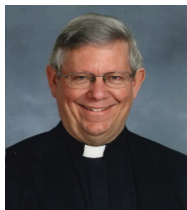
by being on time as scheduled. **PLEASE CONTACT DEACON JOHN FOR TRAINING at barfamilybour@yahoo.com. One parent must attend the session with their student.**



HERE AM I, LORD; I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

Ps 40: Sa and Ta

A Word from Your Pastor



Dear Parishioners: Happy Epiphany! This Feast recalls three moments in the life of Jesus that manifest His divinity. First, the most familiar association of the day, is the Coming of the Magi, the Wise Men of the East, who acknowledge Jesus as King, God and Sacrifice with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Next is the Baptism of the Lord, which will also have its own day in the calendar, this year on Monday of this week, where the Father and the Spirit were manifest with Him, revealing Jesus as the Beloved Son and the Bearer of the Spirit. Finally, the Wedding Feast at Cana is highlighted, where Jesus first began to reveal His glory to His disciples.

The Glory of the Lord is what is common to these events. Jesus carries within His own Person the very Life and Glory of God. Hidden in our human nature, it is still able to be discerned through the eyes of Faith. To see Jesus is to see God. To believe in Him is to share the very Life of God. We experience through Jesus' revelation of Himself the Hope of Glory. The One Who takes our human nature promises to share His Glory with us.

The whole Advent-Christmas cycle has been building up to this crescendo. What was prophesied and promised of old is fulfilled in Jesus' Birth among us. What begins with His being received into our world is the journey of Faith that will lead us to Life and Glory.

The Christmas Season closes formally on Monday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This week, we once again enter Ordinary Time. However, some religious families hold onto the spirit of Christmas until February 2nd, the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day.

I am not suggesting that you keep up your lights or your tree until then, but if you want to keep your Christmas Creche on display, there is no shame in that! The Church in her mercy has allowed us a bit of respite before Lent begins (this year February 14, Ash Wednesday). But the spirit of Christmas is all about allowing the light of Christ into your heart, so keep your eyes fixed on the One Who is the Light of the world!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor



EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

For centuries before calendars were widely available, the dates of the moveable feasts of the current year were traditionally chanted or proclaimed during the Epiphany Mass. This public announcement let people know when Easter and other important feasts would be celebrated that year. Here is the text of this year's proclamation:

Know, dear brethren, [brothers and sisters], that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy, we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is our Savior./On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season./On the thirty-first day of March, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ./On the twelfth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ./On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost./On the second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ./On the first day of December, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



Welcome Sunday JANUARY 7 AFTER EACH MASS!

The Knights of Columbus and the Welcome Committee invite all parishioners and visitors to the Parish Hall after Sunday Masses to enjoy donuts, coffee and juice. Please take time to stop by to visit with fellow parishioners, welcome new members and make a new friend! All donations for donuts go to support our seminarians. Special Thanks to donor Downey's Carpet Care. If you would like to sponsor a Donut Sunday, please contact Joe Coffey at coffeybreak@yahoo.com.

Rectory Update



Did you know?

The diocese does not pay for repairs to our rectory. The cost of repairs is the responsibility of the parish of St. Edward.

A late January to early February move-in for Fr. Hayes is expected to occur. He has been commuting from Gahanna since July.

Outdoor work will pick back up in the spring. The old pavers that have spread apart and become a serious fall hazard will be replaced by concrete.

Any and all donations for the repair of the rectory of St. Edward are gratefully accepted.

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lector:	Altar Servers:
January 13 – January 14: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Adrienne Carter Stefanie Manley	Karen Kolbe	Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Rick Corder Lori Corder	Sheila Heist	Francis Aransky Calvin Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Lisa Barrett Margo Downing	Roy Brewer	Leah Moberg Peter Moberg

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



Because of early submission of bulletins, the offertory will be posted at a later date. Please consider ONLINE GIVING. Sign up on the St. Edward website home page at www.saintedwards.org.

JANUARY DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTION
SVDP – January 7
Propagation of the Faith - January 21

With Sympathy



The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of parishioner Herb Murphy, beloved husband of Patricia, who passed away on December 28th. The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of parishioner Fleur Metzger, who passed away on December 29th. May they rest in eternal peace in the presence of God.

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.

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 – EPIPHANY

Mass 8:15 a.m.

Mass 10:45 a.m.

Second Collection – SVDP

SVDP Truck in parking lot for donations

Welcome Sunday – after each Mass in Parish Hall

PSR- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Choir- 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Adoration after Mass until 11:30 a.m.

Preschool

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Choir – 7:00 p.m.

WOSE Meeting – 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Book Club – 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Santa's Attic Collection Set-up

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Santa's Attic Collection – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Confession – 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Mass - 10:45 a.m.

Santa's Attic Collection – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Pushkar Baum maintains the calendar. Contact him for additions/corrections to the calendar.



Women of St. Edward



Next Meeting – January 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The results of the Christmas Bazaar will be disclosed at our January 11th meeting.

Also planned for the meeting, will be a representative from Heartbeats to speak to the women about the services this organization provides women and expectant mothers. All the women of St. Edward are invited to the meeting January 11th – social time at 6:30 p.m. with our guest speaker to begin at 7:00 p.m., in parish hall.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Enlighten Us

Radiant God,
 you are the source of all light and joy.
 Illuminate our communities
 and show us the way to live in peace
 and harmony.
 Shower us with knowledge of your
 holy will
 and grant us courage to manifest
 your presence throughout the world.
 Help us to bring the Good News
 of your life among us
 to the ends of the earth.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Look Back, Look Forward



Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12. Little is known about the three visitors from the East who paid the Holy Family homage. Still we can't help but marvel at their determination to meet Jesus despite the distance and that their only guide was a star.

In many cultures, Epiphany is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas. The day may be marked with parades, parties, gift-giving, the three kings cake, and holiday meals. Create annual traditions to make Epiphany special in your household. The liturgy offers a house blessing on this day. Inscribe 20+C+M+B24 with chalk on the door frame. It stands for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “let Christ bless this house” and the current year. Custom

attributes the letters to the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Bring the figurines of the three Magi closer to the manger, light candles, and sing your favorite Epiphany and Christmas carols.

The Christmas season ends at sundown on the Baptism of the Lord. This weekend invites us to look back upon our journey since the beginning of Advent. From waiting for the coming of Christ, to welcoming him anew into our lives, and then making a permanent home for him in our hearts, we also traveled far. What new insights did you uncover along the way about the in-breaking of God into humanity? How will your faith journey bring you closer to Christ in the coming year?



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, January 8

The Baptism of the Lord

The Scriptures turn from Christ's infancy to his initiation and mission. At his baptism the Holy Spirit anointed and revealed Jesus as the Son of God. We are invited to ponder our baptism, which welcomed us into the community of the children of God. Pull out baptismal pictures, garments, and mementos, and recall the stories of baptisms in your family. Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a note or a call. Remember our baptismal commitment to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in our lives. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.*

January 9—February 13

Ordinary Time

Our six-week journey from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has come to an end, and the Church now enters the season of Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. It is named after ordered or counted time. There are five Sundays, thirty-eight days of time before Lent. Change your prayer space colors to green and reflect on how you hope to grow spiritually in the not-so-ordinary weeks ahead.

Wednesday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales served the Church in sixteenth-century Europe with his extraordinary gifts of communication about the spiritual life for the laity. He was tenacious in evangelizing through his humility, wisdom, teaching, and eloquent writing. Some of his letters to the faithful are collected in the book *The Introduction to the Devout Life*. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and journalists. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–17; Psalm 89:4–5, 27–28, 29–30; Mark 4:1–20.*

Thursday, January 25

Conversion of St. Paul

A brilliant, highly educated Jewish Roman during the first century, Paul was converted from a zealous persecutor of the early Christians to the most prolific and compelling disciple of Christ. Without a doubt, Paul accelerated the growth of the Christian community like no other evangelist. He was beheaded in Rome for his tenacious faithfulness. Read Acts, chapters 9–28, to recall his full story. *Today's readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 177:1, 2; Mark 16:15–18.*

Wednesday, January 31

St. John Bosco

St. John Bosco followed his call to minister to poor and neglected youth in Turin during the early nineteenth century. His patience and compassion for children seemed limitless. He opened a church and a home and school for boys who would otherwise have been without care. He founded the Salesian order, named after his favorite saint, St. Francis de Sales, as well as an order of women to do similar ministry for girls. John Bosco is remembered as the patron saint of children. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9–17; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1–6.*

Friday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast commemorates the purifying of Mary according to Jewish law, forty days after the birth of a male child, as well as the consecration of the child in the temple. This feast is always celebrated with candles (it used to be known as Candlemas) because of Simeon's recognition that in the person of Jesus, God has given us "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people, Israel" (Luke 2:30–32). Prepare a special meal, light candles for the table, and read chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel at prayer time. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*



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 January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

"The role of faith may be compared to that of the root which fixes the tree to the ground, and by its imperceptible but unceasing work maintains its strength. All the growth of the tree, its whole development, depends on this secret nourishment. Cut the roots and the tree, however splendid and full of life it may be, will perish miserably."

+BLESSED COLUMBA MARMION, O.S.B.

Monday, January 8 ~ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:7-11 This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Meditation: The great Benedictine Abbot and spiritual writer, Blessed Dom Columba Marmion, in *Christ in His Mysteries*, wrote in reflecting upon today's Feast: "And Jesus being baptized, forthwith came out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him. And behold a voice from heaven saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.' Jesus stoops so low as to mingle with the multitude of sinners, and forthwith the heavens are opened to magnify Him — He acknowledges Himself worthy of the strokes of divine justice, and behold, the Father declares that He takes all His delight in Him. It is at this moment that the mission of Jesus, as One sent by God, is declared authentic. The Father's testimony accredits, so to speak, His Son before the world, and hence this testimony relates to one of the characters of Christ's work as regards ourselves. The mission of Jesus has a double aspect: it bears at the same time the character of redemption and of sanctification. It is to redeem souls, and, this done, to infuse life into them. That is the whole work of the Savior."

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to 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.

Contemplation: Without question, the greatest obstacle to following Christ has been, and continues to be, people's own preconception and self-will. As Blessed Columba Marmion wrote in *Christ, the Life of the Soul*, such persons "make holiness consist in such or such a conception formed by their own intelligence; attached to those purely human ideas they have formed, they go astray; if they make great strides, it is outside the true way marked out by God; they are victims of those illusions against which St. Paul warned the first Christians. In so grave a matter, in so vital a question, we must look at and weigh things as God looks and weighs them. God judges all things in the light, and His judgment is the test of all truth. 'We must not judge according to our own liking,' says St. Francis de Sales, 'but according to God's will.' Divine Wisdom is infinitely above human wisdom; God's thoughts contain possibilities of fruitfulness such as no created thought possesses. That is why God's plan is so wise that it cannot fail to reach its end because of any intrinsic insufficiency, but only through our own fault. If we leave the Divine idea full freedom to operate in us, if we adapt ourselves to it with Love and fidelity, it becomes extremely fruitful and may lead us to the most sublime sanctity." As a new year gets underway, let's contemplate the meaning of our own Baptism into the mystical body of Christ, and ponder the words of Blessed Columba Marmion on lovingly following Christ, embracing His wisdom, and in doing so enjoy the fruits of a life rooted in Christ.

Tuesday, January 9 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Meditation: Ask yourself a couple of very simple questions: Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life? And are you eager to hear and believe the word of God? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority – "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate – the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed. Do you respond to God's commands as God wants you to?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who were pleased to shine forth with new light through the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, just as he was pleased to share our bodily form through the childbearing of the Virgin Mary, so we, too, may one day merit to become companions in his kingdom of grace. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Augustine once remarked that the "devils confessed Christ, but lacking charity it availed nothing...They confessed a sort of faith, but without love. Hence they were devils." We must always remember that faith is mighty, but without love faith profits nothing (ref. 1 Corinthians 13). True faith works through love (ref. Galatians 5:6) and abounds in hope (ref. Romans 15:13). That is why faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and, once taught by Christ, to conform your life according to the Word of the Lord?

Wednesday, January 10 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Meditation: We all have challenges, but how we deal with them is important. Who do you take your troubles to? A self-help book? An advice web page, blog? A TV talk show host? What about Christ? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. When Simon brought Jesus to his home, his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. Saint Jerome reflects on this passage: "Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence. Where is Jesus? He is already here offering himself to us. 'In the middle,' he says, 'among you he stands, whom you do not recognize' (ref. John 1:26) 'The kingdom of God is in your midst' (ref. Mark 1:15). Faith beholds Jesus among us. If we are unable to seize his hand, let us prostrate ourselves at his feet. If we are unable to reach his head, let us wash his feet with our tears. Our repentance is the perfume of the Savior. See how costly is the compassion of the Savior."

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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 allow Jesus to be first in your life? Do you make the Lord and healer number one in your personal life, family, and community, especially in times of trial, challenge, fears and anxiety? Learn to approach Christ with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

Thursday, January 11 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Meditation: No one who sought Jesus out is refused his help. Even the untouchables and the outcasts of Jewish society found help in him. Unlike the people of Jesus' time who fled at the sight of a leper, Jesus touched the leper who approached him and he made him whole and clean. Why was this so remarkable? Lepers were outcasts of society. Their physical condition was terrible as they slowly lost their limbs and withered away. They were not only shunned but regarded as "already dead" even by their relatives.

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Jewish law forbade anyone from touching or approaching a leper; ritual defilement occurred when contact was made. This leper did something quite remarkable. He approached Jesus confidently and humbly, expecting that Jesus could and would heal him. Normally a leper would be stoned or at least warded off if he tried to come near a rabbi. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but he demonstrates the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical touch. The medical knowledge of his day would have regarded such contact as grave risk for incurring infection. Jesus met the man's misery with compassion and tender kindness. He communicated the love and mercy of God in a sign that spoke more eloquently than words. St. Francis of Assisi once said: "Preach the Gospel at all times – if necessary, use words." In other words, our Christ-directed actions speak louder than words in helping others at all times. Talk can be cheap. Do your actions speak louder than your words about how you live your life as a proclaimed disciple of Christ?

Friday, January 12 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" –he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When a person with a severe physical handicap 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.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who through your Only Begotten Son have made us a new creation for yourself, grant, we pray, that by your grace we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever experienced the great healing power associated with forgiveness? Remember what we pray for each time we pray the "Lord's Prayer" – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Before we can fully experience God's love and mercy in forgiving us, we must first extend that same level of love and mercy to those who seek our forgiveness. If we don't we risk placing walls between us and the love and mercy of Christ. The Lord is every ready to bring us healing of body, mind and soul. Do you allow anything to keep you from experiencing the love and mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

Saturday, January 13 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:13-17 Jesus went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed Jesus. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: Many people were drawn to Jesus, including the unwanted and the unlovable, such as the lame, the blind, and the lepers, as well as the homeless such as widows and orphans. But public sinners, like the town prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors, were also drawn to Jesus. In calling Matthew to be one of his disciples, Jesus picked one of the unlikeliest of men – a tax collector who by profession was despised by the people. Why did the religious leaders find fault with Jesus for making friends with sinners and tax collectors like Matthew? The orthodox Jews had a habit of dividing everyone into two groups: those who rigidly kept the law and its minute regulations and those who did not. They latter were treated like second class citizens. The orthodox scrupulously avoided their company, refused to do business with them, refused to give or receive anything from them, refused to intermarry, and avoided any form of entertainment with them, including table fellowship. Jesus' association with the latter, especially with tax collectors and sinners, shocked the sensibilities of these orthodox Jews.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may rightly understand and truthfully profess the divinity of your Son, which the Bishop Saint Hilary taught with such constancy. 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: When the Pharisees challenged his unorthodox behavior in eating with public sinners, Jesus' defense was quite simple. A doctor doesn't need to visit healthy people; instead he goes to those who are sick. Jesus likewise sought out those in the greatest need. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for his people and to restore them to wholeness of life. The orthodox were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed care. Their religion was selfish because they didn't want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: "I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners. Ironically the orthodox were as needy as those they despised. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (ref. Romans 3:23). The Lord fills us with his grace and mercy. And he wants us, in turn, to seek the good of our neighbors, including the unlikeable and the trouble-maker by showing them the same kindness and mercy which we have received. Do you thank the Lord for the great kindness and mercy he has shown to you?

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

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Spiritual Adoption



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!

Your spiritually adopted baby has arrived! She is truly a miracle! She began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see and hold in our arms! Never in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all the little babies and their parents for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth so that they might have life and have it to the full!

In January, our Respect Life Committee will be sponsoring Gifts for Baby Jesus to provide items for Heartbeats of Licking County's newborn clients. Please be generous in your support of this project.



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For all War-torn Countries in the World

For Catholics to Return to Church

Bishop Fernandes & All Bishops and Priests

For Young Men to Heed the Call to Become a Priest

For St. Edward's Youth Group to Grow

For Sick & Homebound Parishioners

All Staff, Teachers, Volunteers & Members of St. Edward

Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 for prayer requests



GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

Would you like to bring gifts for baby Jesus just as the wise men did? You may!

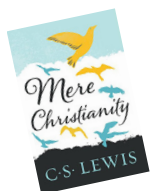
Throughout the month of January, there will be a box in the Gathering Space to receive your gifts for the Heartbeats organization in Newark. They work with young mothers and fathers that need help

with baby care items. The most needed items are: baby wipes, baby wash, diaper cream, sippy cups, clothing sizes newborn to 3T, and infant toys.

NOTE: diapers are not needed.

Thank you very much for your generosity!

The Respect Life Committee



ST. EDWARD BOOK CLUB

The C. S. Lewis Book Study will meet January 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. We will continue our study of *Mere Christianity*, beginning with Book 3, "Christian Behavior," Chapters 1-4.



ADDED TIMES FOR ADORATION

Bishop Fernandes has requested that parishes offer a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of each month in reparation for sins against human life and dignity, also praying for the building of a civilization of love.

Let us please pray together on Friday, February 2 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the chapel behind the sanctuary. Please know that you can come at any time during this hour and stay as long as you can.

St. Edward will also participate in the Diocesan "40 Days of Adoration." Please come by and pray with our Lord for an hour on February 19th. Adorers will be needed throughout the day. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Space.

Weekly Adoration is until 11:30 a.m. after Monday Mass.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina: "A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."



WINTER DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS

St. Edward's Youth Group Ministers to the homeless in Newark each month and is asking the parish to please help us with donations.

Clothing for adult men and women: Coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, shoes, new underwear and socks.

Travel-size toiletries

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

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



Food Pantry needs are grape jelly, Hamburger Helper, tuna, 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!

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"Living in the Father's Love" Bible Study

Begins Monday, January 22 and Wednesday, January 24

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Living in the Father's Love is ideal if you are:

- Looking for a short beginner-level Bible Study
- Doubting whether God really loves you
- Wondering how to improve your relationship with God and others

Sign up in the Gathering Space 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.

Santa's Attic Collection Days



**Saturday, January 13th,
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 14th,
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

santas.attic4st.eds@gmail.com

Santa is down for his long winter's nap, but his elves will be busy collecting your lightly used Christmas items and décor.

Santa can use some help!

- **We need help boxing up the donations.**
- We need tissue paper, newspaper and bubblewrap to package breakables.
- **Confirmation students and high school students - this is a perfect way to earn those service hours!**

Come when you can. Stay as long as you can. Any help is deeply appreciated by Santa's Attic Co-Chairs, Selma, Kathi and Lisa.



A Night Under the Stars



January 20 Dance and Silent Auction!

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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.

National Eucharistic Revival



The National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative called for by the Bishops of the United States, 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. (To learn more, go to www.eucharisticrevival.org.)

St. Edward is hosting parish-wide small group discussions and potluck dinners with the study "*Becoming Eucharistic People*."

NEXT MEETING – January 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Come and offer your suggestions for our church!

St. Pio of Pietrelcina: "A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

Reflection on Lectionary Readings



JANUARY 7, 2024 – THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

IS 60:1-6; PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6; MT 2:1-12

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Gospel account of the three Magi traveling to meet Baby Jesus is one that we know well. Yet, when we pause to reflect on this moment when these men met Christ for the first time, we recognize that there is much to be said for us still today.

When the Magi entered the house, it says, "they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage." Clearly, these men knew that they were in the presence of their King. They also came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which symbolize Christ's kingship, divinity, and humanity.

Christ is still manifesting Himself to us today. We enter God's house weekly, and we are in His presence. When we meet Him, do we offer Him our gifts – our time, talent, and treasure? As Christian stewards, we are called to respond with love, reverence, and gratitude.

Let us prepare our hearts to receive Christ's many manifestations in our lives. We just need a grateful disposition to receive them.

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