



CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Pastor

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Deacon

Rev. Mr. John Barbour



COME NOW, WORKING OF HEROES! DO NOT
DELAY TOO LONG! WE HAVE NEED
OF MERCIES THAT YOU WILL FREE US!

Parish Office 740-587-3254

Business Manager

Laura Appleman
church@saintedwards.org

St. Edward Preschool

Adrienne Evans, Director 740-587-3275
preschool@saintedwards.org

Music Ministry

Paul Radkowski, Director
music@saintedwards.org

Youth Group

Steven Arias, Youth Minister
youth@saintedwards.org

Office Staff

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Maggie Barno, Coordinator
maggie@saintedwards.org

Bookkeeper & Purchasing

Diane Fitzpatrick
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Census

Kathy Wilson
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Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Fernandez
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Parish Ministries

Order of Christian Initiation

Dcn. John Barbour, Director 740-366-4124
barfamilybour@yahoo.com

Parish School of Religion/PSR

Mary Packham, Coordinator 740-587-4160
mpackham@saintedwards.org

Greg Lombardo, Assistant 740-587-4160
psr@saintedwards.org

Baptisms

Contact Parish Office 740-587-3254

Marriage Preparation

Dcn. John & Cindy Barbour 740-366-4124
barfamilybour@yahoo.com

Eucharistic Adoration

Julie Kunsman
Julie.kunsman@gmail.com

Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry

Patty Gaul
gaulfamily@roadrunner.com

Prayer Chain

Cindy Kendrick 740-366-2871
Ckk1@att.net

Ministry to Seniors

Cheri Spoo
SpooCL53@outlook.com

Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule

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

Holy Day Mass Schedule

TBA in bulletin

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

Confessions

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

Bulletin Submission Deadline

Monday 8:00 a.m.
maggie@saintedwards.org

Knights of Columbus

David Bukala 231-855-0103
davidcc1968@hotmail.com

Women of St. Edward

Annie Lach 502-541-1715
annielach626@gmail.com

Respect Life

John Koenig 740-587-0720
koenigj@alink.com

Parish Council

Mary Albright 740-323-1533
maryalbright@earthlink.net

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 16 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Barbara Parker (RIP) by John Morrison

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

Monday, February 17 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Charlie Franks (RIP) by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

Tuesday, February 18 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Sam Dauby (RIP) by Gene & Jill Schachte

Wednesday, February 19 – Weekday

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

Thursday, February 20 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Emil & Darlene Looker by Panko Family

Friday, February 21 – St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. Viola Waryanka (85th Birthday)
by Gene & Jill Schachte

Saturday, February 22 – THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER, APOSTLE

5:00 p.m. Karen Sullivan (RIP) by Tim Sullivan

Sunday, February 23 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Edison & Brian Smith (RIP) by Anita Smith

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 – YEAR C

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (#576)

GLORIA: A New Mass for Congregations

(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps. 1: Blessed are they... (p. 72)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 72)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY: The Church's One Foundation (#446)

HOLY, WHEN WE EAT, AMEN: Land of Rest Mass

LAMB OF GOD: Holy Cross Mass

COMMUNION: O Sacrament Most Holy (#343)

COMMUNION 2: TBD

CONCLUDING RITES

CLOSING: I Know That My Redeemer Lives (#587)

POSTLUDE

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Randy Kerr

8:15 a.m.: Michael Whiting

10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles



WITH SYMPATHY

The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of Robin Dolin, beloved mother of Selena Heyer. May she rest in the eternal light of God.



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.

Notes from the Loft

♪ For centuries, hymnal compilers have freely edited texts that are not subject to copyright. Three of today's hymns have become shortened over time. "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" originally had nine verses, but most hymnals now leave out some of the metaphors for aging and death (e.g. "flow'rs beneath the mower's hand"). "The Church's One Foundation" typically no longer includes lines about the "schisms" and "heresies" that were a concern when it was written. In its early years, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" included as many as nine verses – but most hymnals now omit at least some of them. Hymn texts from recent decades tend to be more stable; they are usually copyrighted, so making any changes requires composer and/or publisher permission.

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



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, stop by the Church Office, or call us at 740-587-3254. **God bless you!**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

For Young Children Ages 4 to 1st Grade

We suggest that 2nd graders and older remain in church and use the Kid's Bulletin & Holy Heroes Mass Quiz found in the St. Edward Bulletin.



- **OCIA welcomes new inquirers at any time of the year.**
- **Are you considering becoming Catholic?**
- **Are you already Catholic but would like "a refresher"?**
- **Sessions are presently on Sundays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Contact Deacon John Barbour for information at 740-366-4124 or simply show up!**



MASS INTENTIONS

January, February, March and April intentions are filled.

Contact Maggie Barno to schedule Mass Intentions at maggie@saintedwards.org or 740-587-3254. Mass Intentions are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and once scheduled, cannot be changed to accommodate another person. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

A \$10.00 stipend is requested to schedule Mass Intentions, to comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies. Thank you.

A Word from Your Pastor

February 16, 2025

Dear Parishioners:

This week, I want to share some facts about our parish financial stewardship to make sure that we are all on the same page. For several months, our Parish Finance Council has discussed the need for transparency, and so we have been reporting the weekly giving as well as the target for the general collection each month, along with other information to help set the scene for a renewal of our parish stewardship in the area of "treasure," that is, our "tithe" to God. We will be addressing the other areas of stewardship (time and talent) in the future.

The members of our Parish Finance Council have reported to me that there has been a general decline in the pattern of weekly contribution over the past several years (even before Covid-19 interrupted our common life). A successful effort was made to retire parish debt for the new church and following that, general giving began to decline. This was not an uncommon experience in parishes, both Catholic and otherwise, and I have seen it in the various parishes where I have served over the past decade. Covid, of course, added to the challenges. Now, we are ready to tackle this matter together with a plan and an effort to invite all members of the parish to understand our needs and to do their part.

Financial Stewardship is meant to cover this year's immediate needs, the usual "household expenses." When the weekly collection and online giving do not cover these, a parish must either invade its savings or seek "extra" support through the generosity of those who have means. Providence, God's covering our needs, comes through personal generosity. We are blessed at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Parish to have generous donors who have become aware of needs and offered direct payment or who have spontaneously offered donations that came at just the right time. It has been necessary at times to go into savings for some extra expenses that were not included in the annual budget (for example, the rectory and some work on our HVAC equipment), but more often others' generosity came at just the right time. We are profoundly grateful. But this is not a way to build a railroad. We ought to have a plan to be able to pay anticipated expenses, just as any family household does.

The plan of the Finance Council is to do an in-house financial stewardship renewal campaign, inviting every registered household to make a pledge and, if possible, to make use of EFT (electronic funds transfer) through our online giving platform: <https://saintedwards.org/our-giving-program>. (See further information in the bulletin and on our parish website to learn the benefits of making your contribution in this way.)

Watch the bulletin for the financial stewardship effort to be organized soon. But you do not have to wait for the campaign! We will continue to monitor expenses and to report what is happening week by week. You can choose to increase your own giving to stewardship. The Biblical perspective is the tithe – 10% of income. If you give 5% to your parish and 5% to other charities (second collections and your own personal favorite charities), you will likely be increasing your pattern of giving. God loves a cheerful giver! But He also accepteth from a grrouch!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor

This Week at St. Edward

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd Collection – California Wildfire Victims

Mass – 8:15 a.m. – Fr. Blau

Mass – 10:45 a.m. – Fr. Blau

SVDP Business Meeting – 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge

Choir – 9:30 a.m.

PSR – 9:30 a.m.

OCIA – noon in the Lounge

Youth Group – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

Mass at Denison – 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, PRESIDENTS' DAY

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

No Preschool

No Adoration

Women's Faith Study – 7:00 p.m. Enke Hall

Office Closed for Presidents' Day



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Fr. Blau

Preschool

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Bob Evans

Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Fr. Blau

Preschool

Women's Faith Study – 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge

Rosary for All Men – 7:00 p.m. at the Chapel

Painting Class – 7:00 p.m. in Enke Hall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Fr. Blau

Preschool

K of C Degree Ceremony – 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

K of C Social in Enke Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal – 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Fr. Blau

Preschool

Painting Class – 7:00 p.m. in Enke Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Catholic Men's Conference – 8:00 a.m. at Ohio Expo

Men's That Man is You – 7:00 a.m. in Enke Hall

Confession – 4:00 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m. – Fr. Blau

BULLETIN & FLOCKNOTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your request for a Bulletin or Flocknote submission is important. All requests are due by 8:00 a.m. on Monday for the following weekend. Please note that submissions received later than 8:00 a.m. Monday risk not being in the bulletin. For all requests, please include a brief event description with date, time, location and a contact name with email address. All bulletin submission requests will be edited by the bulletin editor for optimum impact, easy readability, and space allowance. Please email your Bulletin/Flocknote requests to maggie@saintedwards.org. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



LITTLE FLOWER SHOWER

You are invited to a Little Flower Baby Shower in honor of Alexis Reaper, on Sunday, February 23 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, school cafeteria. A light lunch will be served. Let's help Alexis welcome her beautiful baby to the world.

If you cannot attend the shower, gifts may be put in the box located in the Gathering Space and will be taken to the shower. She is registered at Walmart and Target at <https://www.walmart.com/registry/BR/e315feee-4fb4-49de-a1b2-732ec0636f62> and <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=77676830-7068-11ef-82ab-d52a09743add&type=BABY>. Your attendance and/or participation is appreciated and needed. Please contact Janet Selby at 740-344-9179 or selbyja@windstream.net if you plan to attend or have questions.

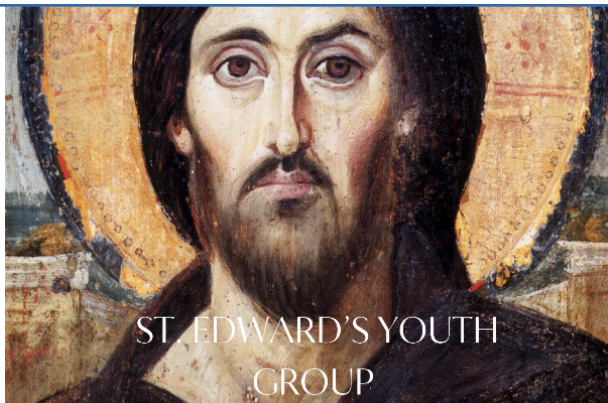
MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED FOR FUNERAL LUNCHEON TEAMS – MANY WAYS TO HELP FOR THOSE WHO WORK

At the time of the loss of a loved one, the support of our parish is a great help to the grieving family. If the family wishes, a luncheon will be served for the bereaved family after the Funeral Mass. Families always comment on how much they appreciate the luncheon!

Do you work outside the home? Do you dislike cooking? There are many easy ways for you to help:

- Help set up – usually on the evening before the luncheon.
- Bring flowers for bud vases on tables.
- Bring either rolls, cakes, pies, iced tea, or lemonade from the grocery store anytime during the day of, the evening before, or on the morning before the luncheon.
- It is convenient for those who work to bring in these items before or after work.

Please contact Maggie at the Church Office at 740-587-3254, to share in this important ministry.



TOPIC: **WHY DO I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN GOD?**

Fun Activity: TBA

Dinner: Subway

Prayer: Act of Faith

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
FEB.16	6-8PM	Youth Room #6

Church of St. Edward the Confessor
785 Newark-Granville Rd, Granville, OH 43023

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
February 15-16 : Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Cliff Kirchner Leann Kirchner Karen Kolbe Gerry Moses	June McCarthy	Arianna Carter (sub requested) Case Long Katelyn Shaw
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Terri Jackson Mary Maltry Stefanie Manley Kris Whiting	Jim Bidigare	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky VOLUNTEER NOW
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Lisa Barrett Von Downing Emily Dunbar Paul Gassman Rebecca Gassman Annie Lach	Richard Hoben	Amanda Dunbar Calvin Harms Avery Warling
February 22-23 : Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Adrienne Carter (sub requested) Nancy Himmelsbach John Martin Mandy Vadala	Erin Lane	Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter (sub requested) Claire Skinner
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Cindy Barbour Jane Dougan David Lammert Kathy Stukus	Christopher Haight	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Noelle Gremling Sheila Heist Steve Heist Bernadette Lieberth Gail Perks Katie Perry	Roy Brewer	Rylee Gray Katelyn Shaw Anna Beth Zigan

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Men's Ministry

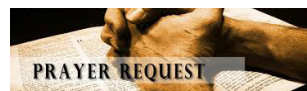


FOR ALL MEN – THAT MAN IS YOU!
Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 19th,
7:00 a.m. at Bob Evans**



**Men's Rosary –
February 19th
in the chapel**



FOR PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 or email cckk1@att.net.



Pantry needs are Spaghetti Sauce, SpaghettiOs, Tuna. Please put donations in the box in the Gathering Space or the wooden box outside of the Parish Office. SVPD Truck now accepts nonperishable food items. Thank you for your generous donations.

SVPD Thrift Stores need newspapers! Please put them in the box outside of the office. Thank you!

Supporting St. Edward Church

Basket:	\$ 13,395.38
Online:	\$ 6,167.15
Total:	\$ 19,562.53
Surplus:	\$ 1,187.53
Yearly Budget:	\$917,000.00
Weekly Need:	\$ 18,375.00

ENDOWMENT FUND

What if your generosity lasted forever?

Your legacy tells a powerful story about your life – one rich with generosity, conviction, and profound faith. At St. Edward the Confessor, you encountered Jesus Christ and deepened your relationship with Him. The Catholic Foundation's mission is to ensure this divine connection continues to flourish – for us, our children, grandchildren, and the generations of Catholics yet to come.

St. Edward the Confessor has an endowment fund managed by The Catholic Foundation. This fund is a long-term investment designed to provide a perpetual source of income for our parish outside of the weekly offertory. There are many types of asset ideas to leave to the endowment fund and ensure that your blessings endure for eternity.

To start a conversation about how you can forever impact St. Edward, please contact Loren Brown at 614-443-8893, ext. 1020 or lbrown@catholic-foundation.org.

MAINTENANCE FUND

For help with providing maintenance of the church, a new Maintenance Fund has been created. A special line for Maintenance will be on the online menu and envelope packets will include envelopes for Maintenance.

For online giving, you may use the QR Code to sign up.



2ND COLLECTION

February 15/16 – California Fire Victims

Reflection on the Lectionary Readings



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JER 17: 5-8; PS 1:1-4,6; 1 COR 15:12, 16-20; LK 6: 17, 20-26

Today's readings speak of an essential quality for the Christian steward – hope. This is especially fitting this year, as Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Jubilee Year with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1817)."

In many ways, this is the very definition of a stewardship way of life – focusing on eternity as we live our daily lives and relying on God to provide for our needs and satisfy our deepest longings for meaning and happiness right now.

In today's Gospel from Luke, Jesus describes the true richness of life that is possible for those of us who are willing to live as his hope-filled disciples. We are all familiar with this passage in which Jesus reveals the Beatitudes: blessed are the poor; they have the kingdom of God. Blessed are those now hungry because they will be satisfied. Blessed are those who weep because they will laugh. Blessed are those who are hated, excluded, and insulted because they are disciples of Jesus; they will be greatly rewarded in heaven. Jesus is describing here the character of one who is living a life of hope – the life of a Christian steward whose trust is firmly rooted in God and who is focused on others and eternity. It is not always an easy life, but it is a deeply meaningful life and one that leads to eternal reward.

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Sponsors of the Week

Melinda J. Woofert, M.D.
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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)

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
Month of February: Dedicated to the Holy Family

"What does it avail in the end to be loved, honored, and praised by man? Does it bring true happiness? Why do you not think more earnestly on your salvation? Will you defer it to future years? Who knows whether you will live so long that you can make up for what you now neglect? Human life is short and uncertain. Is it not better, without delay, to begin what we ought to do?" +SAINT PETER DAMIAN

Monday, February 17 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:11-13 The Pharisees came forward and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. He sighed from the depth of his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." Then he left them, got into the boat again, and went off to the other shore.

Meditation: The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. The religious leaders tested Jesus to see if he had a genuine sign from heaven to back his Messianic claims. False messiahs in the past had made extraordinary claims to attract their followers, such as claiming that they could cleave the Jordan River in two or cause the walls of Jerusalem to fall. Jesus knew the hearts of those who came to test him. They were more interested in seeing signs and supernatural phenomena than they were in hearing the word of God. Simeon had prophesied at Jesus' birth that he was "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that inner thoughts of many will be revealed" (ref. Luke 2:34-35). Jesus gave them no sign except himself and the ultimate proof of his divinity when he rose from the dead.

Prayer: Impart to us, O Lord, in kindness the filial devotion with which the holy brothers venerated so devoutly the Mother of God and led your people to yourself. 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: Never forget that the Lord reveals himself and makes his presence known to us in many ways – in his word and in the "breaking of the bread" in the Eucharist, in his church – the body of Christ, in his creation, and even in the everyday circumstances of our lives. If we seek the Lord, we will surely find him. And we can be confident that he will give us whatever we need to understand and carry out his will. Most of all, the Lord assures us of his daily presence and the promise that he will never leave us. Saint Theresa of Avila's prayer book contained a bookmark in which she wrote: "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; All things pass: God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." Think about that for a moment, then ask yourself: Is God enough for you?

Tuesday, February 18 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:14-21 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. Jesus enjoined them, "Watch out, guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." They concluded among themselves that it was because they had no bread. When he became aware of this he said to them, "Why do you conclude that it is because you have no bread? Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many wicker baskets full of fragments you picked up?" They answered him, "Twelve." "When I broke the seven

loaves for the four thousand, how many full baskets of fragments did you pick up?" They answered him, "Seven." He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Meditation: The apostles set off in their boat across the Sea of Galilee only to discover that they forgot to bring enough food for their journey. What were they to do miles away from land and any place where they could buy food and supplies? They were anxious of course, and this was right after Jesus had performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes where the disciples fed more than four thousand people (ref. Mark 8:1-9). Jesus knew the trouble in his disciples' hearts even before they could speak. Jesus dealt with their anxiety by first warning them to not fear what can harm the body rather than what can destroy the very heart and soul of their being.

Prayer: O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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. Amen.

Contemplation: One might wonder why Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod? To the Jewish person leaven was a sign of evil. It was a piece of dough left-over from a previous baking. In due course it fermented and this fermented dough became leaven. Fermentation was associated with decomposing rot. Jesus warned his disciples to avoid the evil influence of the Pharisees and of Herod who sought their own counsels rather than the will of God. As the apostles continued to worry about their lack of bread, Jesus reminded them of his miraculous provision of bread in the feeding of the four thousand. He then upbraided them for their lack of trust in God. "Do you still not understand?" It's easy to get preoccupied with the problems and needs of the present moment and to forget the most important reality of all – God's abiding presence with us and his abundant provision for our lives as well. Thus when you pray, do you pray with joyful confidence, "Father, give us this day our daily bread?"

Wednesday, February 19 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:22-26 When Jesus and his disciples arrived at Bethsaida, people brought to him a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on the man and asked, "Do you see anything?" Looking up the man replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." Then he laid hands on the man's eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly. Then he sent him home and said, "Do not even go into the village."

Meditation: There is one thing worse than physical blindness – and that is blindness of the heart and soul. A blind man is led to Jesus by some of his friends. Without their help he could not have found the one who could restore his sight. Jesus understood the fears and hopes of this blind man who begged him to touch him. The blind in a special way perceive the power of touch. Jesus shows considerateness in bringing this man to a place away from the skeptics and gawkers. His sight is restored in stages as he responds to Jesus' healing touch. Mark records this remarkable miracle in three short phrases: He looked intently and was restored, and saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home with a warning to avoid the company of those who live in spiritual darkness.

Prayer: O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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. Amen.

Contemplation: Might there be a blind spot or two in your life that clouds or blocks your vision of God and his kingdom? If so, you need to work on those blind spots on by one and allow the Lord to touch you with his grace and power that you may walk in the light of his redeeming truth and love. Saint Jerome wrote about the spiritual significance of this healing for us, which we would all do well to think about: "Christ laid his hands upon his eyes that he might see all things clearly, so through visible things he might understand things invisible, which the eye has not seen, that after the film of sin is removed, he might clearly behold the state of his soul with the eye of a clean heart."

Thursday, February 20 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:27-33 Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and

the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Meditation: At an opportune time Jesus tests his disciples with a simple, yet crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, professes that Jesus is truly the Christ. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ). Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah, which means Anointed One. Peter's faith, however was sorely tested when Jesus explained that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and die in order that God's work of redemption may be accomplished. How startled the disciples were when they heard these words! How different are God's thoughts and ways from our thoughts and ways! Through humiliation, suffering, and death on the cross Jesus broke the powers of sin and death and won for us our salvation.

Prayer: O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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. Amen.

Contemplation: The same question that Jesus posed to his disciples he asks each of us: "Who do **YOU** say that I am?" Who is Jesus for **YOU**? This is a simple, yet crucial question for each one of us, and our response has implications not only on how we live our earthly lives, but our opportunity to have a seat for all eternity at the heavenly banquet. In a time where many don't think about the consequences of their actions, and where many don't want to take responsibility for their actions, we need to take a step or two back and think about how each of us will answer this question – "Who do **YOU** say that I am?" Let's make certain that our response is not simply lip service, as actions speak louder than words. As St. James reminds us: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves" (James 1:27). In other words, do not let Christ's teachings go in one ear and out the other. Let his word take root in your mind and your heart, put Christ's teachings into action in your daily lives. In doing so, your response to who Jesus is for you become clear by your every thought, work, and most importantly your actions. Remember, talk is cheap – actions speak louder than words.

Friday, February 21 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Church Reformer

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 Jesus summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What could one give in exchange for his life? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." He also said to them, "Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the Kingdom of God has come in power."

Meditation: Jesus poses some probing questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. The kind of person we are, our character, determines to a large extent the kind of future we will face and live. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. Of what value are material things if they don't help you gain what truly lasts in eternity. Neither money nor possessions can buy heaven, mend a broken heart, or cheer a lonely person. Jesus asks the question: What will a person give in exchange for his life? Everything we have is an out-right gift from God. We owe him everything, including our very lives.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may so follow the teaching and example of the Bishop Saint Peter Damian, that, putting nothing before Christ and always ardent in the service of your Church, we may be led to the joys of eternal light. 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: It is possible to give God our money, but not ourselves. It is possible to give him lip service, but not our hearts. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or

loss can diminish. The cross of Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Are you ready to *lose all* for Jesus Christ in order to *gain all* with Jesus Christ?

Saturday, February 22 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter

Holy Gospel: Matthew: 13:16-19 When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Meditation: Jesus tests his disciples with a basic, yet crucial question: "Who do men say that I am" followed by "who do you say that I am?" Jesus was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets -- John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome. Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon". Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The Lord Jesus tests each of us personally with the same question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Prayer: All-powerful Father, You have built Your Church on the rock of Saint Peter's confession of faith. May nothing divide or weaken our unity in faith and love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus Christ also asked each one of us: "Who do you say that I am?" Obviously your personal response has great ramifications. A wonderful response to come not only from your lips, but from deep from within your heart would be: "Lord Jesus, I profess and believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my Savior. Make my faith strong and help me to live in the victory of the cross by rejecting sin and by accepting your will." Your response to Jesus' question requires sincere thought and discernment. But more importantly it requires action in how we think, speak, and live out our daily lives. Does your life reflect that of a disciple of Christ? If not, why not?

About the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter's: In Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, visitors are immediately struck by the large alabaster window on the back wall of the apse that depicts the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. Below the window is an ancient wooden chair, used by Saint Peter. In the seventeenth century, that ancient chair was encased in bronze by the famous artist Bernini and then placed above the altar in the apse. Surrounding the chair are statues of four early Doctors of the Church. Two of them represent the Eastern Church: Saint John Chrysostom and St. Athanasius. Two of them represent the Western Church: Saint Ambrose and Saint Augustine. These great saints represent the universality of the Church, both East and West, as well as the unity of their theological teaching with the authority of the Bishop of Rome. Above the chair are two angels jointly holding the triple crown tiara used by the Bishop of Rome, symbolizing that he is the father of kings, governor of the world, and Vicar of Christ. In their other hands, each angel holds a key, symbolizing the authority of the Bishop of Rome in matters of faith and morals. Today's feast celebrates not only that chair as a precious relic from the time of Saint Peter, it also celebrates all that this chair represents. This feast was formally celebrated in Rome as early as the fourth century, but honor for the supremacy of Saint Peter and his successors was celebrated from the moment Jesus entrusted Peter with his unique mission.

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

rflumpe:2025



Mass Quiz for February 16, 2025

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. The color vestments the priest is wearing are _____.
2. The First Reading is from the
 - a. Exodus
 - b. Jeremiah
 - c. Samuel
3. Fill in the blank from the First Reading: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose _____ is the LORD."
4. The Responsorial Psalm is:
 - a. "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.
 - b. "Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life."
 - c. "The Lord will bless his people with peace."
5. The Second Reading is from
 - a. 1 Corinthians
 - b. 1 Thessalonians
 - c. 2 Peter
6. Fill in the blank from the Second Reading: "If for this life only we have hoped in _____, we are the most pitiable people of all."
7. The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of _____.
8. The crowd was from Judea and Jerusalem, and:
 - a. Tyre and Sidon
 - b. London and Paris
 - c. Nazareth and Galilee
9. Fill in the missing word from the Gospel: "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as _____ on account of the Son of Man."
 - a. wicked
 - b. evil
 - c. bad

Hidden Blessings

**HAH!
I'M SO
HUNGRY!**



In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us that people who are poor, hungry, or sad are blessed! Do they sound blessed to you?

Bad things that happen to us have hidden blessings in them. If you are poor then your family and friends are more important to you than money and things. If you are hungry then you appreciate food more. If you are sad then sometimes it's easier to remember to pray.

But things that seem bad have another hidden blessing in them- when you are suffering, you can give your sadness or hurt to Jesus. Tell Him you are offering it up along with Him on the cross. He will give you grace to make your soul stronger. You can offer things up for other people too, and God will use your gift to help them!

Next time you feel unhappy about something, try to find the hidden blessing!

Answers to Cross-Word puzzle:
Across: 3. who 5. trusts 8. cursed 10. year 11. that 13. barren 14. but 17. beings 19. roots 21. heat
Down: 1. green 2. is 4. his 6. stream 7. human 9. distress 11. tree 12. he 14. beside 15. Lord 16. from 17. bush 18. in 20. it

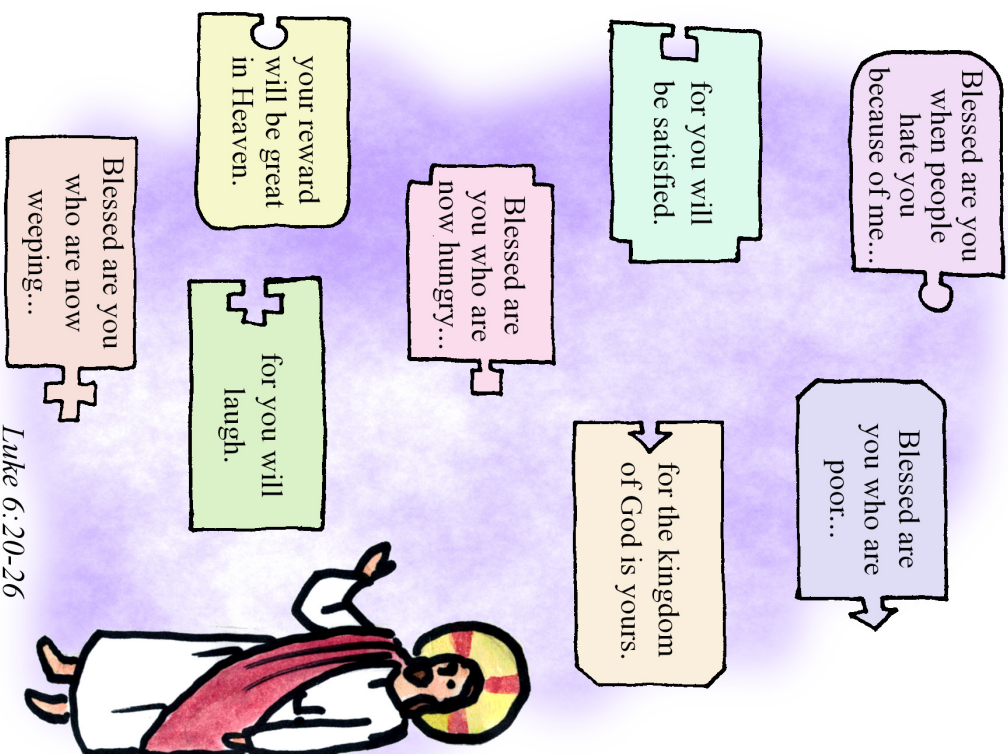
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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 16th, 2025

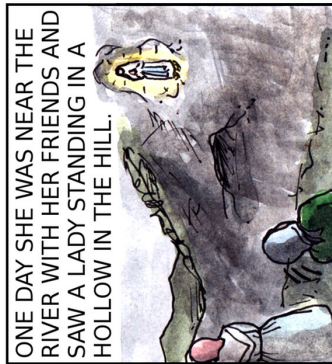
Can you match up the pieces in this puzzle?



Luke 6:20-26

Saint Bernadette Soubirous

February 18

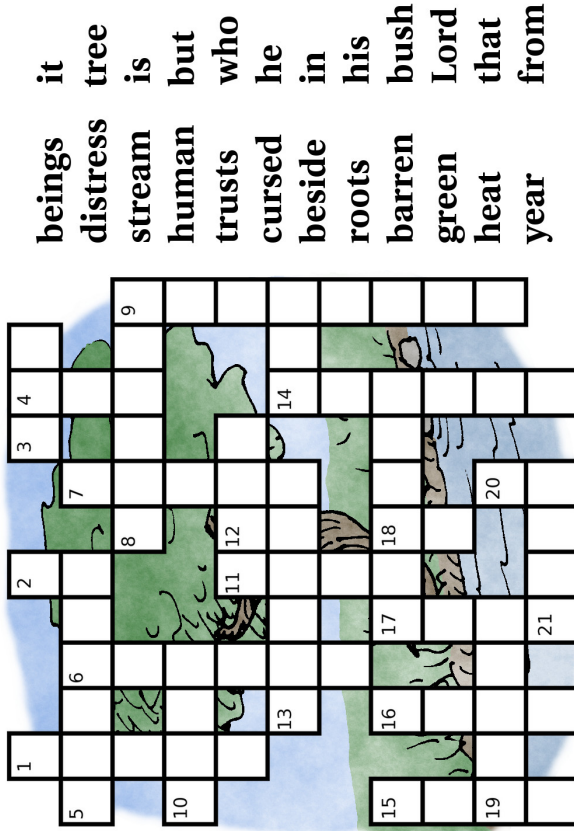


BECAUSE BERNADETTE WAS HONEST, SHE WAS ABLE TO BRING OUR LADY'S MESSAGES TO THE WORLD. THROUGH HER OUR BLESSED MOTHER TOLD THE WORLD THAT SHE WAS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-THAT SHE NEVER HAD ORIGINAL SIN. ARE YOU HONEST ENOUGH TO SHARE THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD?

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Trust in the Lord

Cross-Word



beings
distress
stream
human
trusts
cursed
beside
roots
barren
green
heat
year

it
tree
is
but
who
he
in
his
bush
Lord
that
from

Here is today's first reading, from Jeremiah.
Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and fit them into the puzzle.

Thus says the Lord:

8a is the one who trusts in 7d 17a,

3a seeks 4d strength 18d flesh,

whose heart turns away 16d the Lord.

12d is like a 13a 17d in the desert

11a enjoys no change of season,

14a stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.

Blessed is the one who 5a in the Lord,

whose hope is the 15d.

He 2d like a 11d planted 14d the waters that

stretches out its 19a to the 6d:

it fears not the 21a when 20d comes; its leaves stay 1d;

in the 10a of drought it shows no 9d,

but still bears fruit.

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