

*Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.*

Psalm 90:14

September 7, 2025 | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

 *Church of St. Edward the Confessor*

Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor

Dcn. John Barbour; Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

785 Newark Granville Road, Granville, Ohio 43023

740-587-3254 | saintedwards.org



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

785 Newark Granville Road
Granville, Ohio 43023
saintedwards.org | 740-587-3254

Pastor

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Deacons

Dcn. John Barbour

Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

Parish Office

Parish Administrator

Laura Appleman 740-527-0006
church@saintedwards.org

Finance & Stewardship Manager

Cheryl Boggess
finance@saintedwards.org

St. Edward Preschool

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

Liturgical Ministries

Paul Radkowski, Music Director
music@saintedwards.org

Parish School of Religion

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

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Steven Arias, Youth & Young Adult Minister
youth@saintedwards.org

General Inquiries:

church@saintedwards.org

Prayer Requests

Cindy 740-366-2871
cck1@att.net

 /SaintEdwardsChurch

Mass Schedule

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.
*Holiday schedules TBA

Confessions

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

Adoration

Mondays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Bulletin Submission Deadline

Noon on Monday

Mass Intentions



Sunday, September 7 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. For John Jauch (RIP) by the Knights of Columbus

10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Monday, September 8 | Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 a.m. For Stella Crum (RIP) by Betty Betts & JoAnn Swearman

Tuesday, September 9 | Saint Peter Claver, Priest

9:00 a.m. For Dorothy Oberfield (RIP) by Diane Oberfield

Wednesday, September 10

9:00 a.m. For Martin & Carol Flautt (65th Wedding Anniversary) by Anita Blum, Marla Wilson, Polly Smith, Molly John & their Families

Thursday, September 11

9:00 a.m. For Connie Osburn (RIP) by Andy & Lisa Sloan

Friday, September 12

9:00 a.m. For Doris Barbush (RIP) by Steven Schroeder

Saturday, September 13 | Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

5:00 p.m. For Mafalda Segna by Rina Ward

Sunday, September 14 | Exaltation of The Holy Cross

8:15 a.m. For Mickey Smith (RIP) by Anita Smith

10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

WELCOME
to our community

Visitors, you are known and loved by our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray you find peace, hospitality, and friendship here. Children are always welcome! To join St. Edward Parish, stop by the church office or call 740-587-3254.



Prayer to St. Michael

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.



Sunday 9.7	Monday 9.8	Tuesday 9.9	Wednesday 9.10
<p><i>Special Collection for St. Vincent de Paul</i> <i>Welcome Sunday</i> Mass – 8:15 a.m. Fr. Ghiloni Mass – 10:45 a.m. Fr. Hayes Focolare Meeting – 12:00 p.m. in Enke Parish Hall & Classroom 1 Mass – 4:30 p.m. Fr. Hayes at Denison University</p>	<p>Mass – 9:00 a.m. Fr. Ghiloni Adoration – 9:30-11:30 a.m. WWP – 6:00 p.m. in Enke Parish Hall</p>	<p>Mass – 9:00 a.m. Fr. Hayes Finance Committee Meeting – 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge</p>	<p>Men’s Fellowship Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. Mass – 9:00 a.m. Fr. Hayes WWP – 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge Men’s Rosary Prayer Group – 7:00 p.m. in the Church</p>

Thursday 9.11	Friday 9.12	Saturday 9.13	Sunday 9.14
<p><i>Patriot Day</i> Mass – 9:00 a.m. Fr. Hayes Women’s Fall Event Planning Meeting – 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge Liturgical Committee Meeting – 5:30 p.m. in the Lounge WOSE Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. in Enke Parish Hall Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Loft St. Edward Book Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge</p>	<p>Mass – 9:00 a.m. Fr. Hayes</p>	<p><i>Blessing of Catechists at all Masses</i> Men’s Fellowship – 7:00 a.m. in Enke Parish Hall Lupton/Grubich Wedding – 2:30 p.m. Msgr. Enke Confessions – 4:00 p.m. Mass – 5:00 p.m. Fr. Hayes</p>	<p><i>Triumph of The Holy Cross</i> <i>Blessing of Catechists at all Masses</i> Mass – 8:15 a.m. Fr. Hayes PSR – 9:30 a.m. in Enke Parish Hall Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the Choir Loft Mass – 10:45 a.m. Fr. Ghiloni Mass – 4:30 p.m. Fr. Hayes at Denison University</p>

AN APPLE FOR PRESCHOOL

In response to the many generous parishioners who have asked how they can help support our school, we’re launching a **Giving Tree Drive!**

Visit the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space and take an apple tag. Each tag lists a specific item needed by the school. After purchasing the item, simply return it—along with the tag—to the Parish Office.

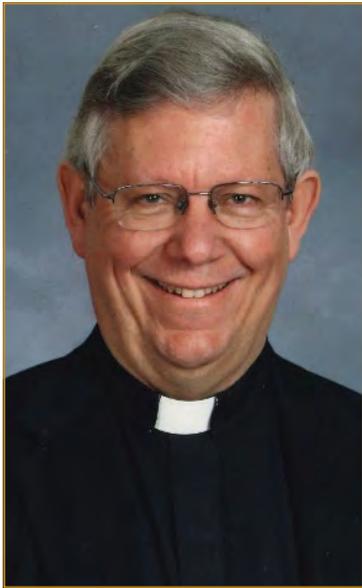
Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our joyous preschool!



MEN OF ST. EDWARD! *Knowing Who You Are Changes Everything...*



Take the Next Step...
Program: The Fight Of Faith
Starting: Saturdays, 7:00 a.m.
(starts Sept. 13)
Where: Enke Parish Hall
See You There!



September 7, 2025

Dear Parishioners:

Jesus invites His disciples to renounce everything in favor of following Him. We cannot follow Jesus unless we are ready and willing to let go of all that we own that owns us, all our own plans and desires, all the things we would rather do (our “druthers”). At the same time, Jesus also calls us to prudence and discernment: “Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?” There is a balance that we must follow.

When we align our plans with God’s plans for us, God’s Providence kicks in. He will supply whatever is needed to fulfill what He desires for us. This can be a complicated process. Discernment is required. We are now at a moment of discernment. All hands on deck, please!

A group of parishioners has been meeting regularly to discuss the financial situation of the parish. They have asked lots of questions, searched historical trends, and have begun a process of looking ahead at what we can expect in the next several years. The first step is to be sure that we have offered, and that all who have a stake in the life of our parish have heard, the invitation to be part of the process of discernment. You have a stake in this if you are reading this bulletin message. If you consider yourself to be a member of the parish or participate regularly in the common life of the community, you must discern whether you are ready to “throw in your lot with us.”

A first sign of commitment in our culture is to “put your money where your mouth is.” If you speak about what we are or what we ought to be, if you offer suggestions, complaints, or criticisms and are genuinely interested in our improvement, then let us see what God is inviting you to offer by way of your Stewardship of what He has entrusted to you. Listen, read, open your heart, and make your commitment very practically so that we can set aside “worry” about our weekly and yearly needs “just to stay open.” Make a financial commitment, your “tithe” to God and His Church, your part of what the family owes one another for usual sustenance. Everyone ought to contribute something.

If you have been contributing regularly, we offer a sincere THANK-YOU. We invite you to review your giving and, if moved by God’s Spirit, to increase your giving to help us stay afloat. If you have not given, for any reason, we invite you to contribute SOMETHING, and to make a commitment to do so. Online Stewardship is most useful due to its regularity, even if you cannot be present at Mass to put a gift in the basket. Consider making use of this for your contribution to the parish. If you can give a more substantial one-time gift beyond your usual stewardship, use of The Appeal currently is “enlightened self-interest,” since we have achieved our diocesan goal. All funds donated to this diocesan effort will come directly back to the parish to alleviate some of the burden of expected expenses.

We will be continuing the process of discerning God’s plan for us over the next several months. After the Fall Campaign, please be ready to dream with us and to listen to the whisper of God in our hearts concerning the direction He wants us to walk together. Consider whether you are ready to follow as a disciple of the Lord.

“Who can know God’s counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans.” Let us listen together and commit to be all that God calls us to be!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Prelude

5:00 p.m.: TBD

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.: Elevation, Op. 39, No. 1 (A. Guilmant)

Introductory Rites

Opening: Take Up Your Cross (#704)

Gloria: Mass of Christ the Savior (#897)

Liturgy of the Word

Psalm: Ps. 90: In every age, O Lord... (p. 210)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia ... (p. 211)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: O God, You Search Me (#566)

Holy, When We Eat, Amen: Mass of Christ the Savior (#900, 902, 904)

Lamb of God: Mass of Christ the Savior (#905)

Communion: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (#523)

Concluding Rite

Closing: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus (#714)

Postlude

Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: Kevin Skinner

10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

Organists

5:00 p.m.: TBD

8:15 a.m.: Val Matula

10:45 a.m.: Val Matula

♪ Choir rehearsals resume this Thursday, September 11 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. in the loft.

We rehearse at that time every Thursday. On Sundays, we rehearse at 9:30 a.m. and sing for the 10:45 a.m. Mass. We are always welcoming adults and teens. Singers need to be able to match pitch (to sing on key), but no prior choral experience or special musical skills are necessary. For more information or if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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

Pro-Life Poster Contest

The St. Edward the Confessor Respect Life Committee's Annual Pro-Life Poster Contest is underway! Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade are encouraged to submit posters illustrating the sanctity of all life. Parishioners are able to vote for their favorite posters on Welcome Sunday on October 5, and the winning posters will be displayed during the month of October for Respect Life Month.

SVdP Food Pantry Update

This week, the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has requested donations of tuna and canned pasta. Please consider responding to our Lord's call to love our neighbor, and donating whatever you are able. Additionally, the Food Pantry would like to extend a special thank-you to all who have contributed in the past! Your generosity makes a big difference and is a tremendous blessing to our neighbors in need.

Blankets Of Grace

All women are invited to a **Fall Fleece Blanket Making Workshop** on **September 10 from 3:30-6:15 p.m.** in **Enke Parish Hall** to make no-sew tied fleece blankets for the Hematology/Oncology floor at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Fleece kits are available. A \$20.00 donation to help cover costs is appreciated. If you prefer to bring your own fleece, please buy **two 1.5-yard pieces of coordinating fleece or a fleece blanket kit**. Christmas and Ohio State themes, as well as licensed character prints and young boy designs, are appreciated. Some options for purchasing include Amazon, Walmart, Hobby Lobby, or Michaels.

Donations of fleece are always welcome. Families and students in need of service hours are encouraged to attend! **Bring a friend** and complete a blanket as a team. **Please also bring long, sharp scissors suitable for cutting fabric.**

P.S. The local Turban Project (turbanproject.org) is in need of jewelry pins (gold, silver, holiday-themed, any type) to embellish the turbans they give to folks experiencing hair loss due to medical conditions. If you have any jewelry to donate, please bring it to the workshop.

Looking for the Boyden Family:

A photo book of your family was left in the church. Please come to the Parish Office to collect it. Thank you!



Radio Fun That Will Leave You Smiling

Fr. William Slattery will be on AM 820 radio on **Friday, September 19 from 3:45-4:30 p.m.** to rally support for our local Catholic radio station, while competing in a live radio game. For every donation made in his name prior to or during the **AM 820 radio event, Fr. William's team receives** additional shots. If you donate prior to **Wednesday, September 17, you** are entered into a special pre-event drawing to win **two OSU Football Tickets!** To make a donation, call **614-459-4820** or go online to **StGabrielRadio.com**.

Licking Vocations Club Meeting

The **Licking Vocations Club** meets on **Tuesday, September 9 in Murphy Hall at St. Francis de Sales Parish**, beginning at **12:00 p.m.** The meeting begins with lunch, followed by some words from Fr. Blau of St. Patrick Parish in Columbus. The cost of the lunch is \$5, and proceeds will go toward cards, gift cards, and support of seminarians, priests, and those in religious life.



Annual Mommies Matter Fall Fundraiser – Save the Date!

Join Mommies Matter on **Thursday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m. at Villa Milano** for an evening of fun while making a difference! This event features comedy and entertainment by Steve Simeone, live music by Blue Spectrum, auctions, raffles, and more in support of pregnant, single mothers. Tickets are available at mommiesmatter.org/fall-fundraiser and include heavy appetizers and your first drink.

Sponsors of the Week 



Thank you for supporting the Appeal! All additional gifts now come directly back to our parish—please consider giving if you haven't yet.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

Dear Father Hayes,

I write to you with deep gratitude and admiration for your leadership and dedication in reaching the goal for St. Edward the Confessor Parish for the 2025 Appeal. As you know, the diocesan goal was raised to meet the growing needs of our diocesan family, and this meant a higher goal for your parish. Yet, through your leadership and steadfast commitment, as well as the generous spirit of your parishioners, you not only rose to meet this goal but surpassed it, ensuring that our shared mission continues to bear abundant fruit.

I am profoundly grateful for your perseverance and for your unwavering commitment to advancing the work of Christ in our community. Because of your leadership, the foundational pillars of the Appeal -- Evangelization, Education and Faith Formation, Social Doctrine, and Vocations -- are strengthened, and their impact is felt by countless lives across the diocese.

Please know that your willingness to give so selflessly and the sacrifices of your portion of the Lord's flock do not go unnoticed. It is your dedication and personal witness that inspires others to join us "Together in Mission" as one family of faith.

Thank you for being a cornerstone of our mission and for all you do in the service of Christ and His people. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen, and bless you abundantly.

Assuring you, your parishioners, and your loved ones of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Join the Knights of Columbus

Spaghetti Dinner



**Saturday, September 20
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
at
Church of
St. Edward the Confessor**

DINE IN OR DRIVE THRU

Ministry Schedule



September 13-14 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Adrienne Carter Stefanie Manley Andrew Morey Gerry Moses	Helen Anderson	Kevin Bollo (sub req.) Arianna Carter Case Long
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Jane Dougan Bonnie Kinney David Lammert Kris Whiting	Netti Nau	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Lisa Barrett Emily Dunbar Noelle Gremling Steve Heist Bernadette Lieberth David Tarrant	Roy Brewer	Claire Cottrell Augustine Dodd John Milligan

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

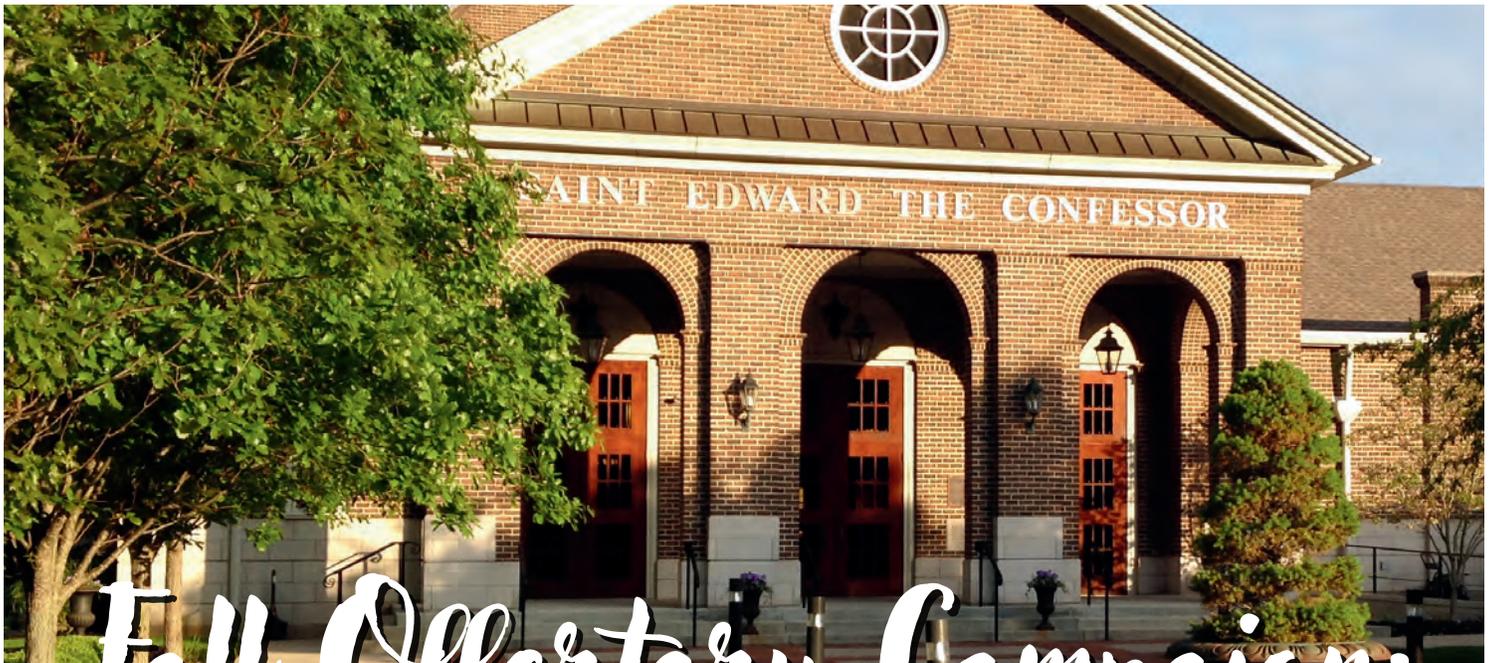
Register for PSR Now!

Give your child the chance to grow in faith, build friendships, and feel at home in our parish community.

**PSR begins
Sunday, September 14
at 9:30 a.m.**

We'll start with a short meeting for parents and students before the first class. Register today at:

saintedwards.org/psr



Fall Offertory Campaign: A Call to Action

As St. Edward the Confessor Parish continues to grow as a vibrant community of faith, we face a significant financial challenge: a projected \$350,000 budget gap—the largest in decades—and our lowest cash reserves in recent memory.

Our offertory funds everything from sacraments and faith formation to facilities and ministries that serve all ages. This fall, we’re asking every household to prayerfully consider making a new or increased commitment. If each household increased giving by \$50/month, we could close the gap.

A parishioner recently shared how St. Edward has been a constant presence throughout her life—through family, marriage, and worship. Her heartfelt note and gift remind us of the lasting impact our parish has on lives and why our support matters.

You’ll soon receive a Commitment Card. Please consider responding generously—especially through EFT or envelopes to ensure steady support. Every gift helps. Together, as a Communion of Life and Unity, we will sustain our mission for today and tomorrow.





We extend our heartfelt thanks to Shaw Mechanical for their prompt and professional response when our HVAC system failed during the hottest week of the summer—and right before Fr. Tim’s Jubilee Celebration! Thanks to their quick work, the repairs are now complete, and we’re already planning for Phase 2.

Christmas Bazaar: Vendors Needed

Interested in being a vendor?
 Contact Annie Lach
 (502) 541-1715 or
 annielach626@gmail.com

Bazaar Date: December 6 | 9am - 3pm



A Note of Gratitude...

St. Edward the Confessor Parish offers heartfelt thanks to a generous parishioner whose gift made possible the much-needed renewal of the rectory landscaping. This beautiful improvement creates a warm, welcoming presence for our priests, parishioners, and neighbors.

Special thanks to **Albyn’s Nursery** for their professional and thoughtful work. The refreshed grounds are a lasting sign of the generosity and stewardship that strengthen our parish family.



St. Edward's
YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF
 7-12th grade are invited

Hotdogs - Burgers - Games - Fellowship - Prayer

Sunday, Sept 7
6-8 PM

Please Bring your friends

785 Newark Granville Rd, Granville, OH 43023

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 September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

"Mary is that wondrous union of grace and freedom, which urges each of us to have trust, courage and participation in the life of God's people. 'He who is mighty has done great things for me' (Lk 1:49): may each of us know this joy and proclaim it with a new song. Let us not be afraid to choose life! It may seem risky and imprudent. Many voices whisper: 'Why bother? Let it go. Think of your own interests.' These are voices of death. But we are disciples of Christ. It is his love that drives us — soul and body — in our time. As individuals and as the Church, we no longer live for ourselves. This — and only this — spreads life and lets life prevail. Our victory over death begins here and now." +POPE LEO XIV, HOMILY EXCERPT, AUGUST 15, 2025

**Monday, September 8 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16,18-23 The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. 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."

Meditation: Understandably many ask the question: "What is the significance of the genealogy in Matthew's gospel?" This genealogy is arranged in three sections portraying three great stages in the spiritual history of the people of the old covenant. The first stage begins with Abraham, the father of the chosen people, and ends with David, God's anointed King. The second stage takes us to the exile of God's people in Babylon. This is the period of Israel's shame and disaster due to her unfaithfulness. The third stage takes us to Jesus, God's anointed Messiah. Jesus the Messiah is the direct descent of Abraham and David, and the rightful heir to David's throne. God in his mercy fulfilled his promises to Abraham and to David that he would send a Savior and a King to rule over the house of Israel and to deliver them from their enemies. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. After all, Jesus is the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

Prayer: Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. 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: Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham's lineage through the line of David, King of Israel. Matthew concludes his genealogy by stating that both Mary, Jesus' mother and Joseph, his foster father, came from the line of David. Mary was asked to assume in faith a burden of tremendous responsibility. That required faith and trust. Also, Mary was not yet married. Sexual relations outside of marriage (fornication) was a sinful act then, and remains so today. 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. Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, believed the message given to him 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.

Tuesday, September 9 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Peter Claver, Priest**

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:12-19 Jesus departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

Meditation: Notice how the people came to Jesus wherever he was – they sought him out because they had heard all the wonderful things he taught and did. They were hungry for God and desired healing from their afflictions. In faith they pressed upon Jesus to touch him. As they did so power came from Jesus and they were healed. Even demons trembled in the presence of Jesus and left at his rebuke. Jesus offers freedom from the power of sin and oppression to all who seek him with expectant faith. When you hear God's word and consider all that Jesus did, how do you respond? With doubt, or with expectant faith? With skepticism, or with confident trust? Ask the Lord to increase your faith in his saving power and grace.

Prayer: O God, who made Saint Peter Claver a slave of slaves and strengthened him with wonder charity and patience as he came to their help, grant, through his intercession, that, seeking the things of Jesus Christ, we may love our neighbor in deeds and in truth. 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 Jesus embarked on his mission he chose twelve men to be his friends and apostles. In the choice of the twelve, we see a characteristic feature of God's work: Jesus chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, who had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not shrug back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. How is God calling you? Is something holding you back from giving yourself unreservedly to God?

Wednesday, September 10 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:20-26 Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

Meditation: How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? If we want to be filled with the joy and happiness of heaven, then we must empty ourselves of all that would shut God out of our hearts. Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God alone as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: "No person can live without joy. That is why someone deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures." Do you know the joy and happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 you encounter misfortune, grief, or tragic loss, how do you respond? With fear or faith? With passive resignation or with patient hope and trust in God? We know from experience that no one can escape all of the inevitable trials of life — pain, suffering, sickness, and death. When Jesus began to teach his disciples he gave them a "way of happiness" that transcends every difficulty and trouble that can weigh us down with grief and despair. Jesus began his sermon on the mount by addressing the issue of where true happiness can be found. The word beatitude literally means happiness or blessedness. Jesus' way of happiness, however, demands a transformation from within — a conversion of heart and mind which can only come about through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday September 11 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Anniversary of 9/11 + Remember, Honor, Pray

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Meditation: What makes Christians different and what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace — treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated, with loving-kindness and mercy. God is good to the unjust as well as the just. His love embraces saint and sinner alike. God seeks our highest good and teaches us to seek the greatest good of others, even those who hate and abuse us. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. It is easier to show kindness and mercy when we can expect to benefit from doing so. How much harder when we can expect nothing in return.

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.

Prayer of Pope Saint John Paul II ~ Anniversary of 9/11: Since the inhumane terrorist attacks that occurred in different parts of the United States of America, we again recommend to the eternal mercy of the God of our Fathers the numerous innocent victims. We ask for consolation and comfort for their family and relatives, burdened by pain; we invoke strength and courage for the many who continue their work in the places struck by this terrible disaster; we implore for tenacity and perseverance by all men of goodwill continuing on the paths of justice and peace. May the Lord remove from the heart of man every trace of

resentment, of hostility and of hate, and open him to reconciliation, to solidarity, and to peace. Let us pray, so that the "culture of love" may be established all over the world . . . O God, Almighty and Merciful Father, he who sows discord cannot understand You; he who loves violence cannot welcome You: watch over us in our painful human condition tried by the brutal acts of terrorism and death. Comfort your children and open our hearts to hope, that our time may again know days of serenity and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Visit: https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/audiences/2001/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_20010912.html

Contemplation: Why should we pray for those who harm us in one way or another? Our prayer for those who do us ill both breaks the power of revenge and releases the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm and ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and grief. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. Do you know the power of Christ's redeeming love and mercy?

Friday, September 12 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Most Holy Name of Mary

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:39-42 Jesus told his disciples a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye."

Meditation: Have you wondered why is judgmentalism and a critical mind and spirit so rampant today, even among persons of faith? Part of it is due to the number of "talking heads" on cable television programs who "spin" their views into their "reporting" on issues and news events – journalists have made note of this disturbing trend, which influences how we, then, conduct ourselves. Of course blogs and people who feel compelled to post their negative comments and viewpoints on their Facebook pages don't help. As difficult as it may be at times, we must strive to "think the best of other people" if we, ourselves, wish to grow in love. The Lord knows our faults and he sees all – even the imperfections and sins of the heart which we cannot recognize in ourselves. Like a gentle father and a skillful doctor he patiently draws us to his seat of mercy and removes the cancer of sin which inhabits our hearts. As challenging as it may appear at times, pray to the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy that you may only have room for charity and forbearance towards your neighbor.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, for all who celebrate the glorious Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may obtain your merciful favor. 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.

Additional Prayer: On this day dedicated to the Holy Name of Mary let us repeat that wonderful prayer of Saint Bernard: "Look to the star of the sea, call upon Mary ... in danger, in distress, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. May her name never be far from your lips, or far from your heart ... If you follow her, you will not stray; if you pray to her, you will not despair; if you turn your thoughts to her, you will not err. If she holds you, you will not fall; if she protects you, you need not fear; if she is your guide, you will not tire; if she is gracious to you, you will surely reach your destination." Amen.

Contemplation: A true disciple of Christ is one who listens to the voice of their Master and who submits to the skillful help of the Divine Physician for treating and removing the cancer of sin in our lives. If we are to be guides and teachers for others, then we need clear vision, both spiritual and moral vision, and a map that shows us the right destination for our life's journey. If our ultimate destination is heaven, then there is only one way to get there and that way is through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ sin is pardoned and the sinner is made whole, darkness and corruption give way to light and truth, death is defeated and new life restored. The cross of Christ frees us from condemnation and guilt and shows us the way of perfect love.

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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