

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 23, 2025

He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

– Colossians 1:13



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

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Bulletin

Katie de Arias, Digital Media
& Engagement Coordinator
bulletin@saintedwards.org
Bulletin submission deadline
is Monday at 12:00 p.m.

/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.

Mass Intentions



Sunday, November 23 | Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

10:45 a.m. For Karen Sullivan (RIP) by Tim Sullivan

Monday, November 24 | Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. For Iain Helgerman (Birthday) by Stephanie Helgerman

Tuesday, November 25

9:00 a.m. For Doris Barbush (RIP) by John & Sue Casale

Wednesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 27 | Thanksgiving Day

9:00 a.m. For Betty Koenig by John Koenig

Friday, November 28

9:00 a.m. For Janice Schroeder (RIP) by Vicki Sugar

Saturday, November 29

5:00 p.m. For James Gallicchio (RIP) by the Cannon Family

Sunday, November 30 | First Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. For Don Bevier (RIP) by Gregg & Barb Hinterschied

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

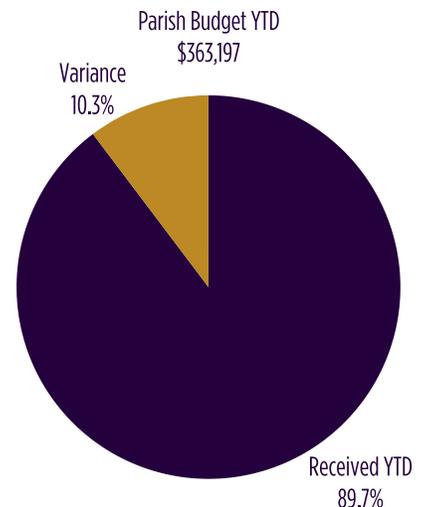


Scan to Give



Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Edward the Confessor! To make giving even easier, scan the QR code to enroll in EFT—an automatic, secure way to give at your preferred amount and frequency. We can help walk you through the process too, just give us a call!

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Oct. Offertory	\$108,380	\$101,158	\$7,222
YTD Offertory	\$325,832	\$363,197	(\$37,365)





Sunday 11.23	Monday 11.24	Tuesday 11.25	Wednesday 11.26
8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 11:45 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. – OCIA in the Lounge	Preschool Give Thanks Celebration 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 9:30 a.m. – Adoration 7:00 p.m. – That Man Is You! Meeting in the Lounge	Preschool Give Thanks Celebration 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 6:00 p.m. – Catholic Social Services Town Hall in Enke Parish Hall	No Preschool Office Closed at 12:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 7:00 p.m. – Men’s Rosary Prayer Group in the Church
Thursday 11.27	Friday 11.28	Saturday 11.29	Sunday 11.30
Office Closed <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)	No Preschool Office Closed 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)	7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall 4:00 p.m. – Confessions 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 10:45 a.m. – OCIA Rite of Welcoming 11:45 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal

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.

Low-gluten hosts are available. Please join one of the center Communion lines and inform the Eucharistic Minister.

Share Your Voice with the
Disciple Maker Index

The Church of St. Edward is committed to growing as a community of missionary disciples, united in our journey to better know, love, and serve Christ.

To do that well, we need your insights. We invite all parishioners to take the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey**, a tool that helps us understand our parish’s strengths and opportunities, as well as how our parish can better support your journey with Christ.

This 10–15 minute survey opens on **Tuesday, November 25**, and will be available online or in paper form at the Parish Office. We will send out a Flocknote with the online access link once the survey opens. All responses are confidential.

Thank you for helping us strengthen our parish and grow together in faith!

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.



November 23, 2025:

Dear Parishioners:

Two great themes are put into alignment this weekend: Thanksgiving and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We give thanks to God for the many blessings He has granted us, especially the gift of one another. We are a family who have been greatly blessed. Eucharist, which means “thanksgiving,” unites us in a bond that can never be broken.

The Universal salvific will of God, that is, God’s desire that all human beings and all creation may be brought to healing and unity in Jesus Christ, is a theme that invites us to live in trust. The One Who has blessed us so richly loves us and calls us to live in His Love.

The simple fact that the Church sees Jesus as Christ the King of the Universe implies that all humanity and every part of Creation is involved in the experience of Salvation. It is a false dichotomy to separate the world into a sphere of religion and a sphere where religion does not apply. The notion of “separation of church and state” has been misrepresented. The Church encompasses all. Any state encompasses its citizens and all who live within the boundaries of such a state, but only regarding the common good as it applies to this world.

The state cannot get you to Heaven, but it can be ordered in such a way as to be a real vehicle through which all human beings can cooperate and journey together in this world in peace and harmony on the way to God’s Kingdom.

How do you submit yourself to the King of the Universe? Are you truly a loyal subject? Can you begin to see that each moment of our lives can be given over to the power of grace and become a way to bring about God’s rule? We pray for God’s Will to be done “on earth as it is in Heaven.” This is about transformation.

As we close one liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King, let us begin a new year with a look toward the Kingdom as our ultimate destiny. Next week, Advent begins and leads us toward the celebration of the Incarnation, the Son of God becoming one with us in our human nature.

Our Sunday readings will return to Year A, with the Gospel of Matthew as our guide throughout the year. The daily Mass readings will be from Year II, since 2026 is an even-numbered year. Why not make some new resolutions concerning the practice of your Catholic Faith? How will you live the prayer “Thy Kingdom come?”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Timothy M. Hayes".

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Prelude

Worthy Is the Lamb (R. Manalo)

Introductory Rites

Opening: To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King (#717)

Gloria: A New Mass for Congregations

(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Psalm: Ps. 122: Let us go rejoicing... (p. 234)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 235)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: At the Name of Jesus (#716)

Holy, When We Eat, Amen: Land of Rest Mass

Lamb of God: Holy Cross Mass

Communion: Christ, Be Our Light (#518)

Communion 2 (10:45 a.m. Choir):

Christ Is the World’s Light (arr. Larson)

Concluding Rite

Closing: Crown Him with Many Crowns (#723)

Postlude

Cantors

5:00 p.m. Kevin Skinner

8:15 a.m. Randy Kerr

10:45 a.m. Laura Collins

Trumpet

10:45 a.m. David DeCarolis

Notes from the Loft

♪ Today’s solemnity, popularly known as *Christ the King*, was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It was celebrated on the last Sunday of October until 1969, when it was reassigned to the final Sunday before Advent. Today’s music is filled with regal melodies and imagery, but as today’s Gospel reminds us, Jesus is a king who humbly died for us and ignored the rulers’ taunts to “save himself.” (Luke 23:35) May our lives always glorify Him – our king, who was born in a manger, who died on a cross, who rose from the dead, and who will come again in glory.

♪ The Annual Granville Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is **this Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Granville (115 W. Broadway)**. Each year, the members of the Granville Ministerium come together to give thanks to God as a community. The service includes scripture, prayer, and music led by a joint choir of church musicians, including singers from St. Edward. All are welcome to attend.

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

PARISH AWARDED \$30K FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORTS

We are pleased to announce that Church of St. Edward the Confessor has received a \$30,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation to initiate a Strategic Planning process.

This generous funding positions us to grow into the parish God desires us to be—a community that flourishes, is deeply rooted in its Catholic faith, and embraces people of every age and stage of their spiritual journey. Our hope is to strengthen the sense of community, deepen connections, and bring our parish family together around a shared vision and mission.

We extend heartfelt thanks to The Catholic Foundation for believing in our mission and supporting the beginning of this vital work.



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

Security Update for Our Parish Community

Over the past couple of months, we have experienced a few security-related incidents on our parish grounds. Please know that we are fully aware of these concerns and are initiating proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of our parish family.

In addition to the Preschool security project scheduled to take place over the holiday season, we are implementing enhanced security measures during our weekend Masses. For the foreseeable future, an off-duty officer from the Granville Police Department will be at our Church to help ensure a safe and comfortable worship environment.

Beginning this weekend, church doors—including the West entrance—will be locked five minutes after Mass begins. All latecomers must enter through the center church doors. An usher will be available to greet and assist anyone arriving after that time. Please note that the office doors will no longer serve as a point of entry during weekend Masses. These secured-access procedures are expected to remain in place moving forward.

As we strengthen campus security, we will provide additional updates on procedures. Until then, thank you for your patience as we navigate these changes. We welcome any feedback you may have—please stop by the Parish Business Administrator's office or email us at church@saintedwards.org.

These measures are designed to help create a safer, more welcoming environment for all who come to worship. We remain committed to being a warm and inviting community while keeping the safety of our parishioners, visitors, and families at the forefront of all we do. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to keep St. Edward the Confessor a secure and faith-filled home for everyone.

In Loving Memory

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of parishioner Patricia "Patty" R. Murphy and John "Jack" Kirby, beloved father of parishioner Peter Kirby, who have recently passed away. Please keep Patty, Jack, and their families in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Please note that on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27) **daily Mass is celebrated early at 8:15 a.m.**

Additionally, **the Parish Office closes at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26** and remains closed for the rest of the week.

We wish everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

Parish News



Help Us Prepare for Advent

As we prepare for the new liturgical year, we will replace the hymnals in the pews immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on **Tuesday, November 25**. We need plenty of help taking out the old hymnals and putting in the new ones, so all are welcome to stay after Mass to assist!



Townhall with Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services is under contract to purchase the former St. Leonard's campus and is exploring a planned development

to expand services to seniors, families with children, and persons with disabilities. You are invited to join Kelley Henderson, President of Catholic Social Services for a group reflection on the project to discern together where we are called to go. The meeting takes place **on Tuesday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m. in Enke Parish Hall.**

Thank You for Sharing the Joy of Thanksgiving!

Thank you to all who donated baking mixes and pie filling for Catholic Social Services' "Everything but the Turkey" project. We reached our goal, allowing CSS to assemble 500 meals for our neighbors in need. May you be blessed for your generosity and care of our community!

SVdP Food Pantry Update

This week, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has requested donations of peanut butter and tuna. If you are able, please consider picking up an extra can or two to help our neighbors in need!

Around the Diocese



Welcome Advent with Bishop Fernandes

All are welcome to attend sung Vespers and the blessing of the Nativity at Cathedral Square on **Friday, November 28 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral**. Join as his Excellency Bishop Earl K. Fernandes leads us in Vespers and blesses the Nativity scene, and stay for refreshments at The Museum of Catholic Art and History. Contact info@catholicmuseum.org to RSVP.

Support Our Seminarians

The Licking County Vocational Club is collecting sacks and toiletries again for seminarians at The Josephinum as a gift during exams. Your donations and prayers are requested and appreciated! Items such as individual packaged cookies, chips, nuts, candy, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razorblades and shaving cream, deodorant, and soap are all welcome. **Collection items can be dropped off in the Gathering Space between November 28 and December 11.** Thank you for your support! The seminarians are always appreciative.

O Magnum Mysterium – "O Great Mystery"

Enjoy an evening of Lessons and Carols on the Mystery of the Incarnation with Sacred Music sung by the Buckeye Catholic Choir on **Friday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbus**. This event is free and open to the public. For details and to RSVP, visit buckeyecatholic.com.



Providing A Safe Environment

Since 2003, the Diocese of Columbus has required every parish to follow comprehensive Safe Environment policies to protect the young people entrusted to our care. These policies reflect the heart of our mission as Church: to safeguard the vulnerable and uphold the dignity of every person.

At Church of St. Edward the Confessor, we are focused on improving our practices and ensuring full compliance so that every young person in our care is protected. This renewed effort reflects our commitment to responsibility, vigilance, and caring for God’s children. We understand these expectations may feel new or may be different from past practice. Even so, our shared mission remains clear: to provide a safe, holy, and trustworthy environment for all ages, and to look out for one another as a parish family.

Because our parish provides many opportunities for youth to volunteer and participate, it is essential that every adult involved in these settings is in full Safe Environment compliance.

Safe Environment Requirements and How to Complete Them

- 1 Register for Protecting God’s Children (PGC)**
 - Visit www.virtus.org
 - Click “First-Time Registrant”
 - Select Diocese of Columbus
 - Choose session, complete registration, and attend training (You will receive automatic verification)

- 2 Complete Background Check**
 - BCI required = you have lived in Ohio for 5+ consecutive years
 - BCI + FBI required = you have lived outside Ohio in the past 5 years
 - Any authorized WebCheck agency can complete fingerprinting
 - Local Option:** Buckeye Health Consortium
1032 Buckeye Ave., Newark 43055 | 740.344.4622

- 3 Parish Required Forms**
 - Parish Volunteer Application Form
 - Diocese of Columbus Code of Conduct
 - Copy of driver’s license or photo ID

If the cost of this program causes hardship, please reach out to the Parish Office.

DID YOU KNOW?



1 out of every **5 girls** and **1** out of every **10 boys** is sexually abused by the age of **18**

The Christmas Giving Tree

is up in the Gathering Space! Please consider taking a tag or two to support children in need this Christmas. All gifts are due on or before December 6. Thank you!

St. Edward Christmas Flowers

We are accepting donations for poinsettias to adorn our church this Christmas season! Contributions may be made in memory or in honor of a loved one (please specify). Use your Christmas Flower Offering envelope, place this form in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office by December 14. Checks may be made payable to Church of St. Edward the Confessor. Suggested donation: \$20.00

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Amount: \$ _____

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Training Opportunities

In an effort to provide a safe environment for children and volunteers, the Church requires Protecting God's Children (PGC) training and background checks for adult volunteers.

Join us for the upcoming session at St. Edward Church:

Monday, 12-1 | 10am - 12pm

PGC Training & Fingerprints

**Please arrive 30 minutes early*



Scan the QR Code to create an account and register!

Ministry Schedule



November 29-30 | First Sunday of Advent

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	S.A. Beaver Natalie Cannon Nancy Himmelspach John Martin	Helen Anderson	Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter NOT FILLED
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Cindy Barbour Sue Casale John Casale Terri Jackson	Netti Nau	Francis Aransky Brooklyn Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Stephanie Dodd Rebecca Gassman Richard Hoben Robin Krempel Joe Krempel Annie Lach	Jason Winterhalter	John Milligan Darren Shroyer Anna Beth Zigan

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Sponsors of the Week

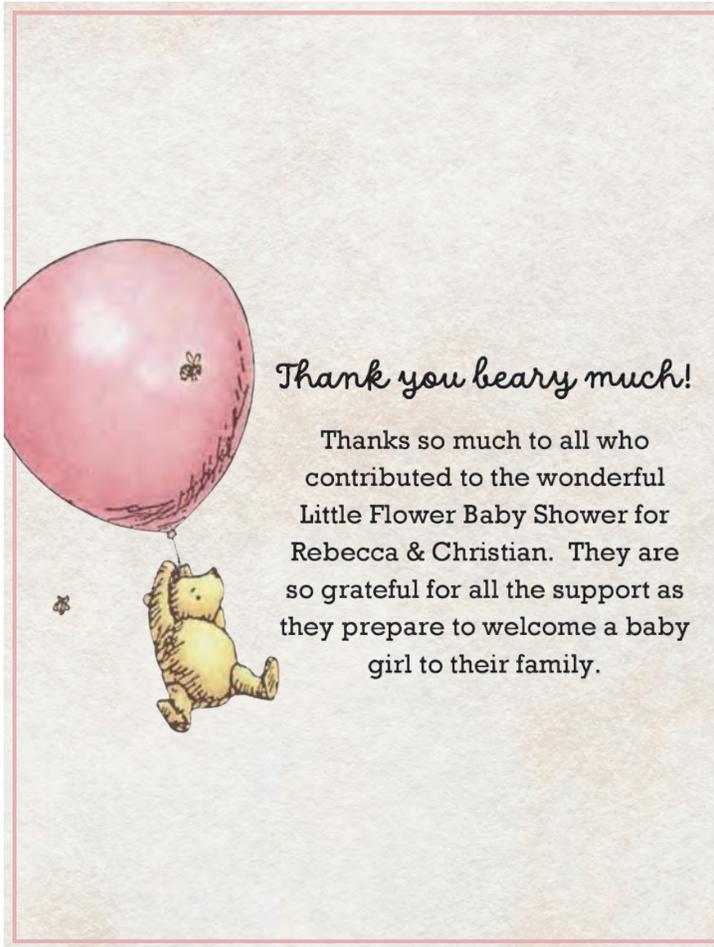


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Our Team Takes Ownership of Your Care!




ST. EDWARD
 YOUTH GROUP
 7-12 GRADE
SCHEDULE
 2025-2026

NOV 22 **YOUTH GROUP OUTING - ACTIVATE**
 6:00- 9:00 PM,
 8735 LYRA DR. COLUMBUS 43240

NOV 30 **NO YOUTH GROUP, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

DEC 7 **YOUTH GROUP HOMELESS OUTREACH**
 2:00- 6:00 PM, ST. ED KITCHEN

DEC 14 **YOUTH GROUP MEETING**
 6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

DEC 21 **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS MOVIE**
 6:00-8:00 PM YOUTH ROOM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
 STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
 @ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY

You are invited!

O COME LET US ADORE HIM
 Adoration in Advent



Join us for Adoration during Advent
 at Saint Edward the Confessor

MONDAYS DURING ADVENT 

Starting December 1st
 Before Mass beginning at 6am
 After Mass until 10pm

For Info or To Sign Up ~ call/text Paul Gassman (740-334-8898)
 or Noelle (614-323-8335) or Jim (614-668-1419) Gremling

*The Eucharist is considered "the source and summit
 of the Christian life" CCC 1324*

JOIN US!

You're invited to our

WOMEN'S JESSE TREE
Advent party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
7:00PM
 St. Edward Church
 Monsignor Enke Hall

BRING A FRIEND, A DOZEN COOKIES
 AND A DRINK TO SHARE

*"A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots."
 Isaiah 11:1*





Sunday, November 23 | Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Monday, November 24 | Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

First Reading: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

Gospel: Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 25

First Reading: Daniel 2:31-45

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61

Gospel: Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 26

First Reading: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67

Gospel: Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, November 27 | Thanksgiving Day

First Reading: Sirach 50:22-24

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Friday, November 28

First Reading: Daniel 7:2-14

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81

Gospel: Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, November 29

First Reading: Daniel 7:15-27

Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87

Gospel: Luke 21:34-36

Sunday, November 30 | First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Pope Leo XIV

Intentions of the Month:
November

For the Prevention of Suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



Church of St. Edward the Confessor
Christmas BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 2025
9:00am - 3:00pm

Handmade Crafts, Bake Sale,
Wreaths, Poinsettias and Food For Sale

Handthrown Pottery, Alpaca Wool Wearables,
Handcrafted Wood Items, Christmas Decorations,
Quilts, Crocheted Items, Embroidered Items,
Handmade Jewelry and More!

Pampered Chef, Tupperware, JR Watkins

Event Location

785 Newark-Granville Road
Granville, Ohio

100% of the proceeds benefit the
charitable works of
The Women of St. Edward

For Further Details, Contact Annie Lach at 502-541-1715
or email annielach626@gmail.com



Honoring Our Knights



A heartfelt congratulations to all members of the Knights of Columbus who celebrated their 4th Degree Exemplification last weekend! Thank you for your joyful witness and your steadfast commitment to serving both our Church and our nation.



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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)

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen." +PRAYER OF SAINT GERTRUDE

Monday, November 24 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:1-4 When Jesus looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

Meditation: Jesus teaches that real giving must come from the heart, because a gift given out of love, with a spirit of generosity and sacrifice, is precious. The amount or size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the cost to the giver. The poor widow could have kept one of her coins, but instead she recklessly gave away all she had! Jesus praised someone who gave barely equaled a penny because it was literally everything she had – her whole living – that she offered to God. What is your weekly Offertory on Sunday to God? On a percentage of income basis, is it truly a significant offering to God, given out of love for him and his son, Jesus Christ, and the Church he founded?

Prayer: O God, source and origin of all fatherhood, who kept the Martyrs Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions faith to the Cross of your Son, even to the shedding of their blood, grant through their intercession, that, spreading your love among our brothers and sisters, we may be your children both in name 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: During the Mass the Offertory collection is really important. Whether we put in the "widow's mite" as today's Gospel refers or have the means to give much more, our financial contribution represents the gift of ourselves to God – literally my personal offering to God. As the Offertory brought forward at the presentation of the gifts, along with the bread and wine, our financial contribution serves as a sign of our self-offering. While the Bible speaks of tithing – and many Christian denominations insist on the 10 percent of income basis referenced in the Bible – the Catholic Church does not insist on tithing. But is your Offering to God a noteworthy amount given back to God out of love for him, his son Jesus Christ, and the Church that Jesus founded? If not, shouldn't it be? As Advent quickly approaches, and a new Church Year begins, now is a good time to revisit the amount we give each Sunday through the Offertory during Mass so that it reflects more closely our love for God – our offering to him made in thanksgiving and love. Let us pray that each of us will give freely and generously in gratitude for all that God has given to us.

Food for thought: If you have not yet had a chance, I would encourage you to read Pope Leo XIV's message for the World Day of the Poor which was celebrated on November 16; the text is available on the Vatican web page: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/poor/documents/20250613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html>

Tuesday, November 25 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-11 While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here – the days will come when there will

not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky."

Meditation: No doubt there have been many times throughout human history when people thought "this is it...these are the end times." World War II and the evils of the Nazis for one; the cold war era with the former Soviet Union and threat of nuclear war; our current times as well with the evil of terrorism and wars taking place around the world. "Teacher, when will this happen..." is on the tips of many tongues today as it has been throughout human history. Of course Jesus says in scripture that we do not know the day nor the hour of his second coming, of the end times, but the important question is are you ready? As you read this, are you ready for the second coming of Christ? If you have an intimate, loving relationship with Christ and love him above all things then yes, you are probably ready. Of course we need to ask ourselves: When did I make my last confession? Have I done any works of mercy? Have I lived my life in witness to Christ and the teachings of his Catholic Church? Okay, after an honest introspection, maybe I'm not as ready as I originally thought, and perhaps my relationship with Christ is not what it should be. But there is no time like the present to undergo a radical conversion of mind and heart so that each of us are, in fact, living a life worthy to be called a disciple of Christ, and in a manner defined by sacred scripture, not the way of the world and the plethora of false prophets who pander teachings based on the "do whatever you want" attitudes of moral relativism. Let's joyfully take whatever steps are necessary to ready ourselves for him always and everyday – not out fear, but out of love of him, eager and ready to give an accounting of our lives to Jesus at the throne of judgment which awaits us all.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who gave Saint Catherine of Alexandria to your people as a Virgin and an invincible Martyr, grant that through her intercession we may be strengthened in faith and constancy and spend ourselves without reserve for the unity of the Church. 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: There are times when we don't fully recognize the moral crisis and spiritual conflict of the age in which we live, until something wakes us up to the reality of this present condition. God reminds us that a future judgment and outcome awaits every person, as each of us were created by God. The reward for doing what is right and good and pleasing to God – doing God's will – and the penalty for sinful rebellion and rejection of God's will are not always experienced in this present life, but this is sure to come the day of final judgment. Jesus tells us that there will be trials, suffering, and persecution in this present age until he comes again at the end of the world. God intends our anticipation of his final judgment to be a powerful deterrent to unfaithfulness and wrongdoing. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation Jesus extends his compassion, mercy and grace to all who have a humble and contrite heart, who recognize that we have strayed from following him and have sinned. Do not pass up, even for one day, the profound two-word invitation of Jesus – "follow me" – and to experience his grace and mercy through a good confession. Remember, too, not to cling simply to human laws but instead to divine laws and teachings. Following the many flawed opinions of civil courts and legislative bodies will not get anyone to heaven; following the divine laws of God and faith and moral teachings of God's prophets and of his son, Jesus Christ, will get us where we ultimately want to go – to the eternal arms of Jesus in heaven. Turn a deaf ear to anyone and anything (especially certain advocacy groups) that may lead one astray from following our one Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, for they offer nothing; Jesus, however, offers us what is most important – his constant and unwavering love and eternal life with him.

Wednesday, November 26 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:12-19 Jesus said to the crowd: "They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Meditation: Jesus tells his disciples that if they endure to the end they will gain their lives - they will inherit abundant life and lasting happiness with God. And so endurance is an essential strength which God gives to those who place their hope and trust in him. Endurance is the patience which never gives up

hope, never yields to despair or hatred. Patience is long-suffering because it looks beyond the present difficulties and trials and sees the reward which comes to those who persevere with hope and trust in God. That is why godly endurance is more than human effort. It is first and foremost a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to bear up under any trial or temptation. Endurance is linked with godly hope - the supernatural assurance that we will see God face to face and inherit all the promises he has made. Jesus is our supreme model and pioneer who endured the cross for our sake (Hebrews 12:2). "God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus willingly shed his blood for us - to win for us pardon and peace with God. Our joy and privilege is to take up our cross each day to follow the Lord Jesus.

Prayer: Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. 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: Have you ever wondered what attracts others to the truth and power of the Gospel? More often than not it is when they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. And while "fear" is a very natural human emotion, Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries because God will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Knowing this, are you ready to lay down your life for Christ and to bear witness to the joy and freedom of the Gospel?

Thursday, November 27 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time ~ Thanksgiving Day ~

Begin this national day of giving thanks to God by thanking God, in person, at Mass!

Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19 As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten persons with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Meditation: Today's gospel, translated and shortened into a news headline might very well read: "Only one out of ten people thank God." Think about this. When was the last time you paused and thanked God for anything? Sometimes in the busyness of our lives we simply expect God to give us certain things, but we never thank him. Today is a national holiday set aside to give thanks to God for everything - and God has, indeed, given us everything. Everyday should be Thanksgiving Day for all of us - thanking God our Father, with love from each of us his children. None of us should ever think that we are "above" thanking God because we achieved everything on our own, attributing nothing to God - "enlightened" people often think this way. Thanking God is not a quaint thought or anything old fashioned - it is the right thing to do for all the right reasons. I am reminded of an old story that may be familiar to you. An old farmer once had a less-than-faithful relative visit him. After the farmer had bowed his head and thanked God for the food they were about to eat, the relative rudely said, "What did you do that for? There's no God. We live in an age of enlightenment." The old farmer smiled and said, "There are several on my farm who don't thank God before they eat." The relative sat up and said, "Who are these enlightened ones?" to which the farmer quietly replied, "My pigs." The farmer's punchline about the pigs serves as a quiet but poignant rebuke to the relative's arrogance, suggesting that a refusal to acknowledge God and to express our gratitude to him places one in the company of unthinking animals. It is a tale that emphasizes humility and the importance of giving thanks to God at all times for the many blessings he has bestowed on us.

Prayer: Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite; as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. 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.

Litany of Thanksgiving: Go to <https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/litanies/p03456.htm>

History of Thanksgiving Day in America: Way much more than 5k Turkey Trot races, read this *National Catholic Register* article about the history and meaning of this day of giving thanks to God: <https://www.ncregister.com/commentaries/thanking-god-at-thanksgiving-100-years-ago-and-today>

Contemplation: Saying thank you to God should be part of our daily examen, part of our daily prayers, part of our spiritual life. Each of us has so much to be grateful for – and it all begins with God. As Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO, once said: “To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense grace from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.” Let’s give thanks to God, folks. Give thanks to God!

Friday, November 28 ~ Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:29-33 Jesus told his disciples a parable. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Meditation: Jesus used the image of a fig tree to teach his disciples an important lesson about reading the “signs of the times.” The fig tree was a common and important source of food for the Jews. It bore fruit twice a year, in the autumn and in the early spring. The Talmud (teachings and commentaries of the ancient rabbis on the Jewish Scriptures) said that the first fruit came the day after Passover. The Jews believed that when the Messiah came he would usher in the kingdom of God at Passover time. The early signs of a changing season, such as springtime, summer, or autumn, are evident for all who can see and observe the changes. Just so are the signs of God’s kingdom and his return in glory on the day of judgment. The “budding” of God’s kingdom begins first in the hearts of those who are receptive to God’s word. Those who trust in God’s word will bear the fruits of his kingdom. And what are the fruits of that kingdom? “The kingdom of God...is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). The Lord gives the first-fruits of his kingdom to those who open their hearts to him with expectant faith and trust in his word. We do not know the day nor the hour when the Lord Jesus will return again in glory. But the Lord does give us signs, not only to “wake us up” as a warning, but also to “rouse our spirits” to be ready and eager to receive his kingdom when he comes in all his power and glory. The “Day of the Lord” will strike terror in those who have ignored or rejected God, but it will be a day of joy and rejoicing for those who long to see the Lord face-to-face. The Lord Jesus wants us to be filled with joyful anticipation for his coming again.

Prayer: Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. 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: While we wait for the Lord’s physical return in glory, we can know his presence with us through the work and action of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts, and by our constant and ongoing communication with him in prayer. The Lord Jesus comes daily and frequently to those who long for him and he speaks tenderly to our hearts. He comes to show us the way to our heavenly Father and to give us the hope of eternal life. Listen to him so that you may embrace him and follow him – and do so with 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 Catholic Culture.

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*The new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, November 30.
In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period,
but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Savior and Redeemer. This time of prayer and path of penance is so powerful, so rich and intense, it
endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome Jesus Christ, embrace his teachings,
and take Jesus up on his invitation when he says “follow me” so that we may share in his eternal life.*