

“Behold,

I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me  
according to your word.”

the season of  
*Advent*  
2025



*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](http://saintedwards.org)



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

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Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

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Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

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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, December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent

#### Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

8:15 a.m. For Doris Barbush (RIP) by John & Sue Casale  
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Wagner & Fox Families  
by Leo & Suzanne Fox

### Monday, December 15

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

### Tuesday, December 16

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

### Wednesday, December 17

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

### Thursday, December 18

9:00 a.m. For Edward Panko (RIP) by the Panko Family

### Friday, December 19

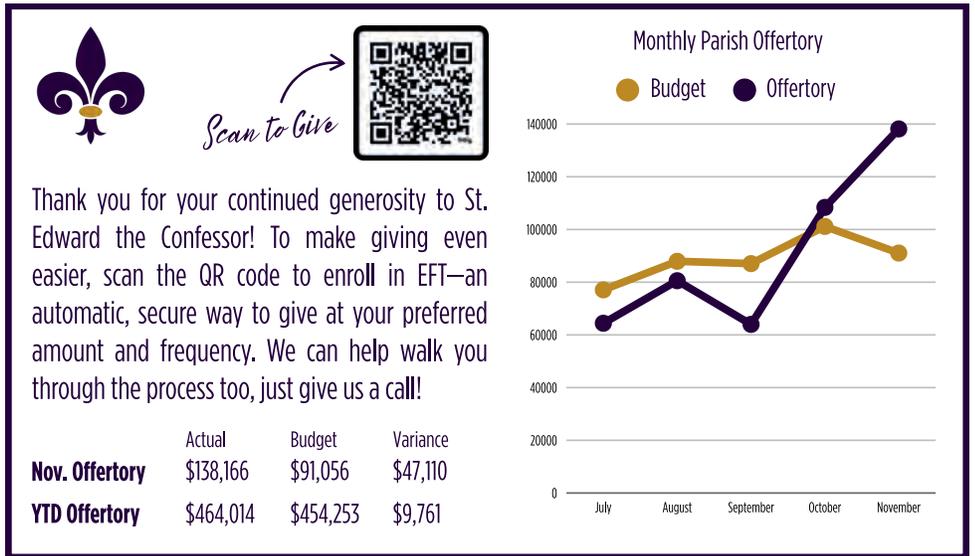
9:00 a.m. For Denver & Sandy Haight (55th Wedding Anniversary)

### Saturday, December 20

5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

### Sunday, December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. For Donald Petticrew (RIP) by Jon Petticrew  
10:45 a.m. For Christian Carpenter (Birthday) by Maggie Barno



### 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   12.14	Monday   12.15	Tuesday   12.16	Wednesday   12.17
<p><i>Anointing of the Sick at All Masses</i>  <i>Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious</i>                      8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft                      9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms &amp; Enke Parish Hall                      10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      11:45 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal                      11:45 a.m. – Knights of Columbus Family Christmas Party in Enke Parish Hall                      12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Cade Allen Moore                      12:00 p.m. – OCIA in the Lounge                      6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room</p>	<p>6:00 a.m. – Advent Adoration in the Church                      9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)                      9:30 a.m. – WOSE Board Meeting in the Lounge                      6:30 p.m. – Good Grief Ministry in the Lounge                      7:00 p.m. – That Man Is You! Meeting in Enke Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>Preschool Christmas Celebration</b>                      9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      6:00 p.m. – Heart of Ohio Quilters Guild Monthly Meeting in Enke Parish Hall                      6:30 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting in the Lounge                      7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft</p>	<p><b>Preschool Christmas Celebration</b>                      7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship Breakfast                      9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      9:30 a.m. – St. Vincent de Paul Board Meeting in the Meeting Room                      5:00 p.m. – Strategic Planning Meeting in Enke Parish Hall                      7:00 p.m. – Men’s Rosary Prayer Group in the Church</p>
Thursday   12.18	Friday   12.19	Saturday   12.20	Sunday   12.21
<p><b>No Preschool – Christmas Break</b>                      9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft                      7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Social in Enke Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>No Preschool – Christmas Break</b>                      9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall                      4:00 p.m. – Confessions                      5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p>	<p>8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft                      10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)                      11:45 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal                      6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room</p>

**WELCOME**  
*to our community*

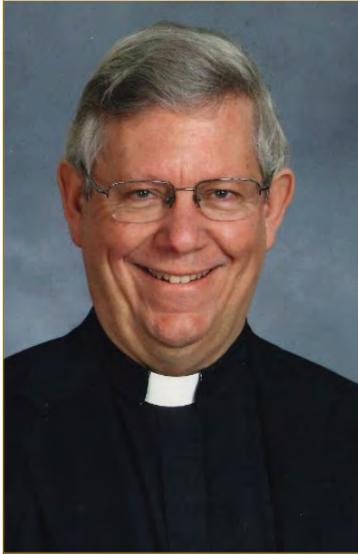
Visitors, you are known and loved by our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray you find peace, hospitality, and friendship here. Children are always welcome! To join St. Edward Parish, stop by the church office or call 740-587-3254.

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

***The Third Sunday of Advent***

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.”

Isaiah 35:4



December 14, 2025:

Dear Parishioners:

A “tradition” that I have brought to the parishes where I have served as pastor is to choose a couple of weekends a year to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at all parish Masses. We do so this Third Sunday of Advent. The ritual reminds us that it is a Sacrament that looks in two directions. It is for serious illnesses and chronic conditions, not ordinary experiences of sickness, asking for healing, strength, and a return to the Altar of the Lord with the community of

believers. At the same time, as was formerly its emphasis, it is part of the “Last Rites,” the final preparation before death for a person who has lived out a Sacramental life, along with a final Confession and Viaticum, the last reception of the Eucharist as Food for the journey.

The Book of Blessings provides the basis for the blessing of healthcare workers that we use before the celebration of the Sacrament. This blessing is to offer encouragement and thanks to all who work with our homebound parishioners and those who are in need due to human frailty and sickness. These wonderful people are the ones who remind us all of the Works of Mercy that we are called to perform in the name of the Lord.

It is unfortunate nowadays that pastors do not receive news about parishioners’ illnesses, especially hospital stays, due to laws that are designed for something else. “Privacy laws” become an obstacle to pastoral care when pastors are not seen as part of the healing team. We have lost much in our culture that sets aside the positive role of Faith in healing. Nonetheless, our community is represented by those whose work is to heal the sick and to offer comfort and aid. They may not be able to tell the parish the names of patients under their care, but they can tell those patients that we are there for them. At the request of the person or a member of the family, hospital personnel can call the parish. Friends and family are also free to ask for whatever is needed. Please let us know if you are going to be in the hospital for serious procedures, or if you are homebound for an extended period of time. We have ministers among us who want to be there for you.

The Third Sunday of Advent, with the pink candle and rose vestments, reminds us that Christmas is near. Let us keep our eyes open for the Coming of the Lord, at the end of time, daily in prayer and the Sacraments, and at the Nativity of the Lord which is only days away.

We remind you also to stay informed about our efforts to chart the course of our future together through strategic planning. Watch for opportunities to offer your input. The first is to do the Disciple Maker Index sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus. Your response will be useful both to Bishop Fernandes and to our parish as we learn together how to draw others into the life of the Church. We cry out, “*Lord, come and save us.*” Maran atha! Come, Lord Jesus!

*Rev. Timothy M. Hayes*

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes  
Pastor

## Notes from the Loft



### Prelude

*Gaudete*, mode I (organ and/or chant, translation below)

### Introductory Rites

Entrance: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#39)

*No Gloria during Advent*

### Liturgy of the Word

Psalm: Ps. 146: Lord, come and save us. (p. 40)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 41)

Anointing of the Sick: TBD

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts: My Soul Rejoices (#802)

Sanctus: Chanted (#839)

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

Amen: Chanted

Agnus Dei: Chanted (#843)

Communion: The Lord Is My Light (#463)

Communion 2 (10:45 Choir): A Voice Cries Out, “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (L. Larson)

### Concluding Rite

Sending Forth: People, Look East (#43)

### Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: Jim Bidigare

10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

### Notes from the Loft

♪ Today is *Gaudete* Sunday, named for the first word of the prescribed entrance antiphon chant (“*Gaudete in Domino semper. Iterum dico, gaudete,*” which means, “*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice.*”). Echoing the designated antiphons, today’s music urges us to be strong and to be filled with joy as we anticipate the coming of Christ. At all the Masses, we sing the first few verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” with its insistent refrain of “Rejoice! Rejoice!” At the 10:45 a.m. Mass, the choir sings a longtime St. Edward Advent standard: Lloyd Larson’s “A Voice Cries Out, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord.’” With intensity and urgency, it invites us to heed anew the prophetic words of Isaiah and John the Baptist. Like Mary, may we be open to God’s Word...and like her, may our souls truly rejoice in God our Savior. *Gaudete!* The Lord is near!

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

# STRATEGIC ROADMAP: ST. EDWARD CHURCH

## PHASE 1: LISTENING & DIAGNOSIS

(JANUARY - MARCH '26)



**OBJECTIVE:** Understand St. Edward's current reality

- Parish-wide survey
- Listening sessions & focus groups
- Staff interviews
- Ministry, sacramental, and structural analysis

**DELIVERABLES:** Current Reality & Key Insights Report

## PHASE 2: MISSION, VISION & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

(APRIL - JUNE '26)



**OBJECTIVE:** Discern identity & direction for the next 3–5 years

- Mission Statement Development
- “Six Critical Questions” facilitation
- Define Discipleship Pathway
- Identify strategic priorities
- Draft of Pastoral Plan

**DELIVERABLES:** Mission Statement, Discipleship Pathway, and 3–5yr Pastoral Plan

## PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT

(JULY '26- MAY '27)



**OBJECTIVE:** Bring the plan to life with clarity & accountability

- Build & coach working teams
- Coaching for pastor, staff, and key volunteers
- Establish healthy rhythms & accountability structures
- Training resources for evangelization, discipleship & leadership
- Support early wins, sustainability & cultural renewal

**DELIVERABLES:** Action Plans, Quarterly Reviews, and Renewal Framework



An Extra  
Special Gift

### The gift of scholarship with Emmaus Road!

**Give and get back!** With the Emmaus Road Scholarship, dollar-for-dollar Ohio tax credit, you convert your tax dollars to scholarship dollars. Designate a scholarship to help Newark Catholic students and you get it back on your Ohio state taxes. This SGO allows you to earn a reduction of your tax liability of up to \$750 individually and \$1500 filing jointly. Why give it to the Ohio Department of Taxation when you have a choice to provide a scholarship in the same amount of your IT1040 line 10, Ohio taxes?

Gifts can be made by anyone who values our Catholic schools and wants to help. Grandparents, parents, alumni, and friends all have a profound impact on our mission and this is just another way to get involved. When you choose to make this gift, you make a difference!



It's so easy to do - learn more by visiting our website or scanning the QR code.

# Share Your Insights

By completing the Disciple Maker Index, you can help the Diocese of Columbus make informed decisions about Church of St. Edward the Confessor's future.



The survey takes 10 - 15 minutes and closes on January 6. All perspectives are valuable, including those from teens. Thank you for taking the time to provide your input!

Paper copies are available outside the Parish Office and can be returned to the basket in the Gathering Space



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

- 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
- DEC 28** NO YOUTH GROUP, MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- JAN 4** NO YOUTH GROUP - WINTER BREAK
- JAN 11** YOUTH GROUP MEETING  
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
STEVEN ARIAS | [YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG)

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM  
[@ST.EDWARDS\\_YOUTH\\_MINISTRY](https://www.instagram.com/ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY)

You're invited to St. Edward Church

## Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14 | 11:45am - 1:15pm

Enke Parish Hall

Stop by for

- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Cookie Decorating
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Photos with Santa Claus
- ✓ Music by the Children's Choir



Thank you to Knights of Columbus Council 10876 for sponsoring this family favorite event!

*Save the Date*

for

## Night Under the Stars Parish Dance 2026

*January 31, 2026*

Open to All Parishioners

*Tickets available January 3 through 23*

*Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 10876*



## Parish Security Update

We are excited to announce that construction for the preschool security project begins on **December 18!** Work on the project continues through the end of the first week in January. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we navigate this process and move toward a safer facility.

## The Good Grief Journey at St. Edward Meets This Week

The Good Grief Ministry meets on **Monday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge.** All who are experiencing grief are encouraged to attend to find comfort and hope after loss. The topic of this meeting is *Navigating the Holidays*, featuring a presentation by Fr. Hayes.

## SVdP Food Pantry Update

The St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is in need of tuna and canned pasta this week. If you are able, please consider sharing some extra items to support our neighbors in need!



## WWP Winter Book Club

Every new year, many of us make resolutions in an effort to live a more fulfilling, more perfectly ordered life. This January, join a small group of women for weekly Zoom meetings to dive into *Walking with Purpose: Seven Priorities That Make Life Work*, by Lisa Brenninkmeyer—a book designed to help bring balance, peace, and purpose to your everyday life. Women of all ages and stages are welcome! Scan the QR code to register.

## Save the Date of January 23—March for Life!

This January, a group of parishioners is traveling to Washington, D.C. to march for the protection of all human life. Tickets are \$40 each (scholarships available), and include chartered bus rides to the March, a sack lunch, and a pizza dinner. **The March takes place on January 23, 2026**, and the bus leaves the evening before at 10:00 p.m. from St. Edward. The trip is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 10876, and special thanks go out to The Catholic Foundation for their generous financial assistance! Please register by January 11 to Paul at Scoutmaster4Life@gmail.com.

# Around the Diocese



## Live the Beatitudes in Our Community

OpenDoor Women's Recovery Alliance is looking for volunteers to accompany women rebuilding their lives after addiction, trafficking, or incarceration. Volunteers serve in small teams and meet weekly with a woman in recovery for one year. No clinical skills are required—just compassion and reliability. For details, contact Tammy at tammy@opendoorwomensrecovery.org.

## Join the Catholic Women's Conference

Women of the parish are invited to attend the 2026 Catholic Women's Conference, "Look to Him and Be Radiant," on **Saturday, February 21 in Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center.** Join thousands of women to encounter Christ through a day of renewal, encouragement, and sisterhood in the faith, featuring an inspiring lineup of speakers, Adoration, Confessions, and more. Visit columbuscatholicwomen.com for details or to register.

# O Come, Let Us Welcome Him

## Join Us for Mass

- |                      |        |  |
|----------------------|--------|--|
| <b>Christmas Eve</b> | ◆ 5pm  | Organ, Children's Choir Prelude   4:30pm |
|                      | ◆ 9pm  | Choir & Bell Choir Prelude   8:30pm      |
| <b>Christmas Day</b> | ◆ 8am  | Prelude Music   7:45am                   |
|                      | ◆ 10am | Prelude Music   9:45am                   |

**The Parish Office is closed for Christmas from December 24 - 26.**



We welcome and celebrate the newest member of our Catholic family, recently baptized into the life of Christ and the love of our faith community:

**Cade Allen Moore**  
son of Alexander & Caroline

# In Loving Memory

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of parishioner Victoria L. "Vicki" Kiser who has recently passed away. Please keep Vicki and her family in your prayers.

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



*“All the ends of the earth can see the salvation of our God.”*

Is 52:10



Scan the December Focolare Word of Life above or visit [focolaremedia.com](http://focolaremedia.com)

**FOCOLARE MEDIA**  
Word of Life

## 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: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## Ministry Schedule



December 20-26 | Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve and Day

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
<b>Saturday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	S.A. Beaver Nancy Himmelspach Ava Vadala Mandy Vadala	Christopher Haight	Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter NOT FILLED
<b>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</b>	Jane Dougan Dianne McDonald Johnda Orndorff Lisa Sloan	Terri Jackson	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
<b>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</b>	Noelle Gremling Robin Krempel Joe Krempel Bernadette Lieberth Gail Perks David Tarrant	Christopher Haight	Claire Cottrell Augustine Dodd Katelyn Shaw
<b>Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Lisa Cannon Natalie Cannon Adrienne Carter Bill Hoekstra	Mindy Skeldon	Arianna Carter NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED
<b>Wednesday, 9:00 p.m.</b>	Adrienne Carter John Casale Sue Casale Jane Dougan	NOT FILLED	Claire Skinner Carter Skinner Cooper Skinner
<b>Thursday, 8:00 a.m.</b>	Kris Whiting NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Michael Whiting	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED
<b>Thursday, 10:00 a.m.</b>	Von Downing Margo Downing NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Christopher Haight	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED NOT FILLED

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

## Candle Update

Starting January 1, 2026, the suggested offering for lighting a devotional candle is \$3.00.

We are grateful for your support, which allows us to care for our parish and keep this sacred space filled with prayer.

# St. Edward Church Mass Counts

Each October, parishes in the Diocese of Columbus submit Mass counts to the Diocese to track attendance. Below are the Mass counts for St. Edward Church over the past four years. We are grateful to God for the upward trend in our average Mass attendance and ask for your prayers that our parish may continue to grow and thrive!

## October 2022:

	Oct. 1-2	Oct. 8-9	Oct. 15-16	Oct. 22-23	Oct. 29-30	Average	Total
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	136	137	151	162	151	147	737
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	183	195	148	191	172	178	889
Sun. 10:45 a.m.	323	314	294	275	301	301	1507
Mass at Denison (Sunday 4:30 p.m.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Per Week:</b>	642	646	593	628	624	627	3133

## October 2023:

	Sept. 30- Oct. 1	Oct. 7-8	Oct. 14-15	Oct. 21-22	Oct. 28-29	Average	Total
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	191	179	167	195	193	185	925
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	187	193	185	180	175	184	920
Sun. 10:45 a.m.	322	303	265	251	279	284	1420
Mass at Denison (Sunday 4:30 p.m.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Per Week:</b>	700	675	617	626	647	653	3265

## October 2024:

	Oct. 6-7	Oct. 12-13	Oct. 19-20	Oct. 26-27	Average	Total
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	136	241	158	149	171	684
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	191	165	164	185	176	705
Sun. 10:45 a.m.	301	263	310	327	300	1201
Mass at Denison (Sunday 4:30 p.m.)	35	37	0	37	36	109
<b>Total Per Week:</b>	663	706	632	698	675	2699

## October 2025:

	Oct. 4-5	Oct. 11-12	Oct. 18-19	Oct. 25-26	Average	Total
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	190	172	160	176	175	698
Sun. 8:15 a.m.	203	233	200	205	210	841
Sun. 10:45 a.m.	354	392	355	385	372	1486
Mass at Denison (Sunday 4:30 p.m.)	35	41	N/A	34	37	110
<b>Total Per Week:</b>	782	838	715	800	784	3135



## Sunday, December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent

*First Reading:* Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

*Second Reading:* James 5:7-10

*Gospel:* Matthew 11:2-11

## Monday, December 15

*First Reading:* Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9

*Gospel:* Matthew 21:23-27

## Tuesday, December 16

*First Reading:* Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23

*Gospel:* Matthew 21:28-32

## Wednesday, December 17

*First Reading:* Genesis 49:2, 8-10

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17

*Gospel:* Matthew 1:1-17

## Thursday, December 18

*First Reading:* Jeremiah 23:5-8

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

*Gospel:* Matthew 1:18-25

## Friday, December 19

*First Reading:* Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17

*Gospel:* Luke 1:5-25

## Saturday, December 20

*First Reading:* Isaiah 7:10-14

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

*Gospel:* Luke 1:26-38

## Sunday, December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

*First Reading:* Isaiah 7:10-14

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

*Second Reading:* Romans 1:1-7

*Gospel:* Matthew 1:18-24

# Pope Leo XIV

## Intentions of the Month: December

### For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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*



## BE A KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

- LIVE YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH-
- PROTECT YOUR FAMILY-
- INSPIRE OTHERS-

FREE ONE-YEAR  
ONLINE MEMBERSHIP

GO TO: [KofC.ORG/JOIN](http://KofC.ORG/JOIN)  
CODE: [BLESSEDMCGIVNEY](http://BLESSEDMCGIVNEY)



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the Week*



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# Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception*

***“The divine Word, coming and knocking at the door of our soul, challenges our indolence and rouses us from slumber. His desire is always to enter and make His home with us.”*** +SAINT GUERRIC OF IGNY

## **Monday, December 15 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27** When Jesus had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them in reply, “I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things. Where was John’s baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?” They discussed this among themselves and said, “If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we fear the crowd, for they all regard John as a prophet.” So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not know.” He himself said to them, “Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

**Meditation:** What made the religious leaders oppose Jesus and reject his claim to divine authority? Their view of religion did not match with God's word because their hearts were set on personal gain rather than truth and submission to God's plan and design for their lives. They openly questioned Jesus to discredit his claim to be the Messiah. If Jesus says his authority is divine they will charge him with blasphemy. If he has done this on his own authority they might well arrest him as a mad zealot before he could do more damage. Jesus, seeing through their trap, poses a question to them and makes their answer a condition for his answer. Did they accept the work of John the Baptist as divine or human? If they accepted John's work as divine, they would be compelled to accept Jesus as the Messiah. They dodged the question because they were unwilling to face the truth. They did not accept John the Baptist and they would not accept Jesus as their Messiah.

**Prayer:** Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord, and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts, visit us with the grace of your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** A serious question to ask yourself: Are you willing to take a stand for the truth, even when it may cost you? Or do you look for the safe way out through compromise, political correctness, or simply selling yourself out? Jesus told his disciples that “the truth would make them free” (ref. John 8:32). Why were the religious leaders opposed to Jesus' and evasive with the truth? Did they fear the praise of their friends and neighbors more than the praise of God for those who stand up to his truth? The coming of God's kingdom or reign on the earth will inevitably produce conflict – a conflict of allegiance to God's will or my will, God's way of love and justice or the world's way of playing fair, God's standard of absolute moral truth or truth relative to what I want to believe is good and useful for the time being. There is much joy and freedom to be experienced by living our lives according to God's way, God's truth. Do you know the joy and freedom of living according to God's truth? If not, what is diverting your attention and your path in life? What is holding you back?

## **Tuesday, December 16 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32** Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ The son said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of

righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

**Meditation:** In his Gospel teachings, Jesus both challenges us and encourages us to think – to challenge us to live a life worthy to be his disciples; a life that leads to everlasting life. And to think about the consequences of the choices we must make in life – especially when those choices and decisions that will count not just for now but for eternity as well. The choices we make now will affect and shape our future, both our future on earth as well as in the life of the age to come. Jesus tells a simple story of two imperfect sons to illustrate the way of God's kingdom. The father amply provided for his sons food, lodging, and everything they needed. Everything the father had belonged to them as well. The father also rewarded his sons with excellent work in his own vineyard. He expected them to show him gratitude, loyalty, and honor by doing their fair share of the daily work. The "rebellious" son told his father to his face that he would not work for him. But afterwards he changed his mind and did what he father commanded him. The "good" son said he would work for his father, but didn't carry through. He did his own pleasure contrary to his father's will. Now who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father; but one repented and then did what the father told him.

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

**Contemplation:** Jesus makes his point perfectly clear – good intentions are not enough; and promises don't count unless they are performed. God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect his will,. That we embrace his will, and that we do his will. God offers each of us the greatest treasure possible – unending peace, joy, happiness, and life with him in his kingdom. We can lose that treasure if we refuse the grace God offers us to follow in his way of truth and righteousness. Do you respect the will of your Father in heaven? Do you place God's will over your own?

### **Wednesday, December 17 ~ Third Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17** 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.

Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations.

**Meditation:** Have you ever given any thought about your spiritual heritage? Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots and help us to understand our heritage, our lineage. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus traces his lineage from Abraham, the father of God's chosen people, through the line of David, King of Israel. 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. We see God promise fulfilled in David (ref. Genesis 49:10).

**Prayer:** O God, Creator and Redeemer of human nature, who willed that your Word should take flesh in an ever-virgin womb, look with favor on our prayers, that your Only Begotten Son, having taken to

himself our humanity, may be pleased to grant us a share in his divinity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** This Gospel is not simply a rattling of names of people, many of whom we may have never heard of before. Rather it is a blessing, a foreshadowing of God's fulfillment in raising up his anointed King, Jesus the Messiah. 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. He is the Savior of the world who redeems us from slavery to sin and Satan and makes us citizens of the kingdom of God. In him we receive adoption into a royal priesthood and holy nation as sons and daughters of the living God (see 1 Peter 1:9). Do you recognize your spiritual genealogy and do you accept God as your Father and Jesus as the sovereign King and Lord of your life? In this Season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds, let us reflect on God's plan for our salvation, and how this genealogy is revealing to us about God's plan at work, leading up to the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25** This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

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

**Contemplation:** Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems?

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-25** In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the

Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home.

After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."

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

**Prayer:** O God, who through the child-bearing of the holy Virgin graciously revealed the radiance of your glory to the world, grant, we pray, that we may venerate with integrity of faith the mystery of so wondrous an Incarnation and always celebrate it with due reverence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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