



Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
*the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

– Matthew 5:3

February 1, 2026 | 4th 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](http://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 Business 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

**Parish School of Religion**

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

**Youth, Young Adult, & Liturgical Ministries**

Steven Arias, Coordinator  
youth@saintedwards.org

**General Inquiries:**

church@saintedwards.org

**Music Ministries**

Paul Radkowski, Music Director  
music@saintedwards.org

**Prayer Requests**

Cindy 740-366-2871  
ckk1@att.net

**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, February 1 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul**

8:15 a.m. For Tom and Pattie Herr  
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

**Monday, February 2 | Presentation of the Lord**

9:00 a.m. For Rick Rieser (RIP) by Martin & Carol Flautt

**Tuesday, February 3**

9:00 a.m. For Jaiko Yepes (RIP) by Gabriela Florencia

**Wednesday, February 4**

9:00 a.m. For Karen Petticrew (RIP) by Jon Petticrew

**Thursday, February 5 | Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

9:00 a.m. For Bob Kendrick (RIP) by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

**Friday, February 6 | Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**

9:00 a.m. For Ellen Herr (RIP) by Pattie Herr

**Saturday, February 7**

5:00 p.m. For Cheri Spoo (RIP) by WWP

**Sunday, February 8 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:15 a.m. For Alva Don Goff (RIP) by the Goff Family  
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 you through the process, just give us a call!

	Offertory	Budget	Variance	Unanticipated Gifts
<b>December</b>	\$103,699	\$136,490	(\$32,791)	\$67,120
<b>YTD</b>	\$489,194	\$590,743	(\$101,549)	\$144,720

**Monthly Parish Offortory**

Month	Budget	Offortory
July	85,000	68,000
August	88,000	70,000
September	88,000	68,000
October	102,000	95,000
November	92,000	85,000
December	136,490	103,699



**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 | 2.1**                      **Monday | 2.2**                      **Tuesday | 2.3**                      **Wednesday | 2.4**

**Welcome Sunday**  
**Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul**  
 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. Ghiloni)  
 12:00 p.m. – Confirmation Retreat  
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)  
 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group

**Preschool Registration Open to Community**  
 9:00 a.m. – Candlemas (Fr. Ghiloni)  
 9:30 a.m. – Listening Session w/  
 Donuts and Coffee in Enke Parish Hall  
 9:30 a.m. – Adoration  
 9:45 a.m. – WOSE Board Meeting in the Lounge

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)  
 7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal  
 in the Choir Loft

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)  
 6:00 p.m. – Listening Sessions w/ Pizza  
 in Enke Parish Hall  
 7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group  
 in the Church

**Thursday | 2.5**                      **Friday | 2.6**                      **Saturday | 2.7**                      **Sunday | 2.8**

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Msgr. Enke)  
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Otterbein  
 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft  
 7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Business Meeting  
 in Enke Parish Hall

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)  
 10:30 a.m. – Mass at Middleton (Fr. Hayes)

7:00 a.m. – Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast  
 in Enke Parish Hall  
 7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship: *Paternal Expectations*  
 4:00 p.m. – Confessions  
 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)  
 6:00 p.m. – Listening Sessions w/ Pizza in Enke Hall

8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hrezo)  
 9:15 a.m. – Listening Sessions w/ Donuts & Coffee  
 in Enke Parish Hall  
 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. – Listening Sessions w/ Donuts &  
 Coffee in Enke Parish Hall  
 12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Charles Maurice Gales  
 and William Robert Casto  
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University  
 (Fr. Hayes)  
 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting  
 in the Youth Room

**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.

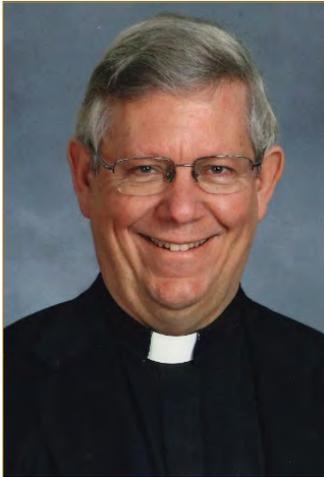
## Winter Weather and Weekly Offertory

Last weekend's snowstorm kept many of our parish family safely at home—and we're grateful everyone stayed safe. Because attendance was much lower than usual, our weekly offertory fell short of what is needed to cover the parish's regular expenses.

If you were unable to attend Mass, we invite you to prayerfully consider making up your offertory gift this week. Your consistent support allows St. Edward Parish to keep our doors open, our ministries running, and our mission alive—even when Ohio weather has other plans!

You can give online anytime by scanning this QR code or drop your offering in the collection.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for being such a faithful part of our parish family.



February 1, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

We continue to make our journey through the Gospel of Matthew in this Year A. This weekend, the Beatitudes, which are the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, invite us to understand Jesus' ministry and the invitation He has offered to those who want to be His disciples to see the world in an entirely new way.

Our parish continues to be in a phase of listening to discover what is happening in the hearts of those who are "stakeholders" in our community. Group by group and ministry by ministry, all are asked to share reflections on what our parish is about. Our trust is that this approach will allow us to discover the path the Lord is inviting us to follow into our future.

As Matthew presents the Beatitudes, we can see that the lacks, the hurts, the empty places in our experience are a mirror of the blessings that God wants to bestow on us. All is grace, if you have the eyes to see it. Whatever happens to us opens us to be ready to receive the gifts that God wants to give to us.

This weekend, the *Hard As Nails* ministry is offering a retreat for those in our parish who are being prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation, our 7th and 8th Grade PSR classes. Bishop Earl Fernandes will be coming to us on February 10 to confer the Gift of the Holy Spirit on our youth. Please keep them and their sponsors and families in your prayers.

"Come, Holy Spirit" is a simple prayer that should be often on our lips and in our hearts. When the Spirit comes, He brings us a greater capacity to know and understand God's ways. He heals and comforts us and gives us strength to endure whatever comes. He frees us to commit ourselves to be disciples of the Lord and true witnesses to the Gospel.

Pope Leo has a prayer intention for each month of the year. His intention for the month of February is for children with incurable diseases: Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Timothy M. Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes  
Pastor

## Notes from the Loft



### Notes from the Loft

#### Prelude

#### Introductory Rites

Opening: O God, Beyond All Praising (#563)  
Gloria: A New Mass for Congregations  
(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

#### Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 146:  
Blessed are the poor in spirit... (p. 66)  
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 66)

#### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Faith of Our Fathers (#481)  
Holy, When We Eat, Amen: Land of Rest Mass  
Lamb of God: Holy Cross Mass  
Communion: We Are the Light of the World (#466)  
Communion 2: TBD

#### Concluding Rite

Closing: O Bless the Lord, My Soul (#581)

### Postlude

#### Cantors

5:00 p.m. Beth Spieles  
8:15 a.m. Laura Collins  
10:45 a.m. Griffin Helms

#### Notes from the Loft

♪ Today and next Sunday, the Beatitudes are featured in the readings and designated musical texts. Today's Responsorial Psalm refrain ("Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!") is adapted from Matthew 5:3. The Gospel Acclamation verse ("Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven.") is from Matthew 5:12. We hear them both in today's Gospel reading. During Communion, we echo one of the designated antiphons as we sing Jean Anthony Greif's "We Are the Light of the World," which draws from today's Gospel and next Sunday's Gospel. May we live the Beatitudes and give glory to God in this week to come.

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

# LISTENING SESSIONS: YOU ARE INVITED

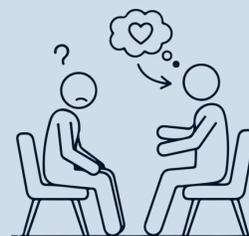
As we prayerfully plan for the future of our parish, we are seeking input from parishioners of all ages and backgrounds. Your voice matters, and we trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding this process. Please join us to share your experiences, hopes, and needs—so we can discern together how our parish can better support individuals and families in growing closer to Christ and living out our mission. In addition to the sessions listed below, some St. Edward ministries will be hosting smaller listening sessions. You may receive an invitation to a separate session. Please attend whichever session date and time works best for you.

## DATES:

- **WEDNESDAY, 2/4 AT 6:30PM - INCLUDES PIZZA**
- **SATURDAY, 2/7 AFTER 5PM MASS - INCLUDES PIZZA**
- **SUNDAY, 2/8 AFTER BOTH MASSES - COFFEE AND DONUTS**
- **MONDAY, 2/9 AFTER 9AM MASS - INCLUDES COFFEE AND DONUTS**
- **PSR FAMILIES: SUNDAY, 2/1 AT 9:30AM**
- **WOSE MEMBERS, WOMEN OF THE PARISH: THURSDAY, 2/12 AT 6PM**
- **TEENS: SUNDAY, 2/15 AT 6PM - INCLUDES PIZZA**
- **PARENTS OF TEENS: SUNDAY, 2/15 AT 6PM - INCLUDES PIZZA**



Registration is suggested but not required to attend a session. Scan the QR code to sign-up for a date or visit: [stedwardchurch.flocknote.com/signup/242023](https://stedwardchurch.flocknote.com/signup/242023)



## A Note from St. Vincent de Paul:

*Thank you for your generous gift in response to the St. Vincent Haven Winter Appeal. Your support is a true work of mercy and a tangible witness to the Gospel call to care for the poor and vulnerable, especially during the cold and difficult winter months.*

*Because of your generosity, St. Vincent Haven can provide warm shelter, nourishing meals, and compassionate case management to men experiencing homelessness—many of whom are older, ill, or deeply isolated. In serving them, we strive to honor the inherent dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in His image and worthy of care, respect, and hope.*

*Your gift is an expression of faith put into action. As St. Vincent de Paul reminds us, "Charity is infinitely inventive." Through your support, that charity is made real each day in the lives of the men we serve—offering not only safety and stability, but also encouragement, community, and the promise of new beginnings.*

### **Thank you for your supporting the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul!**

**To support the St. Vincent de Paul Haven**, please make checks payable to St. Vincent Haven, write "Support for Haven" in the memo line, and mail them directly to the Haven at 115 Wilson Street, Newark, Ohio 43055.

**To support the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry**, please make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul Center, Inc., write "Food Pantry" in the memo line, and mail them to the St. Vincent de Paul Center directly at 135 Wilson Street, Newark, Ohio 43055.

thank you for supporting the  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
 2026

Thank you to everyone who marched, offered support, or spent time in Adoration during last weekend's March for Life!

We were grateful for the opportunity to gather in Washington, D.C. to peacefully witness to the dignity and value of all human life, from conception to natural death. Thank you for being part of this important movement and thank you to The Catholic Foundation for helping to fund this trip!



**SAVE THE  
 2026 DATES**



**FRIDAYS**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 27**  
**MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**



St. Edward the Confessor Church  
 785 Newark Granville Road | Granville

LOOK TO HIM AND  
**BE RADIANT**  
 Psalm 34:6

COLUMBUS CATHOLIC  
 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

February 21, 2026

8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Ohio Expo Center - Kasich Hall

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



MOTHER NATALIA



MEG HUNTER KILMER



FR. JOHN LOCOCO



Sr. MARY GRACE



RACHEL MUHA



MASS CELEBRANT:  
 BISHOP FERNANDES



EMCEE: JEN RICE



MUSIC: MEREDITH JOY KELLER



WEBSITE

[www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com)



REGISTRATION

The 29th Annual  
 CATHOLIC  
 MEN'S CONFERENCE  
**CALLED  
 TO BE  
 SAINTS**  
 TAKE COURAGE

**Saturday + February 28, 2026**  
**Kasich Hall + Ohio Expo Center, Columbus**



Matt Birk



Father Robert Spitzer



Justin Fatica

Adoration + Reconciliation + Holy Mass  
 Breakfast & Lunch + Faith Organizations

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

[www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com)





A Note About St. Vincent de Paul Donations

Food Pantry - The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is currently in need of cereal and spaghetti sauce. Please consider dropping off a can or two to support our neighbors in need during these cold winter months. Thank you for your generosity! NEW COLLECTION LOCATION: Items can now be brought to the Conference Room/Counting Room just across from Fr. Hayes' office. The same wooden container is located just behind the door.

Thrift Store Items - St. Edward Church is NOT a drop-off location for SVdP thrift store items. Please bring those items directly to their Wilson Street or East Main Street locations. Thank you.

Monetary Donations - Those wishing to support this effort through a financial gift are asked to make checks payable directly to SVdP Center, Inc. or The Haven. Because these donations go straight to the organizations serving those in need, St. Edward is unable to process the funds through parish accounts. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Office, and our staff will ensure they are mailed promptly to the appropriate recipient.

Around the Diocese



Part-Time Opportunity at Church of the Ascension: Church of the Ascension in Johnstown is seeking an experienced choir director and organist to assume the role of Director of Sacred Music (DSM). This is a part-time ministry position. Duties include direction and coordination of the adult choir, children's choir, and cantors, as well as serving as the organist for liturgical events and weekly Masses. Please contact Fr. PJ Brandimarti (pastor@cotaj.org) if you wish to learn more about the application process.



Enrich Your Marriage: Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and gain the tools you need for a stronger and more loving marriage! "But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Help your marriage be like the rich soil by attending an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Experience on February 6-8, 2026 at Procter Camp and Conference Center in London, OH. Other dates are also available on the website. Scan the QR code or visit WWME.org to sign up and get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones, and spend time focusing only on each other!



This weekend is Welcome Sunday Enjoy coffee & donuts in Enke Parish Hall after both Sunday Masses



St. Edward Preschool 2026-27 Enrollment

St. Edward Preschool provides a loving early learning environment built on a strong foundation of Catholic faith, teachings, and values. Scan the QR code to register and pay the \$100 fee online or pick up a pack in the Office or Gathering Space. Open enrollment begins February 2. Preschool families and parishioners have priority if registering prior to 2/2.

Questions? Contact Adrienne Evans: 740-587-3275 or preschool@saintedwards.org.



That Man Is You! Saturdays | 7:00 a.m. \*Mondays sessions have been discontinued This program addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. It harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! TMIY THAT MAN IS YOU! THE FIGHT OF FAITH

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.”*

**Eph 4:4**



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

**FOCOLARE MEDIA**  
*Word of Life*

## *A Message from J.O.I.N.*

*J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs) is the recipient of our 2026 Ash Wednesday Collection. Thank you for your support of their mission.*

We are approaching another Lenten Season, a Holy Season that comforts and guides us all. Thanks to your compassion, generosity, love, and faith, JOIN was again able to assist many of our sisters and brothers with daily essentials in 2025. Through your generosity, over 2400 families received assistance to maintain their lights, heat, or water; over 650 families received birth certificates, allowing them to get ID to apply for housing, employment and school enrollment; more than 700 families received assistance to get to their new jobs or crucial doctors' appointments, and/or to maintain their sobriety, through JOIN's transportation program. We are so grateful for all that you have contributed in resources, prayers, and physical work.

We are also exploring exciting new ways to expand JOIN's capacity and impact with our parishes and partners this year. We hope to work more closely with parishes and programs throughout the Diocese and share the blessings of our Faith. Your support continues to be vital, and we are grateful that your parish will again share your Ash Wednesday collection with JOIN. Your love, faith, and compassion are what allow JOIN to share Christ's love with all who connect with us.



## **Answer the Call to Serve!**

We are looking for young people from Elementary School through College to serve God as altar servers. Training is held on the second Sunday of the month after the 10:45 AM Mass in the Youth Room.

**Contact Steven Arias**  
[youth@saintedwards.org](mailto:youth@saintedwards.org) | (740) 587-3254



*Note: Servers must be baptized Catholics who have received First Communion*

## *Ministry Schedule*



**February 7-8 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

	<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	<b>Lectors:</b>	<b>Altar Servers:</b>
<b>Saturday, 5:00 p.m.</b>	Adrienne Carter Stefanie Manley Ava Vadala Mandy Vadala	June McCarthy	Kevin Bollo Arianna Carter Sydney Miller
<b>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</b>	Cindy Barbour Jane Dougan Terri Jackson Lisa Sloan	Thomas Bressoud	Francis Aransky Brooklyn Aransky Daphne Harms
<b>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</b>	Von Downing Margo Downing Annie Lach Gail Perks Katie Perry David Tarrant	Christopher Haight	Claire Cottrell (sub req.) Augustine Dodd John Milligan

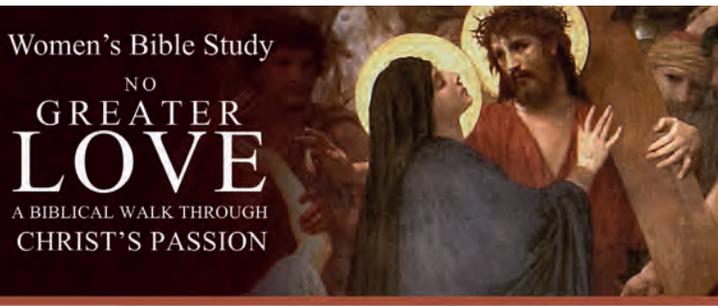
*Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.*

## *Sponsors of the Week*

**RA Rehab Associates**  
Physical & Occupational Therapy  
30+ years of excellent care  
1220 Hebron Rd.,  
Heath Ohio 43056  
740-345-2837  
[rehabassociates.net](http://rehabassociates.net)

**AJ Gaul**  
Golf Instructor  
Denison Golf Club  
Newark Golf Factory  
[ajgau035@gmail.com](mailto:ajgau035@gmail.com)  
740-975-9116

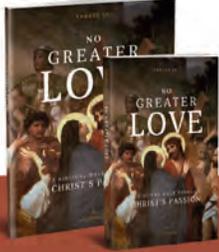



**ST. EDWARD**  
 YOUTH GROUP  
 7-12 GRADE  
**SCHEDULE**  
 2026

**When**  
 Mondays, beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup> or  
 Wednesdays, beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>  
**for 5 weeks**  
 through Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> or  
 Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Register by February 2nd**  
**to be included in the book order!**  
**Where**  
**Saint Edward the Confessor**  
 Mondays - Msgr. Enke Parish Hall  
 Wednesdays - The Lounge  
**For More Information**  
 Barb Hinterschied 740-403-3736  
 Peggy Behrman 614-937-4865  
 Noelle Gremling 614-323-8335

**Thousands sought Jesus during his life.  
 Only a few followed him to Calvary.**  
**What will YOU do?**  
 Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—and grow closer to Jesus.



- FEB 1** **YOUTH GROUP MEETING**  
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

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

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- FEB 15** **YOUTH GROUP MEETING**  
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

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- FEB 22** **YOUTH GROUP MEETING, LENT MOVIE**  
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

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- MAR 1** **YOUTH GROUP HOMELESS OUTREACH**  
2:00-6:00 PM, ST. ED KITCHEN

**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)**



**Thank you to all who contributed to the Little Flower Baby Shower in honor of Rebecca & Christian! Below is their note of gratitude to the parish.**

Dear St. Edward Parish,

We are deeply grateful for the beautiful baby shower and the overwhelming generosity shown to us by the parish community. Now that our Baby Girl has arrived, our hearts are even more full as we reflect on the love and support shown to us as we prepared to welcome her. As first-time parents, this has meant more to us than words can express.

We are especially thankful for all the generous gifts we received. Everything has been such a tremendous help, and we are already using so much of it. Your thoughtfulness has eased our transition into parenthood and made this first week home with our daughter more peace- and joy-filled.

Through all of this, we have truly felt Christ working through His Church. By saying yes to life, we have experienced an outpouring of Jesus' love, through this parish, every prayer offered, and every gift given. You remind us that children are a blessing, entrusted to us by God, and that our daughter is already surrounded by a faithful community that cherishes life and walks alongside families. We are so thankful to belong to a faith that so beautifully lives out Christ's call to love, to serve, and to celebrate life. The compassion shown to our family will always be remembered!

Though words cannot express how grateful we truly are, please know of our sincere gratitude and continued prayers for all of you. Thank you for welcoming our daughter with such love, and for being a visible sign of God's grace in our lives.

Please also keep our daughter, Adelaide Felicity, in your prayers this coming January 4 as she is welcomed into Christ's Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

With Heartfelt Love in Christ,  
 Rebecca & Christian Ryan



## Sunday, February 1 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*First Reading:* Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
*Second Reading:* 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
*Gospel:* Matthew 5:1-12a

## Monday, February 2 | The Presentation of the Lord

*First Reading:* Malachi 3:1-4  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10  
*Second Reading:* Hebrews 2:14-18  
*Gospel:* Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

## Tuesday, February 3

*First Reading:* 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
*Gospel:* Mark 5:21-43

## Wednesday, February 4

*First Reading:* 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7  
*Gospel:* Mark 6:1-6

## Thursday, February 5 | Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

*First Reading:* 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12  
*Responsorial Psalm:* 1 Chronicles 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd  
*Gospel:* Mark 6:7-13

## Friday, February 6 | Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

*First Reading:* Sirach 47:2-11  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 18:31, 47 and 50, 51  
*Gospel:* Mark 6:14-29

## Saturday, February 7

*First Reading:* 1 Kings 3:4-13  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
*Gospel:* Mark 6:30-34

## Sunday, February 8 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*First Reading:* Isaiah 58:7-10  
*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
*Second Reading:* 1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
*Gospel:* Matthew 5:13-16

## Pope Leo XIV Intentions of the Month: February

### For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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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 February is dedicated to the Holy Family + Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

***Saint Blaise, faithful Bishop and Martyr, you showed compassion to the sick and courage in the face of persecution. Intercede for us, that we may grow in faith, serve others with love, and remain steadfast in our trust in God. Protect us from all illness, especially ailments of the throat, and help us use our voices to glorify the Lord. Amen.***

**+INTERCESSORY PRAYER TO SAINT BLAISE**

### **Monday, February 2 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40** When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, / for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: / a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted -and you yourself a sword will pierce- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**Meditation:** Do you know the favor of the Lord? After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfills the Jewish right of purification after childbirth. Since she could not afford the customary offering of a lamb; she gives instead two pigeons as an offering of the poor. This rite, along with circumcision and the redemption of the first-born point to the fact that children are gifts from God. Jesus was born in an ordinary home where there were no luxuries. Like all good parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favor is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Do you know the joy of submission to God? And do you seek to pass on the faith and to help the young grow in wisdom and maturity?

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be

presented to you with minds made pure. 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:** Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and he prophesied to Mary about the destiny of this child and the suffering she would undergo for his sake. There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life fully surrendered to God with faith and trust?

## **Tuesday, February 3 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time** **Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 16:15-20** Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

**Meditation:** Ask yourself: "Lord, what are you saying to me in these scripture passages?" Need some inspiration? Think about this. Saint Mark the Evangelist is honored today. Each of the four gospel accounts gives us a portrait of Jesus, His mission and teaching. Each is different in style, length, and emphasis. But they all have a common thread and purpose -- the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the Apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' last words to His Apostles point to His saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of His saving death and His glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the world. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a single nation -- it is for the whole world, and for all who will accept it. The Gospel guides us, inspires us, enlightens us, challenges our way of thinking and our ways of life and invites us to share in the life of Christ. Do you believe in the power of the Gospel teachings -- the power to inspire us to conform our lives to Christ?

**Prayer:** Hear, O Lord, the supplications your people make under the patronage of the Martyr Saint Blaise, and grant that they may rejoice in peace in this present life and find help for life eternal. 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:** This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task -- to be heralds of the good news and be living witnesses to the teachings of Jesus Christ in every place and at every time -- not just when may think it is "convenient." We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission worldwide. So let's think about this. Do I give adequate reflection on God's Word and how these timeless teachings have an application in my daily life? Am I a living witness to others the joy of the Gospel and the hope of the resurrection? If not, why not? What must I do to conform my life to Christ, and join in the mission of Christ and His Apostles?

## **Wednesday, February 4 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 6:1-6** Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

**Meditation:** Jesus startled his familiar audience with a seeming rebuke that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people. The people of Nazareth took offense at Jesus and refused to listen to what he had to say. They despised his preaching because he was a mere workman, a carpenter, and a layman who had no formal training by a scholar or teacher. They also despised him because of his undistinguished family background. How familiarity can breed contempt. Jesus could do no mighty works in their midst because they were closed-minded and unbelieving towards him.

**Prayer:** Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The word "gospel" literally means "good news". Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would come in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring freedom to the afflicted who suffered from physical, mental, or spiritual oppression (see Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus came to set people free – not only from their physical, mental, and spiritual infirmities - but also from the worst affliction of all – the tyranny of slavery to sin, Satan, and the fear of losing one's life. God's power alone can save us from hopelessness, dejection, and emptiness of life. The gospel of salvation is "good news" for everyone who will receive it. Do you know the joy and freedom of the gospel?

### **Thursday, February 5 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 6:7-13** Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick –no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**Meditation:** Jesus gave his apostles both the power and the authority to speak and to act in his name. He commanded them to do the works which he did – to heal, to cast out evil spirits, and to speak the word of God – the Good News of the gospel which they received from Jesus. When Jesus spoke of power and authority he did something unheard of. He wedded power and authority with love and humility. The "world" and the "flesh" seek power for selfish gain. Jesus teaches us to use it for the good of our neighbor.

**Prayer:** May the Virgin Martyr Saint Agatha implore your compassion for us, O Lord, we pray, for she found favor with you by the courage of her martyrdom and the merit of her chastity. 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:** This traveling light provision which Jesus shared with his Apostles has solid purpose. This "poverty of spirit" frees us from greed and preoccupation with possessions and makes ample room for God's provision. The Lord wants his disciples to be dependent on him and not on themselves. He wills to work through and in each of us for his glory. The Lord entrusts each of us with his gifts and talents. Are you eager to place yourself at his service, to do whatever he asks you, and to live in witness his truth – *the only truth* – and saving power to whomever and whatever situation he sends you?

### **Friday, February 6 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary time Saint Paul Miki, Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 6:14-29** King Herod heard about Jesus, for his fame had become widespread, and people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah"; still others, "He is a prophet like any of the prophets." But when Herod learned of it, he said, "It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up."

Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harbored a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. Herodias had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. His own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you wish and I will grant it to you." He even swore many things to her, "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her

mother, "What shall I ask for?" Her mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back to the king's presence and made her request, "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**Meditation:** What better way to shut someone up permanently than to have them beheaded? Why have John the Baptist silenced? For telling the truth! His was blunt, honest truth which Herodias did not want to hear about the sinful relationship she was living. Herodias, the daughter of Aristobulus and Bernice, was first married to her uncle, her father's half-brother, Philip (Mark 6:17). While living in Rome, they had a daughter named Salome. Herodias later left Philip and married Herod Antipas, Philip's brother, thereby making her the wife of two of her uncles. Herod Antipas was the tetrarch of Galilee during the life of Jesus. John the Baptist, a fearless and righteous servant of God, did not shy away from proclaiming the truth – in this case publicly condemning the incestuous and adulterous behavior of the ruler of the land. For this John was arrested, and at the instigation of Herodias was beheaded. The infamous "head of John the Baptist on a platter" was her idea out of revenge – revenge for John the Baptist telling the truth, instead of being politically correct and not saying anything about this sinful relationship.

**Prayer:** O God, strength of all the Saints, who through the Cross were pleased to call the Martyrs Saint Paul Miki and companions to life, grant, we pray, that by their intercession we may hold with courage even until death to the faith that we profess. 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:** How many times have we embraced the "politically correct" route in this world versus embracing the truths contained in sacred scripture? How many times have we let personal opinion ("here is what I think" or "here is how I see it") or personal feelings ("this is how I feel") trump any law of God, any teaching of Jesus Christ, or any teaching of the Catholic Church? In other words, am I just as guilty of turning away from the truth by turning a blind eye or a deaf ear to a situation in my own life or in the life of family members or friends – only so that I can be politically correct? Have I followed the route of Herodias and tried to have the truth silenced, just as she had John the Baptist silenced by having him beheaded? Or if not silenced, have I simply ignored the truth, or taken a sarcastic approach to the truth, or the convenient approach to the truth by thinking that I'm sophisticated and modern, and thus in my mind thinking that the truth has become "old fashioned" and out-of-step with modern times? The laws of God and the teachings of Christ do not have a shelf life. Always remember what Jesus tells us in John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me..." and in John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Folks, we need to embrace the truth with much more zeal and confidence. We cannot think that others apart from Christ have a solution to life's challenges or think that their way of living is acceptable when it is contrary to Christ. The truth is worth living, promoting and defending. We have one life, and we must turn away from the compromise of Christ's truths and instead embrace his teachings and let him be our shepherd and guide – not what's deemed popular or "okay to do" according to today's culture. Each compromise is a twisting of the truth so that it is no longer truth. So let's ask ourselves... Do I embrace, promote and defend the timeless truths of Jesus Christ? As a disciple of Christ, do I let Jesus Christ reign fully in my life? Do I let myself be challenged by the truths of Christ and, in doing so, change my present way of living to conform by mind and heart to that of Christ?

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