

Light shines through the *darkness*
for the upright.

– Psalm 112:4

February 8, 2026 | 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Church of St. Edward the Confessor

Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor

Dcn. John Barbour; Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

785 Newark Granville Road, Granville, Ohio 43023

740-587-3254 | saintedwards.org



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

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

Pastor
Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Deacons
Dcn. John Barbour
Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

Parish Office
Parish 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 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

Monday, February 9

9:00 a.m. For Frances Skufca (RIP) by Tony & Dottie Skufca

Tuesday, February 10 | Saint Scholastica, Virgin

9:00 a.m. For Cheri Spoo (RIP) by St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday, February 11

9:00 a.m. For Rick Rieser (RIP) by Neil & Marlene Elekes

Thursday, February 12

9:00 a.m. For Frances Skufca (RIP) by Tony & Dottie Skufca

Friday, February 13

9:00 a.m. For Ginny Watson-Graham (RIP) by Pattie Herr

Saturday, February 14 | Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

5:00 p.m. For Bob Kendrick (RIP) by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

Sunday, February 15 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. For Thomas Stewart (RIP) by Andy & Lisa Sloan
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

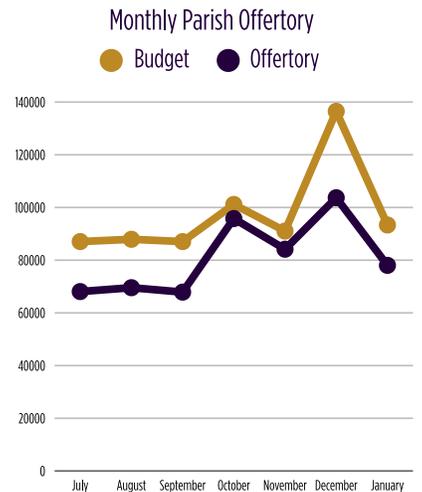


Scan to Give



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
January	\$78,041	\$93,356	(\$15,315)	\$26,000
YTD	\$567,335	\$684,099	(\$116,764)	\$170,720



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 2.8	Monday 2.9	Tuesday 2.10	Wednesday 2.11
<p>Welcome Sunday</p> <p>8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hrezo)</p> <p>9:15 a.m. – Listening Session w/Donuts & Coffee in Classrooms 1 & 2</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms</p> <p>10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>11:45 a.m. – Listening Session w/Donuts & Coffee in Classrooms 1 & 2</p> <p>12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Charles Maurice Gales and William Robert Casto</p> <p>4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – Adoration</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – Listening Session w/Donuts & Coffee</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – Right to Life Committee Meeting in the Counting Room</p> <p>7:00 p.m. – Confirmation Mass</p>	<p>Preschool Valentine's Day Celebration</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting in Enke Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group in the Church</p> <p>7:30 p.m. – Listening Session for Families with Elementary-Age Children and Children Under 5 in Enke Parish Hall</p> <p>8:30 p.m. – Listening Session for Young Single Adults in Enke Parish Hall</p>
Thursday 2.12	Friday 2.13	Saturday 2.14	Sunday 2.15
<p>Preschool Valentine's Day Celebration</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Listening Session for WOSE Members and Women of the Parish</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – WOSE Business Meeting in Enke Parish Hall</p> <p>7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft</p>	<p>No Preschool</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall: <i>GLUTTONY: The Modern Binge</i></p> <p>4:00 p.m. – Confessions</p> <p>5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p>	<p>8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal on the Choir Loft</p> <p>9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall</p> <p>10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)</p> <p>11:45 a.m. – Listening Session for Families with Children 5 and Under</p> <p>4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Listening Session for Teens in the Youth Room w/Pizza</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Listening Session for Parents of Teens in Enke Parish Hall w/Pizza</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room (Following Listening Session)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. – Listening Session for Young Single Adults in Enke Parish Hall</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.

DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THRU

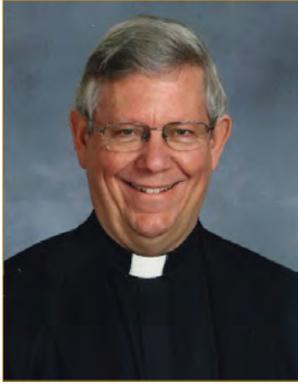
FISH FRY

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

Featuring our famous hand breaded, deep fried ocean perch, french fries, coleslaw, and a dessert.

FAMILY FISH DINNER (Feeds 4) - \$59 (Drive-Thru Only)
SINGLE - \$17 • SENIOR (60+) & STUDENT (13-22) - \$15
YOUTH (6-12) - \$8 (Inside Only) • CHILD (5 and Under) - Free (Inside Only)

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



February 8, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

This week, St. Edward Church will host Bishop Earl Fernandes as he confirms our 7th and 8th Grade PSR classes. We are grateful to the students and their families and to all the catechists and aides who have assisted in preparing them to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Our young people are being incorporated more deeply

into the life of the Church by this Sacrament of Initiation.

Confirmation gives the one who receives it strength to live the Catholic Faith and the capacity to serve as a witness of Faith to others. The Holy Spirit, Who came to them to make them children of God in the Sacrament of Baptism, now comes to them as an indwelling Presence, bringing the Gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. The Holy Spirit conforms them more deeply to Jesus Christ, Who was anointed by the Spirit as our Savior and Redeemer, and Who conferred the Gift of the Spirit on His Apostles after His Resurrection and at Pentecost.

When the Holy Spirit comes anew into our community through the newly confirmed, it is an opportunity for all of us to “fan into flame” the Gift that we have been given and to commit ourselves again to share our Faith with the world.

Please keep our confirmands—those about to be confirmed—in your prayers. Open your own heart to the Spirit Who wants to enliven His Gifts in our parish. Let the prayer “Come, Holy Spirit” be on your lips often. Ask for the Gift that you need most and be ready to catch the “overflow” that always comes when God is present among us.

Jesus tells His disciples that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The Spirit supplies the salt and light that form us as disciples and prepares us to meet the challenges of life. In a world that is ever more confused and falling into darkness, we must grow in our capacity to allow God to accomplish His will among us. May the Holy Spirit fall anew on us and bring us to a greater knowledge of God’s plan for our parish and for all His People.

Just a heads up: Next week, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday, February 18. That will start our journey to Easter, which falls on Sunday, April 5. Now is a good time to begin to reflect on how you will live Lent this year – Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, opening your heart to the power of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit inspire you to live this more intentionally this year. Come, Holy Spirit!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Notes from the Loft

Prelude

Introductory Rites

Opening: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (#578)

Gloria: A New Mass for Congregations

(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 112: The just man... (p. 68)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 68)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Whatsoever You Do (#621)

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

Lamb of God: Holy Cross Mass

Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat (#345)

Communion 2: TBD

Concluding Rite

Closing: The Spirit Sends Us Forth (#379)

Postlude

Cantors

5:00 p.m. Laura Collins

8:15 a.m. Jim Bidigare

10:45 a.m. Chelsea Zigan

Notes from the Loft

♪ When people visit the choir loft during the winter, they almost invariably say something like, “Wow! It’s so hot up here!” This experience is common on many choir lofts. The colder the outside temperature, the more the heater runs, and the hotter and drier the loft becomes. Typically, when it is 67°F in our gathering space and church, it is about 76-78°F on our loft. With the sub-freezing temperatures these past few weeks, the heater has been running more often, and the loft temperature has typically been above 80°F (the peak was 87.2°F), with a very low relative humidity level of about 15%.

This kind of extended dry heat can negatively affect musical instruments. Keys may stick, and other components may not move as freely as usual. Some piano notes can resonate too long, and some organ pipes can sound even when a key is not being played (this is called a *cipher*).

I have been in communication with our piano tuner and organ technicians about doing what we can to mitigate these issues—as I’m sure other church music directors have been during this recent extended cold snap. No matter what the temperature is, though, let us heed the words of our opening hymn and “evermore His praises sing:” on the loft, in the pews, and throughout this week to come.

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

LISTENING SESSIONS: YOU ARE INVITED

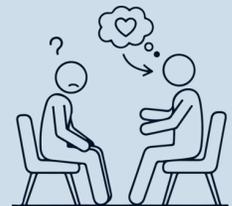
As we prayerfully plan for the future of our parish, we are seeking input from parishioners of all ages and backgrounds. Your voice matters, and we trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding this process. Please join us to share your experiences, hopes, and needs—so we can discern together how our parish can better support individuals and families in growing closer to Christ and living out our mission.

DATES:

- 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
- Families with Elementary-aged children and children under 5: Wednesday, 2/11 at 7:30pm
- Young Single Adults (20s and 30s): Wednesday, 2/11 at 8:30pm
- WOSE members, Women of the Parish: Thursday, 2/12 at 6pm
- Families with Children 5 and under: Sunday, February 15 after 10:45am Mass
- Teens: Sunday, 2/15 at 6pm - includes Pizza
- Parents of Teens: Sunday, 2/15 at 6pm - includes Pizza
- Young Single Adults (20s and 30s): Sunday, February 15 at 7:30pm



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



Security Project Update!

Our new doors and secure access system are now in place, and we're in the final stages of completing the reception office and hallway. Thank you for your patience while this work has been underway — we truly appreciate it!

Once the project is finished, access to Preschool and PSR classrooms will be limited during school hours. We'll be working with ministry leaders to share clear procedures.

Because our campus is active all week with classes, staff, and parish events, managing building access helps us know who is present, prevents unauthorized entry during children's programming, and supports a safe, secure environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued support.

Keep Our Confirmands in Your Prayers!

We were blessed to welcome Hard As Nails Ministries for our Confirmation Retreat last weekend and are grateful for their energy and witness as they helped our PSR students prepare to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Our confirmands receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, February 10. Keep them in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey.



You are invited to



Sign Up



Behold the Lamb

Lenten Adoration

at St Edward the Confessor

Mondays during Lent

Starting February 23rd

Before Mass beginning at 6am
then After Mass ending at 10pm

Live Music on
March 2nd, 9th
and 16th
from 7-8pm

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

Session Topics:

Feb. 25 | The Prologue

*Why the Catechism exists and
how it helps us grow (paragraphs 1-25)*

March 4 | Part I:

The Profession of Faith

Unpacking the 12 Articles of the Creed

March 11 | Part II:

Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Understanding the 7 Sacraments

March 18 | Part III:

Life in Christ

*The meaning behind the
10 Commandments*

March 25 | Part IV:

Christian Prayer

*Walking through the 7
petitions of the Our Father*

CATECHISM 101

Give Yourself the Gift of Going Deeper

Come to learn. Come to grow. Come to renew your faith.

Because the more we understand our faith, the more fully we can live it. The rewards are heavenly.

Whether you are brand new, brushing up, or have been Catholic your whole life, you are warmly invited to join us for a 5-week journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church—the guide that explains what we believe, how we worship, and how we live and pray as Catholics.

Each week offers a clear, engaging overview of one major section of the Catechism. No theology degree required—just bring your curiosity and an open heart. All participants receive a free Catechism and a set of index tabs to help you explore it with confidence.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.



Fish Fry Time = Clean Out Time!

Fish Fry prep is underway, and that means it's clean-up time! Our Parish Hall Lost & Found and the kitchen "mystery items" shelf are both overflowing. If you've been missing a hat, sweater, umbrella, dish, pan, serving utensil, crockpot or other personal item, this is your sign to come take a look! Anything left behind will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store so it can bless someone else. Thanks for helping us clear the space for another great Fish Fry season!

St. Vincent de Paul Donations

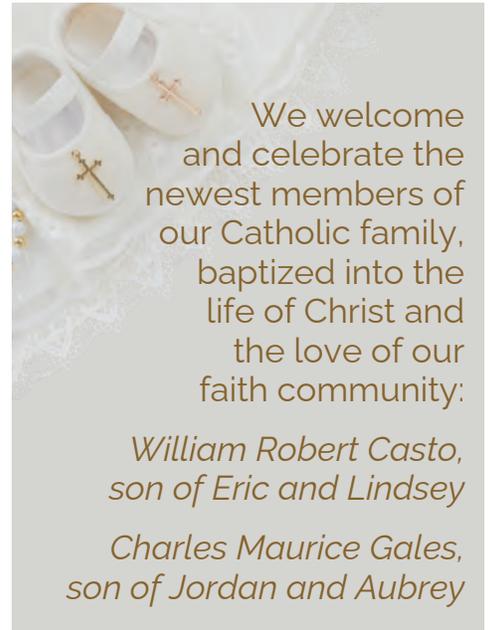
Food Pantry - This week, the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry has requested donations of cereal and spaghetti sauce. Please consider supporting our neighbors in need by donating a can or two. NEW COLLECTION LOCATION: Items can now be brought to the Conference Room/Counting Room just across from Fr. Hayes' 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.



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

William Robert Casto, son of Eric and Lindsey

Charles Maurice Gales, son of Jordan and Aubrey



This weekend is

Welcome Sunday

Enjoy coffee & donuts in Enke Parish Hall after both Sunday Masses



Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026

Join us for Mass 9:00 a.m. | 7:00 p.m.



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 packet in the Preschool Office or Gathering Space.

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



Interested in becoming Catholic, or learning more about your faith?

Inquire about OCIA today!



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

“See, I am making all things new.”

Rev 21:5



Scan the February Focolare Word of Life above or visit focolaremedia.com

FOCOLARE MEDIA
Word of Life

Stay in Touch!

Our Flocknote email is the way to stay up-to-date on happenings at St. Edward Church



Scan the QR code to join, or register online at StEdwardChurch.flocknote.com

The CATHOLIC TIMES

Moving to All-Digital Reporting

For more than a decade, there has been ongoing discussion regarding the sustainability of the Catholic Times newspaper. The cost of producing the Catholic Times has risen significantly, while having a limited reach. The digital sphere has antiquated waiting for news to arrive at your doorstep, as information is available at our fingertips 24/7. The time is right to refocus diocesan monies, resources, and staff to a more dynamic, cost-effective, and far-reaching platform.

In mid-February, The Catholic Times will be moving to a solely digital platform. We are proud of the publication, the contributors, and the hard work of our staff. Now, we can amplify the good news of the 23 counties of our diocese to an even greater degree. Scan the QR code to read more about this exciting change in the Catholic Times.



Ministry Schedule



February 14-15 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Lisa Cannon Bill Hoekstra Karen Kolbe Stefanie Manley	Erin Lane	Kevin Bollo (sub req.) Arianna Carter NOT FILLED
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Leo Fox Suzanne Fox Bonnie Kinney Marian Skeen	Mindy Skeldon	Francis Aransky Brooklyn Aransky Sydney Miller
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Lisa Barrett Von Downing Margo Downing Noelle Gremling Steve Heist Bernadette Lieberth	Sheila Heist	Calvin Harms John Milligan Katelyn Shaw

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Sponsors of the Week

Jeffery James
Financial Advisor
740-587-2746
jeffery.james@nm.com
Granville, OH 43023
www.jefferyjames.com



CATECHISM *corner*

CATECHISM CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

Spend 5 minutes this week with paragraph 1 of the Catechism. It's short—about 80 words—but rich in meaning.

CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

In paragraph 1 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, God calls us to three things. What are those three things?

Look in next week's bulletin for the answer!

NO CATECHISM? NO PROBLEM!

Scan the QR code to read the Catechism online.



ST. EDWARD
YOUTH GROUP
7-12 GRADE
SCHEDULE
2026

FEB 8

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

FEB 15

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

FEB 22

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

MAR 1

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

MAR 8

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

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY](https://www.instagram.com/st.edwards_youth_ministry)

Lenten Soup Suppers

Tuesdays in Lent | 6:00 p.m.
Enke Parish Hall

This Lent, join us to sample delicious soups while participating in an inspiring video series: **Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues** with Bishop Robert Barron

In this powerful series, Bishop Barron explores the seven deadly sins—the spiritual roadblocks that prevent us from flourishing in our relationship with God. Drawing inspiration from Dante Alighieri and Mount Purgatory, he presents these sins as patterns of dysfunction that lead to unhappiness and spiritual stagnation.

But there is hope.

Each deadly sin is paired with a "lively virtue." These virtues serve as spiritual antidotes, guiding us upward on our journey toward holiness and heaven.

Come for one evening or the whole series to strengthen your virtue and prepare your heart for Easter!

Schedule:

- ◆ February 24 | Pride & Humility
- ◆ March 3 | Envy & Admiration;
Anger & Forgiveness

- ◆ March 10 | Sloth & Zeal
- ◆ March 17 | Avarice & Generosity;
Gluttony & Asceticism
- ◆ March 24 | Lust & Chastity





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

Monday, February 9

First Reading: 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 132:6-7, 8-10
Gospel: Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 10 | Saint Scholastica, Virgin

First Reading: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11
Gospel: Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 11

First Reading: 1 Kings 10:1-10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40
Gospel: Mark 7:14-23

Thursday, February 12

First Reading: 1 Kings 11:4-13
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40
Gospel: Mark 7:24-30

Friday, February 13

First Reading: 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15
Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Saturday, February 14 | Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

First Reading: 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22
Gospel: Mark 8:1-10

Sunday, February 15 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

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.



**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



MOTHER NATALIA



MEG HUNTER KILMER



FR. JOHN LOCOCO



ST. MARY GRACE



RACHEL MUHA



MASS CELEBRANT:
BISHOP FERNANDES



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



Meurer Associates, Inc.
Gynna Meurer
Accounting Specialist
Bookkeeping & Tax Services
740-641-2162
gtm@meurerandassociates.com
1510 W. Church St, Newark

R.A. LONG PAINTING
614-864-3951

Melinda J. Woofter, M.D.
Board Certified Dermatologist
F.A.S.M.S. accredited Mohs Surgeon
Medical, Surgical & Cosmetic Dermatology
www.granvilledoctor.com
Midwest Dermatology Centre, LLC
740-587-0778

Nolan K Cox
Financial Advisor
1640 Columbus Rd., Granville, OH 43023
740-587-4044
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Residential • Builder • Commercial
NICE CARPETS
CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME
Carpet • Vinyl • Wood • Ceramic • Laminate
Quality Since 1961
740-345-2263 1441 Fallsburg Rd. NE
FAX: 740-345-0780 Newark, OH 43055
nicecarpets@nicecarpetone.net • NiceCarpetOne.com

Protect your data assets with AlphaDefense and Managed Backup
ALPHALINK TECHNOLOGIES
1496 West Main St • Newark • 740.788.9000 • www.alink.com

THE WELLNESS WAY
WE DO HEALTH DIFFERENTLY
740.672.3630
granville@thewellnessway.com
balancedlivingchiropractor.com

Huntington
Since 1866
Kathy Kiebel
222 E. Broadway
587-3133

LINNET'S FLOWERS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS
(740) 322-6220
30 N. Park Pl Newark
linnetsflowers.com

VENSIL & CHUTE
FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • RECEPTIONS
KNOWN FOR EXCELLENCE | trusted for value
Bradley Chute, Parishioner
740-788-8808

YOUR LOCALLY INVOLVED, INFORMED REALTOR
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
JIM BIDIGARE
740.587.2000

DW DESTINATION WELLNESS
Destination Wellness is YOUR journey.
YOUR pace. YOUR Destination!
Our Mission at Destination Wellness is to empower women to embrace their holistic health journey by nurturing the mind, body and soul. We provide a welcoming and supportive women's only environment where women can connect, grow, and thrive through personalized fitness programs, mindful practices, and community engagement. Our commitment is to inspire every woman to celebrate her strength, cultivate self-love, and achieve balance in all aspects of life.

Free Estimates

Roof Ohio
REDEFINING ROOFING STANDARDS
A Division of Mr. Metal Roofs

We're not just a contractor in your community,
We're a part of the community.

614.741.3333 • www.roof-ohio.com

ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS
We specialize in: Slate / Synthetic slate • Metal Roofs • Copper Gutters
Cedar Shake • James Hardie / LP

We wont just match our competitors' prices we'll beat it

EAGLE HEATING & COOLING
431 W. Broad Street • Pataskala OH 43062
740-927-1664
Service • Installation –
Residential • Commercial • Duct Fabrication
Discount Promo Code:
St. Edward (15 % off New Service/Install)

Knights of Columbus St. Edward Council #10876
Serving Parish and Community
Grand Monuments
1600 East Main St.
Newark, Ohio 43055
740-345-8772

FAHNER CONSTRUCTION
est. 2021
Concrete Driveways • Patios
Decorative Concrete
Have you had your roof checked lately?
Sometimes you can't see the damage. High Winds and Harsh Weather can damage your roof; call us today and let us see if there is any need for repairs. Don't wait until it's too late.
Precision Slate & Tile Roofing Co. Ltd.
2767 E. 4th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219
614-448-8344 • www.precisionslatertile.com
FREE Estimates

Loren Brown
President & CEO
Parishioner
THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
Parish Endowments & Donor Advised Funds
Call: 614-314-5076
lbrown@catholic-foundation.org
catholic-foundation.org

Mortellaro McDonald's

Pagani's
Auto Repair Specialist
175 Everett Avenue, Newark, OH 43055
740-345-5560 • www.paganisdowntown.com
"Service the Way it Should Be."

We treat you like family
Patient-driven care for everyone you love
Alexander Campolo, D.O. Jeremy R. Campbell, D.O.
Maria May, D.O. Lisa M. Karres, D.O. Thomas K. Petryk, M.D.
1930 Tamarack Rd Newark, Ohio 43055
740-522-7600
MSAPrimaryCare.com

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE
Mark Hedge, FICF
Field Agent
740-599-2963
mark.hedge@kofc.org
Life Insurance • Disability Income Insurance
Long-Term Care Insurance • Retirement Annuities
Protecting Catholic families since 1882

GUTRIDGE PLUMBING, INC.
GPI (614) 252-0420

Matesich Distributing Co.
1190 E. Main Street, Newark 740-349-8686

AJ Gaul
Golf Instructor
Denison Golf Club
Newark Golf Factory
ajgau035@gmail.com
740-975-9116
THE NEWARK GOLF FACTORY

Making a First Impression ...
Leaving a Lasting Memory
First Impressions Maternity Services

Zackary Birchard, D.O. Robert Mueller, M.D. Kevin Ouweleen, M.D. Andrew Terlecky, D.O.
1717 West Main Street, Suite 201 • Newark, Ohio 43055 • (220) 564-2900

LANCER Car Wash
640 E. Main Street
Hebron, Ohio 43025
www.LancerCarWash.com

Licking Memorial Hospital LMHealth.org

Licking Memorial Orthopedic Surgery LMHealth.org

www.LancerCarWash.com

Edward, Granville, OH Inside 1-#20915-JM-2/3/26

Downey's Carpet Care of Granville

(740) 587-4258

A family tradition of service excellence, since 1897.

MARK A. CENEVIVA, O.D.
Independent Doctor of Optometry

WAL-MART VISION CENTERS

Health Office: 9111 Hebron Rd. 740-522-2553
Newark Office: 1315 North 21st St. 740-364-9130

OUTDOOR GEAR, CLOTHING DENISON & GRANVILLE APPAREL

Come Visit Us In-Store or Online!
www.everestgear.com

FACEBOOK: EVERESTGEAR.COM

Hope Timber Garden & Vintage

2135 W. Main Street • Newark, Ohio 43055
740-522-6558
hopetimbergardencenter.com

Rehab Associates
Physical & Occupational Therapy
30+ years of excellent care
1220 Hebron Rd., Heath Ohio 43056
740-345-2837
rehabassociates.net

RIVER ROAD Coffeehouse
Coffee & Community
935 River Rd. Granville 587-7266
973 N. 21st St. Newark 366-3356

www.momnet.com

Call Mike Greene for all of your RICOH equipment needs.
740.973.3419
mike.greene@momnet.com
51 N. 3rd St. Suite 102 | Newark, Ohio

mom
modern office methods

Howard Hannah
Real Estate Services
Kelly & Company
Kelly Parker, REALTOR®

kelly@kellyparkerhome.com
740-334-9777
kellyparkerhome.com

STONE PILLAR CONSTRUCTION
ROAD BLDG. TRAVELER.

WE WORK WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING AND DESIGN PROCESS. EFFECTIVELY LISTENING TO YOUR WANTS AND IDEAS, TRANSFORMING YOUR VISION INTO REALITY.

614-206-0025
STONEPILLARCONSTRUCTION.COM

Always Forward CrossFit
Small Group Fitness with Friends
80 Westgate Dr., Granville
Craig McDonald, Co-owner
alwaysforwardcrossfit.com
info@alwaysforwardcrossfit.com

Since 1914
Four Generations Family Owned

Minuteman Press Newark
WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!

Laura & Tim Collins
44 S. 4th Street Newark
740.345.4494
www.mpnewark.com

CENTRAL OHIO DENTAL SPA

Sy Viet Nguyen, DDS, LLC
740-344-8692

MIDDLETON SENIOR LIVING
Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care.
740-587.0059
middletonseniorliving.com

Northwestern Mutual
A better way to money™

Perks Pusateri
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
210 E. Broad St., Pataskala • (740) 927-0991
Grant Perks, Parishioner

THE EYE SITE
WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS
BRETT A. DIETZ, O.D.
NANCY R. DIETZ, O.D.

Granville Office: (740) 587-4970
Millersport Office: (740) 467-2525

BEAR PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

- Residential and Commercial Inspections
- Mold & Radon Testing and WDI/Termite Inspections
- Discounts for All Military, First Responders & Teachers
- Walk-through Consultations

614-425-1847

30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
CRAFTING AMAZING, PERSONALIZED TRIPS!
Call 614-396-7126
www.greatatravel.com
angel@greatatravel.com

Leavitt Group
Independent Insurance Agency

Matt McDermott, Agent
(740) 345-9574 • 303 N. 21 St, Newark, OH
matt-mcdermott@leavitt.com • www.leavitt.com/midwest

CROCK ORTHODONTICS

175 McMillen Dr., Newark, OH 43055
740-344-3372 • www.crockortho.com

Morrow, Gordon & Byrd, Ltd.
James R. Cooper
Attorney at Law
Cell (740) 398-2347
jcooper@mgblolaw.com

nest
Where your natural glow begins.
(740) 644-0631
nestmedicalspa.org

Sofia Davila M.D. • 205 1/2 S Prospect St., Granville

AUTOMOTIVE PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL

DENT SOLUTIONS

- 34 Years Experience
- Hail Damage
- Body Line Dents
- Crease Dents
- Door Dings
- Motorcycles

ERIC CLAEYS 740-404-5508
147 Westgate Drive, Granville • By Appointment Only
www.dentsolutionsofohio.com

Timothy L. Miller, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Specialist

Team physician for Ohio State Athletics and the Granville Blue Aces. Offices at Outpatient Care New Albany and the Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute.
sportsmedicine.osu.edu | 614-366-2716

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Sports medicine clinics located throughout central Ohio, including our newest Musculoskeletal Clinic at Denison University.

Advanced Heating & Cooling, Inc.
James T. Crowley, Jr.
President
TRANE 740-454-1259
jcrowle2@columbus.rr.com

REAL ESTATE LOANS
PURCHASE | CONSTRUCTION REFINANCE
Matt McKenzie
740-893-6369
MFC NMLS ID 319422

PREMIER HOME HEALTH
SKILLED NURSING • REHAB THERAPY
ohiopremierhomehealth.com
35 S. Park Place, Ste. 100 • Newark, OH
740-281-3001

Elizabeth McAnally, President
Our Team Takes Ownership of Your Care!

THINKING OF RETIRING?

VAN WINKLE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC
Protecting Your Retirement

263 Deo Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055
www.safemoneyplaces.net
740-366-1110/Toll Free 1-866-366-1110

Brian Van Winkle
Parishioner

READ-EGAN FUNERAL HOME
141 GREEN WAVE DR. • NEWARK
740-344-6106

KFC®

Newark: 38 N. Cedar St. 345-5175
Heath: 830 S. 30th St. 522-2668

NATURAL IMAGE
PREMIER LANDSCAPE SERVICES

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
HARDSCAPING
MAINTENANCE
LAWNCARE
LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

740-403-8063
www.naturalimagepropertieservices.com

Mickey's Roofing
Roofing, Gutter & Small Roofing Repairs
Free Estimates
3013 Raccoon Valley Rd. • Granville
740-587-2645
www.mickeysroofing.com

MidCity Auto Body
"TRUSTED REPAIRS, QUALITY SERVICE"
OWNED BY TOM, BRANDON & LACEY YONKER
WWW.MIDCITYAUTOBODY.COM (740) 366-1610

PORTAKLEEN
800.972.3800
portakleen.com

Contact us today for your next event.
Proudly serving the Granville community since 1995.

McPeck Hoekstra Hoskinson
Funeral & Cremation Service

Lisa Bruns
Licensed Funeral Director
Member of St. Edward
MCPECKHOEKSTRA.COM
133 South Prospect St. Granville, OH 43023
740-587-0161

740-587-3656
909 River Rd Granville
www.villagepetmarket.com

THE DENTIST
Jeffrey C. Kirian, DDS, LLC
740 N. 21ST STREET • NEWARK • Parishioners
740-366-1236 • www.thedentist.us • Accepting New Patients

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS. TO PLACE AN AD CALL 1-800-292-9020

Edward, Granville, OH #20927-JM-17/26

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

“Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear. Let us seek her intercession with this ancient prayer, that has been invoked in families for those living with illness and pain: Sweet Mother, do not part from me. Turn not your eyes away from me. Walk with me at every moment and never leave me alone. You who always protect me as a true Mother, obtain for me the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” +POPE LEO XIV, EXCERPT: MESSAGE, 34TH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Monday, February 9 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: 6:53-56 After making the crossing to the other side of the sea, Jesus and his disciples came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.

Meditation: Believing and trusting in God to act in our lives is only possible by the grace and help of the Holy Spirit who moves the heart and converts it to God. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the mind and helps us to understand, accept, and believe God's word. How do we grow in faith? By simply listening to God's word above all others, and do so with trust and submission. Faith also grows through testing and perseverance. The Lord wants to teach us how to pray in faith for his will for our lives and for the things he wishes to give us to enable us to follow him faithfully and serve him generously. Jesus gave his disciples the perfect prayer which acknowledges God as our Father who provides generously for his children. The *Lord's Prayer* teaches us to seek first the kingdom of God and to pray that God's will be accomplished in our lives. The Lord in turn, gives us what we need to live each day for his glory. The Lord is neither too distant nor too busy to meet us and to give each of us his blessing.

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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: Notice how when Jesus disembarked from the boat the people immediately recognized him. What did they recognize in Jesus? Jesus as the prophet, the healer, the Messiah, the Son of God? All of these? For sure they recognized that Jesus had the power from God to heal and to make whole bodies, limbs, minds, and hearts that were diseased, afflicted, and with sin. What happened when they pressed upon him and touched the fringe of his garment? They were made well. Jesus Christ is always ready to meet our needs as well. Do you approach Jesus with expectant faith? If not, what's holding you back?

Tuesday, February 10 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Scholastica, Virgin**

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1-13 When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. (For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He

responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: *This people honors me with their lips, / but their hearts are far from me; / In vain do they worship me, / teaching as doctrines human precepts.* You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition! For Moses said, *Honor your father and your mother, and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.* Yet you say, 'If someone says to father or mother, "Any support you might have had from me is *qorban*"' (meaning, dedicated to God), you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother. You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things."

Meditation: The Jewish people went to great pains to ensure that their worship would conform to the instructions which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. God's call to his people was a call to holiness: "be holy, for I am holy" (ref. Leviticus 11:44; 19:2). In their zeal for holiness many elders developed elaborate traditions which became a burden for the people to carry out in their everyday lives. The Scribes and Pharisees were upset with Jesus because he allowed his disciples to break with their ritual traditions by eating with unclean hands. They sent a delegation from Jerusalem to Galilee to bring their accusation in a face-to-face confrontation with Jesus. Jesus dealt with their accusation by going to the heart of the matter – by looking at God's intention and purpose for the commandments.

Prayer: As we celebrate anew the Memorial of the Virgin Saint Scholastica, we pray, O Lord, that, following her example, we may serve you with pure love and happily receive what comes from loving you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus accused them specifically of two things. The first was hypocrisy. Like actors, who put on make-up and costumes to put on a show, they "appear" to obey God's word in their external practices while in reality they inwardly harbor evil desires and intentions – appearances can be deceiving. Secondly, he accused them of abandoning God's word by substituting their own arguments and ingenious interpretations for what God requires. They listened to clever arguments rather than to God's word. Jesus refers them to the prophecy of Isaiah (29:31) where the prophet accuses the people of his day for honoring God with their lips while their hearts went astray because of disobedience to God's laws. If we listen to God's word with faith and reverence, it will both enlighten our mind and purify the hearts – thus enabling us to better understand how he wants us to love and obey him. The Lord invites each of us to draw close to him and to feast at his banquet table. As you are invited, do you approach with a clean heart and a clean mind – one free from sin? If it's been a while, perhaps you might get into the confessional and receive absolution from a priest for your sins. The Season of Lent is fast approaching, but why wait – there's no time like the present to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Wednesday, February 11 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Our Lady of Lourdes + 34th World Day of the Sick

**Place your prayer petitions at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes + Lourdes, France
Go to: <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/intention-priere/>**

**Message of Pope Leo XIV for the 34th World Day of the Sick
Go to: [https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html)**

[xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html)

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11 On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with His disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

Meditation: This particular miracle signifies the new rich wine of the Gospel and it points to the "wine of the new covenant" and the "bread of life" which Jesus provides for his disciples in the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. It also points to the Messianic banquet which Jesus will provide at the end of time. The miracles

of Jesus demonstrate the power of God's love and mercy for his people. God's kindness knows no limits. And the ultimate expression of his love is revealed in the person of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He became flesh for our sake, and he died for our redemption, and he rose for our glorification.

Prayer: Grant us, O merciful God, protection in our weakness, that we, who keep the Memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God, may with the help of her intercession, rise up from our iniquities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes: O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

Contemplation: God reveals his glory in the unlikeliest of places — in a stable at Bethlehem, at a wedding feast in Cana, in a muddy Jordan river, and on a bloody cross on Golgatha. Jesus' first public miracle (his first sign) was performed at the insistence of his mother. Jesus blessed a young couple and brought joy to their wedding party. First by his presence, and second by saving them from embarrassment when the wine ran out. Changing water into wine was a remarkable act of kindness; but giving the best to last was unnecessary and unheard of. In the Old Testament wine was often seen as a gift and symbol of God's blessing (ref. Deuteronomy 7:13; Proverbs 3:10, Psalm 105). That Jesus would miraculously produce 120 gallons of the best wine (many times more than needed) shows the superabundance of the blessings which he came to offer. These blessings also pour forth through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernadette (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures, healings and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is simple — one of personal conversion, prayer, and charity. With Lent on the horizon — less than one week away — how might you engage in personal conversion, prayer and charity, or seek healing?

About Our Lady of Lourdes: The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes. The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue girdle. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions. With childlike simplicity Bernadette once sprinkled holy water on the vision, fearing that it was a deception of the evil spirit; but the Blessed Virgin smiled pleasantly, and her face became even more lovely. The third time Mary appeared she invited the girl to come to the grotto daily for two weeks. Now she frequently spoke to Bernadette. On one occasion she ordered her to tell the ecclesiastical authorities to build a church on the spot and to organize processions. Bernadette also was told to drink and wash at the spring still hidden under the sand. Finally on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The report of cures occurring at the grotto spread quickly and the more it spread, the greater the number of Christians who visited the hallowed place. The publicity given these miraculous events on the one hand and the seeming sincerity and innocence of the girl on the other made it necessary for the bishop of Tarbes to institute a judicial inquiry. Four years later he declared the apparitions to be supernatural and permitted the public veneration of the Immaculate Conception in the grotto. Soon a chapel was erected, and since that time countless pilgrims come every year to Lourdes to fulfill promises or to beg graces.

Watch the movie: "Song of Bernadette" + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMeVzk2ALU8>

Thursday, February 12 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:24-30 Jesus went to the district of Tyre. He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice. Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Meditation: This passage describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon were fifty miles north of Israel and still exist today in modern Lebanon.) A Gentile woman – an outsider who was not a member of the chosen people – puts Jesus on the spot by pleading with him to show mercy to her daughter who was tormented with an evil spirit. At first Jesus seemed to pay no attention to her, and this made his disciples feel embarrassed. Jesus very likely did this not to put the woman off, but rather to test her sincerity and to awaken faith in her.

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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 praises a Gentile woman for her persistent faith and for her affectionate love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with faith – whether Jew or Gentile – was refused his help. Do you seek Jesus with expectant faith?

Friday, February 13 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37 Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (that is, "Be opened!") and immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Meditation: No problem or burden was ever too much for Jesus' careful consideration. The Lord treats each of us with kindness and compassion and he calls us to treat one another in like kind. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us enables us to love as Jesus loves. Pope Saint Gregory the Great commented on this miracle: "The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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 never turned anyone aside who approached him with sincerity and trust. He demonstrated both the beauty and goodness of God in his actions. When Jesus approaches a man who is both deaf and who stutters, Jesus shows his compassion by taking him aside privately. Jesus then puts his fingers into the deaf man's ears and he touches the man's tongue with his own spittle to physically identify with this man's infirmity and to awaken faith in him. With a word of command the poor man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. How do you expect the Lord to treat you, when you ask for his help? Do you approach him cynically and with doubt, or with awe, wonder, faith and confidence? Perhaps some relationship building would be useful during Lent? Something to think about and act upon – **Lent begins in five days, folks, with Ash Wednesday!**

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.