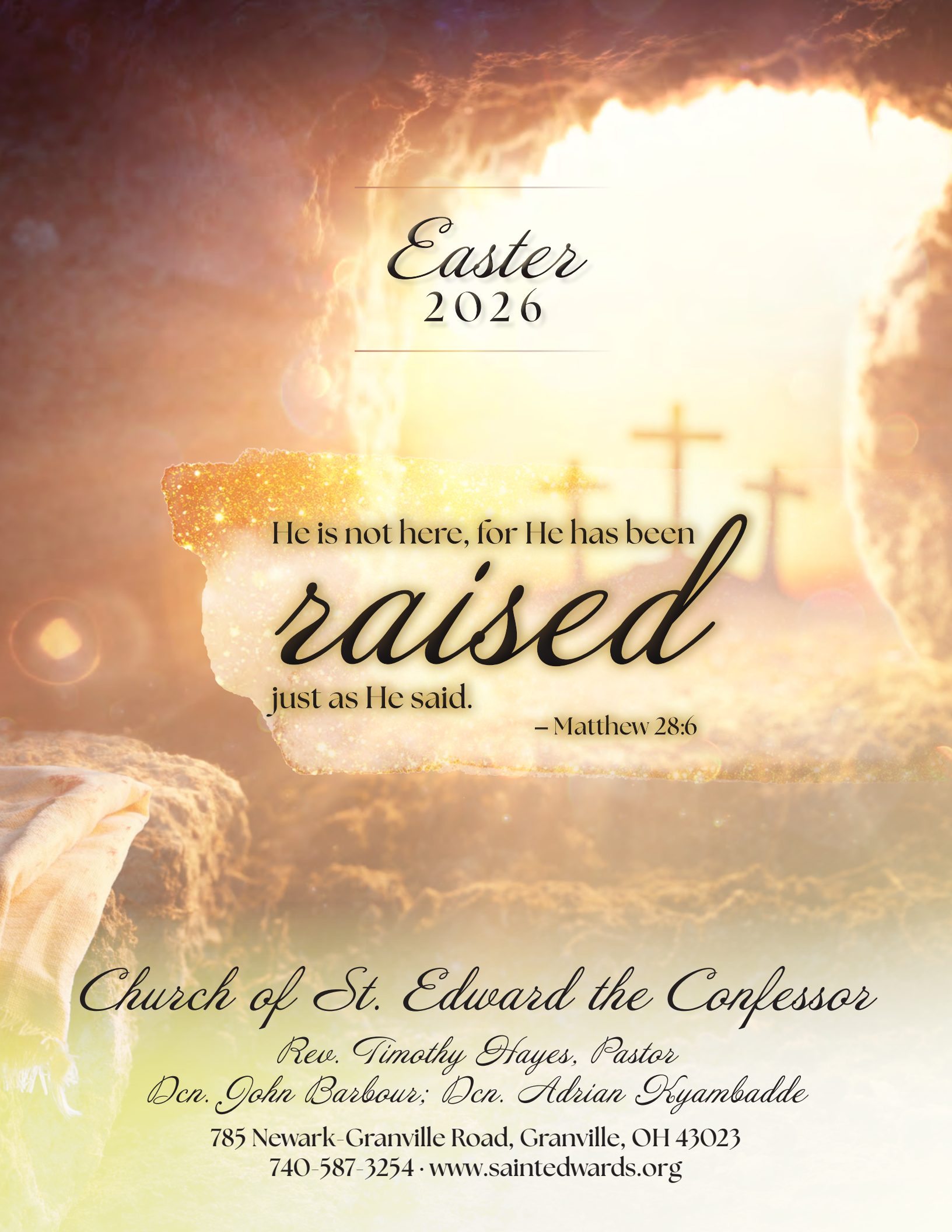


The background of the poster is a warm, golden-hued image of a bright sun rising through a cloudy sky. In the lower-left corner, a piece of white, textured fabric, resembling a burial shroud, is draped over a dark, rocky surface. In the background, three faint, golden crosses are visible against the bright sky.

Easter 2026

He is not here, for He has been

raised

just as He said.

– Matthew 28:6

Church of St. Edward the Confessor

Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor

Dcn. John Barbour; Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville, OH 43023

740-587-3254 • www.saintedwards.org



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
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St. Edward Preschool

Adrienne Evans, Director 740-587-3275
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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, April 12 | Sunday of Divine Mercy

Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

8:15 a.m. Ed & Lisa Smith (40th Anniversary) by the Smith Family

10:45 a.m. For Tom Herr (RIP) by Pattie Herr

Monday, April 13

9:00 a.m. For Jackie & Nancy Ayers by Bernadette Lieberth

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 a.m. For Rev. Raphael Moscinski (RIP) by his Family

Wednesday, April 15

9:00 a.m. For Bill Clapper (RIP) by Steve & Cathy Ehret

Thursday, April 16

9:00 a.m. For Margaret Petryk (RIP) by Thomas & Amy Petryk

Friday, April 17

9:00 a.m. For James Gallicchio (RIP) by Lisa Gallicchio Cannon & Family

Saturday, April 18

Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

5:00 p.m. For Randy Dusenberry (RIP) by Deb Dusenberry

Sunday, April 19 | Third Sunday of Easter

Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

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

10:45 a.m. For Bernadette Lieberth by Gerry & MaryAnn Moses



Scan to Give



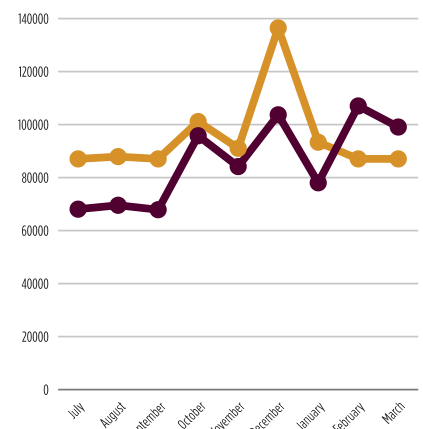
Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Edward the Confessor! To make giving even easier, scan the QR code to enroll in EFT—an automatic, secure way to give at your preferred amount and frequency. We can help you through the process, just give us a call!

	Offertory	Budget	Variance	Unanticipated Gifts*
March	\$99,087	\$87,057	\$12,030	\$0
YTD	\$773,459	\$858,212	(\$84,753)	\$170,720

*Offertory does not include Unanticipated Gifts.

Monthly Parish Offertory

● Budget ● Offertory



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 4.12	Monday 4.13	Tuesday 4.14	Wednesday 4.15
<i>Sunday of Divine Mercy</i> <i>Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul</i> 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hrezo) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms and Enke Parish Hall 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Carson Raine Churchill 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Ghiloni) 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room	9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 9:30 a.m. – Adoration	9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Right to Life Committee Meeting in the Counting Room	7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 1:00 p.m. – St. Vincent de Paul Board Meeting in the Lounge 6:00 p.m. – Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting in Enke Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group in the Church
Thursday 4.16	Friday 4.17	Saturday 4.18	Sunday 4.19
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Social in Enke Parish Hall	9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)	<i>Anointing of the Sick and Blessing of Healthcare Workers at Mass</i> <i>Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe</i> 7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall 8:00 a.m. – First Communion Jesus Day in Enke Parish Hall 4:00 p.m. – Confessions 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)	<i>Anointing of the Sick and Blessing of Healthcare Workers at all Masses</i> <i>Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe</i> 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 2:00 p.m. – First Communion 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hrezo) 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.



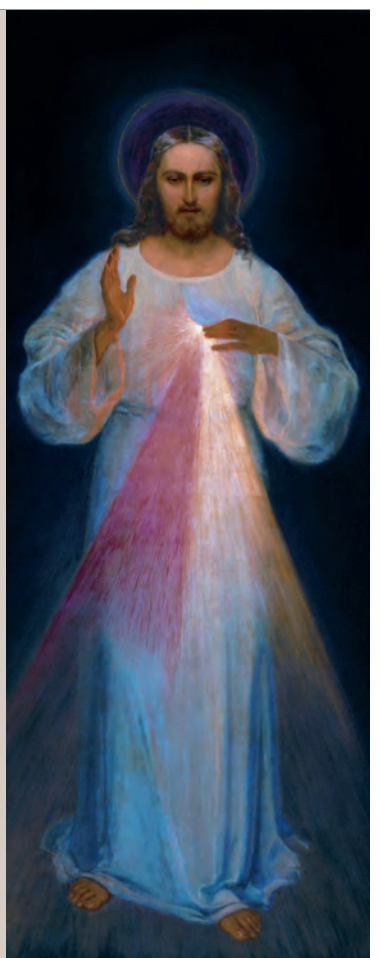
Divine Mercy

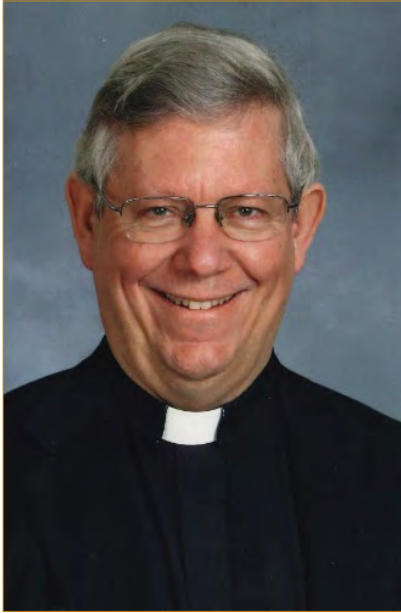
Sunday

April 12, 2026

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet here!







April 12, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

This weekend, I am taking some time away from the parish for retreat and renewal. As you know, it has been quite a long Lent, and I have been addressing health concerns. I am grateful that God has given me the strength to be present for nearly all that happened in our parish throughout the Season of Lent and to live the wonderful experience of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. I would have needed a bit of a rest in any case, and I

am truly grateful to those who are able to assist in my absence.

Divine Mercy Sunday, the Octave of Easter, is an invitation to open our hearts to the Abyss of God's Mercy. We are to abandon ourselves to the grace that flows from the Heart of Jesus, the Risen Lord and Savior. By asking for God's Mercy for ourselves, being merciful to others, and completely trusting in the power of God's Mercy to sustain us and to bring healing to the broken world, we discover the depths of God's Love for us.

We celebrated an "Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy" at the invitation of Pope Francis from December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. During that year, I concluded that Mercy can be defined as God's Love offered once again after it has been rejected. In other words, it is God's giving us Himself fully, even though we have at first failed to accept His offer. How do you see Mercy? A number of practices associated with the Divine Mercy Devotion are useful to assist us in our prayer and in our participation of what is offered to us during the Season of Easter. I commend them to you for your own life of prayer and for your family's efforts to live your Faith at home. The Divine Mercy Image was drawn from the description of Saint Faustina Kowalska, who experienced visions of Jesus with the flow of light from His side, the rays of Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy Sunday, the Hour of Mercy (3 pm), and the Divine Mercy Chaplet (prayed on the beads of the rosary) all highlight ways for us to deepen our trust in Mercy daily and especially at the moment of death. The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have a website that can help you to learn more about Divine Mercy: thedinemercy.org/message.

Next weekend, we will continue the "flow" of Mercy with a blessing for all health care workers and a communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at all Masses. The Sacraments keep us close to Jesus and teach us how to share the Easter message with the world. May the Risen Lord have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Notes from the Loft

Prelude

Psalm XIX (B. Marcello)

Introductory Rites

Opening: At the Lamb's High Feast (#177)

Sprinkling Rite: I Saw Water Flowing (arr. R. DeBruyn)
(see "Notes from the Loft")

Gloria: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict
(text on inside cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good...
(p. 141)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 142)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: We Walk by Faith (#482)

Sanctus, Mem. Acc. A, Amen, Lamb of God:

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

Communion: Ye Sons and Daughters (#183)

Concluding Rites

Closing: Sing with All the Saints in Glory (#604)

Postlude

Ite Missa Est (arr. R. Schulz-Widmar)

Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Jim Bidigare

8:15 a.m.: Laura Collins

10:45 a.m. Griffin Helms

Notes from the Loft

♪ Alleluia! He is risen! Today's Responsorial Psalm is an excerpt from Psalm 118, just like last Sunday's Psalm. The refrain is different, as are some of the verses, but it still speaks of joy, victory, mercy, and gladness. With its language of joyful gratitude to God, Psalm 118 has long been associated with the Easter season. May we indeed rejoice and be glad in every day of this second week of Easter.

♪ Words for "I Saw Water Flowing" during the Sprinkling Rite:
I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, Alleluia! Alleluia!

1) *The water flowed, Alleluia! Flowed from the temple, Alleluia!*

2) *It brought God's life, Alleluia! And his salvation, Alleluia!*

3) *The people sang, Alleluia! They sang in joyful praise, Alleluia!*

Text: Based on Ezekiel 47:1-2, 9; © 1973, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Randall DeBruyn, © 1987, OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-731140.

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

PHASE 2: Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities

(APRIL – JUNE '26)



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

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

A Strategic Plan Rooted in Faith, Not Just Function.

We are grateful for the strong participation in our Strategic Planning listening sessions and parish survey as we now enter Phase II of the process.

Your input is already helping shape the future of St. Edward the Confessor Parish. This is not a typical business strategic plan, but one centered on the spiritual renewal and growth of our parish, guiding us more deeply into faith formation and discipleship. As we move forward, we are carefully discerning the best way to share what we've heard, including key themes from the listening sessions and survey results.

Thank you for your continued prayers and participation as we walk this journey together.

Welcome to our Parish Family

Congratulations to all who received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil! As they begin to participate more fully in the life of the Church as members of our parish family, please keep Liam, Alexandra, Stacey, Zoey, Madison, Matthew, Renee, Leo, and Hunter in your prayers.



Open House
this Sunday after
10:45 am Mass!



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



Celebrate Deacon Adrian!

Celebrate and support Deacon Adrian after Masses on May 9 and 10. He is graduating from The Pontifical College Josephinum on May 16 and preparing for ordination in Uganda this July. If you would like to give a gift, contributions are being collected through the Parish to help provide him a vehicle supporting safe travel among the parishes he will serve.



A Note from Deacon Adrian:

Time comes and goes; it never waits. However, it always teaches us life lessons. I remember starting my seminary journey, which took me eight full years to complete. At first, I thought I would never finish, so I decided to do what I could and leave the rest to God. Now, I look forward to my ordination as a priest on July 25, 2026. As part of my journey, I had the opportunity to travel to the United States to pursue my theological studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum. I was extremely fortunate, by God's will, also to meet the kindest people here at Church of St. Edward the Confessor. My first experience: I was shy and struggled to reach out to you. Honestly, you have helped me grow into a confident person through numerous interactions, listening to my homilies, bearing with my accent, and often not understanding what I am saying. I sincerely thank you for welcoming me and opening yourselves up through various parish activities.

I am excited to share the great news that, God willing, I will be ordained a priest in my home country, Uganda. I plan to dedicate my entire life there, serving God's people with love and commitment. You are all invited to the ordination; if you cannot attend, please feel free to visit me at any time of the year in Uganda. Don't forget to reach out at akyambadde915@gmail.com.

CATECHISM102

Building on a great start with **Catechism 101**, we're continuing with a four-part series on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Whether you've attended before or are new, you're invited to explore what we believe, how we worship, and how we live and pray. Participants receive a *Catechism* and set of index tabs.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

April 22 | Part II:

The Paschal mystery in the age of the Church; Sacramental celebration of the Paschal Mystery; Liturgical diversity and the unity of the mystery

May 6 | Part III:

The dignity of the human person; The human community; God's salvation law and grace

May 20 | Part IV:

The revelation of prayer; The tradition of prayer; The life of prayer

7 PM | THE LOUNGE

Receive the Sacrament of Anointing

On April 18 and 19, the Anointing of the Sick will be offered at all Masses.

All who are experiencing a serious illness or living with a chronic condition are encouraged to receive this Sacrament of healing.





PSR Fees Due For 2025-2026

Fees for 2025-2026 PSR classes are due. If you have outstanding fees, please scan the QR code to submit your payment online. The fee amounts are as follows: **\$110 for one student; \$195 for two students; \$225 for three or more students.** If you are unsure whether your fees have been submitted, please contact the PSR Office at 740-587-4160.

St. Vincent de Paul Donations –Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has requested additional donations of **canned pasta, spaghetti sauce, and tuna.** Please consider contributing a few items to support our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity!

NEW FOOD COLLECTION LOCATION: Items can now be brought to the Conference Room/ Counting Room across from Fr. Hayes' office. The same wooden container is located just behind the door.



Women's Virtual Bible Study

Gather with other women for a **Walking with Purpose virtual Bible Study, beginning the week of May 4.** This study offers opportunities to find community and form authentic friendships while discovering the depth of God's love for you and learning how the Gospels relate to your relationship with God and others. Multiple time and date options are available; scan the QR code to sign up!

Support the Scouts

The local Catholic scout group will be in the Gathering Space **on Saturday, April 11 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass and on Sunday, April 12 after the 10:45 a.m. Mass** to offer mulch sales and to share information about scouting. Stop by their table for more information.

Around the Diocese



Lunch with Licking Vocations Club

Share lunch with Licking Vocations Club on **Tuesday, April 14 at 12 pm in St. Francis' Murphy Hall,** featuring a talk by Fr. Nimocks. Admission is \$5, and funds collected go toward projects, cards, donations, and Masses for seminarians, priests, and religious. For details, contact Barb at 740-404-8075 or Deb at 740-334-3147.

Catholic Men's Luncheon

Gather with other Catholic men **on Friday, May 1 at St. Patrick Church (Columbus)** for a luncheon and talk by Chuck Janes of Kairos Prison Ministry on "Transforming Lives and Communities." Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 am followed by lunch and program at 12:10 pm. No reservations are necessary, but please bring \$12 for lunch. The luncheon is sponsored by Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. You can learn more about their work at kairosprisonministry.org. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com.

St. Charles Offering Summer Programs, Camps, and Classes

This June and July, St. Charles is hosting 35 exciting camps and classes for students of all ages and interests. Options include co-ed camps in Track & Field, Robotics, Volleyball, and Ice Hockey! Students can also participate in Camp Cardinal, a fun-filled day camp exploring the best of St. Charles, along with Baseball, Basketball, Borromeo Project, Engineering, Football, Lacrosse, Quiz Bowl, Soccer, Speed Camp, Ultimate Frisbee, and Wrestling camps. For incoming freshmen, St. Charles also offers readiness courses in Latin, Algebra, English Preparation, and Study Skills. To register or learn more, visit scprep.org and select "Summer Programs" under the "Admissions" section. For questions, contact Ryan Aiello at 380-209-2248 or raiello@scprep.org.

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, Loyola and Lourdes

You are invited to join the Diocese of Steubenville's Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Timothy Huffman on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, Loyola, and Lourdes on **September 10-20, 2026.** Highlights include the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem, the Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, the Chapel of Conversion where St. Ignatius of Loyola had his conversion, the Convent of St. Teresa of Avila, and more! The cost is \$5,346 per person (based on double occupancy) and includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh (other departure cities available). For details, visit QoHTours.com or call 1-800-213-4295.



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

*Carson Raine Churchill,
daughter of Collin & Madison*

In Loving Memory

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of Kenneth E. Carney, husband of parishioner Lisa Ford, and parishioner Raymond Paumier. Please keep Ken, Raymond, and their families in your prayers.

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



Easter Flowers 2026 continued

In Loving Memory

Robert J. Dodd, Jr.;
Kristian D. Wilson
by the Dodd Family

Gloria Kiechel
by John & Meg Paolacci



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

Inquire about OCIA today!



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

*"Stay with us, because it
is almost evening."*

Lk 24:29



Scan the April
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

Scholarships Available to St. Edward Parishioners

Two \$1,500 scholarships—the Father Lowery
Scholarship and the Bernice and Joe Ciricosta
Scholarship—are now open to parishioners who
are actively pursuing a post-secondary program.

Scan to apply online.
Applications are due by May 18.



Ministry Schedule



April 18-19 | Third Sunday of Easter

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Lisa Cannon Adrienne Carter Andrew Morey Mandy Vadala	Helen Anderson	Arianna Carter Luke Priano NOT FILLED
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Leo Fox Bonnie Kinney David Lammert Kris Whiting Lisa Barrett Noelle Gremling Robin Krempel Joe Krempel Annie Lach David Tarrant	Michael Whiting Christopher Haight	Daphne Harms Avery Miller Sydney Miller Claire Skinner Cooper Skinner Carter Skinner

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Sponsors of the Week



CATECHISM *corner*

CATECHISM CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

Read paragraph 120 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What is the "canon" of Scripture? How many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

Look in next week's bulletin for the answer!

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What does the word "Church" mean?

The word "Church" means "convocation." It designates the assembly of those whom God's Word "convokes" to form the People of God, and who, nourished by the Eucharist—the Body of Christ—become the Body of Christ.

NO CATECHISM? NO PROBLEM!

Scan the QR code to read the *Catechism* online.



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

APR 12 YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

APR 19 YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

APR 25 YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

MAY 3 YOUTH GROUP HOMELESS OUTREACH
2:00- 6:00 PM, ST. ED KITCHEN

MAY 10 NO YOUTH GROUP - MOTHER'S DAY!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

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

Keep Our Grounds *Beautiful*

Do you have a green thumb?
Consider joining our landscaping ministry
to help keep our parish grounds looking
lovely all year.

Contact the Parish Office for details:
740.587.3254 | church@saintedwards.org



HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

JOIN US EACH 1ST THURSDAY TO PRAY FOR
AN INCREASE IN PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

MARCH 5TH - SETON PARISH, PICKERINGTON
8:30AM MASS
9:00 AM HOLY HOUR

APRIL 2ND - HOLY THURSDAY

MAY 7TH - ST. PAUL, WESTERVILLE
5:00 PM - HOLY HOUR
6:15 PM MASS

JUNE 4TH - ST. FRANCIS DESALES, NEWARK
9:00 AM - MASS
9:30 AM - HOLY HOUR

JULY 2ND - TBD



Sunday, April 12 | Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Monday, April 13

First Reading: Acts 4:23-31

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9

Gospel: John 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 14

First Reading: Acts 4:32-37

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5

Gospel: John 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 15

First Reading: Acts 5:17-26

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Gospel: John 3:16-21

Thursday, April 16

First Reading: Acts 5:27-33

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20

Gospel: John 3:31-36

Friday, April 17

First Reading: Acts 5:34-42

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

Gospel: John 6:1-15

Saturday, April 18

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Gospel: John 6:16-21

Sunday, April 19 | Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Pope Leo XIV

Intentions of the Month:

April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Ohio Dominican University
Salt & Light's 3rd Annual

5K Run & Walk

Saturday, April 18

1216 Sunbury Rd., Columbus

Registration | 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Kid Dash | 9:45 a.m.

5K | 10 a.m.



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Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

"[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy."
+JESUS SPEAKING TO SAINT FAUSTINA; EXCERPTED FROM THE *DIARY OF SR. M. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA*

Monday, April 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-8 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Meditation: Notice how hungry Nicodemus was for God's word – so hungry that he became the closest disciple of Jesus. He sought Jesus out, though surreptitiously in the dead of the night. Why? Nicodemus was a "leader of the Jews" and "a teacher of Israel" (ref. John 3:10), and a member of the religious party most opposed to the teaching of Jesus. In fact it was Nicodemus' own group, the Pharisees, which intimidated the authorities against confessing Jesus (ref. John 12:42). Instead he engaged him in a seemingly unrelated topic of conversation. Jesus said that rebirth was necessary to enter the kingdom of God. Of course, Nicodemus the Pharisee had already found religion, so he thought that Jesus must have referred to physical rebirth. No, Jesus responded, someone who is reborn spiritually knows the experience as surely as one who has been refreshed by an invisible breeze. How can a respected rabbi among the Jews not know this? And that is precisely the point. Nicodemus is the first of what we might loosely call the official clergy with whom Jesus has personal engagement. The Gospel portrays Nicodemus as a defender of Jesus' right to a fair trial (ref. John 7:51). Nicodemus also helped to bury Jesus with honor. Nicodemus did not understand the new birth which Jesus spoke of until after the resurrection.

Prayer: Grant we pray, almighty God, that we, who have been renewed by Paschal remedies, transcending the likeness of our earthly parentage, may be transformed in the image of our heavenly maker. 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: We're familiar with the term "born again" or to be "reborn" in Christ. What does it mean? The new birth Jesus speaks of is a spiritual birth to new life and relationship with God as his sons and daughters. This new birth is made possible when one is baptized into Christ and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. God wants to renew all his people in the gift of new life in his Holy Spirit. This new life brings us into God's kingdom or heavenly rule – a never-ending life of love, peace, joy, and freedom from sin and the fear of death. Do you know the joy and freedom of new life in Jesus Christ?

Tuesday, April 14 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 3:7b-15 Jesus said to Nicodemus: "'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, 'How can this

happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

Meditation: Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the power of his cross and a "new birth in the Spirit." The Hebrew word for "spirit" means both "wind" and "breath." Jesus said to Nicodemus: "You can hear, feel, and see the effects of the wind, but you do not know where it comes from. In like manner, you can see the effects of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those the Spirit touches." Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus the necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection by analogy with Moses and the bronze serpent in the desert. When the people of Israel were afflicted with serpents in the wilderness because of their sin, God instructed Moses: "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live" (Book of Numbers 21:8).

Prayer: Enable us, we pray, almighty God, to proclaim the power of the risen Lord, that we, who have received the pledge of his gift, may come to possess all he gives when it is fully revealed. 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 bronze serpent points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising and exaltation to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only redeems us, but he fills us with his own divine life and power that we might share in his glory. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit that we may have power to be his witnesses and to spread and defend the gospel by word and action, and to never be ashamed of the Cross of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us his seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (ref. Isaiah 11) that we may live for God and serve him in the power of his strength. Do you thirst for new life in the Spirit?

Wednesday, April 15 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 3:16-21 God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Meditation: Do you know the love which surpasses all else? A true lover holds nothing back but gives the best that can be offered, even everything in their possession for the beloved. God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer – his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world. Abraham's willing sacrifice of his only son, Isaac prefigures the perfect offering and sacrifice of God's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. This passage in the gospel of John tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love. God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love.

Prayer: As we recall year by year the mysteries by which, through the restoration of its original dignity, human nature has received the hope of rising again, we earnestly beseech your mercy, Lord, that what we celebrate in faith we may possess in unending love. 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 shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. This all takes place by the choices we make – our "free will." If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else?

Does he take first place in your life, in your thoughts, and actions? Are your choices guided by the love of God? If not, why not?

Thursday, April 16 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 3:31-36 The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

Meditation: God's truth has consequences and he gives us the freedom to choose how we will respond. The choice he gives us has eternal consequences – everlasting life or everlasting death. God challenged his people in the Old Covenant: "See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil...I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him" (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). And he issues the same challenge to the people of the New Covenant today. And so we must ask ourselves... Do you weigh the consequences of your choices? Do they lead you towards life or towards death? If you choose to obey God's voice and to do his will, then you will know and experience that life which comes from God himself. If you choose to follow your own way apart from God and his will, then you choose for death – a spiritual death which poisons and then kills the soul until there is nothing left but an empty person devoid of love, truth, goodness, purity, peace, and joy. Do your choices lead you towards God or away from God?

Prayer: O God, restorer and lover of innocence, direct the hearts of your servants towards yourself, that those you have set free from the darkness of unbelief may never stray from the light of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you hunger for the true life which God offers through the gift of his Holy Spirit? The Jews understood that God gave a certain portion of his Spirit to his prophets. When Elijah was about to depart for heaven, his servant Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit (2 Kings 2:9). Jesus tells his disciples that they can believe the words he speaks because God the Father has poured his Spirit on him in full measure, without keeping anything back. The function of the Holy Spirit is to reveal God's truth to us. When we receive the Holy Spirit he enables us to recognize and understand God's truth. Jesus is the Word of God and he gives us his Holy Spirit so that we can recognize his truth and live according to it.

Friday, April 17 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15 John Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Meditation: Can anything on this earth truly satisfy the deepest longing and hunger we experience God? A great multitude had gathered to hear Jesus, no doubt because they were hungry for the word of life. Jesus' disciples wanted to send them away at the end of the day because they did not have the resources to feed them. They even complained how much money it would take to feed such a crowd – at least six month's wages! Jesus, the Bread of Life, took the little they had – five loaves and two fish – and giving thanks to his heavenly Father, distributed to all until they were satisfied of their hunger. The people of Israel had been waiting for the prophet whom Moses had promised: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren – him shall you heed (Deuteronomy 18:15).

The signs which Jesus did, including the miraculous feeding of the five thousand signified that God has indeed sent him as anointed Prophet and King. Jesus' feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. What is the significance of this miracle? The miraculous feeding of such a great multitude pointed to God's provision of manna in the wilderness for the people of Israel under Moses' leadership. This food foreshadowed the true heavenly bread which Jesus would offer his followers. Jesus makes a claim only God can make: He is the true bread of heaven that can satisfy the deepest hunger we experience. The sign of the multiplication of the loaves when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes through his disciples prefigures the superabundance of the unique bread of his Eucharist or Lord's Supper. When we receive from the Lord's table we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ, who makes us sharers in his sacred body and blood. Saint Ignatius of Antioch calls it the "one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live for ever in Jesus Christ" (Ad Eph. 20,2). This supernatural food is healing for both body and soul and strength for our journey heavenward. When you approach the Table of the Lord, what do you expect to receive? Healing, pardon, comfort, and rest for your soul? The Lord has much more for us, more than we can ask or imagine. The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist is an intimate union with Christ. As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens us in charity and enables us to break with disordered attachments to creatures and to be more firmly rooted in the love of Christ.

Prayer: O God, who for the salvation of the world brought about the paschal sacrifice, be favorable to the supplications of your people, so that Christ our High Priest, interceding on our behalf, may by his likeness to ourselves bring us reconciliation, and by his equality with you free us from our sins. 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 feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God's provision for you? Do you share freely with others, especially those who lack even the most basic necessities, such as food and clothing? How about doing some spring cleaning, and take what you're not using in your home (items that are clean and in good condition, of course) and give them to any number of Catholic organizations reaching out to help those in need – especially any Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter.

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A Prayer for This Week

*Lord, so often I fail to acknowledge Your divine presence in my life.
So often I fail to see you coming to me. Help me to know that You are always there.
Free me from the many fears of life, dear Lord, and give me courage to
welcome You fully into my life. Jesus, I trust in You!*