

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

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Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

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Bulletin

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

/SaintEdwardsChurch

Mass Schedule

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.
*Holiday schedules TBA

Confessions

Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Adoration

Mondays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, April 26 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions

8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
10:45 a.m. For Matthew Spiak by Betty Terlecky

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

9:00 a.m. For Kenny Singer by Skip & Sandy McCord

Wednesday, April 29 | Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. For Vicki Kiser by Carolyn Boesch

Thursday, April 30

9:00 a.m. For Ron McKenzie (RIP) by Bob & Elaine Stevens

Friday, May 1

9:00 a.m. For Gloria Kiechel (RIP) by Jeanne Mydland

Saturday, May 2 | Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

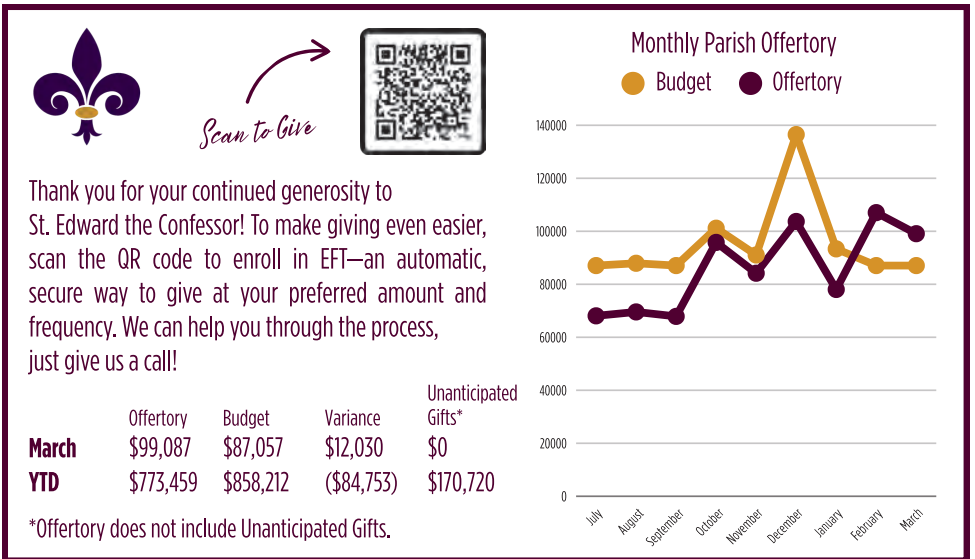
Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

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

Sunday, May 3 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Leo & Suzanne Fox Families by Leo & Suzanne Fox
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish



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 | 4.26 **Monday | 4.27** **Tuesday | 4.28** **Wednesday | 4.29**

Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions
 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft
 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall
 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Lucy Mae Kalinoski
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)
 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room

6:00 a.m. – Adoration
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 9:45 a.m. – WOSE Board Meeting in the Lounge

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 6:30 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting in the Lounge

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 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 | 4.30 **Friday | 5.1** **Saturday | 5.2** **Sunday | 5.3**

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

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

St. Vincent de Paul Donations Truck Visits
Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
 7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall
 4:00 p.m. – Confessions
 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Msgr. Enke)

Welcome Sunday
St. Vincent de Paul Donations Truck Visits
Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft
 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall
 10:30 a.m. – May Crowning prior to 10:45 a.m. Mass
 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 2:00 p.m. – Youth Group Homeless Outreach in Parish Kitchen
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)

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.

You're Invited To

KEEP CALM AND ADORE ON

Sign Up

*Join us for Adoration on Mondays
 6am until Mass & after Mass until 10pm
 at St. Edward the Confessor*



April 26, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

Good Shepherd Sunday speaks to us of the Love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, for all of us, His Flock. He knows each of us intimately. He speaks to our hearts, calling us by a “secret name,” known only to Him and to each one of us. The name He gives us is our identity in God. It includes a “mission” that is entrusted to us. As we listen to His

voice, we are able to say with full confidence, *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*

The Church in our time calls us to gather those entrusted to us into a place of comfort and peace. We are invited to allow the Lord Himself to use our faces, our voices, and the love in our hearts to reach out to others. Who are the other members of the flock that you are meant to gather in? Do you seek them? Do you hold them in your prayer? Do you respond to the needs that they make known to you? God’s Shepherding Love is meant to flow through us. When we look upon the face of the Shepherd and experience His Love for us, we discover that at the very same moment, He reaches out to others and we experience a desire to bring them to Him, into the verdant pastures where He Himself offers repose.

The desire of my heart is that the Lord help you through my ministry to learn two things: First, that you are loved and that there are pastures that supply nourishment for the longings of your hearts; Second, that you bear a responsibility that goes beyond being served yourself to being a servant of those entrusted to you. At times, we can approach our parish life as if it is a reality that is part of the “consumer culture.” We come to ask for something for ourselves and expect others, “those we hire,” to fulfill what we want. That is not God’s approach to shepherding. We are meant to receive what is offered and to give it freely to others, even before we try to be satisfied.

What is the Good Shepherd saying to your heart? Who is awaiting the invitation only you can offer to come to meet the Shepherd Who is already feeding you in the green pastures He has prepared for you?

Jesus tells us: *“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”* Have you discovered your own invitation to the new and more abundant Life? What is your response?

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

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Notes from the Loft

Prelude

“Voluntary VI” from *Opus VII* (J. Stanley)

Introductory Rites

Opening: Alleluia! Alleluia! (#191)

Gloria: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict

(text on inside cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 23: The Lord is my shepherd... (p. 146)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 147)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise (#176)

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

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat (#345)

Communion 2 (10:45 Choir): TBD

Concluding Rites

Closing: All Creatures of Our God and King (#568)

Postlude

Trumpet Tune (G.P. Telemann)

Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Dave Conway

8:15 a.m.: Randy Kerr

10:45 a.m.: Kayce Long

Notes from the Loft

🎵 On Monday, May 4, from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church, there will be a **Musical Holy Hour during Eucharistic Adoration**. It will include vocal and instrumental selections ranging from piano and guitar arrangements of Eucharistic music to recent songs by Matt Maher and others (a more detailed preview will appear in next week’s bulletin). Adoration allows for many different ways of praying before the Blessed Sacrament, including silent prayer, reading scripture or other prayerful texts, spiritual journaling, and music. If you’ve never been to Adoration, this Musical Holy Hour is a great opportunity to give it a try. All are welcome to come and pray during this Holy Hour—or during one of the many other hours of silent Adoration on Mondays (from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm with a break for Mass at 9:00 am).

🎵 Today, we celebrate what is sometimes referred to as “Good Shepherd” Sunday. The Responsorial Psalm, the second reading, the Gospel Acclamation, the Gospel, and the designated Communion antiphon for day all speak of the Lord as our shepherd. The first verse of today’s Communion hymn (“As when the shepherd calls his sheep...”) echoes that antiphon as well. May we turn to the Lord to guide and shepherd us in this week to come.

- 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.

Congratulations to Our

First Communicants

It was a joy to celebrate the First Communion of 23 of our PSR students last weekend! Please keep these young parishioners in your prayers as they continue in their faith journey.



Congratulations, Class of 2026!

Graduates and their families are invited to celebrate this incredible milestone with us at Welcome Sunday.

June 7 | After 8:15 am Mass
Enke Parish Hall

🎓 **Wear your cap & gown!** 🎓

The front rows of the church will be reserved for graduates at the 8:15 am Mass.

Please RSVP by May 15 to
church@saintedwards.org

Young Adult **GAME NIGHT**

TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 6 - 8 PM
THE LOUNGE

*Adults ages 21 - 40 are invited to join
for games & snacks*



Tuition Subsidy Support

St. Edward Parish is blessed by parishioners who give generously to the offertory. Their faithful stewardship allows our parish to support one of our most important missions as a Catholic Diocese—Catholic education.

St. Edward Church offers tuition subsidies to help families who desire a Catholic education for their children but may need additional financial assistance. Our parish community is honored to support these families, knowing they, in turn, enrich our parish through their involvement, service, and commitment to growing in faith.

By applying for a parish subsidy, you are indicating that your family has a financial need for assistance with tuition. Families receiving support are expected to be active participants in parish life, including engagement in worship, ministries, and ongoing faith formation.

Subsidies of up to \$550 per student are available to active St. Edward Parish families based on demonstrated financial need. They are applicable to Catholic schools within the Diocese of Columbus, including Newark Catholic High School, Blessed Sacrament School, St. Francis de Sales School, and others.

To request a Tuition Subsidy Application, please contact:
Laura Appleman | church@saintedwards.org



SVdP Donations Truck at St. Edward

The St. Vincent de Paul Donations Truck will be in the church parking lot **May 2-3** to collect gently used items for their thrift store. It's a great opportunity to give your items a second life, while supporting those in need. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Vincent de Paul Donations – Food Pantry

This week, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has requested contributions of **tuna and canned pasta**. Every little bit helps – if you are able, please consider grabbing an extra can or two to share with 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.

Don't Forget to Drop off Your Rice Bowl

Thank you to all who participated in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program this Lent! If you have not yet returned your Rice Bowl, please remember to bring it to the Parish Office at your earliest convenience, so the funds can be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services.



Knights of Columbus Measure Up Campaign

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting gifts to help the developmentally disabled in Licking County **outside the church after Masses on May 2-3**. Please be generous to help those who were not born with the same gifts you were.



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 relationships with God and others. Multiple time and date options are available; scan the QR code to sign up!

Around the Diocese



Caring for Local Cemeteries

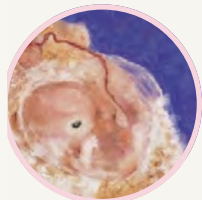
Director of Cemeteries Bill McWilliams has scheduled a workday at Mt. Calvary Cemetery (693 Jacksontown Road in Heath) on **Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 am to around 12:00 pm**. The goal is to trim around the gravestones and generally tidy the grounds. All are welcome to volunteer! Please bring a weed trimmer or small push mower, if you can. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our cemetery beautiful. If needed, contact Bill at 740.345.9874, ext. 224, or bmcwilliams@stfrancisparish.net.

Women's Respite Retreat

Rebecca Gjostein is hosting the *Women's Respite Retreat - Praying and Resting with the Holy Family* **from June 25-28 with lodging at Ohio Dominican University**. The days will consist of morning sacraments at St. Patrick Church, silent prayers, and social dining. The cost is \$402 per person. Contact Rebecca Gjostein at RebeccaAnnGjostein@gmail.com with questions or to register.

Spiritual Adoption Program Your Baby at One Month

Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already, your baby is 10,000 times larger than at conception. By the 20th day, the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system had developed. On the 21st day, his heart began to beat, pumping blood through its own circulatory system. The baby's blood type may be different from his mother's.



Over the next month, your baby is most vulnerable to abortion. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all – the gift of life.



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

*Lucy Mae Kalinoski,
daughter of Joseph & Kelsey*



Keep Our Grounds Beautiful

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

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



Candle Update

We now offer five-day devotional candles in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel, enabling you to honor your intention for a longer period of time. The suggested offering remains \$3.

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

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



May 2-3 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Adrienne Carter Cliff Kirchner Leann Kirchner Michelle Swickard	Bill Hoekstra	Arianna Carter Luke Priano NOT FILLED
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Sue Casale John Casale Johnda Orndorff Kris Whiting Lisa Barrett Noelle Gremling	Mindy Skeldon Peter Thomas	Brooklyn Aransky Avery Miller Sydney Miller Calvin Harms Anna Beth Zigan Evelynn Zigan
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Sheila Heist Steve Heist Bernadette Lieberth Gail Perks		

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Sponsors of the Week

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CATECHISM

corner

CATECHISM CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

Read paragraphs 1849-1850 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Bonus Challenge: Go to Confession this week.

CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What is the definition of sin?

Look in next week's bulletin for the answer!

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Was Mary, the mother of Jesus, always a virgin, even after giving birth to Jesus? Did Jesus have biological brothers & sisters?

Mary is "ever-virgin." The Bible mentions Jesus' brothers and sisters, but these are understood to be close relations, according to an Old Testament expression. Jesus is Mary's only son.

NO CATECHISM? NO PROBLEM!

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



ST. EDWARD
YOUTH GROUP
7-12 GRADE
SCHEDULE
2026

APR 26 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!

MAY 17 END OF YEAR COOKOUT
6:00- 8:00 PM, ST. ED LAWN

MAY 24 END OF YEAR OUTING
TBA

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

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

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.





Sunday, April 26 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

Monday, April 27

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4
Gospel: John 10:11-18

Tuesday, April 28

First Reading: Acts 11:19-26
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7
Gospel: John 10:22-30

Wednesday, April 29 | Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

First Reading: Acts 12:24—13:5a
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8
Gospel: John 12:44-50

Thursday, April 30

First Reading: Acts 13:13-25
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27
Gospel: John 13:16-20

Friday, May 1

First Reading: Acts 13:26-33
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab
Gospel: John 14:1-6

Saturday, May 2 | Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

First Reading: Acts 13:44-52
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Gospel: John 14:7-14

Sunday, May 3 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9
Gospel: John 14:1-12

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.

CATECHISM 102

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:

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



St. Edward Preschool

2026-27 Enrollment Open!

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 Gathering Space.



**Questions? Contact Adrienne Evans:
740.587.3275 | preschool@saintedwards.org**

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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

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

“The way of Christian perfection begins with a personal summons, addressed to the individual Christian by Christ the Lord, through the Holy Spirit. This summons is a call, a ‘vocation.’ Every Christian in one way or another receives this vocation from Christ – the call to follow Him.” ~Excerpted from *LIFE AND HOLINESS* by Father Thomas Merton, OCSO

Monday, April 27 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18 Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

Meditation: The peace and security of the Good Shepherd – Jesus Christ, who watches over us as members of his flock – is something that we can find great comfort and joy. The Old Testament often speaks of God as shepherd of his people, Israel. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want* (Psalm 23:1). *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!* (Psalm 80:1) *We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture* (Psalm 100:3). The Messiah is also pictured as the shepherd of God's people: *He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms* (Isaiah 40:11). In the New Testament Jesus lets us know that he is the *Good Shepherd* who will risk his life to seek out and save the stray sheep (Matthew 18:12, Luke 15:4). He is the *Shepherd and Guardian of our souls* (1 Peter 2:25).

Prayer: O God, perfect light of the blessed, by whose gift we celebrate the paschal mysteries on earth, bring us, we pray, to rejoice in the full measure of your grace for ages unending. 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 made three promises to those who take up his two word invitation – “Follow me.” To those who follow Christ he promised them everlasting life. If they accept him and follow him, they will have the life of God in them. Jesus also promised them a life that would know no end. Death would not be the end but the beginning; they would know the glory of indestructible life. Jesus promised a life that was secure. Jesus said that nothing would snatch them out of his hand, not even sorrow and death, since he is everlasting life itself. Our lives are safe in his hands.

Tuesday, April 28 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter

**Optional Memorials: Saint Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr;
Saint Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest**

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30 The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out

of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Meditation: Saint Cyril, a Father of the Church, comments on Jesus as our Good Shepherd: "He shows in what manner a shepherd may be proved good; and He teaches that he must be prepared to give up his life fighting in defense of his sheep, which was fulfilled in Christ. For man has departed from the love of God, and fallen into sin, and because of this was, I say, excluded from the divine abode of paradise, and when he was weakened by that disaster, he yielded to the devil tempting him to sin, and death following that sin he became the prey of fierce and ravenous wolves. But after Christ was announced as the True Shepherd of all men, He laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16), fighting for us against that pack of inhuman beasts. He bore the Cross for us, that by His own death he might destroy death. He was condemned for us, that He might deliver all of us from the sentence of punishment: the tyranny of sin being overthrown by our faith: fastening to the Cross the decree that stood against us, as it is written (Colossians 2:14). Therefore as the father of sin had as it were shut up the sheep in hell, giving them to death to feed on, as it is written in the psalms (Ps. XLviii.16), He died for us as truly Good, and truly our Shepherd, so that the dark shadow of death driven away He might join us to the company of the blessed in heaven; and in exchange for abodes that lie far in the depths of the pit, and in the hidden places of the sea, grant us mansions in His Father's House above. Because of this he says to us in another place: Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you a kingdom (Luke 12:32)."

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's Resurrection, we may merit to receive the joy of our redemption. 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 + Saint Peter Chanel: O God, who for the spreading of your Church crowned Saint Peter Chanel with martyrdom, grant that, in these days of paschal joy, we may so celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Death and Resurrection as to bear worthy witness to newness of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Saint Louis de Montfort: O God, who willed to direct the steps of the Priest Saint Louis along the way of salvation and of the love of Christ, in the company of the Blessed Virgin, grant us, by his example, that, meditating on the mysteries of your love, we may strive tirelessly for the building up of your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus promises the security of peace and protection from evil and the greatest harm that could befall us – eternal destruction. The Lord does not spare us from all trouble. In this life we will experience pain, suffering, sickness, and death. But through these the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety in his everlasting home. Even in the midst of our sufferings we can find a peace and security which no one can give except God alone. We can confidently follow the Lord wherever he leads, trusting that nothing can keep us from God *if* we trust in him. Which begs the question: Have you placed your life securely in God where it belongs?

Wednesday, April 29 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 12:44-50 Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me."

Meditation: God does not leave us in our ignorance and unbelief. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he helps us to grow in faith, knowledge and understanding of his word. Saint Augustine summed up rather succinctly our need for God's help in the following prayer: "God our Father, we find it difficult to come to you, because our knowledge of you is imperfect. In our ignorance we have imagined you to be our enemy; we have wrongly thought that you take pleasure in punishing our sins; and we have foolishly conceived you to be a tyrant over human life. But since Jesus came among us, he has shown that you are loving, and that our resentment against you was groundless." Do you want to know more of God and his transforming love? Look to Jesus, the Light of God, and in his truth you will find joy, freedom, and wholeness of mind, body and soul.

Prayer: O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena on fire with divine love in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion and her service to your Church, grant, through her intercession, that your people, participating in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation of his glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: To see Jesus is to see God. To hear his words is to hear the voice of God. He is the very light of God that has power to overcome the darkness of sin, ignorance, and unbelief. God's light and truth brings healing, pardon, and transformation. This light is not only for the chosen people of Israel, but for the whole world as well. Jesus warns that if we refuse his word or take it lightly, we choose to remain in spiritual darkness. Jesus made it clear that he did not come to condemn us, but rather to bring abundant life and freedom from the oppression of sin, ignorance and evil. We condemn ourselves when we reject God's wisdom and truth. It is one thing to live in ignorance due to lack of knowledge, but another thing to disdain those who teach us true wisdom and knowledge. Jesus says that his word which we have heard will be our judge. Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life?

Thursday, April 30 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter
Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Pius V

Holy Gospel: John 13:16-20 When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the Scripture might be fulfilled,

The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.

From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Meditation: Jesus loved his disciples to the end and proved his faithfulness to them even to death on the cross. Through his death and resurrection Jesus opened a new way of relationship and friendship with God. Jesus tells his disciples that if they accept him they also accept the Father who sent him. This principle extends to all who belong to Christ and who speak in his name. To accept the Lord's messenger is to accept Jesus himself. The great honor and the great responsibility any Christian has is to stand in the world for Jesus Christ. As his disciples and ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), we are called to speak for him and to act on his behalf. Are you ready to stand for Jesus at the cross of humiliation, rejection, opposition, and suffering?

Prayer: O God, who restore human nature to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings, look upon the amazing mystery of your loving kindness, and in those you have chosen to make new through the wonder of rebirth may you preserve the gifts of your enduring grace and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Pope Saint Pius V: O God, who in your providence raised up Pope Saint Pius the Fifth in your Church that the faith might be safeguarded and more fitting worship be offered to you, grant, through his intercession, that we may participate in your mysteries with lively faith and fruitful charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever given any thought as to how you treat those who cause you grief or harm? Especially those who are close to you in some way? In his last supper discourse, Jesus addressed the issue of fidelity and disloyalty in relationships. Jesus knew beforehand that one of his own disciples would betray him. Such knowledge could have easily led Jesus to distance himself from such a person and to protect himself from harm's way. Instead, Jesus expresses his love, affection, and loyalty to those who were his own, even to the one he knew would "stab him in the back" when he got the opportunity. Jesus used a quotation from Psalm 4:9 which describes an act of treachery by one's closest friend. In the culture of Jesus' day, to eat bread with someone was a gesture of friendship and trust. Jesus extends such friendship to Judas right at the moment when Judas is conspiring to betray his master. The expression "raised his heel against me" reinforces the brute nature of this act of violent rejection.

Friday, May 1 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter
Saint Joseph the Worker

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58 Jesus came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and

Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.

Meditation: The liturgy for this feast vindicates the right to work, and this is a message that needs to be heard and heeded in our modern society. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Blessed Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph, recognizing that all of our gifts and talents are gifts to us from God, and should be used to help build up His kingdom here on earth. In addition to this, there is a special dignity and value to the work done in caring for the human family.

Prayer: O God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise. 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 Saint Joseph for Employment: Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety with my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this great burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help me guard against discouragement, so that I may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Contemplation (in relation to today's feast): Do you find yourself in need of prayer looking for work these days? The Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment (above) is presented today in the hope it might provide some relief and comfort to those who find themselves in this situation. Do not despair! Seek this great Saint's help in carrying the vexing and at times quite bitter cross of being out of work, remembering always that you always have great worth in the eyes of God no matter what your situation may be.

Contemplation: Worth contemplating on this Feast is a brief excerpt from a document of the Second Vatican Council "The Church in the Modern World" – *Gaudium et Spes* – which notes: "Throughout the course of the centuries, men have labored to better the circumstances of their lives through a monumental amount of individual and collective effort. To believers, this point is settled: considered in itself, this human activity accords with God's will. For man, created to God's image, received a mandate to subject to himself the earth and all it contains, and to govern the world with justice and holiness; a mandate to relate himself and the totality of things to Him Who was to be acknowledged as the Lord and Creator of all. Thus, by the subjection of all things to man, the name of God would be wonderful in all the earth" (No. 34).

About today's Feast: "May Day" has long been dedicated to labor and the working man. It falls on the first day of the month that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius XII expressed the hope that this feast would accentuate the dignity of labor and would bring a spiritual dimension to labor unions. It is eminently fitting that Saint Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the Universal Church, should be honored on this day. The texts of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours provide a catechetical synthesis of the significance of human labor seen in the light of faith. The Opening Prayer states that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. Then, in the second part of the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may do the work that God has asked of us and come to the rewards he has promised. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Saint Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph.

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