

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



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

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church@saintedwards.org

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General Inquiries:

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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, 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

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 a.m. For Isadore "Butch" Mammina by Madeline Tibone

Wednesday, May 6

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

Thursday, May 7

9:00 a.m. For Ronald & Joyce Hawk (RIP) by Marc & Tonya Hawk

Friday, May 8

9:00 a.m. For Joe & Anne Zoccali (RIP) by Roger Morales

Saturday, May 9

5:00 p.m. For Tom Coleman by Mark & Paula Coleman

Sunday, May 10 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m. For All Parishioners Who Are Mothers
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish



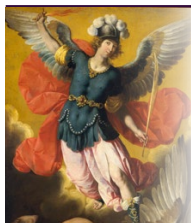
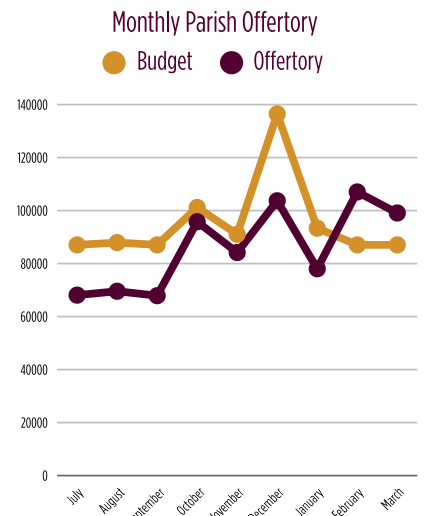
Scan to Give



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

*Offertory does not include Unanticipated Gifts.



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 | 5.3

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)

Monday | 5.4

6:00 a.m. – Adoration
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
9:45 a.m. – WOSE Board Meeting in the Lounge
6:00 p.m. – Strategic Plan Steering Committee
Meeting in Enke Parish Hall

Tuesday | 5.5

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
6:00 p.m. – Young Adult Game Night
in Enke Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. – Ad Hoc Finance Committee Meeting
in the Lounge

Wednesday | 5.6

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group in the Church

Thursday | 5.7

Preschool Muffins for Moms
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Msgr. Enke)
4:30 p.m. – Mass at Otterbein (Fr. Hayes)
7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Business Meeting
in Enke Parish Hall

Friday | 5.8

Preschool Muffins for Moms
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)

Saturday | 5.9

Farewell Celebration for Dcn. Adrian After All Masses
7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall
4:00 p.m. – Confessions
5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)

Sunday | 5.10

Farewell Celebration for Dcn. Adrian After All Masses
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. Hayes)
12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Kreed Kenneth Cunningham

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.

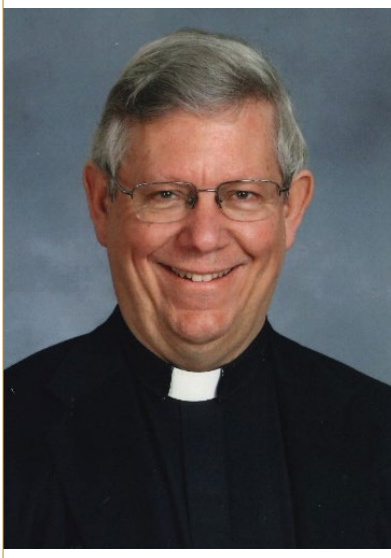
Low-gluten hosts are available. Please join one of the center Communion lines and inform the Eucharistic Minister.

Young Adult
GAME NIGHT

TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 6 - 8 PM
ENKE PARISH HALL

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

LOCATION CHANGE



May 3, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

Jesus has told us that He is with us and that He intends for us to continue His work in the world: *"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Belief in Jesus is not simply having a concept of Who He Is. Rather, it is a living relationship. To know Him is not simply to know about Him. Faith puts us directly in touch with the Risen Lord, and His Spirit comes to us

to enable us to continue His work. We can look forward to "greater things" because Heaven and Earth are connected.

At this time in the life of Church of St. Edward the Confessor, we are seeking to discern God's vision for us, His plan for the future that we are meant to build together. This means a look toward our past, to discover where we have come from. It means a look toward the future, to discover and to plan where we believe we are being sent. And it means making a decision now to put our trust in God and to move forward together.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the Mother of the Church. During the month of May, we honor our Heavenly Mother in various ways.

This Sunday, we have a "May Crowning" at the beginning of the 10:45 a.m. Mass. On First Sundays, the Knights of Columbus lead a Rosary in Church between the Masses. All are invited to pray the Rosary as individuals and as a family. Meditation on the Mysteries helps to deepen our Faith and our understanding of what God has done for us.

One practice that you may want to begin, especially if you have children, is to set up a "May Altar" in your home. This can have a statue or a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a candle and flowers kept fresh throughout the month. Your family can practice together a Marian devotion, praying the Rosary and choosing your favorite prayers and songs that are addressed to Mary. What did your parents and grandparents teach you?

Some examples: Prayers - the Memorare, the Hail Holy Queen, the Rosary, the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows; Songs - "Immaculate Mary," "Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above," "Sing of Mary." Various forms of devotion refer to images of Mary that come from traditions and approved Marian Apparitions. Different cultures and families have their own versions of these devotions. Explore the prayer books, statues, and other symbols of Faith that you have inherited from your parents and grandparents. Share them with your children so that family devotions may continue.

Mary continues to accompany us along the ways of Faith. She loves us as her children, entrusted to her by her Divine Son as she stood with Him at the foot of the Cross. Let us trust her to guide us to Jesus and to the Life of the Trinity that she enjoys in Heaven. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Notes from the Loft

Prelude

Sing a New Song
(D. Schutte, arr. D. Wagner, 2000)

Introductory Rites

Opening: On This Day, O Beautiful Mother (#698)
Gloria: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict
(text: inside front cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 33:
Lord, let your mercy be on us... (p. 148)
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 149)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Lord of All Hopefulness (#553)
Sanctus, Mem. Acc. A, Amen, Lamb of God:
Mass in Honor of St. Benedict
Communion: One Bread, One Body (#327)
Communion 2 (10:45 Choir):
Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (arr. P. Tate)

Concluding Rites

Closing: Hail, Holy Queen (#210)

Postlude

Postlude on "Hail, Holy Queen" (P. Fey, 2021)

Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Beth Spieles
8:15 a.m.: Karen Bovenizer
10:45 a.m.: Chelsea Zigan

Notes from the Loft

♪ **Tomorrow, Monday, May 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the church, there will be a Musical Holy Hour during Eucharistic Adoration.** It will include a variety of contemporary vocal and piano/guitar instrumental selections, such as Matt Maher's "Lord, I Need You" and "Adoration/Down in Adoration Falling," Brandon Lake's "Gratitude," and "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Matt Redman and Steve Angrisano, to name just a few. If you've never been to Adoration, it is a wonderful opportunity simply to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and to pray. All are welcome at this Musical Holy Hour—and anytime during the hours of silent Adoration on Monday (from 6:00 am to 10:00 p.m. with a break for Mass at 9:00 am).

♪ May has long been a month when Catholics have honored Mary in a special way. This weekend, we sing two Marian hymns: "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother" and "Hail, Holy Queen." At the 10:45 a.m. Mass, we also celebrate the May Crowning as a statue of Mary is adorned with a crown of flowers, and the Choir sings a 2008 arrangement of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Mary, pray for us!

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

Help Needed!

A parishioner came up with a great idea, and we need someone to help execute! If you are interested in leading the charge to run a fundraiser that coincides with the **Great Granville Garage Sale**, please let us know.

Contact the Parish Office for details:

bulletin@saintedwards.org

740.587.3254



Church of St. Edward the Confessor
Providing A Safe Environment

The deadline for volunteers to meet requirements for **Protecting God's Children (PGC)** has arrived. To continue sharing your time and talent with our parish, please make sure that your fingerprints and training are up to date.

Not Up To Date Yet? There are still opportunities available to complete your fingerprinting and trainings. Scan the QR code or visit saintedwards.org/safe-environment for more information.

Questions? Contact the Parish Office at 740.587.3254.



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.



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

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 free *Catechism* and set of index tabs.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

May 6 | Part III:

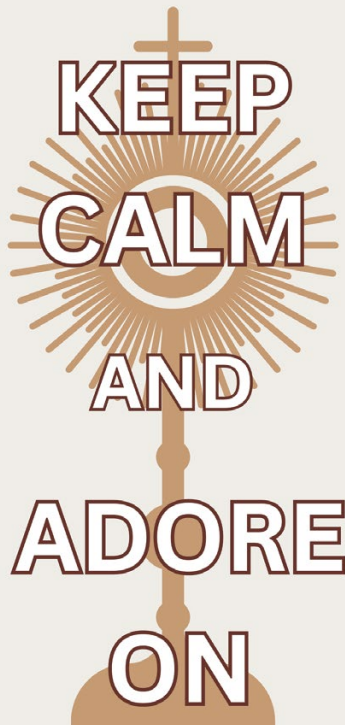
The dignity of the human person; The human community; God's salvation law and grace

May 20 | Part IV:

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

7 PM | THE LOUNGE

You're Invited To



Sign Up.



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

St. Edward Scholarships

Two **\$1,500.00 scholarships** are available to students at the Church of St. Edward the Confessor.

The Father Lowery Scholarship and Bernice and Joe Ciricosta Scholarship are available to any parishioner who is actively pursuing a post-secondary program.

Applications are found online:
saintedwards.org/scholarships.

Deadline to apply is May 18, 2026.



St. Vincent de Paul Donations – Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is in need of additional donations of **tuna and canned pasta**. Please consider contributing 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.

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 are collecting gifts to help the developmentally disabled in Licking County **outside the church after all Masses this weekend**. Please be generous to help those who were not born with the same gifts you were.

Women's Virtual Bible Studies

Gather with other women, find community, and form authentic friendships while learning more about your faith at an upcoming **Walking with Purpose Virtual Bible Study**:



Living in the Father's Love begins this week! This study offers opportunities to discover the depth of God's love for you and to learn how the Gospels relate to your relationships with God and others.

Rooted and Radiant begins the week of June 1. In this study, participants will spend ten weeks journeying through the Book of Colossians, taking time to absorb God's Word and to discover how it applies to current challenges.



Multiple time and date options are available for each study; scan the QR codes to sign up!

Around the Diocese



Little Flower Baby Shower at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting a Little Flower Baby Shower on **Saturday, May 9 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Murphy Hall** for Paige, a 25-year-old single mother whose baby boy is due mid-June. This is her first baby, and she and her boyfriend Paul are excited to welcome little Parker! Help shower this family with prayers, notes of support, and gifts. Scan the QR code to view their Amazon Gift Registry; gifts purchased from the registry can be sent to the shower coordinator and should arrive by May 5 to be wrapped and presented at the shower. You are also welcome to attend the shower to celebrate Paige and her baby.

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 a.m. to around 12:00 p.m.** 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.

St. Charles Offering Summer Programs, Camps, and Classes

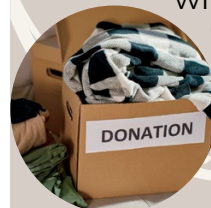
This June and July, St. Charles is hosting 35 exciting camps and classes for students of all ages and interests. Options include co-ed camps in Track & Field, Robotics, Volleyball, and Ice Hockey! Students can also participate in **Camp Cardinal**, a fun-filled day camp exploring the best of St. Charles, 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.

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.

Donate Your Gently-Used Items

The St. Vincent de Paul donations truck is in the church parking lot from **May 2-3** to collect items for their thrift store. Give your items a second life while supporting those in need!



This weekend is

Welcome Sunday

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

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

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



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. Packets are available outside the Preschool office, in the Gathering Space, or online at saintedwards.org/enrollment-forms. Scan the QR code to register and pay the \$100 fee online.

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



Ministry Schedule



May 9-10 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	S A Beaver Sonny Delmatto Stefanie Manley Andrew Morey	Erin Lane	Arianna Carter Avery Miller Luke Priano
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Leo Fox Suzanne Fox Terri Jackson David Lammert	Selma Leshar	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Von Downing Margo Downing Joe Krempel Annie Lach Bernadette Lieberth Gail Perks	Robin Krempel	Claire Skinner Cooper Skinner Carter Skinner

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

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CATECHISM

corner

CATECHISM CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

Read paragraphs 1686-1690 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

According to the *Order of Christian Funerals*, funeral liturgies consist of three parts. What are they?

Look in next week's bulletin for the answer!

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What is the definition of sin?

According to the *Catechism*, "Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor [...]. Sin is an offense against God [...]. Sin sets itself against God's love for us." (CCC 1849-1850)

NO CATECHISM? NO PROBLEM!

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



ST. EDWARD YOUTH GROUP 7-12 GRADE

2026

LAST
WEEK



Follow us
on Instagram



NEXT MEETINGS:

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

QUESTIONS? YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

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@saintedward.org**



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

Monday, May 4

First Reading: Acts 14:5-18

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16

Gospel: John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 5

First Reading: Acts 14:19-28

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21

Gospel: John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 6

First Reading: Acts 15:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 7

First Reading: Acts 15:7-21

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10

Gospel: John 15:9-11

Friday, May 8

First Reading: Acts 15:22-31

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12

Gospel: John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 9

First Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5

Gospel: John 15:18-21

Sunday, May 10 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Pope Leo XIV Intentions of the Month: May

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



Mommies Matter

Celebrate Motherhood with Mommies Matter!

Join Mommies Matter May 3rd-10th in celebrating motherhood by making a donation to Mommies Matter in honor or memory of a special mother in your life!

Each donation goes toward helping single, pregnant mothers receive the financial, emotional, and spiritual support she needs.

Become a monthly donor of \$9 or more (in honor of the 9 months of pregnancy), or increase your current monthly donation,
OR make a one-time donation of \$40 or more (in honor of the 40 weeks of pregnancy), and receive a Mommies Matter t-shirt!

Learn more at www.mommiesmatter.org/mothers-day



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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 May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

"This woman of faith, Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of God, has been given to us as a model in our pilgrimage of faith. From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary, we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God. For Mary is not only the Mother of God, she is Mother of the Church as well. In every stage of the march through history, the Church has benefited from the prayer and protection of the Virgin Mary. Holy Scripture and the experience of the faithful see the Mother of God as the one who in a very special way is united with the Church at the most difficult moments in her history, when attacks on the Church become most threatening. Precisely in periods when Christ, and therefore His Church, provokes premeditated contradiction, Mary appears particularly close to the Church, because for her the Church is always her beloved Christ. I therefore exhort you in Christ Jesus, to continue to look to Mary as the model of the Church, as the best example of the discipleship of Christ. Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God's word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God. Turn to Mary frequently in your prayer 'for never was it known that anyone who fled to her protection, implored her help or sought her intercession was left unaided.'"

+POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II; HOMILY EXCERPT, WASHINGTON, D.C., OCTOBER 6, 1979

Monday, May 4 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 14:21-26 Jesus said to his disciples: "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Judas, not the Iscariot, said to him, "Master, then what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

Meditation: God's love for each of us is as real and tangible as the love of a mother for her child and the love of a lover who gives all for his beloved. God made us for love – to know him personally and to grow in the knowledge of his great love for us. How can we know and be assured of the love of God? The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the knowledge of God and his great love. The Spirit enables us to experience the love of God and to be assured of the Lord's abiding presence with us (see Romans 8:35-39). The Holy Spirit also opens our ears to hear and understand the word of God. Do you listen attentively to God's word and believe it? Ask the Holy Spirit to inflame your heart with the love of God and his word.

Prayer: May your right hand, O Lord, we pray, encompass your family with perpetual help, so that, defended from all wickedness by the Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son, we may make our way by means of your heavenly gifts. 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 know the love that surpasses all, that is stronger than death itself (Song of Songs 8:6)? In Jesus' last supper discourse he speaks of the love he has for his disciples and of his Father's love. He prepares his disciples for his imminent departure to return to his Father by exhorting them to prove their love for him through their loyalty and obedience to his word. He promises them the abiding instruction and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Saint Augustine says "the Lord loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love."

Tuesday, May 5 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 14:27-31a Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me."

Meditation: Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less. Jesus also speaks of his destination and ultimate triumph over the powers of evil in the world. In the eyes of the world the cross stood for shame, humiliation, and defeat. Jesus went to the cross knowing that it would lead to victory over the powers of sin and of Satan. Jesus also knew that he would return to his Father in glory. The cross brought glory to Jesus and to the Father and it is our way to glory as well. In the Cross of Christ we find true peace and reconciliation with God. Do you live in the peace of Jesus Christ?

Prayer: O God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, grant your people constancy in faith and hope, that we may never doubt the promises of which we have learned from 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: Do you know the peace which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7)? In his farewell discourse Jesus grants peace as his gift to his disciples. What kind of peace does he offer? The peace of Christ is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good. The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. Jesus offers the one true peace which conquers all of our fears and anxieties. Do you seek his peace before other sources of peace which are fleeting at best?

Wednesday, May 6 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8 Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Meditation: People often wonder why Jesus speaks of himself as the "true vine?" The image of the vine was a rich one for the Jews since the land of Israel was covered with numerous vineyards. It had religious connotations to it as well. Isaiah spoke of the house of Israel as "the vineyard of the Lord" (Isaiah 5:7). Jeremiah said that God had planted Israel "as his choice vine" (Jeremiah 2:21). While the vine became a symbol of Israel as a nation, it also was used in the scriptures as a sign of degeneration. Isaiah's prophecy spoke of Israel as a vineyard which "yielded wild grapes" (see Isaiah 5:1-7). Jeremiah said that Israel had become a "degenerate and wild vine" (Jeremiah 2:21). When Jesus calls himself the true vine he makes clear that no one can claim their spiritual inheritance through association with a particular people or bloodline. Rather, it is only through Jesus Christ that one can become grafted into the true "vineyard of the Lord".

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.

Contemplation: Jesus offers true life – the abundant life which comes from God and which results in great fruitfulness. How does the vine become fruitful? The vinedresser must carefully prune the vine before it can bear good fruit. Vines characteristically have two kinds of branches – those which bear fruit and those which don't. The non-bearing branches must be carefully pruned back in order for the vine to conserve its strength for bearing good fruit. Jesus used this image to describe the kind of life he produces in those who are united with him – the fruit of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from him. The fruit he speaks of here is the fruit

of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). There is a simple truth here: We are either fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing. There is no in-between. But the bearing of healthy fruit requires drastic pruning. The Lord promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him and allow him to purify us. Do you trust in the Lord's abiding presence with you?

Thursday, May 7 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 15:9-11 Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete."

Meditation: Do you know the love that produces immeasurable joy? Jesus speaks of the love which the Father and he have for those who belong to him. We can never outgive God in love, because he has loved us without measure. Our love for him is a response to his exceeding mercy and kindness towards us. Paul the Apostle tells us that we can abound in joy and hope because "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Romans 5:5). In God's love we find the fullness of grace, life, peace, and joy. Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment – a new way of love. We are to love others as Jesus has loved us.

Prayer: O God, by whose grace, though sinners, we are made just and, though pitiable, made blessed, stand, we pray, by your works, stand by your gifts, that those justified by faith may not lack the courage of perseverance. 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: What is the essence of this new commandment? True love is sacrificial. It gives all to the beloved. And there is no greater proof in love than the sacrifice of one's life for the sake of another. Jesus proved his love for his disciples by giving his life for them, even to death on the cross. We prove our love for God and for one another when we embrace the way of the cross. What is the cross in my life? When my will crosses with God's will, then God's will must be done. Do you know the joy and contentment of a life fully surrendered to God and consumed with his love?

Friday, May 8 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 15:12-17 Jesus said to his disciples: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

Meditation: Jesus defines friendship, the mutual bond of trust and affection between two or more people, as the willingness to give totally of oneself even to the point of dying for one's friends. How is such love possible or even desirable? God made us in love for love. That is our reason for being, our purpose for living, and our goal in dying. God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. He loved us so much, some might even mistakenly say too much, by giving us the best of all gifts, the offering of his beloved Son who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. God gave up his Son so that we might become his sons and daughters, his adopted children (Romans 8:14-17).

Prayer: Grant us, Lord, we pray, that, being rightly conformed to the paschal mysteries, what we celebrate in joy may protect and save us with perpetual power. 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 called his disciples his "friends." Jesus not only showed his disciples that he cared for them. He enjoyed their company. He ate with them, shared everything he had with them – even his most intimate thoughts. And he spent himself doing good for them. To know Jesus is to know God and to understand the love and friendship God offers each one of us. One of the special marks of favor shown in the scriptures is to be called the friend of God. Abraham is called the "friend of God" (Isaiah 41:8). God speaks with Moses "as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11). Jesus, the Lord and Master, in turn, calls the disciples his "friends" rather than his servants. Friendship with God certainly entails a loving relationship which goes beyond mere duty and obedience. Friendship is based on love, and love must be reciprocal. Do you love Christ as much as he loves you? If not, why not?

Saturday, May 9 ~ Fifth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 15:18-21 Jesus said to his disciples: "If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me."

Meditation: What does Jesus mean when he says "you are not of this world"? The "world" in scripture refers to that society of people who are hostile towards God and opposed to his will. The world rejected Jesus, and his disciples can expect the same treatment. Jesus leaves no middle ground for his followers. We are either for him or against him, for his kingdom of light or for the kingdom of darkness. The prophet Isaiah warned that people who separate themselves from God because of their rebellion and spiritual blindness would end up calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20).

Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, who through the regenerating power of Baptism have been pleased to confer on us heavenly life, grant, we pray, that those you render capable of immortality by justifying them may by your guidance attain the fullness of glory. 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.

Contemplation: If we want to live in the light of God's truth, how can we rightly distinguish good from evil? True love of God and his ways draw us to all that is lovely, truthful and good. If we truly love God then we will submit to his truth and will for our lives. A friend of God cannot expect to be a friend of the world because the world opposes God. Jesus' demand is unequivocal and without compromise. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15). We must make a choice either for or against God. Do you seek to please God in all your thoughts, actions, and relationships? Let the Holy Spirit fill your heart with the love of God (Romans 5:5).

Marian Prayer + The Angelus

*The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary...*

*And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...*

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

*Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

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