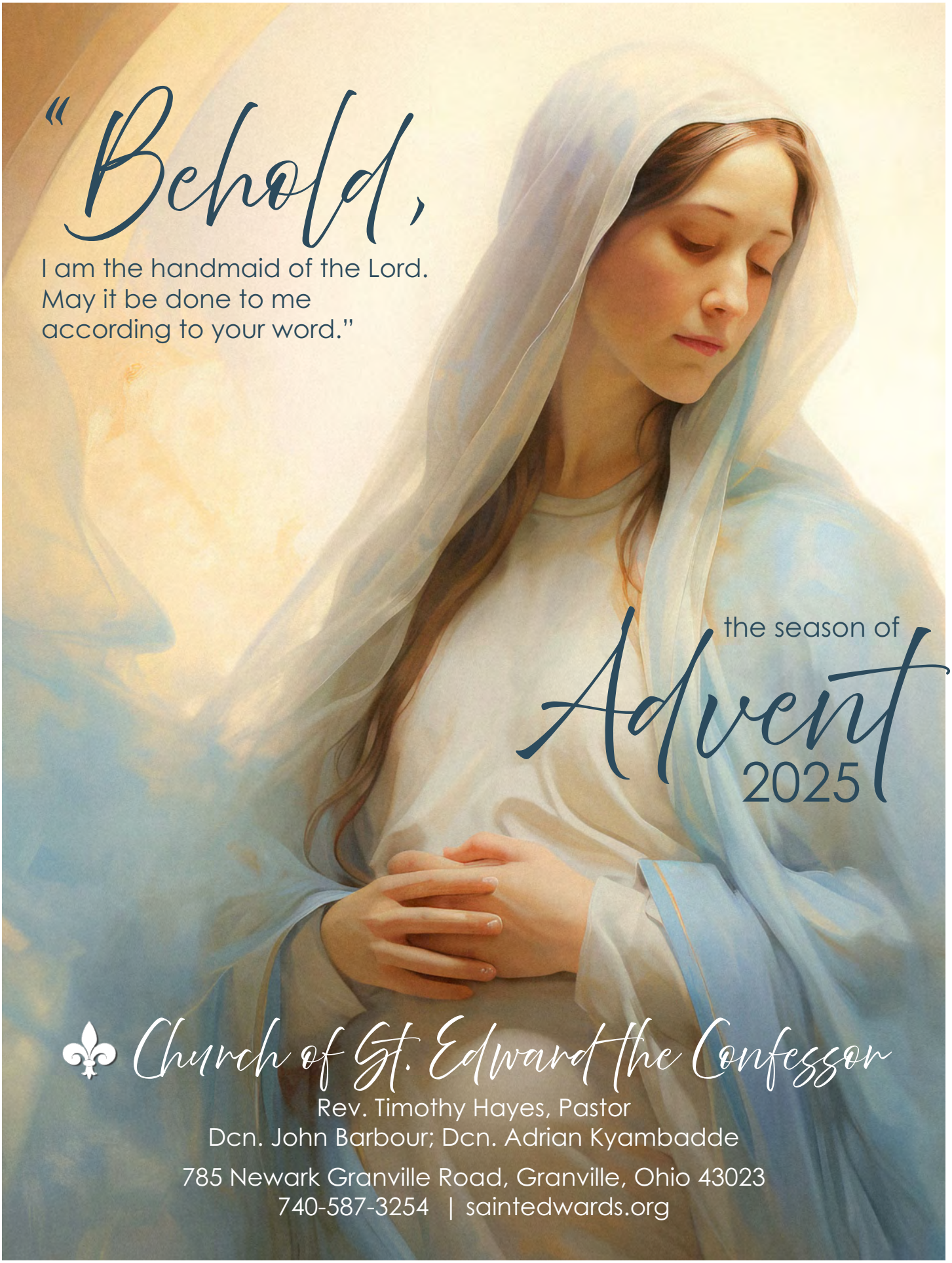
November 30 2025



"Behold,

I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word."

the season of

Advent 2025

Church of St. Edward the Confessor

Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor
Dcn. John Barbour; Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

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

CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

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

Pastor
Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Deacons
Dcn. John Barbour
Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

Parish Office

Parish Business Administrator
Laura Appleman 740-527-0006
church@saintedwards.org

Finance & Stewardship Manager
Cheryl Boggess
finance@saintedwards.org

St. Edward Preschool
Adrienne Evans, Director 740-587-3275
preschool@saintedwards.org

Parish School of Religion
Mary Packham 740-587-4160
mpackham@saintedwards.org

Youth, Young Adult, & Liturgical Ministries
Steven Arias, Coordinator
youth@saintedwards.org

General Inquiries:
church@saintedwards.org

Music Ministries
Paul Radkowski, Music Director
music@saintedwards.org

Prayer Requests
Cindy 740-366-2871
ckk1@att.net

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

/SaintEdwardsChurch

Mass Schedule

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

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

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

Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 30 | First Sunday of Advent
8:15 a.m. For Don Bevier (RIP) by Gregg & Barb Hinterschied
10:45 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Monday, December 1
9:00 a.m. For Rev. Fr. Hubert Kobunski (RIP) by Jim & Amy Matesich

Tuesday, December 2
9:00 a.m. For David Denius (RIP) by Clarita Denius

Wednesday, December 3 | Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
9:00 a.m. For the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Mark & Paula Coleman

Thursday, December 4
9:00 a.m. For Paul & Faye Dusenberry (RIP) by Deb Dusenberry & Family

Friday, December 5
9:00 a.m. For Carol Stewart by Andy & Lisa Sloun

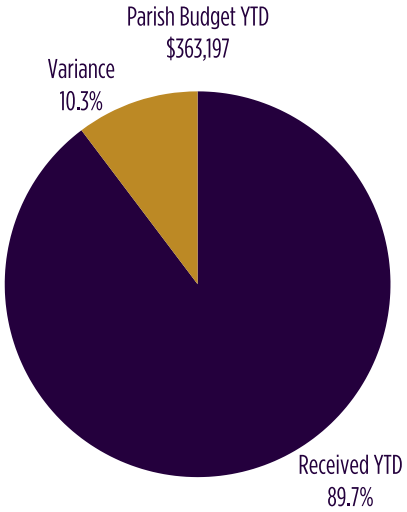
Saturday, December 6
Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

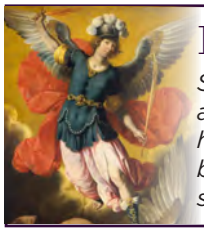
Sunday, December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent
Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus and their Families
10:45 a.m. For Barnabe Adetonah by Frank & Morelle Hohman

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 walk you through the process too, just give us a call!

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Oct. Offertory	$108,380	$101,158	$7,222
YTD Offertory	$325,832	$363,197	($37,365)





Prayer to St. Michael

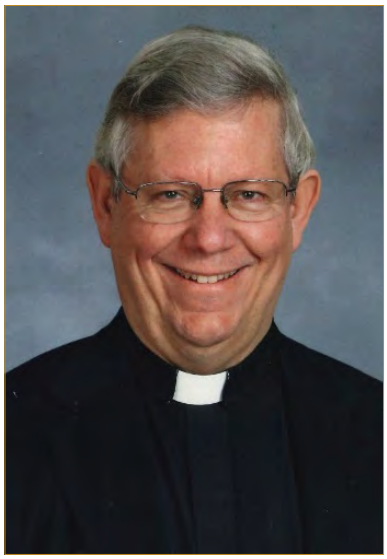
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls.

The Week Ahead November 30-December 7, 2025

Sunday | 11.30	Monday | 12.1	Tuesday | 12.2	Wednesday | 12.3
First Sunday of Advent 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 10:45 a.m. – OCIA Rite of Welcoming 11:45 a.m. – Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:00 a.m. – Advent Adoration in the Church 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 9:30 a.m. – Protecting God's Children Training Session in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. – That Man Is You! Meeting in the Lounge	9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 6:00 p.m. – Advent Preparation Session with Dcn. Adrian in Enke Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft	7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 6:00 p.m. – Strategic Planning Meeting in Enke Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group in the Church

Thursday | 12.4	Friday | 12.5	Saturday | 12.6	Sunday | 12.7
9:00 a.m. – Mass (Msgr. Enke) 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Otterbein 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Business Meeting in Enke Parish Hall	9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 10:30 a.m. – Mass at Middleton (Fr. Hayes)	***Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul*** 7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall 9:00 a.m. – Christmas Bazaar in Enke Parish Hall & Classrooms 4:00 p.m. – Confessions 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Msgr. Enke)	***Welcome Sunday*** ***Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul*** 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes) 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni) 11:45 a.m. – Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. – Focolare Meeting in Enke Parish Hall & Classroom 1 12:00 p.m. – OCIA in the Lounge 2:00 p.m. – Youth Group Homeless Outreach in the Parish Kitchen 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)

A Word from Your Pastor



November 30, 2025:

Dear Parishioners:

We begin a new Liturgical Season in the life of the Catholic Church, and we are in the process of opening a new adventure in the life of Granville, Saint Edward the Confessor. Recently, I have convened a group of people of a variety of ages and backgrounds to begin a discussion that will open the path to our common future.

Since my arrival in Granville in July 2023, I have asked on many occasions for names of people who would be able to assist in such a process. Over the past two and a half years, I have personally spoken with many and invited every group and organization of the parish to suggest names. In the weeks ahead, we will be communicating with you in a variety of ways the steps that have been taken so far and what we hope to accomplish in the months ahead to chart our common course.

At the moment, we invite you to reflect on your own experience of life in this parish. How did you and your family become members of the parish and how have you contributed in the past? What do you want to see in the future? What gifts, talents, skills, etc., has God given to you that you need to share with your parish?

Over Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are especially interested in the gathering of stories about the parish. Who are the people and pastors who have been part of your experience at St. Edward? Ask those who come to town what they remember. Make a note of it and send it to us. What "used to be" that can be again? We live in a post-Covid world in which many things stopped that can be useful to renew. We are also living in a new situation. What are the values that we stand for that must be presented and preserved in a new way for the new generations?

Now is a time to remember and to dream together. Let us hear from you! Blessings to you and your family through this new season and the new year!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft

Notes from the Loft
Prelude
Entrance Antiphon (arrangement varies by Mass time)
Introductory Rites
Opening: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (#59)
No Gloria during Advent
Liturgy of the Word
Psalm: Ps. 122: Let us go rejoicing... (p. 31)
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (p. 32)
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Offertory: Creator of the Stars of Night (#67)
Sanctus: Chanted (#839)
Mem. Acc.: We proclaim your death, O Lord... (#10 on pg. 16)
Amen: Chanted
Agnus Dei: Chanted (#843)
Communion: Ps. 85: Let Us See Your Kindness (#771)
Communion 2: TBD
Concluding Rite
Closing: The Advent of Our King (#73)
No postlude
Cantors
5:00 p.m.: Kayce Long
8:15 a.m.: Dave Conway
10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

Notes from the Loft
♫ This week's Responsorial Psalm is almost exactly the same as last Sunday's. The refrain ("Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord") and the first three verses are identical, but today the cantor sings a few additional verses that are prescribed in the *Lectionary* (the book of readings for Mass). Let us continue to rejoice throughout this blessed season of Advent.

♫ The U.S. bishops urge that, during Advent, "the organ and other musical instruments should be used with moderation and should not anticipate the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord" (*Sing to the Lord* 114). Often, there is less instrumental music, more restrained organ settings, and more singing and chanting *a cappella* – without instruments. As St. Edward Church has traditionally done, we will do all of these, including chanting the Latin *Sanctus* (Holy) and *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God). Practice videos, pronunciations, and translations are available on our website (go to saintedwards.org/music and click on "Chant Mass Parts").

♫ The new hymnals for this year are in the pews. Many thanks to all who helped with replacing them!

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

Parish News

Help with the Christmas Bazaar

Volunteers are needed to help out at the Christmas Bazaar! Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Space. Donations of baked goods are also needed for the bake sale, and can be dropped off on Friday, December 5 after 1:00 p.m.

SVdP Food Pantry Update

The St. Vincent de Paul food pantry needs additional peanut butter and tuna this week. Please consider donating a can or two to support our neighbors in need!

Safe Environment

We have had so many volunteers share how meaningful the recent Protecting God's Children (PGC) sessions have been! As a parish family, we are all God's children, and caring for one another is part of our shared responsibility. If you still need to complete the session, there are several options available, including Zoom. Register at: columbuscatholic.org/ministry-office/safe. Please note: the BCI background check is $25, and FastFingerprints is $37 for those who have lived in Ohio more than five years.

Parish Directory Corrections

The Parish Directory, that was published in 2024, had a few errors. If you have a directory at your home, please note the following: 1. Ministry page, the lower left photo is of Barb Hinterschied and Beth Pompey 2. The Gassman family should read Paul J & Rebecca Gassman and 3. Tom & Hanne McFadden were mistakenly labeled as Mitchell & Alexandra McDonough.

Around the Diocese

Support Our Seminarians

The Licking County Vocational Club is collecting sacks and toiletries again for seminarians at the Josephinum as a gift during exams. Your donations and prayers are requested and appreciated! Items such as individual packaged cookies, chips, nuts, candy, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razorblades and shaving cream, deodorant, and soap are all welcome. **Collection items can be dropped off in the Gathering Space between November 28 and December 11.** Thank you for your support! The seminarians are always appreciative.

Catholic Men's Luncheon

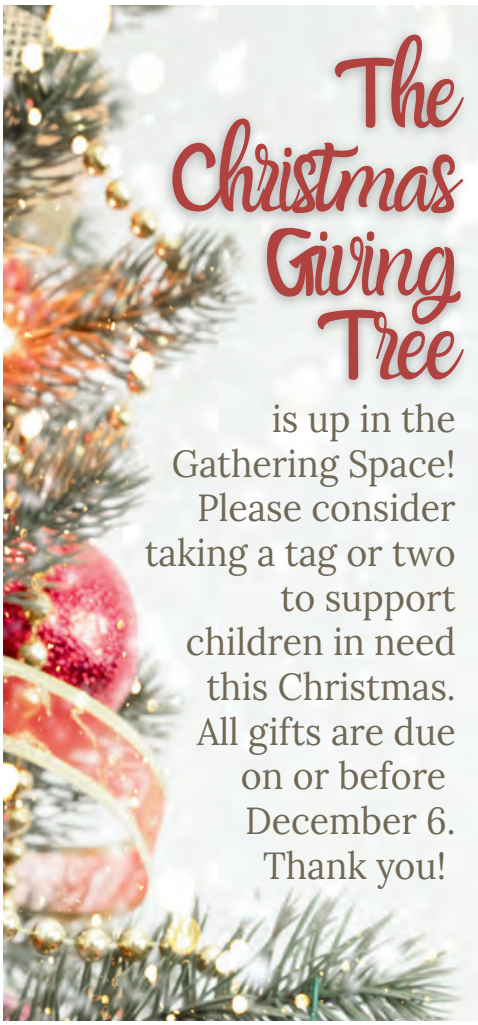
Join other Catholic Men on **Friday, December 5 at St. Patrick Church** in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring newly ordained Fr. Sam Severance, Parochial Vicar at St. Brendan the Navigator Parish in Hilliard. As is the custom in December, Father Severance will share his vocation story and experiences as a newly-ordained priest. **Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch and program at 12:10 p.m.** No reservations are necessary, but please bring $12 for lunch. The December luncheon is sponsored by the Serra Club of Columbus, a Catholic organization committed to promoting and supporting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life within the Diocese of Columbus. With two active chapters (Downtown and North), their mission is to create a culture where young people are encouraged to hear and respond to God's call. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com.

O Magnum Mysterium – "O Great Mystery"

Enjoy an evening of lessons and carols on the Mystery of the Incarnation with Sacred Music sung by the Buckeye Catholic Choir on **Friday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbus.** This event is free and open to the public. For details and to RSVP, visit buckeyecatholic.com.

Find Peace After Your Divorce

The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Lancaster is providing a ministry to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The 12-week *Surviving Divorce* program by Ascension Press is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and is for the newly separated and divorced, as well as those still struggling with issues years later. The program is facilitated by Rebecca Hubert and Kristin Garrabrant and costs $20, which includes the *Surviving Divorce* Personal Guide. **The program takes place every Thursday from January 8 to March 26, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the St. Mary Spirit Center.** For details or to register, email Kristin Garrabrant at kcgarrabrant@gmail.com. 10 spots are available, and the registration deadline is January 2, 2026.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Training Opportunities

In an effort to provide a safe environment for children and volunteers, the Church requires Protecting God's Children (PGC) training and background checks for adult volunteers.

Join us for the upcoming session at St. Edward Church:

Monday, 12-1 | 10am - 12pm

PGC Training & Fingerprints

**Please arrive 30 minutes early*

Scan the QR Code to create an account and register!

Meet the Strategic Plan Steering Committee

We have been sharing updates about the exciting Strategic Planning process taking root at Church of St. Edward the Confessor—and the momentum continues to grow! As these important conversations unfold, we are delighted to introduce the members of our Strategic Planning Steering Committee. This enthusiastic and dedicated group is helping shape dialogue, spark vision, and guide our parish forward as we prayerfully discern the path ahead and work together to build a vibrant, united future for our parish family.

The Steering Committee consists of (pictured left to right): Ray Stankunas, Jim Jackson, Bill Lozier, Jake Valenzuela, Laura Appleman, Melissa Kirian, Brooke Thompson, Pete Thomas, Loren Brown and Rev. Timothy Hayes (not pictured).

As this process continues, we are seeking a few parishioners with experience in facilitation, organization, communication, or data-related work who are interested in lending their time and talents to the Steering Committee. These individuals would support parish-wide listening sessions and town hall meetings, help moderate focus groups, assist in developing surveys, and contribute to data organization and analysis. If you have experience in any of these areas and feel called to help shape the future of St. Edward Church, we warmly invite you to step forward and be part of this meaningful work.

If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Laura Appleman at church@saintedwards.org.

St. Edward Church Strategic Plan Process Made Possible by

The Catholic Foundation

Spiritual Adoption Program

I am 8 months old now. I've got long fingernails, and I'm busy getting ready for my birthday. I can't wait to see my mom and dad. Thanks to you and your prayers, I'll see them soon!

Month 8
Thank you for your prayers!

Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight. She might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size – please keep her in your prayers, too! Your prayers have helped give your spiritually adopted baby's mother the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

Please say a prayer to St. Joseph for the father of your spiritually adopted baby, that he may have the courage and strength he needs to support both mom and baby.

ST. EDWARD YOUTH GROUP 7-12 GRADE SCHEDULE 2025-2026

NOV 30 — NO YOUTH GROUP, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DEC 7 — YOUTH GROUP HOMELESS OUTREACH
2:00- 6:00 PM, ST. ED KITCHEN

DEC 14 — YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

DEC 21 — YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS MOVIE
6:00-8:00 PM YOUTH ROOM

DEC 28 — NO YOUTH GROUP, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY

Advent Preparation Sessions

Greetings to you all, I hope you are flourishing, and if not, know the Lord is always there for you, just don't forget to smile.

As we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord this year, we first experience the Advent period. We may wonder what this period is. Advent comes from two Latin words, *ad* (to) and *venire* (to come). The Latin language has four principal parts (*adveniō, advenīre, advēnī, adventus*) and many English words are derived from the fourth principal part. In this case, the fourth principal part is *adventus*. Hence, advent literally means the coming: the awaiting of the coming of the Lord as we anticipate His Nativity.

This Advent, I am privileged to present two sessions on the anticipation of the coming of our Lord.

The first session is on December 2 and consists of a video on how different cultures prepare for the coming of the Lord in line with the Church's teaching, and afterward, a short lecture. The second session is on December 9, where our parish musicians present a well-known song, "Oh Come Emmanuel." The session begins with a very short lecture about the music, and then our melodious musicians crown the lecture with the beautiful hymn.

Preparing for the Lord to come into our hearts is always good. Are you ready to welcome him as He enters your life?

– Deacon Adrian Kyambadde

First Session:
Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Second Session:
Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Both sessions take place in Enke Parish Hall

St. Edward Christmas Flowers

We are accepting donations for poinsettias to adorn our church this Christmas season! Contributions may be made in memory or in honor of a loved one (please specify). Use your Christmas Flower Offering envelope, place this form in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office by December 14. Checks may be made payable to Church of St. Edward the Confessor. Suggested donation: $20.00

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Amount: $ _____

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

Sponsors of the Week

NATURALIMAGE
PREMIER LANDSCAPE SERVICES
LANDSCAPE DESIGN
HARDSCAPING
MAINTENANCE
LAWNCARE
LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION
740-403-8063
www.naturalimagepropertyservices.com

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

Ministry Schedule

December 6-8 | Second Sunday of Advent, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	Lisa Cannon Kathleen Kiebel Stefanie Manley Andrew Morey	Karen Kolbe	Arianna Carter (sub req.) NOT FILLED NOT FILLED
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Suzanne Fox Leo Fox Mary Maltry Kris Whiting	Michael Whiting	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Rebecca Gassman Paul Gassman Noelle Gremling Sheila Heist Steve Heist Peter Thomas	Katie Perry	Claire Skinner Carter Skinner Cooper Skinner
Monday, 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Barbour Bill Hoekstra	Jim Bidigare	
Monday, 7:00 p.m.	Adrienne Carter Margo Downing Nancy Himmelspach NOT FILLED	Barb Mattei-Smith	Arianna Carter NOT FILLED

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

Help Our Parish Thrive!

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX

Help St. Edward Church grow in missionary discipleship! Share your insights by completing the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey to identify our parish's strengths and opportunities so the Diocese of Columbus can make informed decisions about our future.

How long does it take?

The DMI only takes 10–15 minutes. Wherever you find a pause in your day–drinking your morning coffee, in line at the store, or waiting for pickup–we invite you to take a moment to share your thoughts.

How long is it open?

The survey is open from **Tuesday, November 25 through Tuesday, January 6.** Please complete it as soon as possible to make sure your perspective is included!

Who should participate?

Everyone! Teens, this includes you. We want input from all age groups so we can understand our parish as a whole. Our youth have a valuable voice in the Church, and your participation truly matters.

Scan the QR code to take the survey today, or stop by the Parish Office for a paper copy.

Thank you for helping us strengthen our parish and grow together in faith!

Daily Readings

Sunday, November 30 | First Sunday of Advent
First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Monday, December 1
First Reading: Isaiah 4:2-6
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 2
First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Gospel: Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 3 | Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 4
First Reading: Isaiah 26:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 5
First Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 6
First Reading: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent
First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Pope Leo XIV
Intentions of the Month:
November

For the Prevention of Suicide
Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Save the Date
for
Night Under the Stars Parish Dance 2026
January 31, 2026

Open to All Parishioners
Tickets available January 3 through 23

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 10876

Catholic Social Services
Senior Services
Licking County

Invites You to Participate in Our Annual
Baskets of Love
HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE

Fill a **basket, reusable shopping bag, or small laundry basket** with an assortment of the list below. **Your Basket of Love may be the only gift our seniors will receive this holiday.**

HELP US COLLECT 300 BASKETS FOR SENIORS IN NEED!

Item Wish List:
Tissues
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Hand Soap/Bath Soap
Fabric Softener/Dryer Sheets
Laundry Soap (Small)
All Purpose Cleaner/Disinfecting Wipes
2026 Calendars
Bath and Kitchen Towels
Sugar-Free Candy
Shampoo, Deodorant, Hand Sanitizer
Kitchen Trash Bags (13-Gallon)
Word Find Books (Large-Print)
Flashlight with Batteries
Air Fresheners
Optional Seasonal items such as Winter Gloves or Lap Blankets
Postage Stamps*
Kroger or Walmart Gift Cards*
** Please place in a separate envelope.*

Baskets may be delivered or shipped to:
Catholic Social Services
1031 Brice Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

by Wednesday, December 10th

OR

Attend our Advent Open House at our location on Thursday, December 11th from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m and bring your basket then!

We are available to receive donations Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Questions?
Call 614-702-2743

Offices closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, Wednesday - Friday.

COLSCSS.ORG

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

R.A. LONG PAINTING
614-864-3951

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

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

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

Protect your data assets with AlphaDefense and Managed Backup
ALPHALINK TECHNOLOGIES SINCE 1984
1496 West Main St • Newark • 740.788.9000 • www.alink.com

Compliments of
THE WELLNESS WAY
Do Health Differently.

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

Orthopedic Specialists & Sports Medicine
Keeping Granville/Newark Active since 1976
740-788-9220
www.ossmnewark.com
Dr. Eric Erb
Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr. Tung Dao
Foot & Ankle Specialist

ALBYN'S
Landscape & Nursery Center
740-763-3359
albynslandscape.com

Protected By DMO Security
740-344-6256
24 Hour Monitoring

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

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

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

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

Free Estimates
Roof Ohio
REDEFINING ROOFING STANDARDS
A Division of Mr. Metal Roofs
We're not just a contractor in your community, We're a part of the community.
614.741.3333 • www.roof-ohio.com
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS
We specialize in: Slate / Synthetic slate • Metal Roofs • Copper Gutters
Cedar Shake • James Hardie / LP
We wont just match our competitors' prices well beat it

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

Knights of Columbus
St. Edward Council #10876
Serving Parish and Community

Grand Monuments
1600 East Main St.
Newark, Ohio 43055
740-345-8772

FAHNER CONSTRUCTION
est. 2021
Concrete Driveways • Patios
Decorative Concrete

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

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

Mortellaro McDonald's

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

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

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

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

Matesich Distributing Co.
EST. 1928
1190 E. Main Street, Newark 740-349-8686

Making a First Impression ... Leaving a Lasting Memory
first impressions
Maternity Services
Licking Memorial Hospital
LMHealth.org

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

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

Edward, Granville, OH-Inside 1-#19879-JM-11/21/25

Downey's Carpet Care of Granville

(740) 587-4258

A family tradition of service excellence, since 1897.

Hope Timber Garden & Vintage

Refined Rustic Vintage & Antiques
Bag & bulk mulch
Plants - Stone
Topsoil

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

---

www.momnet.com

mom modern office methods

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

MARK A. CENEVIVA, O.D.
Independent Doctor of Optometry
WAL-MART VISION CENTERS
Heath Office
911 Hebron Rd.
740-522-2553
Newark Office
1315 North 21st St.
740-364-9130

OUTDOOR GEAR, CLOTHING, DENISON, & GRANVILLE APPAREL
Everest Gear.com
Come Visit Us In-Store or Online
FACEBOOK: EVEREST GEAR.COM
INSTAGRAM: EVEREST GEAR

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

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

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

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

STONE PILLAR CONSTRUCTION
BUILD. DESIGN. REMODEL.

We work with you every step of the way throughout the building/redesign process, effectively listening to your wants and ideas, transforming your vision into reality.

CROSSFIT ALWAYS FORWARD

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

Since 1914
Four Generations
Family Owned
Velvet Moose Tracks
Velvet Buckeye Cream
Velvet Butter Pecan & Cashew

Minuteman Press Newark
WE DESIGN, PRINT & PROMOTE...YOU!
Laura & Tim Collins
44 S. 4th Street Newark
740.345.4494
www.mpnewark.com

CENTRAL OHIO DENTAL SPA

Sy Viet Nguyen, DDS, LLC

740-344-8692

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

Northwestern Mutual®
A better way to money™

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

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

E
TYX
OXYFE
TXCYEGF
AKDHEPDIDH
QIEOWNCKSPRBVIA

THE EYE SITE

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

Granville Office
(740) 587-4970

Millersport Office
(740) 467-2525

BEAR PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

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

614-425-1847

GREAT ADVENTURE TRAVEL CO.

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

Leavitt Group
Independent Insurance Agency
Auto-Owners Insurance · PROGRESSIVE · TRAVELERS
Matt McDermott, Agent
(740) 345-9574 • 303 N. 21 St, Newark, OH
matt-mcdermott@leavitt.com • www.leavitt.com/midwest

"Great smiles start here!"
CROCK ORTHODONTICS
175 McMillen Dr., Newark, OH 43055
740-344-3372 • www.crockortho.com

Morrow, Gordon & Byrd, Ltd.
James R. Cooper
Attorney at Law
Cell (740) 398-2347
jcooper@mgbohiolaw.com
33 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 4190, Newark, Ohio 43058-4190
Telephone (740) 345-9611 • Facsimile (740) 349-9816

---

nest
MEDICAL SPA | SKIN & HAIR CENTER
Where your natural glow begins.
Sofia Davila M.D. • nestmedicalspa.org

AUTOMOTIVE PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL

DENT SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

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

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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

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

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

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

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

Thinking of Retiring?

VAN WINKLE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC
Protecting Your Retirement

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

Brian Van Winkle
Parishioner

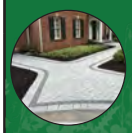
READ-EGAN
FUNERAL HOME
141 GREEN WAVE DR. • NEWARK
740-344-6106

KFC®

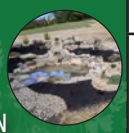
Newark
38 N. Cedar St.
345-5175

Heath
780 S. 30th St.
522-2668

NATURALIMAGE
PREMIER LANDSCAPE SERVICES



LANDSCAPE DESIGN
HARDSCAPING
MAINTENANCE
LAWNCARE
LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION



740-403-8063
www.naturalimagepropertyservices.com

Mickey's Roofing

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

McPeek Hoekstra Hoskinson
Funeral & Cremation Service

Lisa Bruns
Licensed Funeral Director
Member of St. Edward

MCPEEKHOEKSTRA.COM

133 South Prospect St.
Granville, OH 43023
740-587-0161

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

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

PORTA KLEEN
800.972.3800
portakleen.com
Contact us today for your next event.
Proudly serving the Granville community since 1995.

THE DENTIST
Jeffrey C. Kirian, DDS, LLC
740 N. 21st Street • Newark • Parishioners
740-366-1236 • www.thedentist.us • *Accepting New Patients*

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

Edward, Granville, OH #19879-JM-11/20/25

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 December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." **+SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA (MOTHER TERESA)**

Monday, December 1 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11 When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."

Meditation: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! As we begin this Season of Advent we want to begin this first Monday of our Advent journey by rallying ourselves to turn to the Lord with great hope. In the midst of many discouraging challenges in our lives – the economy, violence, political in-fighting, problems in our own lives – we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces our God desires to give us. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." (Isaiah,2) Let us remember the words in scripture which we state during each Mass before we receive the Eucharist: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you; but say only the word and my soul will be healed."

Prayer: Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The prophet Isaiah foretold a time of restoration for the holy city Jerusalem and for its remnants (ref. Isaiah 4:2-6) and also a time of universal peace when all nations would come to Jerusalem to "the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob" and "beat their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:2-4). Jesus fulfills this prophecy first by restoring both Jew and Gentile to fellowship with God through the victory he won for us on the cross. When he comes again he will fully establish his universal rule of peace and righteousness and unite all things in himself (ref. Ephesians 1:10). His promise extends to all generations who believe in him that we, too, might feast at the heavenly banquet table with the patriarchs of the Old Covenant who believed but did not see the promised Messiah. And so we need to ask ourselves: Do you believe in God's promises and do you seek his kingdom first in your life? The Season of Advent reminds us that the Lord wants us to actively seek him and the coming of his kingdom in our lives. The Lord will surely reward those who seek his will for their lives. We can approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith, like the centurion did in today's gospel reading, knowing that he will show us his mercy, love, compassion, along with guidance and help in our time of need.

Tuesday, December 2 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:21-24 Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

Meditation: What does Jesus' prayer in today's gospel tell us about God and about ourselves? First, it tells us that God is both Father and Lord of earth as well as heaven. He is both Creator and Author of all that he has made, the first origin of everything and transcendent authority, and at the same time, goodness and loving care for all his children. All fatherhood and motherhood are derived from him (ref. Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. Pride closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. Jesus contrasts pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are like "babes" in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in God who is the source of all wisdom and strength. They seek one thing − the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" which is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root or every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6). The grace of Christ-like humility inclines us towards God and disposes us to receive God's wisdom, grace, and help. Nothing can give us greater joy than the knowledge that we are God's beloved and that our names are written in heaven (ref. Luke 10:20).

Prayer: Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions, and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. 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 makes a claim which no one would have dared to make − He is the perfect revelation of God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God − a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Do you pray to your Father in heaven with joy and confidence in his love and care for you?

Wednesday, December 3 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent
Saint Francis Xavier

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22 As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Meditation: Jesus speaks the same message to us today as he did when he walked this earth − we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine in and through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the truth contained in the gospel. Saint Paul the Apostles says, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and who through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15). Do you show others around you the joy of the gospel and do you pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

Prayer: O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. 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 God calling you to do in your brief earthly life? As God calls you (as he calls each of us) how are you responding? Are you ready to respond? When Jesus began his ministry he went every where he could — the streets, towns, hills and lakeside of Galilee — to speak to people about the kingdom of God. He chose as his closest friends and coworkers those who were ready to follow as his disciples and he gave them an unusual mission — "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did Jesus choose? Ordinary fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position of power or fame in society. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special marks of education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an

assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to be his disciples, we must not think we have nothing to offer him in exchange. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom.

About Saint Francis Xavier: The great missionary St. Francis Xavier was from a Basque noble family, like his beloved mentor Saint Ignatius of Loyola. When Francis met Ignatius in Paris he was a proud, autocratic, ambitious man wanting to accomplish great deeds in the world. For three years Ignatius patiently encouraged Francis to look at his life differently. "What profits a man," Ignatius asked Francis, "if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Francis joined Peter Faber as the first of Ignatius's companions. Francis Xavier was ordained in 1537. In 1541 King John of Portugal asked Ignatius for priests to send to the missions in India. Despite knowing he would never see his beloved companion again, Ignatius chose Francis Xavier for the mission. Francis left for India, arriving at the city of Goa in 1542. For the next ten years the missionary Francis Xavier traveled from Goa to Cape Comorin in south India, then to the East Indies, Malacca, and the Moluccas, and onward to Japan. It was Francis Xavier's great ambition to get permission to enter China as a missionary. He died in 1552, exhausted from his labors and fasts, on a small island off the coast of China with a single companion at his side. St. Francis Xavier's great ambition was to bring the world to Jesus Christ. Armed only with his breviary and a book of meditations, Francis preached the Gospel to the poor and sick, spending most of his time ministering to their needs. His nights were taken up in prayer. His only attention to his personal needs was to have a pair of boots. He barely ate enough to stay alive. As the missionary Francis Xavier, SJ, moved on, he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations for the Catholic faith in Asia. (Courtesy of IgnatianSpirituality.com)

Thursday, December 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent
Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27 Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

Meditation: What can satisfy the deepest hunger and longing of the human heart? Isaiah prophesied that God would provide a heavenly banquet for all peoples and would destroy death once and for all (Isaiah 2:6-8). God sent his only son into the world to fulfill that promise. The miracles performed by Jesus are both a sign of God's kingdom and a demonstration of God's power. They also show the magnitude of God's love and mercy. When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was leftover.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the Priest Saint John Damascene, so that the true faith, which he excelled in teaching, may always be our light and our strength. 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: In the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he truly cares about us. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly − more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his banquet table. Are you satisfied with God's provision for you? In this Season of Advent, do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness? If not, why not?

Friday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31 As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

Meditation: The kind of foundation that each of us builds our lives upon will determine whether we can survive the storms that are sure to come, and come again, and again, as simply part of life. Builders usually lay their foundations when the weather and soil conditions are at their best. It takes foresight to know how a foundation will stand up against adverse conditions. Building a house on a flood plain, such as a dry river-bed, is a sure bet for disaster! Jesus prefaced his story with a warning: We may fool humans with our speech, but God cannot be deceived. He sees the heart as it truly is − with its motives, intentions, desires, and choices (ref. Psalm 139:2). There is only one way in which a person's sincerity can be proved, and that is by one's practice. Fine words can never replace good deeds. Our character is revealed in the choices we make, especially when we are tested. Do you cheat on an exam or on your income taxes, especially when it will cost you? Do you lie, or cover-up, when disclosing the truth will cause you injury or embarrassment? A true person is honest and reliable before God, one's neighbor and oneself. His or her word can be counted on. If you heed God's word and live according to it then you need not fear when storms assail you. God will be your rock and your refuge. Is your life built upon the sure "rock" of Jesus Christ and do you listen to his word as if your life depended on it?

Prayer: Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us, we may find rescue from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: So what is our best security against disaster and destruction? In the ancient world a strong city, an impregnable fortress, and a secure house were built on solid rock because they could withstand the forces of nature and foe alike. Isaiah speaks of God as an "everlasting rock" (ref. Is. 26:4). He is the rock of refuge and deliverance (ref. Psalm 18:2) and the rock in whom there is no wrong (ref. Psalm 92:15). Scripture warns that destruction will surely come to those who place their security in something other than God and his kingdom. Jesus' parables invite us to stake our lives on the coming of his kingdom or face the consequences of being unprepared when the day of testing and destruction will surely come. In this Advent season, we are reminded to place all of our trust in Jesus Christ, the promised Savior, the Son of God who was sent to this world for our redemption.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2025

A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus! Come!"

~ Fr. Henri Nouwen