SS. Edward & Lucy Parish
Clustered with St. Helen Church

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm-St. Edward
6:30pm-St. Lucy
Sunday: 8:30am-St. Edward
10:30am-St. Lucy

Confession Schedule
Saturday: 4:15-4:45pm-St. Edward
7:15pm-St. Lucy

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday, 6:00pm-St. Edward Chapel
Tuesday - Friday, 8:00am-St. Edward Chapel

Holy Day Mass Schedule
Holydays: Vigil Mass 6:30pm-St. Edward
Holyday: 9:00am-St. Edward
6:30pm-St. Lucy

Mailing Address
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Rev. John T. Burkley, Pastor
Karen Thrasher, Business Manager
Cassie Brumbaugh, Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
Sister Rosemary Janezic, Administrative Assistant

Registration
Call the office or download a form at www.ssedwardlucy.com

Like us on Facebook
SS. Edward & Lucy Parish

16150 Center St. Parkman, Ohio

OUR MISSION
“The vibrant Catholic community of SS. Edward and Lucy teaches, proclaims and lives the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do so through the celebration of the Eucharist, the administration of the sacraments and in loving and merciful service to all.”

December 6, 2020
REST IN PEACE
Dottie Hofstetter
June 3, 1940-November 20, 2020
Bill Krejci
September 6, 1937-November 17, 2020

Please also pray for Joe Winterhalter, brother of Jan Helt who has died. May they and all our faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

LIFE IN OUR PARISH
Because Sunday is the feast day of St. Nicholas we are combining the feast celebration with our Gathering at St. Lucy. (Next Sunday will be the feast of our St. Lucy). We are all invited to Winca Hall after Sunday Mass...Our day at St. Vincent de Paul in Warren has been changed from December 26 to December 19 so we can be there before Christmas. We welcome your help to help make lunch that day special...As we come to the end of our treatment of the Letter of James in our Bible Study, I hope to move to a popular program from EWTN led by Jeff Cavins and Scott Hahn. It is entitled “Our Father’s Plan: from Genesis to the Catholic Church”. Combining Jeff and Scott’s knowledge and background makes this an interesting overview of the Bible. We will begin later this month. Watch the bulletin for more information...Over the past eight months our congregation at Mass has grown and a number of the families who have “fled” here during the pandemic have decided to try us as a church home. We need to be grateful for the many ways their presence is a blessing to our own parish life. For instance, I am grateful for their generously setting up the Nativity Scene in front of St. Lucy. Our parish’s approach and theirs to this pandemic brings us together at least until all the draconian measures are past. May we be encouragement and support to each other...Now that Advent has begun we have scheduled an Advent Penance Service on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:00pm at St. Edward. We spiritually prepare for a richer Christmas. Join us for this very simple service...In the middle of this pandemic and our election fracas, peace and quiet are our hope!

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER
Friday, December 25
2pm @ St. Lucy

Chef Judy is preparing a Christmas feast. Reservations are needed by Sunday, December 20. Please call Judy at 440-413-0557. Volunteers and bakery donations are always welcome.

The DEADLINE for returning your wrapped gifts is next Sunday, December 13. Please be sure to securely attach the angel to your wrapped package. Place the gift under the Christmas tree.

Retirement Fund for Religious
Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

“We don’t know what the future holds, but it’s all God’s work,” says Sister Theresa McGrath (center), 86, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio. In good times and bad, she and the religious shown here have devoted themselves to God’s work. They are among nearly 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Collection will be taken up next weekend.

Saint Nicholas Celebration!

Who? ... Everyone!
Especially boys and girls who have been very good this year

What? ... Join us for breakfast, a video about St. Nicholas, games and crafts!

When? ... Sunday, December 6 after the 10:30am Mass
Where? ... 7th St. Lucy in Winca Hall

Contact Ossie in the Religious Education Office at 440-569-3301 or ossie@stlucys.org ossiejewels@gmail.com
REFLECTING ON THE WORD

I remember hearing about a little boy coming home from church and being asked what the preacher had spoken about. The church used the King James Version of the scriptures and the preacher had spent some time on the reading from Isaiah we heard today. But that translation began: “comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.” In response to his parents’ inquiry, the child said, “It was just lovely.” The priest told us how God is saying, “Come to tea, come to tea, my people.”

While Isaiah’s message today is certainly comforting, with God tell the prophet to speak tenderly and tell an exiled people that all is forgiven, that the punishment for sin has run its course, these words are not the equivalent of an invitation to a relaxing cup of tea. Now as then, they serve as an invitation to get to work, to remove any obstacle that prevents God from coming into our hearts. This means that we have to get our hearts into shape and our voices have to become willing to announce that God lives and comes with power to save.

John the Baptist remains a model for us today. He spoke out boldly, calling people to prepare a way for the Lord, which was a call to conversion and inner transformation. We are to take in this same message, first as listeners, then as heralds ourselves, witnessing to family, friends and any who will listen that Jesus desires to come more fully into our lives.


KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS PREGNANT? SCARED? NEEDS HELP? CALL 888.552.3552 24 HOURS

SS. EDWARD & LUCY PRAYER LINE: Call Rebecca 330-389-0728 or email prayer request to Rebbanne@gmail.com.
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Loving God, you come to us with compassion, mercy and forgiveness, but at times we set up barriers that prevent your entry into our hearts. Teach us how to prepare a way for you so you have access into our lives. May Jesus, who is the way, show us the way. Amen.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tie-tacks and earrings twinkle with “microlights.” Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today’s Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. “Give some evidence that you mean to reform!” he cries.

What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness; it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting.

This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: “May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word.” One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Next Sunday is “Bring Your Baby Jesus to Church Day!”

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter’s Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home.

John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer.

As I bless your little statues, beloved children, I think with serene hope of you, of the immense good that you can do, precisely because you are little, within your family, the school, the Associations, and society itself. Not for nothing did Jesus himself choose you as models for those who wish to have a part in his Kingdom (cf. Mt 18:4; Mk 10: 15).

Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of the Pope’s love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with intense faith, with that faith wherewith the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger (cf. Lk 2:7). Invite your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, the whole of your family, to gather round the Crib in these days of the Christmas Novena, to recite together the prayers learned on your mother’s lap, to sing the sweet carols, so charged with human and Christian sentiment. May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a limpid and sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide and direct your life and that of your dear ones.

Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition. It is a beautiful Advent tradition, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event.

Our December Generations of Faith session is next Sunday, December 13 from noon to 3pm at St. Lucy. The theme is PEACE. We will have an Advent Penance Service beginning at 1pm. All are welcome!

“It’s A Matter of Life...”

“He who controls the language controls the masses” wrote Saul Alinsky in “Rules for Radicals”. One of the best examples of this is the common use of the word “Choice” to describe how the pro-death culture perceives the decision to execute preborn children in the womb. In reality, it is a damnable lie. It is like saying a “frozen fire”. There is no such thing! It is denial in one of the worst demonic delusions. Any human who thinks it’s ok to murder an innocent baby, is a soul already influenced by Satan. Claiming to be “Pro Choice” amounts to white washing one’s conscience and yielding to social brainwashing while attempting to establish an immoral, GOD-less “new norm.” The delusion of being Pro Choice is never, ever in alignment with CHRIST.
Sunday, Dec 06, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Begin at the end
Beginnings are really the Act II of endings. That’s why we hear so much Apocalypse in the early Advent readings. Something has to give way for the new thing to arrive. In order to move into the new house, you have to leave the old one. That goes for the life of the world to come, as well. So when John the Baptist summons us to prepare the Lord’s way, he simultaneously obliges us to repent our former way. Consider what obstacles need to “pass away” to “make straight” the path of the Christ child’s arrival into your heart.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). “The heavens will pass away with a mighty roar, and the Earth and everything done on it will be found out.”

Monday, Dec 07, 2020
MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

To the moon and beyond
You think you’re busy? Ambrose, one of the four first doctors of the church, challenged emperors and combated heresies. He converted Saint Augustine and championed celibacy. He was a prolific theologian and contributed to the music of the church. He was so admired he was made a bishop by popular acclaim. Ambrose did a lot of different things—who of us could keep up?—but he had one vision that we can all get behind: that the church rise “like a growing moon” above fleeting worldliness.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). “We have seen incredible things today.”

Tuesday, Dec 08, 2020
SOLlemnity Of the IMMACULATE ConcePTION Of the Blessed Virgin MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE USA)

Original grace
The Immaculate Conception is so key to Catholic consciousness, it’s hard to believe it hasn’t been around forever. The teaching—that Mary was born without original sin—was in fact opposed by scholarly saints like Anselm, Aquinas, Bernard, and Bonaventure. They insisted that, because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, Mary would need salvation as much as the rest of us. But the Council of Trent concluded that Mary had been spared, and popular piety began to revere her Immaculate Conception. The significance? Perhaps, as theologian Elizabeth Johnson eloquently points out, it’s that “grace is more original than sin.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

Wednesday, Dec 09, 2020
MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUÁHUALTOATZIN

Celebrate the messenger of love
Born in 1474 near modern-day Mexico City, Saint Juan Diego was named Cuáhualtoatzin (Talking Eagle) and according to tradition lived among his Chichimeca people until the conquest of Mexico in 1521. At the age of 50, Juan Diego was baptized by Franciscan missionaries and began attending daily Mass. While he walked to Mass on December 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to him with a special request. So begins the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast we celebrate in three days. Today, we honor Juan Diego, the first indigenous saint of the Americas, canonized in 2002, who spent the rest of his life as a prayerful hermit tending the first shrine built to Guadalupe. On this Advent day, we pray for the grace to imitate his humility, trust, and faithfulness.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). “They that hope in the LORD will . . . soar as with eagles’ wings.”

Thursday, Dec 10, 2020
ADVENT WEEKDAY

Walk the simple but elusive path to peace
As Christians await the Prince of Peace, today the world celebrates this year’s Nobel Peace Prize awardee—the U.N. World Food Program—for their heroic efforts in war-torn lands in the midst of the pandemic. Human beings are prone to conflict, but the craving for peace and reconciliation runs deep across cultures and faiths. The perennial question is how to achieve it. Here’s a simple but profound answer that has been put forth by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for decades: “If you want peace, work for justice.” Ask yourself what step toward justice you can take today.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:16-15 (184). “Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist.”

Friday, Dec 11, 2020
MEMORIAL Of DAMASUS I, POPE

Stormy weather
If we think we’ve got it tough—juggling the gift list, social schedule, family feuds, and ailing bank account—consider Damasus. He embodied the truth that faith is more a compass than an insurance policy. When he was elected pope, another faction chose someone else. What followed were violent battles, scandals, accusations, heresies, and troubled relations with the Eastern Church. While we might sing carols about the Prince of Peace, the hard reality of human life has, since the Incarnation, also involved moments of hurricane-force wind. Today, let’s welcome whatever problem we’re reluctant to engage, knowing it might be our teacher.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). “If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river.”

Saturday, Dec 12, 2020
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Celebrate the feast!
The apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Mexico City’s Tepeyac Hill in 1531 was a game changer. Images of the Virgin had typically carried a distinctly European flavor. The Virgin of Guadalupe, however, had indigenous features. She would become the first Mestiza image, for a people who comprise the racially and culturally diverse population of modern-day Mexico. Under her spiritual care and influence, a variety of peoples could unite at least in spirituality. For Mexican Americans, and Latinos everywhere, la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe is among the biggest religious celebrations of the year. Join the fiesta.
