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# SS. Edward & Lucy News

SS. Edward and Lucy Parish is a Catholic community in Eastern Geauga County

DECEMBER 2018



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## STEPHEN MINISTRY CAN HELP MANY

by *The Rev. Father Rod Kreidler, pastor of St. Edward Catholic Church in Ashland.*

Have you heard about Stephen Ministry? At first glance, you might think this is a ministry for people named "Stephen," but you'd be wrong.

Stephen Ministry is a nationally recognized Christian caring ministry that began in 1975 and has helped more than a million people in over 13,000 churches.

Stephen Ministry equips laypeople to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care and support to people experiencing difficult times in their lives such as the loss of a loved one, job loss, terminal illness, or divorce. The ministry pairs individuals with a lay caregiver—called a Stephen Minister—who will come alongside them to provide emotional and spiritual care for as long as the need persists.

Why is this important? Paul reminded the early church that we are to "Bear

one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (*Galatians 6:2*)

Many people today are hurting, and they need someone who will listen to them through their pain or confusion. These people may not have the support systems, family, and friends we often take for granted. Now they are hurting alone.

Pastors wear many hats for many people in their congregations, so they can't always give ongoing care to all the individuals in need. Stephen Ministry empowers laypeople as Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, confidential care to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministers are not trained counselors, but caring people who want to help fulfill the law of Christ.

The Stephen Minister's care helps

people by listening, asking questions that help identify and deal with feelings, sharing distinctively Christian caring resources, praying, and relying on God to achieve the results. This support helps people work through their difficulties and achieve growth. Stephen Ministers understand that confidentiality is crucial in any caring relationship, and they maintain that confidentiality.

Sometimes professional counseling is required. Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize when that is needed and make proper referrals to counselors or agencies that can work with that individual.

**SS. Edward & Lucy  
Stephen Ministry is  
available to assist those  
in need. Call the office at  
440-548-3812 for  
information.**

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## DEAR SON, WE HOPE . . .

*Submitted by Fr. Burkley, written by Kerry Weber 'America' Magazine*

Here is a letter that a mother wrote to her son at his Baptism. She and her husband were asked by the priest to write a letter. It was about what they hoped for their child in the faith. They also read the letter at the Baptism. The letter reads as follows: "We hope that your faith inspires you to be just, loving, humble and merciful. We hope that your faith inspires you to encourage the church to be more just,

more loving, more humble, more merciful. We hope you find community here, people who will support you, love you, challenge you. We hope that your parish inspires you to care for those in need, to perform the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy for others. We hope that when the world makes it difficult to live out your faith, you will find strength to persevere. We hope you find strength

in the Eucharist and in the people of God... We hope that you read and learn about your faith and that your life will give witness to the joy of the Gospel. We hope your faith gives you great joy and that you share that joy with others. We hope you take time to be grateful for this life, with the knowledge that this life, as beautiful and heartbreaking as it can be, is not all there is."

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## FROM OUR YOUTH

by Marcia Mikolaj

### Sharing Mass:

It can be an uneasy experience for any of us when trying something new, especially when it is in front of 'everyone'. Here are a few responses from some of our Parish Youth when they were asked how they felt as they participated in various roles at Mass recently:

- I was really nervous.
- I was comfortable because I participated before.
- I felt anxious because I didn't know if I would mess up.
- I was nervous but it turned out fine.
- I felt really relaxed because I practiced everything before.

*(Our thanks to the Youth who conquered their fears, or supported their peers, and shared this special Mass with their Parish community.)*



### October Campfire Party with 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:

Lots of hotdogs, fun and a great hayride at the October Campfire Party. Looking forward to the next event!

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## CHRISTMAS HUMOR



*Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?*

*A: It's Christmas, Eve.*

*Q: What happened when the snowwoman got angry at the snowman?*

*A: She gave him the cold shoulder.*

*Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer Olive'?*

*A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*

*Q: What do lions sing at Christmas?*

*A: Jungle bells!*

*Q: What's a good holiday tip?*

*A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.*

*Q: Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?*

*A: You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.*

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## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

*Submitted by Doris Schwendeman*

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me! What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning.

The surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol . . . So pass it on if you wish!

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## WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS

*Submitted by Doris Schwendeman*

Santa lives at the North Pole . . . JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh . . . Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year . . . JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stocking with goodies . . . JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down the chimney uninvited . . . JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa . . . JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap . . . JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?" . . . JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does he know our name he knows our address too. He knows our history and future and

He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly . . . JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO . . . JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says you better not cry . . . JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys . . . JESUS makes new life, mends broken hearts, repairs broken homes, and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but . . . JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

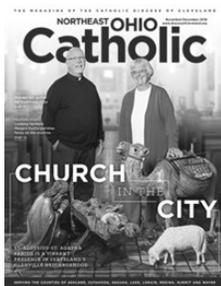
While Santa puts gifts under your tree . . . JESUS became our gift and died on a tree . . . the cross.

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

"For God so love the world, that HE gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

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Are you looking for a traditional nut & poppyseed roll recipe? Interested in learning more about St. Aloysius-St. Agatha's Church in the City? In need of services for yourself or aging parents? You'll find that and more in the current issue of *Northeast Ohio Catholic*. Arriving in homes now!

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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2018 SCHEDULE

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday, December 14, 7:00 pm,

Advent Penance Service @ St. Edward

Saturday, December 15 & 22, 4:15-5:00 pm @ St. Edward

& 7:15 pm @ St. Lucy

Monday, December 17, 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 pm @ St. Lucy

### PARISH MASS TIMES

#### CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

4:00 pm Children's Mass @ St. Edward

6:00 pm Vigil Mass @ St. Edward

12:00 am Midnight Mass @ St. Lucy

#### CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25

8:30 am @ St. Edward

10:30 am. @ St Lucy



We gratefully acknowledge the J.S. Paluch Printing Company, who prints our parish bulletin and the parishioners who invested their time and talents to produce the newsletter.

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