

SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

MARCH 2011

I HAVE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO HELP ME

by Karen Morrow

When I was 24 my husband was killed in an accident. My life was altered dramatically. I had my family to console me, and my friends to distract me.

Yet ultimately, I walked the path to wholeness alone. I could have used a Stephen Minister.

Three years later I was told that I would never conceive a child. Again my family helped me and my friends comforted me, but this was definitely something that was my very own struggle. I could have used a Stephen Minister.

When God blessed me with my current husband, we decided to adopt a child and pursued many options. We were turned away from agencies because there are many years between us, so we tried to adopt openly. After six relationships with pregnant women, we found the one woman who would make our family complete. On the day we were to receive our new son, his birthmother changed her mind and we ended our search. Again I was devastated by loss, but I had my husband to comfort me, when he wasn't in need of comfort himself, and we had our friends who all had children. I could have used a Stephen Minister.

Last year my parents died within 3 weeks of each other. My pastor helped, my friends sent cards and called or visited, my family offered their support. It was not enough. I could have used a Stephen Minister.

Life is full of broken moments, and my hurting times are no worse than others. I know there will be more difficult times ahead, but I will ask for a Stephen Minister to walk with me and manifest the love that I know God has for me.

So when my family grieves with me but realize they cannot remove the pain, my Stephen Minister will help me speak about the pain.

When my friends try to distract me but tire of hearing the same stories that I need to tell, my Stephen Minister will lovingly listen with the ears of Christ.

When my faith is tested by questions of "Why did this happen?" my Stephen Minister will sit and offer quiet prayers on my behalf.

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975 and is actively helping people in all 50 states, and 24 other countries with over 500,000 Stephen Ministers. The Stephen



Ministry Logo is a picture of a broken person behind a cross with a whole and unbroken person in the foreground. We are each one of us the broken person in the background of the logo. We become broken each time there is an event in our lives that turns our world upside down, and we realize that it is only through the cross of Christ that we are made whole. The logo can also represent the Stephen Minister after enduring his or her own brokenness, can now help another broken person with Christ at the center of the relationship.

Our Stephen Ministers have gone through extensive training, and offer their time, knowledge, and unconditional love and care for their care receivers. They are living the Gospel, and are ready to serve you at any time. If you would like to know more or may be considering the care of a Stephen Minister, call Stephen Leaders Karen Morrow (440) 223-4700, Louis Bodnar (216) 644-8269, or the church office. All calls are strictly confidential.

The Stephen Ministry team will be hosting The Gathering in April at both St. Edward and St. Lucy. Please join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13 - Chinese Auction at St. Lucy's
April 22 - Father John's Birthday
May 19 - Father Winca's 94th Birthday
June 25 - Parish Picnic at the Shrine of Mariapoch

SS. EDWARD & LUCY PRAYER LINE

by Sue Noreika

Worried about something – health, spiritual issues, emotional well being, finances, employment, school, etc.? Concerned about a friend or relative? Consider calling SS. Edward and Lucy prayer line. God wants us to come to Him with all our concerns and our combined parishes have people ready and willing to join their prayers with yours. Please don't hesitate to call Bernice Soltis at 834-4996 to activate the prayer line. You are not alone. God is with you and your parish wishes to assist you with added prayers. Prayer requests can be as specific as you want or anonymous for a "special intention". After all, God knows what the request is for. The prayer line can also be used to offer up thanksgiving and praise. Please do not hesitate to use this powerful way to take things to the Lord in prayer.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, April 16 & 17 - Palms will be distributed & blessed at all Masses

HOLY THURSDAY, April 21
6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner St. E
7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St. E
8:30 pm Adoration in the Chapel until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, April 22
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross St. E
3:00 pm Good Friday Service St. E
7:00 pm Good Friday Service St L
(the churches will be open all day for private prayer)

HOLY SATURDAY, April 23
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt St. E
12:00 pm Blessing of Food St. E
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service & Mass St. L

EASTER SUNDAY, Sunday April 24
8:30 am Mass at St. E
10:30 am Mass at St. L

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Friday, April 8, 7:00 pm
Lenten Penance Service St. L
Saturday, April 16
4:00-5:00 pm St. E, 7:30 pm St. L
Monday, April 18 7:00 pm St. E Chapel
Wednesday, April 20 7:00 on St. L
Friday, April 22, 4:00 pm St. E

SS. EDWARD & LUCY YOUTH GROUP: MY THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS

by Jerry Joyce

Youth Group. The phrase brings with it many connotations. Teenagers, High School Students, Drama, Emotion, Fun, Energy, Spirituality... What is a Youth Group? Really, what does it mean? What does it take to create one, to continue one, to offer it as a parish?

Across our country many parishes suffer from the cafeteria style catholic who wants their church to reflect them, instead of them reflecting their church. Where does this concept start? When does it begin? After working for 10 years in youth ministry, I can tell you it starts when we are all young. It begins when we are enabled to make choices which we are not prepared to make. Choices to quit our activities mid stream, choose our own circle of pals to hang around with and influence us, spend free time as we want, engage in unfiltered technology and ultimately choose if & how we want to participate in our faith.

Today our youth ages more slowly than in past generations. With children living at home longer, waiting longer to work and overall being supported as children well into their mid to late 20's. It strikes me as curious that we expect them to choose for themselves to attend Mass, attend church functions, participate in youth group or worse yet, to choose to do none of these.

Is having a good job when they get older or going to a good college more important than living eternally with Christ when we ultimately pass from this life? As parents we want what is best for our children, we never want to see them struggle or suffer, to battle with doubts and questions that life inevitably sends our way so we work hard to send them to good schools, provide food, shelter and a safe environment but what about the spiritual life of our children?

Youth Group is one function of this preparedness. It is but one training ground for good decision making, moral review, spiritual exploration and growth, or so that is the goal.

About 5 years ago I was ready to move on from this post. I thought this is what God wanted, but alas, as many of us know, our plans and God's Will do not always jive. Father took me to a diocesan wide youth ministry event. At this event I learned one extremely important thing...

"If your youth group does not faith share then all you're doing is serving pizza".

Well I can tell you the 1st five years of our parish youth group, I served a lot of pizza! That weekend when we met for your retreat team meeting I dove in, we as a team shared our faith. This was the point at which our Parish really got a youth group.

That retreat was the best one we had had up until then and since then each year, the group has grown and gotten deeper and deeper. This has translated from humble beginnings of a few team members and 20 or so students on retreat to now having 15 teens on team and retreat sometimes topping 40+ students.

The core reason for a Youth Group is to share our faith, explore, challenge, grow and become strong. When we talk openly about our prayer life, about the teachings of the church, and how we feel about these things we bond, grow, and become emboldened in the Spirit. We become One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic (the marks of the church). We become the Church, Christ's bride here on earth.

So I say thank you, first of all. You who have youth in the group understand that the ministry of these students is a benefit to us adults as much or more than it is to them. To witness countless teens, cleaning yards of the elderly, serenading folks with Christmas Carols while freezing, selflessly dedicating hours and hours to plan retreats for their peers, and even standing up and proclaiming their love for Christ in witnessing to their friends. It is a truly an amazing and awe inspiring experience. I'm really not sure words can put into context the feeling I receive at the end of retreat having seen so many students connect with our Lord Jesus in a way they may not have before.

Yes retreats are typically emotional but I can attest that for some their lives are impacted for decades to come and for this I simply feel honored to be a part of it. I hope in reading this you will consider having your children attend and yourselves take an active role in this awesome group of students by volunteering to help.

Overall the goal of a Youth Group should be the same as any other group in our parish, to proclaim the belief and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. But that can not be achieved without you. Without your support at home, without your encouragement to have your students attend our Lords Supper at Mass, without your active promotion of Youth Group events at home, without your active involvement in our parish.

Students learn from watching and doing. Recently I asked a few of the students what they would have liked to see from their parents. Their replies were shocking! They expressed to me that they wanted their parents to take active roles at Mass such as reading or Eucharistic Ministering, encourage participation at mass, ask questions about how they are doing Spiritually and more. I'm not sure when we as parents start getting scared of teens or when we think they are so different.

I often hear about how we need to "engage the youth" or how we need to "you know entertain them" or my favorite, "find someone who is younger and can connect with them". To this I say Hogwash! Like anyone else, teens want to be respected, loved, empowered, guided, listened too and overall treated like anyone else. The Word of God does not have to be dressed up or dressed down for that matter, the key to understanding teens is simply listening and asking questions. Regardless of age they simply want what you and I want, to be loved, to be part of something special, to be important, and to be cherished. All of which is what our faith and parish community can do for us.

Please pray for our youth group. Please pray to send us good leaders, please pray if that leader could be you. We would love your help and your leadership. You don't need a teen to work with the youth group, I don't have any☺.

WOMEN'S CLUB

by Maria Cocco

The SS. Edward & Lucy Women's Club is always looking for new members to join in our special ministry. We meet the first Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM to plan various events to support our Parish both Spiritual and Social. It is a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship with other women in the Parish. This year our annual spring event the Mother Daughter Banquet will be held on May 1st in Winca Hall. This event gives Mothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, Grandmothers, etc the opportunity to share an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment. Keep your eyes opened for more announcements in the bulletin. We will also be celebrating the Living Rosary on May 3rd in Winca Hall at 7:00 PM. If you have never experienced this we strongly encourage you to attend this very prayerful experience. Everyone is invited to join us for the living rosary so bring your husband along. We continue to have various fund raising events to support these activities as well as our current goal of purchasing new ovens for St. Lucy's Kitchen. We are very close to achieving our goal of raising enough money as we continue to research our best options for the space available. If you are interested in joining us or are not sure feel free to stop by any meeting night to experience this fun and dedicated group to support our Parish - the meetings are announced in the bulletin the week before. Or if you would like additional information please feel free to contact Maria Cocco at 440 286 7505.

AREA SHRINES

by Sue Noreika

We are fortunate to live close to two religious shrines. The Shrine of Mariapoch is located on 17486 Mumford Road, Burton. As for background on this Shrine, travel back in time to the village of Povch Hungary in the year 1696. The Turks were besieging the land when a miracle occurred. A Greek Icon painting of Mary appeared to be shedding tears. Many miracles of healing occurred among the faithful who came to witness the miracle. No natural explanation for the tears could be found. The Turks ceased to be a threat and to honor the Weeping Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God, the town's name was changed to Mariapoch. In 1948 Pope Pius XII raised the status of the church in Mariapoch to the rank of Minor Basilica. Hungarians hold the original site very dear, and the Hungarians who came to Cleveland wished to Honor the Icon by having a shrine close by. In 1955 the land on Mumford Road was purchased and dedicated in 1956. The grounds have been developed for pilgrimage by the Byzantine Catholic Dioceses and the Social Mission Sisters. An annual pilgrimage is held in August. The Shrine is open to the public from the 1st Sunday in May to the last Saturday in Oct. and is one of the largest Hungarian Shrines in America. If you have not been there, be sure to visit this peaceful Shrine. You can find out more about the Shrine at www.mariapoch.org

Just across the Ashtabula county line at 6601 Ireland Road in Windsor is the Servants of Mary Center for Peace. This "grass roots" shrine was first consecrated in July of 1992 to The Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. The first event there was held in a tent. Since then a 50' statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been constructed that overlooks a reflecting pond. Our Lady is 33 feet tall, one foot for each year of our Savior's life on earth. The base and metal rays around the statue combine to make the entire structure 50 feet tall. The statue is covered with nearly half a million colored mosaic tiles which were placed by volunteers. A fifteen decade rosary surrounds the reflecting pond and features a crystal crucifix with an almost life-size Christ. At night the Rosary is lit and is very inspiring. Other statuary is also found on the grounds. The peaceful atmosphere encourages meditation and prayer. The grounds house a Chapel and a Holy Innocents Chapel containing ¾ size Fontanini nativity scene. Next to the main chapel stands a building containing bathrooms, a kitchen and dining/meeting room, and Catholic book store and gift shop all of which should be completed by April 2nd this year for the Grand Opening Day. The Shrine is already planning events for this summer including an

Independence Celebration June 25, Fr. Larry Richards 8/21, Scott Hahn in September and much more. December will feature Bill Hixon, a former decorator of the White House at Christmas, and a visit from the Clauses. For program schedules, story of the Shrine, blog, and other information check on line at: www.servantsofmary.org

We are truly blessed to have two contemplative shrines so close to add to our religious experience. Try to visit one or both of these shrines and experience the peace they have to offer.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

by Joan Komar

This is my first in a series of articles that, yes, once again I have volunteered to do. Why? Perhaps I can explain about who and what is the PPC. And, why I am a member.

I have known very few people of our parish. Until last summer I wanted to be able to DO something - for others. So I went to St. Vincent De Paul Dining Hall in Warren. I really liked the people who were there volunteering to cook for 125 people from scratch. (There is no other way to cook of course.) I enjoyed seeing and meeting those who came to have dinner and was amazed how nice they were, so polite, and just like "us". Perhaps just down on their luck as, I am sure, we may have been at one time in our lives. So, now I am hooked and love to share the experience with others.

So, getting back to being nominated for the Parish Pastoral Council. Who would think that I would be good enough to help govern the church body, or whatever they do. I had no clue. I had been brought into a very small group of friends to pray the rosary prior to the 8 AM morning Mass. Did you know the rosary is said at 7:15 AM four mornings a week? I found it an intimate communication between the Blessed Mother and myself. One more voice to add to the others, who have been devotedly praying at this time for so many years. One more voice to be heard - mine.

After praying and contemplating whether I, an ordinary person, could make a difference or have an opinion worth listening to, I let the vote go thru. I figured I'd at least get one. Well, now I am a new member. And let me tell you, it is not a scary group. We are diversified in age, gender, backgrounds, professions; we only lack a couple of youths. We have talked at our meetings, that the opinions and ideas of the young are lost to us.

At the first meeting, I was given the articles of war. Oh, I mean the by-laws, which I still have not gotten all the way thru. I was told I had to volunteer for at least ONE outside project. I raised my hand for Catholic Charities only because I know where the meeting was to be held. (That was cancelled due to inclement weather).

When the appreciation luncheon was brought up, everyone looked at me, being the new woman on the council. So if there is something overlooked at this luncheon, please let me know so I can rectify it for next year.

Bringing you up to date, I have returned from my first outside volunteer meeting for Catholic Charities. I found it not only informative, but interesting (short an' sweet) acknowledging all the good we do for "the least of our brothers". And how much more blest could I be than being flanked by Sister Rose from St. Anthony's on one side who told me not to take so many notes; everything is in the manual we each received. And to my right was Fr. Pete from St. Michael's of Independence who I already know thru a mutual friend. Bishop Lennon was most gracious in his speaking of how much good this organization does and continues to do in administering to the needs of others. (He sort of reminded me of Abe Lincoln).

I know a little more now than I did two months ago, and I am still learning. Functions like the church picnic, creating a mission statement, the appreciation luncheon, Catholic Charities, - well I never thought how they came about. They just happened. Well, they are a combination of ideas, talents, experience, and novice learning new members like me. As I continue to fumble my way to new knowledge and experiences I would like to keep you up to date.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

by Joan Komar

As we come out of our cold snap, I reflect how fortunate I am to have a warm place to live, food in the cupboard, and a vehicle to get around in. Since attending the kick-off gathering for Catholic Charities, I was reminded first hand of the so many who do NOT have adequate shelter, a hot meal (our own attention to St. Vincent DePaul Dining Hall in Warren), health assistance, or a place where they can gather among their own.

For those of you who have already responded so generously, regardless of how much, our parishes thank you. To help "the least of our brothers" is a way of thanking God for all the wonderful bless-

ings He has bestowed on us. No matter how we struggle in our own lives, we are blessed and so fortunate to have the means and organizations to help us thru.

Do respond by filling out the Catholic Charities envelopes. Whatever you can help with monetarily, coupled with others, will do so much good for over 300,000 in need. Our own senior complex to be built in Middlefield will assist so many of the aging to have a warm, safe place to live. Thank you for your generosity.



Easter Blessings
Fr. John Burkley

SS. EDWARD & LUCY PARISH

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 Website: www.ssedwardlucy.com
 Youth Group Website: www.youthinthespirit.com

MASS SCHEDULE:
 Saturday Vigil:
 5:00 pm St. E, 6:30 pm St. L
 Sunday:
 8:30 am St. E, 10:30 am St. L
 Weekdays: M 6:00 pm, T-F 8:00 am
 St. E Chapel

SS Edward & Lucy Chinese Auction



Over 250 Items

QUESTIONS CALL
 (440) 548-3812 CHURCH OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

**ST. LUCY CHURCH
 WINCA HALL
 16280 KINSMAN RD
 MIDDLEFIELD OH**

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM
 CALLING BEGINS 7PM

KITCHEN IS OPEN FOR FOOD
 (NO OUTSIDE FOOD ALLOWED IN HALL)

ADMISSION FEE \$6.00
 INCLUDES 10 FREE TICKETS

ONLY 250 ADMISSION
 TICKETS SOLD TO ADULTS
 (THIS IS AN ADULT EVENT ONLY)

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE
 CHURCH OFFICE OR
 THROUGH OUR SELLERS
 AFTER MASS.

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