

# SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

DECEMBER 2011

## CATHOLICISM

by Fr. Burkley

As we begin the new church year and, in a few weeks the year 2012, we are preparing for a special parish program. During Lent (and beyond, I hope) we will experience a transformative adult formation program called "Catholicism." Some of you may already have seen segments on PBS or EWTN. It has been created to enhance and support our mission to evangelize and teach the content of our faith. It explains not only what we Catholics believe and why, but also displays in breathtaking detail the richness of the Catholic global culture. During each session we will be invited to listen to a presentation of the Church's essential teaching and to travel around the world to see our faith in the depths of its beliefs and practices. I hope you will look forward to this wonderful opportunity as much as I do. We will have more information and schedules right after Christmas.

God bless you.

## MEET YOUR NEW YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

by Mike Hollowell-Youth Group Advisor

Several months ago a plea was made to the community to bring forward a young adult who would assume the responsibility of Youth Group Director at SS. Edward & Lucy. God is amazing in answering prayers. Not only did He bring forward one individual, he also gave us another. It is an honor to introduce to you Joe Nieves and Nikki Rose, the two new youth directors who will be serving the youth at SS. Edward & Lucy. I am sure many of you know them and/or their families. In this newsletter Nikki Rose will share a little bit more about herself with you. In the next newsletter

you will learn more about Joe Nieves. May God watch over both of them and bless them as they share their love for Christ and His Church with the youth at SS. Edward & Lucy.

## Nikki Rose

Hello! My name is Nikki Rose and I am one of the new youth directors serving the parish community of SS. Edward Lucy. I would like to share a little bit about myself so you can get to know me better.

I have attended St. Lucy since I was baptized. God has blessed me with many family members who have supported me in my journey of faith. You may know some of them. They include my parents, Connie & Lynn Rose, and my grandmother Bernice Soltis. I really miss my Godmother, Bonnie Soltis, whose spirit watches over all of us!

I graduated from Cardinal High School in 2005 and then attended St. John Fisher College where I graduated in 2009 with a teaching degree in Adolescent Education and History. I am currently teaching 8th grade US History at Jefferson Junior High and coaching varsity softball.

When I was in high school I was an active member in the SS. Edward & Lucy Youth Group. It provided me with a special place in my Church community. The leadership and guidance touched my life and gave me a safe place to open up and to have fun with fellow youth, without the pressures of the secular world. The foundation that I found in the youth group moved me to attend church in college, even when my faith was tested with the temptations that I faced during college.

I know God has called me to do his work and I want to enthusiastically share the faith and hope that I have found in Jesus with the teens at SS. Edward & Lucy. Joe Nieves (co-youth director) and I plan on developing lasting relationships with

our teens so they too may see Jesus and the Body of Christ (The Church) as an alternative to the ways of the world. Our youth should not be the hope for the future of the Church, they can and should be our hope for the present! Please pray for us and our teens in our efforts. God Bless.

## CONGRATULATIONS, MONA TRYBUS!

by Sue Noreika

On November 11, 2011, Mona Trybus was presented with the prestigious Chapman Award by the Geauga County Library Foundation for her tireless efforts in promoting the interests of reading and books. She founded the East Geauga Friends of the Library in 1973 and has served in various capacities including secretary/treasurer, newsletter author, and fund-raiser. In fact, without Mona's work toward the passage of a bond issue there might not be a new library in Middlefield. The conference room in the library is named the "Mona J. Trybus Conference Room" and her name now appears on a plaque inside every public library in Geauga county. If you stop by the Middlefield library on a Thursday afternoon, you will find Mona volunteering in the Friends' book sale room. Drop in and thank her for her years of service! By the way, Mona, a member of St. Lucy, frequently contributes to this newsletter. Be sure to read her article in this edition.



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## AN ONGOING JOURNEY WITH PPC

by Joan Komar

Well, as promised, here is my second writing regarding my experiences, or lack of, with the church Parish Pastoral Council.

I was rather disappointed that I did not have more to do with the Catholic Charities function other than attending the kick-off meeting and putting pencils in the collection envelopes. Everything was preplanned by the Charities campaign committee.

The appreciation dinner was something else wasn't it? Those of you who helped organize, set up, shop, prepare, cook, serve, clean up - did I miss anything? - oh! of course, attended - I was so impressed, am still in admiration, for all those who knew what I was supposed to be doing. Being my first dinner to "be in charge of" and only second to actually attend, details taken note of just in case I volunteer to be "in charge" of it again next year, will only be as successful with the help of all those who made this year's function all so pleasant and fun for everyone. I thank all of you for your assistance and support. The appreciation dinner is by invitation to volunteers and active stewardship members .

This was my first parish picnic. It all seems to come together and everyone has so much fun. But behind the scenes, are months of planning by the picnic committee. The talent of so many bring forth this time of togetherness with such ease. Besides the preparation and planning is the set up, cooking, and cleaning up. This year I was of little help being my first, yet pleased to be of some minor service.

I was unable to help out with the Maple Festival. I guess I can't do it all. But there were still plenty of opportunities for me to get involved. The car show is one. I understood last year so many dinners were served, the kitchen needed much more help. So, I started asking for kitchen help for Saturday in preparing and Sunday for serving. I had helped set up for the first car show; for the second I had a vendors table. So neither years did I see back stage kitchen necessities. What's to peeling a few potatoes, grating a few cabbages for slaw? Ha, when

you're talking mega pounds, help is needed. And when there are enough hands to make light of the work, it becomes fun. Not to mention a successful fund raiser.

The months have gone by so fast. I was privileged to be part of the committee to work on the mission statement of SS. Edward, Lucy and Helen. There were three of us who counted votes for the new members of the Parish Pastoral Council. I have volunteered to host the next Appreciation Luncheon and participate in the Catholic Charities program. I may have missed something but still find that I can't do it all. But there is no need to because our members all have talents to share.

One thing we do need is someone to handle the minutes of our meetings. At the present, we all take a turn with the aid of a tape recorder, but so many of us do not have computers or e-mail capabilities, and just don't possess those skills. It also prevents us from really participating in the meeting due to the fact we are concentrating on taking notes in addition to the tape recorder. If some person who just wants to get out of the house a couple of hours a month would sit in and type up the notes from a tape recorder, we would be so appreciative. Thank you.

It's gotten less scary being on this committee due to the fact that everyone is so helpful and so willing to participate with whatever needs to be done. I thank all of my fellow PPC members and those who just jump in where needed.

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## LENTEN PENANCE

by Jerry Joyce

During our most recent Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting, Lent was a topic of discussion, specifically how we as a parish can work to deepen our faith during this upcoming Lenten Season. It is as you know, a time of self-reflection, personal inspection, prayer, sacrifice and subsequently growth. Often times we choose to sacrifice something in our life that is a luxury, in an attempt to dig deeper and seek more clearly Christ Himself, present in our lives.

It was suggested by Fr. Burkley that we look to add some growth opportunities during this reflective season for the par-

ish. PPC is going to be presenting an opportunity for all parishioners to commit, as a whole or part of their Lenten commitment, to attend one of two programs on a weekly basis during the season. Each Friday, starting February 24, we will be holding Stations of the Cross at St. Lucy (as usual) and afterwards will host a video education session on Catholicism with a brief discussion following. For those who cannot make it Friday evenings, the same video session and topic discussion will be held after 8:30 am mass on Sundays at St. Edwards. PPC will be spearheading a campaign preceding Lent where all parishioners will have a chance to sign up and commit to this program as part of your Lenten sacrifice. We ask you to consider joining us in this commitment. We believe that by sacrificing time and seeking to know Him better, we will all be blessed with a renewed and deepened Faith.

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## END OF THE AGE

by Sue Norieka

December 21, 2012! The Mayan Calendar! Nostradamus! We have all heard it. Hollywood had heard it. It's on the History Channel and even some science channels. If you think back to the readings in Mass at the end of the liturgical year, they speak of the end times. And it is true that each day brings us one day closer to the End of Days. In the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Christ gives us a check list of signs that will signal the last days. Eschatologists (those who study End Times) will tell you that many of the items on the checklists are happening now. But Christ also tells us that "no one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, not the Son, but only the Father." Matt. 24:36 NIV. And while it is interesting to speculate, what we really need to focus on is that each and every one of us will have our own personal "end of days". We have no idea when that will be. When we are young, it seems like we are invincible, and yet there are children who die. Parents all get nervous when their children start to drive because they know the percentage of fatal car accidents is highest among teens. Death can happen at any time. I write this not to be morbid in this season of joy, but to remind each and every one of us, myself included, that we need to live as though our end time is

imminent. We do not know how much time we have.

Back in December on 1994 after a routine mammogram, I received a call from my doctor, "There is a mass in your breast that looks like cancer. I want you to see a surgeon tomorrow". I was 45. I was devastated. It is only by the grace of God that I am still here. The cancer has since spread, but again, God has been gracious. I no longer have the energy level I once had. I cannot do all I used to do, but I focus on what I can do... like write articles and hope that in some way I can help someone. What we need to do is focus on what we can do... and then do it. We are all called to serve God. Some think a calling is just to the priesthood, to a religious order, to a mission field far away. But each and every one of us is called to serve God. St. Francis of Assisi is supposed to have said something like "preach the Gospel, use words if necessary". That is like St. Therese of Lisieux with her "little way" of serving God in every little thing we do. St. Theresa of India served the poorest of the poor not with words, but with actions. We need to reflect the light of Christ in our lives. We can do this everyday in little acts of kindness and decency. As we approach holiday shopping, be cheerful. Be kind to harried cashiers and fellow shoppers. We speak volumes with our actions. There is a commercial on TV which shows one person helping an older man who has dropped his papers, a person watching notices and then does something kind for someone else, is observed and so on and so on. We never know how a small act impacts others. Listen to the little nudges you may feel to call someone or do something. The Holy Spirit can work through each and every one of us if we but let him. There is a contemporary Christian song that has a line about a man just diagnosed with cancer who had "waited to live until it was time to die". Live each day with vigor and acknowledge that each day is a gift from God. That is why it is called "the present".

If you were watching a Sunday afternoon football game and you saw your favorite team get into a huddle and get all fired up, yelling and clapping each other on the back, jumping up and down and then when it was time to make a play they all sat on the bench, what would you think? And if this continued time after time you would turn off the TV in disgust and probably have a few choice comments. We are the football team. The Mass is the

huddle. Do we then sit on the bench the rest of the week? How do you think God feels if we don't carry out the plays? The Mass ends with Father saying the words, "The Mass has ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Do we follow the directions of our coach or sit on the bench? When the game of life is over, will God say "Well done, good and faithful servant"? God's peace be with you.

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## WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION

by *Mona J Trybus*

The SS. Edward & Lucy Women's Club sponsored a Women's Day of Reflection on Saturday, September 10th, 2011.

On a "soft" Saturday morning, over forty women gathered for this event at St. Lucy Church. Soft is an Irish term for a rainy day - a lovely, gentle thought for the actual deluge outside.

Sister Melannie, a Sister of Notre Dame and a resident of St. Mary's Parish in Chardon, spoke on FINDING GOD IN EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY. She is the author of several popular books and a very inspirational speaker.

The ideas Sister put forth are these:

- You will always have to look to find God as we do not know where he lives - but he is everywhere.
- You can find Him in friendship as friends encourage and challenge us. He is present when dealing with difficult friends.
- You can find Him in nature always keeping in mind that we are not ON this earth but OF this earth.
- You will find Him in your pain and suffering.
- God is often in art and beauty but you will need to first recognize beauty.
- When you pray, you are with Him as he loves you more than anyone else does.
- As you age, you will need to find new ways to pray during discouraging and difficult times.

The day began with a song, Everyday God by Bernadette Farrell, and sung by Samela Aird Beason. It was a lovely

melody with meaningful lyrics to begin our morning of meditation. She closed our time together with No Body But Yours. The words were written by Teresa of Avila in the 1500's and later set to a beautiful tune that was both haunting and harmonious.

We shared our thoughts and agreed that the time had gone too quickly and that Sister's message was sincere. We agreed that we certainly had added to our spiritual growth that morning.

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## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN A STEWARDSHIP

by *Linda Talboo*

Many parishioners signed up for a stewardship, but if for some reason you missed the sign up, you can still join. There's never too many hands or minds.

Please contact the office if you are interested in joining a stewardship. There is something available that can use the talent of every one in the parish, young and old

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## GOD AND DOG

by *Wendy Francisco*

I look up and I see God  
I look down and see my Dog.  
Simple spelling ...  
G-O-D  
Same word backward DOG  
They would stay with me all day.  
I'm the one who walks away.  
But both of them just wait for me  
And dance at my return with glee.  
Both love me no matter what . . .  
Divine God  
and Canine mutt  
I take it hard each time I fail  
But God forgives  
Dog wags his tail  
God thought up and made the dog  
Dog reflects a part of God.  
I've seen love from both sides now.  
It's everywhere...  
Amen  
Bow-wow  
I look up and I see God.  
I look down and see my Dog.  
And in my human frailty  
I can't match their love for me.

## SPECIAL PARISH DATES FOR ADVENT

### Saturday, December 3

Fill-a-Cop Car @ WalMart and Save-A-Lot for Christmas Baskets

### Tuesday, December 6

6 pm Supper with Santa @ Winca Hall

### Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of Mary  
Masses 9 am @ St. Edward and 6:30 pm @ St. Lucy

### Friday, December 9 &

**Sunday, December 11**  
Generations of Faith @ St. Edward

### Tuesday, December 13

Feast of St. Lucy

### Friday, December 16

7 pm Advent Penance Service @ St. Edward

### Saturday, December 17

9 am Pack, Deliver Christmas Baskets @ St. Lucy  
10 am Deliver baskets to Shut-ins @ St. Edward  
10 am-Noon Cleveland Food Bank Distribution @ St. Edward  
Confessions 4 pm @ St. Edward & 7:30 pm @ St. Lucy  
Anointing of the Sick 6:30 pm Mass St. Lucy

### Sunday, December 18

4 pm SS. Edward and Lucy combined choirs Christmas Concert @ St. Edward

### Monday, December 19

7-8 pm Confessions @ St. Edward  
7:30 pm Cluster Penance Service @ St. Helen

### Wednesday, December 21

7 pm Confessions @ St. Lucy

### Saturday, December 24

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm Children's Mass @ St. Lucy  
6 pm Vigil Mass @ St. Lucy  
Midnight Mass @ St. Edward

### Sunday, December 25

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 am Mass @ St. Edward  
10:30 am Mass @ St. Lucy



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