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# SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

MARCH 2018

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## FR. BURKLEY SHARES HIS THOUGHTS

### Self Image

Self-image: is it accurate or is it a problem? I recently read an article in the *Tablet* magazine from England that was a response to a letter about peer pressure. I thought it was really thought-provoking. The author, Rev. Philip Manghan, discussed a 17-year-old who is struggling with anorexia. She taped a poster above her mirror that said "You are a child of God and he loves you." He thinks that the invention of the modern mirror about 1500 A.D. in Venice has played a great part in the pressure exerted on us.

Before the mirror, humanity tended to be other-absorbed. The modern mirror changes our perspective. It has had a negative consequence in the developing self-centered darkness of narcissism. According to the researchers we all glance at ourselves 30 to 40 times a day. We can't help ourselves given the pernicious peer pressure many feel. Maybe we are mature enough to manage the pressure. Maybe our young people may not be. They need to develop the attitude of looking in the mirror and repeating, "Who am I? I am a child of God and he loves me." While our

youth may be battered by pressure of all kinds, they can use the mirror into a reminder of our intrinsic worth as God's beloved children.

### Role Models

"Grandparents: Mentors, Teachers, Role Models In the Faith" - This was a recent article in *Catechist* magazine that caught my attention. Pope Francis has remarked several times about the role of grandparents in the religious education of their grandchildren, especially in this time of hyperactivity in home life. Things are different today for grandparents. The average age of a grandparent in our country is 48; for possibly half their life the average American will be a grandparent. About 15% of grandparents care for their grandchildren. Most grandparents desire to live life and share their faith with their grandchildren. Many live far away. Some end up having the sole responsibility for passing on the faith. Parishes are being called to respond to the needs of today's grandparents. Some would include inviting grandparents into our GOF or PSR programs as teachers or classroom aides or participating in the classroom. Grandparents are in a position to be a resource for their grandchildren's

faith life, answering their questions and explaining why their Catholic faith is so important and how it has affected their lives. This is a call for all grandparents to know their own sacred calling to model and encourage faith in their grandchildren. What do you think? Write a letter to the editor of *Catechist* magazine.

### Youth Ministry in Our Parish

A group from our Parish Pastoral Council has been meeting together and with St. Helen Parish to discuss future plans to replant a thriving youth ministry here. We have learned from the enthusiastic Life Teen program at St. Helen. Our parish being a lot smaller, we need to find a youth ministry that fits us well. We are looking into a youth minister on staff, at least part time, to develop strategies for the future. We continue to meet and discuss. There is no question that we need to put more energy into our youth, beginning now with Junior High and gradually moving up. The present situation is not acceptable.

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## THE LEGEND OF THE DONKEY'S CROSS

by *Kathey Koller*

Legend tells us that the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday followed Him to Calvary. Appalled by the sight of Jesus on the cross, the donkey turned away but could not leave. It is said that the shad-

ow of the cross fell upon the shoulders and back of the donkey. The cross marking found on many donkeys today remains a testimony of the love and devotion of a humble, little donkey.

(I love that story!!!!!!)

You cannot ask God to make room for you in heaven if you have no room for Him in your heart!

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere till you change it!

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## **“UNCONDITIONALLY”: SS. EDWARD AND LUCY’S PARISH MISSION**

by *Melissa Joyce*

“Lord, it is good for us to be here.” Matthew 17:14. In the gospel reading for the second week of Lent, Peter, James, and John witness Jesus’s transfiguration. They are able to see Jesus for who He truly is, and they recognize how good and important it is for them to have seen that. It is good for us to be reminded of who Jesus truly is, as well. With life busy and so full of distractions, it is easy to get caught up in the temporal things and forget about the heavenly things that matter. It is good that Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish was privileged to host Catholic speaker and author (and nearby neighbor) Greg Wasinski for a three-night parish mission on February 18-20 as a way to be reminded of who Jesus is in our lives and in the lives of the Church. Parish missions are traditionally held during Lent and are popular all over the country as a way for parish communities to gather to pray, renew their commitment to God, and be together as the Body of Christ. Greg’s mission was titled “Unconditionally,” and each night of the mission focused on a different element of our journey of faith: our call as Catholic Christians, our relationship with the Church, and how we find Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.

Our call is simple: all we ever have to be is what God made us to be. Holy means “set apart.” We are set apart at our baptism as belonging to Christ and His Church, each of us with unique gifts and talents. When we use these gifts and talents to the best of our abilities, as big or small as they may seem, we are on our way to being saints. Sainthood is not just for the extra-holy and ultra-prayerful. It is for all of us. Looking towards the goal of heaven will lead us to sainthood. Every saint struggled and sinned-sometimes a lot, and so do we. It’s what makes many of us laugh when we hear that we are called to be saints. But, the saints focused on the journey. They continued

to run the race, despite their sins, using their unique gifts to serve God in his or her own way. The same is true for us. Our gifts have been given to us by God, and we are asked to use them for Him. If all you can do is pray, then pray! If all you can do is bake, then bake! If you can be a warm and joyful presence, then smile and give hugs! If you can teach, then teach! But, do whatever you do for God as a member of the Body of Christ.

Who is the Church? We are - right here, and everywhere. As members of SS. Edward and Lucy Parish, we have a unique relationship with one another. We watch children grow. We watch each other get older. We greet each other weekly and notice when someone is missing. We care for and pray for each other. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, young and old. There is so much good in our parish community. Being on the fringe of the Diocese of Cleveland, and being a small community, we don’t get a lot of attention, but we do extraordinary things. We worship richly. We pray deeply. We feed the hungry and clothe the naked. We visit the sick and the elderly. It is so important to always remember that we do these things for Jesus. As Catholics, we are truly blessed to be part of the greater Catholic Church. As members of the Universal Church, we are able to do all that we do with our small community and unite it with the world. We can change the world and make it a better place by being Church here and everywhere.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, but sadly, we very often take it for granted and forget what we are holding in our hands. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, comes to us in the form of bread and wine daily to nourish us spiritually and help us to be the holy people He created us to be. God sent the Israelites manna when they were wandering in

the desert to sustain them physically, and Jesus Christ gives himself to us to sustain us spiritually. God gave the Israelites enough to provide each day. He knew exactly what they needed. In the same way, Jesus knows exactly what we need when we receive Him in the Eucharist. He gives us the strength we need. He gives us the courage we need. He gives us the healing we need. We hold Jesus Christ in our hands. We consume him into our bodies. The Eucharist is what helps us to fulfill our call to be what God made us to be, and to be Church to others. Consuming Jesus in the Eucharist makes us like Him. We carry Him inside us and are to be reminded that we need to, now, take Him to the world. Mother Teresa prayed to “help me to spread your fragrance wherever I go,” and to “let others see not me, but only you.” This is what the Eucharist does for us. We are gifted with the opportunity to truly be Jesus to others because He is, in reality, inside us. We are His Body. We are His Church.

Henri J.M. Nouwen says that “to live a Christian life means to live *in* the world without being *of* it.” Oftentimes, that is easier said than done. We get so busy and worried and anxious that it is easy to be more *of* the world than *of* God. Our parish mission was a wonderful way to remind us Who we belong to and what our mission is. God’s mission is for us to be only what he created us to be. No more. No less. When we are Church **HERE** and **EVERYWHERE**, we can unite ourselves to others and become what God created us to be. Holding Jesus in our hands and taking him into our bodies gives us the strength to fulfill that mission and to be His Body in the world.

# PSALMS AND PRAYERS

by Marcia Mikolaj

Earlier this school year, the 8th Grade Confirmation Class discussed God and His creation, including all those natural things around us, and how Nature was used in the Bible's Book of Psalms as examples to help illustrate God and His greatness. The Students were assigned to read Chapter 104 in the Book of Psalms. Then, they were asked to write their own 5-line poem (or prayer) in a similar tradition of the Psalms, again, identifying the greatness of God and using Nature to help illustrate this. The following is the Students' work.

## By Alison Peterson

I love Nature because Nature is stunningly beautiful.  
It is so fulfilling to walk outside and hear the rain tapping  
upon the leaves of trees, or the birds chirp!  
I love to sit on the  
or, to walk outside and hebeach and listen to the water  
fall so gracefully onto the sand!  
I love to watch the sunset because it reminds me of how  
big and, truly beautiful this world is!  
Everything that God has blessed me with is so beautiful  
Life itself is beautiful!

## By Abby Mathies

Dear Lord,  
The baby fawn has a family like us, small gentle creatures  
that live in the valleys.  
The birds in the trees who sing their sweet song, the bees,  
and, all great and small creatures from the ocean to the  
hills.  
How great you are Lord, from the storms and the rain!  
You are my Savior, my Rock, O' Lord.  
Amen

## By Alaina Strever

Thank you God for this day, and  
the sun for light and the stars for night, and  
the trees to breath and all the animals of life.  
And fires to keep us warm.  
Amen

## By Michael Manross

God, send down the Angels to protect me and my family.  
Lord, I rebuke Satan,  
and, tell him that he has nothing to offer me in the name  
of the Lord.  
God, help me plant a seed and make me flourish in You.  
God, help me walk in your namesake and give me  
strength  
to overcome sins in my life.  
Lord, fill my soul with the Holy Ghost,  
so that I can be strong and better myself in the name of  
God.

## By Austin Strever

Thank you God for today;  
for the sun to be shining on us,  
for the rain to make the trees grow and the flowers.  
And animals to let us eat.  
And water to let us drink.

## By Austin Roman

Dear O' God,  
You help the flowers blossom and babies grow.  
You turn bad things to good things by making death have  
a purpose.  
You make Nature so beautiful.  
Through Nature I can see that you are beautiful and  
caring.  
Thank you, God, for Nature.

## By John Avalon

Dear God,  
Thank you for all You have given us.  
Nature is a Blessing that we shouldn't take for granted.  
You always lead us in the right direction.  
You are the Compass of my life.  
Amen

*May God Bless all on this Earth, especially our Students!*

We all say Good Morning to others.

Do you know the meaning of "GOOD MORNING"?

- G** Get up.
- O** Open your heart.
- O** Open your mind.
- D** Dedicate your day to God.
- M** Meditate on God's Word.
- O** Optimize your faith & hope.
- R** Rebuke all evils.
- N** Never doubt God's love.
- I** Inspire someone.
- N** Nothing should scare you.
- G** Go out with joy.

# HEAVEN'S PEACE PLAN SECOND SECRET REVEALED

by Joan Spangler

Almighty God tells us in Holy Scripture that the Blessed Virgin will defeat the devil, his followers and plots (Gen.3:15). The Fatima Messages from Mary are a unique Heaven sent opportunity for all people everywhere to work for a real, lasting peace in our homes, churches and nations.

The Second Secret was a statement that World War I would end, but a prediction of another War during the reign of Pope Pius XI, should men continue to offend God and should Russia not convert.

To save the poor souls in Hell the Virgin Mary requested world devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and the establishment of the devotion of the Five

First Saturdays.

Mary also stated Russia must be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. Virgin Mary stated if my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace: if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world.

As a reminder, Our Lady's Peace Plan secret number one was a request for prayer, most particularly the rosary and the devotion of the Brown Scapular.

SS. Edward and Lucy Women's Club has organized a group of Parishioners to make Mission Rosaries to send to Father Fernandes in Camaron, Africa. To date more than 300 Rosaries have been shipped to Africa.

If interested in learning more about First Friday or First Saturday devotion or to help make rosaries you can contact; Maria Cocca 440 821-1222, [mjcocco@outlook.com](mailto:mjcocco@outlook.com) or Joan Spangler 440 214-9712, [joanspangler40@yahoo.com](mailto:joanspangler40@yahoo.com)



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