



# SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

DECEMBER 2014

## SOURCE AND SUMMIT

by Melissa Joyce

**Source:** a place, person, or thing from which something comes or can be obtained

**Summit:** the highest attainable level of achievement

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Eucharist as the “source and summit of Christian life” (line 1324). This means that Eucharist is not only where Christ can be obtained, but it is the highest level with which Christ can be obtained, because we receive Him into ourselves. The Eucharist is a precious gift given to us that enables us to be transformed. Receiving Christ into our bodies gives us the grace to become like Him. When we are sent forth from Mass each week (or day), we are challenged to be Christ to others.

This year at Generations of Faith, we are studying the theology of Eucharist and how we can be Christ to others. We began our year in September by gathering at Mass together. 180 children, parents, singles and seniors joined with our youth choir in song and worship. It was a wonderful time to be together. October’s GOF brought a study of the history of Eucharistic Adoration, as well as an opportunity to adore Christ together as a group. We ended our night with Benediction: something many people have never experienced. The Wonder and Awe that was present in our church as our children looked upon Christ in the Eucharist and were blessed by Him was beautiful and Spirit-filled.

During our November session, we explored the connections between the Eucharist and the Jewish Passover Meal. We tasted the different foods that are eaten at the Seder Meal and learned how Jesus transformed many of the rituals from the ancient Passover into what we know today at our Eucharistic Celebration. Did you know that the Jesus washed the feet of his disciples because it was tradition to wash hands at the Passover? Jesus used what was traditional and changed it to teach about service to others. Bread was traditionally broken and wine was shared, so Jesus used it as an opportunity to teach, change, and institute the Eucharist.

There is so much to learn. Whether we are 8 or 80, there is always room to grow in our faith and in our knowledge of it. We cannot be stagnant and “ok with where we are”. If we are not growing, we are dying. Generations of Faith gives us an opportunity to learn together, to be a community, to pray together, and to share love with each other. We need everyone. In today’s world, we need to be strong together and know who our

brothers and sisters are. We need to equip ourselves with all the knowledge and strength we can, to stand up for our Lord and our faith.

Please join us for Generations of Faith. In December, our theme is “receiving Eucharist with a clean heart”. We will join together for a penance service in preparation for Christmas. In January, we will continue our study of the Eucharist by learning about the True Sacrifice of Jesus. Be sure to check the bulletin for dates and times, as our location switches monthly. May God bless all of you as you continue to grow in your faith!

## A PICNIC AT MARIPOCH

by Angela Scharf

How does one capture or re-capture the camaraderie of a deeply spiritual weekend together? By sharing, partaking and praying of course! This is the essence of the annual Women’s Renewal Picnic held at the Shrine of Mariapoch in Burton on July 17th. Though ages, careers, responsibilities and interest are as varied as a color palette has hues, the common thread of the previous Renewal experience binds tightly, creating an immediate re-connect each year with those who attend the event.

The weather cooperated to perfection and the variety of foods offered were outstanding and delicious. But, with all that said, the highlight of the evening was Mother Theodora’s presentation centered on an apparently age-old issue – “How to become Mary in a Martha World.” Each woman present, as well as those who couldn’t attend due to schedule conflicts or family commitments, understands and easily identifies with the “tug & pull” of daily life. Mother’s humorous account of joining Facebook in an effort to get the word out about the Shrine and responding to inquiries, made us all laugh, while sending a strong message.

Doing something “good” – in this case promoting the value of visiting the Shrine – while not “bad” in and of itself was nonetheless frequently absorbing up to three hours of her day. Mother eventually asked herself whether Facebook or any social media venue provided the same value as “sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to his words?” If not, how does one achieve a balance to the Mary/Martha quandary of doing vs. waiting on the Lord? How do we determine a value on how we spend our time? Do we always have a choice?

Martha days are bound to happen. Some days are so busy it’s difficult to catch your breath and focused prayer is as elusive as the

wind. It’s not uncommon to find ourselves rushing from activity to activity only to ask ourselves, at the end of the day, “Where did the time go?” Days become weeks, and weeks become months, and soon our past is only a blur of events, leaving us feeling drained of the true joy that should accompany our lives. This type of living keeps us passively captive, allowing the activities that surround us to steer our days rather than standing at the helm of our lives and determining how best to utilize God’s precious gifts through focused, meaningful actions. Lived this way, each moment of our lives becomes a prayer of thanksgiving and joy.

Training ourselves to live with purpose, grounded in recognizing the value of our actions through prayer takes effort initially. It does not mean a life without activity. But somewhere between the passive, busy life and the purposeful active life lies the Mary/Martha balance. This is what we are called to strive toward on a daily basis. What a powerful message, beautifully presented and peppered with humor and tenderness. It was a loving reminder of our call to holiness and the immense value of a life lived with grace and poise. **A picnic with purpose – how fantastic is that?**

## REFLECTIONS OF A PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL – PART I

by Marcia Mikolaj

In the summer of 2013 I saw an advertisement for a pilgrimage to Israel in the SS. Edward and Lucy weekly bulletin. I never thought of going to the Holy Land before. But suddenly I felt drawn to the possibility. Long story short, I decided to join this trip, so I read and filled out the documentation; tried to learn some key Hebrew words; signed up to be in a government tracking program (in case things got even worse with neighboring Syria) and finally, November 2013, photocopied my passport (which was a birthday present to myself earlier in the year - who knew it would lead to this particular trip?!), packed my bags and headed off to Israel by way of Cleveland and Newark, NJ.

Since I didn’t know what to expect and didn’t want to set up false expectations, I had decided not to over think this trip. I didn’t really get the “pilgrimage vs. tour” difference at that time. So I only daydreamed about me in a (charming) native ensemble which was gently blowing in the warm desert winds. I imagined touching the stones of building structures thousands of years old, by which so many others had traveled, or lived, or died. Clearly those stones would

(should) speak to me of the past, right?

Back to reality: After more than 24 hours of traveling, waiting, traveling, etc., we (there were 27 of us from all over the US, as well as Canada and the Philippine Islands) land in Tel Aviv, and meet our travel guide, George.

I can't say enough good things about George. He lives with his family in Jerusalem and is a student of life as well as the bible, archeology and history. Pilgrimages are clearly George's ministry. He is passionate about making sure his charges develop an understanding of the places visited and related events. Later on, all I could think when we clustered around George as he described yet another holy location or spoke of what certain phrases represent was that we must look like baby birds gathered around their parent eager for more nourishment. This, our hearts and minds received in abundance.

We were exhausted from traveling to Israel, but so as to not waste a moment of what is probably the only time most of us would ever visit the Holy Land, we boarded the tour bus (driven by another George - we called him George 2) and immediately traveled to Haifa. There on the slopes of Mount Carmel we would visit the Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Cave of Elijah (where Elijah was to have taken shelter during a journey into the wilderness); and observe the Baha'i Gardens and Golden Dome.

One of the most poignant moments for me on this trip was the last place we stopped that first day - the Valley of the Doves. It is near Magdala, reputed home of Mary Magdalene. The Valley is 22 miles in length and connects Nazareth and Capernaum. The Valley walls are comprised of steep, sandstone slopes, which are peppered with caves. Travelers are reported to have stayed in those caves as protection from weather and others who might do the travelers harm. At bottom of the Valley there is a trail. I don't know why this place was so moving to me. Was it because by this time I had been up for about 36 hours without sleep? I think though, it was because as I gazed down that stone trail, I could only say to myself - this is where Jesus walked. These stones have kissed his sandals. The limestone dust had lain upon his shoulders where he carried the weight of the world and our sins.

"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was done to make come true what the prophet Isaiah had said." (Matt. 4: 12-14).

The second day, traffic was light due to it being the Sabbath (Saturday). We attended mass on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, by the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. This church commemorates Jesus' feeding of five thousand. The stone on which Jesus is reputed to have placed the bread is now an altar. This modern church rests on the site of two earlier churches. I offered up the mass to a good friend of mine. As our group celebrated mass, we could hear a most joyful singing of another mass held along the shore. As we later found out, that mass was being celebrated by pilgrims from Africa. In the com-

ing days, we would experience many different cultures all coming to visit and pay homage to the same holy places we were visiting.

Later in the day, we took a "vintage" boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where our hosts demonstrated how people fished in Jesus' day. The Sea of Galilee was lovely and looked very similar to illustrations I had previously seen in books. There was music and dancing on our boat. There were also other vintage boats on the horizon, which added to the atmosphere. This sea is Israel's largest and most important source of drinking water. While on the boat, one couldn't help but think that this body of water was so important for Jesus' ministries and miracles as well - such as walking on water, calming the storm and the boatload of fish. I sat on the side of that boat, looking out at the hazy horizon of the sea, thinking all the time - I can't believe I am here, I can't believe I am here!

We also visited the Mount of Beatitudes which has an eight-sided church dome, representing Jesus' eight beatitudes. It is where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount and taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. We visited Capernaum where more than 21 miracles were said to have taken place during Jesus' time. Nobody lives there now, it is primarily an archaeological park set up to look like during Jesus' time, including a structure that would have been a synagogue he taught in and cast out demons. Here local black basalt was used in buildings (vs. just limestone or sandstone). Ss. Peter, James, Andrew, John and Matthew are also said to have lived here. St. Peter's home, with tiny stone divided rooms, looked very different than did the synagogue.

The Primacy of Peter was our last stop of day two. It is also situated on the Sea of Galilee and is known for when, after raised from the dead, Jesus forgives Peter for his weakness on the night of Jesus' trial. There is a church on this spot (as well as a most beautiful outdoor statue presumably where Jesus said "Thou are Rock, and upon this rock will I build my church."). Our guide George came over and said to me that it looked like I wasn't enjoying myself. I said I was overwhelmed by what I was seeing. By then though, it wasn't the seeing; it was the growth in belief. I just didn't know it at the time. At the end of this stop, those who had them, filled up bottles of "Galilee" water to take back home or had sat down by the sea to soak their hot, tired, complaining feet and prepared to re-board the bus to go back to the hotel.

For the entire trip, we stayed in two different hotels. We boarded the bus each morning by 8 AM and usually got back around 4:30 or 5:00 PM. Most people did a pretty good job in being at the bus at the scheduled time. The hotels supplied breakfast and supper in buffet style. Typically, there was a table for lots of different salads, cheeses, vegetables and cold fish; another for the main entrees (eggs & potatoes in the morning; beef, chicken, fish and hot vegetables and potatoes in the evenings); and a third for breads and desserts.) Lunch was usually at a local restaurant where gyros were a typical menu item. The bus we traveled in was clean, roomy, and happily, air-conditioned. George 2, our

fearless driver, very skillfully negotiated hairpin curves (driving up some of those mountains certainly isn't for the faint of heart) and narrow, hilly city/town streets. George 2 was always waiting for us as we finished up each visit to whisk us off to the next destination and was very kind when having to help us find lost items on the bus or providing us water.

Lessons Learned: Israel is a place where the past and present collide. For example, on Mount Carmel, there are all these centuries of history, the many beautiful works of art for "Our Lady, Star of the Sea" presented by so many different countries and there was the stunning gardens. Yet, as we stood on that mountain admiring all this as well as the breathtaking Mediterranean Sea, we also see warships on the beach. We are reminded that Israel is a country of so many contrasts. There are also documented disagreements about the actual location of important religious places, such as whether the Cave of Elijah was really where Elijah (vs. his disciple Elisha) stayed. Mount Carmel was an introduction to Jewish folklore, Muslim tradition and the Baha'i faith, besides Christian beliefs all in one very small area - a religious and cultural intensity we would experience many times on this pilgrimage. The Valley of the Doves would be the one of many overwhelming, humbling and joyful experiences.

## SAINTS, SHRINES, AND SACRAMENTS

by Angela Scharf

Most visitors to Italy envision stops at Roman ruins, Renaissance art and architecture, great wine and, of course, pasta. A typical tour would certainly include all the above but visiting Italy on a Pilgrimage provides an entirely different approach. I invite you to join us on a journey of faith beginning in Venice and ending in the "Eternal City" of Rome. This visit commenced on May 4, 2014 with a Lay Dominican Group of 42 participants and an inspiring Irish Dominican priest, Fr. Laurence Hayden. Walk with us as we re-discover the saints who inspire us, the sacraments that strengthen us and the shrines that enlighten our understanding of Catholic tradition.

Arriving into Venice is always breathtaking from the air with its view of the magnificent Alps. After a water-taxi transfer and a short motor coach ride our group arrived in Padua, a lovely ancient city, possibly the oldest in Northern Italy, where we celebrated a mass of thanksgiving in the Basilica of St. Anthony. Though born in Lisbon, St. Anthony was inspired to become a missionary and, en route to Africa by ship, storms brought the vessel to Sicily. His interest in and love of St. Francis brought him to Assisi where he preached with passion and zeal throughout Italy and France. He made his home in Padua where he died in 1231. His tomb is housed in the Basilica which also includes an impressive reliquary displaying numerous first-class relics of many saints. His life of travel, prayer and preaching provided ample inspiration for all of us as, we too, began our journey.

The following day we again water-taxed

back to Venice for an opportunity to explore this most unique city, with its palaces, basilicas, bridges, canals and beautiful St. Mark's Square. We began our day with mass in St. Mark's Basilica, whose architectural style blends that of East and West. The basilica was consecrated in 832 AD as an ecclesiastical building to house the remains of St. Mark. Its interior is completely covered with gold mosaics depicting the Old and New Testament stories. Due to cost of lighting the interior of this vast basilica it is rarely lit and, as the guide mentioned, one may get "lucky" to be there during the 1 hour per week that the sacristan randomly chooses to turn on the electricity. As we stood mesmerized by the beautiful artistic representations of various bible stories, the lights began to come on and it gave the impression of the sun illuminating the entire interior one section at a time until the walls literally glowed from end to end. This was a moment of grace, not luck, and we whispered silent prayers of gratitude for this gift. Our day continued with a walking tour of the important sites of Venice, a visit to a Murano glass factory and a fun gondola ride through the canals accompanied by musicians and a singer, much to the enjoyment of many tourists crossing the bridges overhead.

With a warm sun on our backs and mild temperatures we headed for the Medieval Tuscan town of Siena via the scenic Apennine Mountains. Siena is truly a medieval jewel but for us, the interest lies in the fact that this was the home of St. Catherine, a Doctor of the Church. Our first stop for mass was in St. Dominic's Church, followed by a tour of its interior. On to the Plaza il Campo, certainly one of the most famous in all of Italy. Here the Palio horse race is held 2 times during the summer and dates back to the sixth Century, possibly earlier. Perhaps the highlight of the visit was the tour of the Duomo with its stunning artistic floor of various shades of marble (graffiti). This Gothic cathedral is full of treasures, including the Piccolomini library frescoes, the Baptismal Font, the carved pulpit, and an incredibly ornate interior. So much outstanding art would require a month of continuous visits to see and appreciate everything, but we were fortunate to have the afternoon within its walls.

On to Assisi through the Tuscan and Umbrian Hills. And yet another surprise on our arrival. A huge celebration was taking place in Assisi called Callendimaggio (Welcome Spring) with amazing medieval costumes, drummers, musicians and other historic notables who paraded through the main street of Assisi. Italy simply can't be beat for its pageantry and special commemorations dating back through the centuries. Our hotel, directly across from the Church of St. Clare was in the exact center of town and after dinner, we could view the valley below from our hotel room window. Already a sense of peace envelops us and we feel the draw of this place which brought St. Francis to these hills. The following morning we had mass in the chapel of St. Clare inside the Basilica of St. Francis. We toured this Basilica with our guide, Eduardo, whose presentation was so much more than merely historic. One could sense his profound spirituality as he brought together the subjects of the frescoes with their application to real life situations. We then descended from the upper

valley by bus to lower Assisi and the church of St. Mary of the Angels. Within its walls is the Porziuncola – the site of the founding of the Franciscan Order and the cell where St. Francis died. A very moving and prayerful visit. Both St. Francis and St. Clare suffered much humiliation and deprivation in order to follow a humble, simple, prayerful life as an example for others. Their stories of tragedy and triumph are inspiring to this day.

On our return to Upper Assisi (the medieval walled portion) we found the pageant in full swing and it gave all of us the opportunity to view the entire Procession of costumed participants including the banner bearers, the cross-bow woodsmen, the drummers and the beautiful young maidens all of whom were quite spectacular. Sitting on the square enjoying a gelato and immersed in the sights and sounds of centuries past made for a truly memorable ending to a beautiful day.

An early departure allowed us to view the beautiful hills surrounding Assisi as the morning mist rose from the valley. We are on our way to Cascia, the town associated with the life of St. Rita, also known as the "Saint of the Impossible." The Basilica of St. Rita of Cascia offers all visitors a significant opportunity for reflection and prayer. Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian nun, was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. We celebrated mass in the chapel of the church next door to where her body can be venerated. The Augustinian nuns, the Sisters of Rita, still live in this place of cloistered commitment. Below in the Minor Basilica is the Eucharistic Miracle of Cascia and the remains of Blessed Simone Fidati, a priest involved in the miracle. At the time of the miracle, in the 1300's, a certain priest had lost his respect for the Eucharist and when going on a call to administer the Holy Sacraments to an ailing peasant took a Consecrated Host and placed it irreverently between the pages of his breviary. When he opened the book, he saw that the Host had turned red with fresh blood and was impregnated with the two pages between which it had been placed! This miraculous host is on display in a beautiful monstrance where we were able to spend some time in prayer and contemplation.

We continued our journey eastward toward the Adriatic Sea and we arrived in Loreto in the afternoon. For those unfamiliar with Loreto, and the tradition that surrounds this town, the following explanation may prove helpful: THE MOST TREASURED and venerated Shrine of Our Lady throughout the world is that of the Holy House of Nazareth in the Basilica at Loreto, Italy. And rightly so, for according to tradition, to testimonies of Popes and Saints this is where the "recreation" – our redemption – began.

Over the past several centuries, people from all parts of the world have traveled to this shrine to pray and seek Our Lady's help. Thousands of miracles attributed to Our Lady have been recorded at Loreto.

The tradition and history of the Holy House goes back to Apostolic times. From the earliest days of Christianity, the little house and the grotto which formed one side of the Holy House have been a place of worship and pilgrimage. Shortly after the year 313, Constantine the Great had a large Basilica built over the Holy House of Nazareth. The Holy

House and the grotto formed part of the crypt of the new church. About the year 1090, the Saracens invaded the Holy Land, plundering and destroying many of the shrines sacred to Christians. One of these was the Basilica in Nazareth, but the Holy House and grotto in the crypt were left intact. Tradition says that Angels transported the intact house over the Adriatic in order to save the home from Muslim invaders. Because this is the home of the Holy Family, it is believed to be a special place of grace and blessing to families and we saw many young families at this shrine. The following morning, looking out my hotel window an interesting phenomenon over the waters of the Adriatic was visible as the sun began to rise. It seemed as though the sky was lit with a secondary orb of light over the church of Loreto with a short rainbow-like arch to its right. Quite unusual but, as I was up very early and had a view over the water, I am not sure how many people saw this light.

We continued to Manoppello this morning where we celebrated Mass on Mother's Day. Our choir and musician did not disappoint with beautiful hymn choices for our celebration, honoring the mother of us all – Mary. What makes Manoppello a memorable visit is the silk cloth sealed between two glass panes with the image of a man who appears to have been Jewish and severely beaten, but with open eyes reflecting compassion and peace. It is an enigma, scientifically studied much as the Shroud of Turin, though this face appears as more of a painting rather than a negative. Investigative studies of the Shroud of Turin and the Veil of Manoppello by noted professors, religious researchers and a Trappist nun who is a religious artist summarized their findings; 1) The two faces coincide perfectly. 2) The two faces must belong to the same person. 3) Neither image was created by human hands. 4) Their formation was probably caused by a photochemical process. 5) The origin of both images, including their exact likeness, can only be defined as paranormal and completely inexplicable. We continued on along the coast of the Adriatic Sea to San Giovanni Rotondo with a stop along the way in Lanciano. And it is here that we view the Eucharistic Miracle housed in a church in the center of this small town. The story of this miracle centers on a doubting priest who was struggling to believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ once the host was consecrated. During consecration at a particular mass this priest was celebrating, the host turned to flesh and the wine to real blood. This occurred in 700AD. The flesh and blood remains intact to this day in a special monstrance and is yet another gift of grace that reaffirms our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist.

Because San Giovanni Rotondo and the life of St. Padre Pio are so well known by most Catholics, it isn't necessary to go into detail other than to say that he was humble, devout, and a well-known confessor who recommended weekly confession to all who wished to achieve spiritual growth. While he believed mass and daily communion were the pillars of a strong spiritual life, it was the confessional and the self-examination it required of each person that brought people to him by the hundreds. He literally made himself available for confession 12 hours a

day and rarely slept more than 2 hours before beginning his day anew. Gifted with the stigmata (wounds of Christ) just as St. Francis and St. Rita from our earlier visits, he suffered the painful wounds as a means of reparation, praying daily for the souls in purgatory. Our mass here was at the old church where St. Padre Pio celebrated mass daily. This was followed by a talk with Fr. Erlindo who lived with St. Padre Pio during the last 3 years of his life and a special individual blessing for each of us as he lay the blood-stained glove worn by St. Pio during his lifetime on our shoulder accompanied with a special prayer. Graces abound. Upon leaving San Giovanni Rotondo, we stopped at St. Michael's cave before continuing to Sorrento.

This stop primarily allowed some enjoyable down-time to relax and absorb the beautiful Bay of Naples and the Mediterranean Sea. Our visits included the Isle of Capri, Pompeii, the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and Sorrento itself. Having a hotel ensconced within the grounds of a private arboretum park and meals in a restaurant overlooking the water made this 3-day stop feel like a resort experience.

Rome at last!! Arrived on May 15 with ample time to walk over to Vatican City from our hotel. That first view of St Peter's Basilica as one enters the Piazza area through the colonnades is always breathtaking. The following morning brought us an extraordinary gift of celebrating mass at the tomb of the now St. John Paul II which was moved to the main floor of the Basilica right next to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel.

Only weeks after his Canonization and here we were, kneeling in front of his tomb celebrating our first mass in Rome. There are very few cities that compare to Rome, particularly as pertains to our Catholic faith. Rich in history, archaeology, art, architecture, religious tradition, and so much more. Our days were filled with touring, particularly those places of importance to the history of the church – the four major Basilicas of Rome, the Scala Sancta (Holy Stairs), the Catacombs, Santa Croce Church which houses the relics from the crucifixion and San Alfonso church which houses the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Of course, these are merely highlights of the numerous sites visited each day, always accompanied by mass in a special church, or on one occasion, in the Catacombs. We had started our journey with St. Anthony, born in 1195 and ended our stay with a 21 Century saint, Pope John Paul II. How rich, diverse, fascinating, timeless and transcendent were the many saints and shrines touched upon during this pilgrimage journey. And each day our participation in mass and the sacrament of the Eucharist strengthened that journey.

Thank you for taking this abbreviated pilgrimage tour with us. In attempting to share the most eventful and interesting moments and places of this program, a good deal had to be left out, but be assured that pilgrimage travel offers spiritual sustenance and a deeper appreciation of all our Catholic Faith embodies.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2014 SCHEDULE

### GENERATIONS OF FAITH at St. Edward

Friday, December 12, 6:00-9:00pm  
Sunday, December 14, Noon-3:00pm

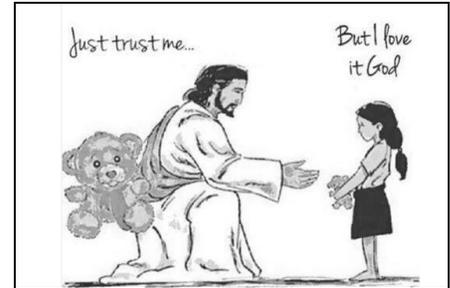
### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday, December 12, 7:00pm  
Advent Penance Service St Edward  
Saturday, December 13  
4:00-5:00pm St E & 7:30pm St L  
Friday, December 19  
7:00pm St Lucy  
Monday, December 22  
7:00pm St. Edward Chapel

### PARISH MASS TIMES

**CHRISTMAS EVE**, December 24  
4:00pm Children's Mass @ St. Edward  
6:00pm Vigil Mass @ St. Edward  
12:00am Midnight Mass @ St Lucy

**CHRISTMAS DAY**, December 25  
8:30am @ St. Edward  
10:30am @ St. Lucy



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