
SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

DECEMBER 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Each year we look forward to the Nativity of Our Lord. Being Catholics, we accentuate our celebration with many symbols and “props”: we string up lights because Christ is the light of the world. We erect an evergreen tree in some form as a reminder of the “evergreen” of eternal life. We set up Christmas mangers in church and home with the Holy Family, shepherds, magi, angels and more. Our choirs prepare for Christmas because music helps us celebrate together and well. We give and we all imitate our gift giving God.

At this dark time of the year, when nights are their darkest, remembering the birthday of the Light of the world lifts our hearts with ever-new Christmas hope.

*Merry Christmas to all!
Father John Burkley & Deacon Greg*



LOVE MANY, TRUST FEW, AND ALWAYS ROW YOUR OWN CANOE

by Emma Traggiai

My weekend to visit Pope Francis had to be a once in a lifetime experience. Although we were over a mile from the Altar, I experienced something incredible. It was truly astonishing of all people that were in the city for one reason, their faith. It made me realize that many have much bigger battles than mine to fight.

As the Pope drove by he stopped multiple times to bless his followers. Toward the end when many were leaving after mass, an older woman probably in her 70's had one of the worst cases of Parkinson's disease I had ever seen. She couldn't even feed herself, but I guarantee you she knew why she was there. I know this because I watched her pray before she ate -- all on her own. This reminded me of my favorite bible verse, 2 Timothy 4:17. "At my first defence, no one came to my support,

but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and that all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth."

If you keep your faith stronger than your fears you will conquer all of your dreams. One message I received out of the Homily was actually a quote by Francis, "Have the courage to be truly happy." His advice of love, hope, faith, and family didn't just influence me but many others. We picked up a copy of *The Washington Post*. I read an article in it about a wife whose divorce kept her from communion for 37 years, and the day I was in Philadelphia she decided to excuse herself and take communion. And another article about six college graduates who

stepped off their career path for a year to help those in need.

As I grasp my visit of seeing the Pope I noticed something about myself. I used to judge others more than any could imagine, even myself. I knew that I wasn't perfect in any way, shape, or form but I never realized what the true meaning of judging was. Saying something like, "Her hair is really messed up." That is judging. I've said those words multiple times in my life not thinking anything of it, but now I do. I have prayed for forgiveness of my sins, and I hope that I will be forgiven. However, I still love myself because I hate what I did, not who I am.

Experiencing my visit with the Pope changed who I am, and I will never look back. I hope that my short summary of meeting Pope Francis didn't only change who I am, but you too.

OUR GEauga COUNTY CATHOLIC JAIL MINISTRY

by Judy Lester

Our Geauga County Catholic Jail Ministry has been an active ministry since 1998. Our members visit the incarcerated at Geauga County Jail and fellowship with the inmates every Thursday night at 7:00 in common rooms.

The ministry started out with a handful of people and we still have two original members. Sadly we have lost some dear members and happily gained some so we are growing. We need to grow more!

One of our newer members mentioned that this ministry is a well kept secret. Actually we are not a secret at all we are just a low key group. We are affiliated with the Cleveland Diocese Prison Ministry headed by Sister Rita Harwood.

This is a very rewarding ministry in many ways and the inmates look forward to our visits as they are able to talk to others from the outside world. Our own Deacon Will was recently honored at Borromeo Seminary this

past May for the work that he does for the Prison Ministry.

Judy would love to talk with you about our ministry if you would like more information. Anyone interested in joining our group of wonderful people from St. Helen, St. Lucy, and St. Edward, please contact Judy Lester at 440-834-8418.

God Bless.

“I was in prison and you visited me” - Matthew 25:36

DONATIONS NEEDED TO ASSIST ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DINING HALL

reprinted from Tribune Chronicle, September 8, 2015, written by Bob Coupland

WARREN - In the past year, the St. Vincent DePaul dining hall, 2355 Niles Road SE, which provides a noon meal six days a week to local residents, has seen an increase in numbers.

David Skowron, president of the St. Vincent DePaul Trumbull County Deanery, said there has been an increase of those coming to the dining hall for a meal from 120 per day in 2014 to more than 220 per day in 2015.

“At times, it makes it overwhelming for many of the churches that help prepare meals,” Skowron said.

He said the food supplies are also diminishing sooner. More support from the community - in terms of monetary and canned food item donations, such as canned corn, green beans and also spaghetti - is needed.

Locally 22 different churches and organizations select a day or two each month to prepare meals which are served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

“The churches let us know what meal they will make, and we help get the food for them.” he said.

Skowron said the noon meal is a dinner.

“We are not sure why we are seeing so many families. We have noticed there have been a lot more children who come for meals,” he said.

There was some recent confusion that the Warren Family Mission, which also provides meals, had closed but had simply moved to a new location at the former Todd Avenue United Methodist Church.

“There was a rumor the mission had closed but they were relocating. They still serve meals at their former location. The mission told me they are also being hit by large numbers of people,” Skowron said.

He said previously there were more people later each month but the numbers now are steady throughout the month.

Volunteer help from the churches spend from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. preparing and serving food and then cleaning up.

The dining hall brings in volunteers from St. Edward Parish in Parkman, St. Lucy Parish in Middlefield and St. Helen Parish in Newbury.

Nick Frank of Middlefield said his church has been helping the last Saturday of each month for the past 10 years and serve as many as 200 to 240 people.

“We love being part of this. It is a little further drive for many of us, but it is worth it,” Frank said.

Joan Komar, who comes along with about 20 others from the three Geauga County parishes, said: “This is a ministry of our church and offers a chance for us to help others.”

She also said she has seen an increase in numbers over the years.

The St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop, which is located next to the dining hall at 2415 Niles Road SE, is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday. Donations of household items and clothing are accepted.

Monetary donations for the dining hall can be sent to 2415 Niles Road SE, Warren, 44484. For information, call David Skowron at 330-509-3128.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

UPDATE FROM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

by Maria Cocco

As many of you know, this past spring we took a Parish Survey to get a pulse of what our parishioners envision for the parish. As a group, the Parish Pastoral Council reviewed the results prior to our summer break. A subcommittee was formed to work through the summer months to formulate identified themes stemming from your comments.

Although we may not have publicized all of the responses, we have been working in the background to start to address some suggestions and will continue to work on your suggestions into 2016. We'd like to share some of the themes and what action has been taken.

1. It was suggested to start Mass on time. Almost immediately after the survey, Father John went right to work to try and make that a reality, when he wasn't detained by urgent needs.

2. We heard that it was felt as a parish that we didn't have a presence in our community. A). We contacted the *Middlefield Post* and have been working with them to publish articles about our activities as well as highlight some of our parishioners. If you haven't already seen the results of this be sure to pick up the *Middlefield Post* when you get a chance. B). We also again participated in the Middlefield Summerfest Parade. We invited all of the organizations of the Parish to march with us alongside the float hoping to let the community know of all that we do. C). This is the 8th year that we have supported the Geauga County Fair by hosting a booth and sending volunteers to establish our Catholic presence in the county. We work together with all the other Catholic Churches within Geauga County by manning the booth on Thursday and Monday of the Fair. Our parish has also been responsible for coordinat-

ing all the churches schedules and for setting up and tearing down the booth for the past 8 years.

3. We are in the process of revitalizing our website and continue to add items as they arise. Please make sure to check it out. There is lots of good information available about what is happening at our Parish along with links to the other important Catholic websites.

4. Some of you were concerned about people leaving our Parish as well as the Catholic Church. We have added a mass intention for all our absent brothers and sisters at each weekend mass. Early in the summer, Father John offered cards that we as parishioners could send out to any of our friends who have fallen away from our faith and many people responded by taking these cards. Our hope is that the cards were sent out. Parish Pastoral Council group is a small part of the parish so we are relying on many of you to help us spread the word. If you know of someone who no longer attends, please encourage them to return to our Parish Family.

5. We were asked to have more social activities for all age groups. Mel Joyce has been working to coordinate activities for our younger families. There was an ice cream social at the park and a hayride at a local farm. For the adults, we had a night at the Winery in Parkman which was great fun for all that attended. A committee has been established called the Parish Has Fun. This team will continue to meet and plan more social events throughout the year.

6. We heard you wanted to know more about the members of Parish Council so early next year we will be putting another article in this newsletter introducing all the members.

We have also agreed to host a donut Sunday at both churches so you put a name with a face. And the list goes on.

7. We have placed suggestion boxes at both Churches and we continue to look for your suggestions. Please feel free to put comments and suggestions in the box for the Parish Pastoral Council to review.

As we continue to work on items identified on the survey we will keep you updated.

There are great things happening at our Parish. Why not consider jumping in and joining the fun. If you are not currently active in any of our groups or ministries, please feel free to call the office and let Karen know what group you would like to be a part of. Karen can notify the person who leads that group or ministry.

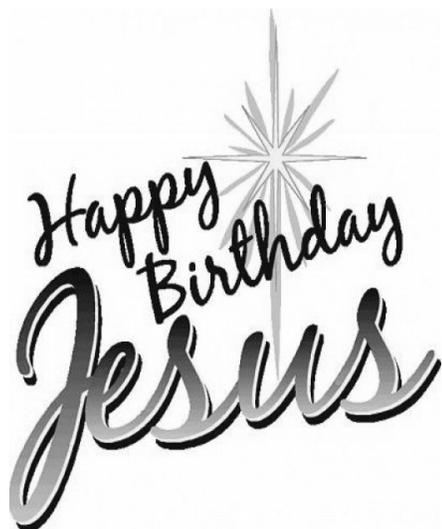
THEN YOU WILL SEE HOW GREAT IT IS TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

A PARISH LEARNS TO HAVE FUN

by Fr. Burkley

Over this past year we have seen requests for more activities besides the traditional fund raising. Melissa Joyce and some parents from GOF have scheduled some events for children and parents. There is a website called the "Parish Evaluation Project". One issue they bring up is called "A Parish Learns to Have Fun", encouraging the development of a monthly activity in which those who wish can participate as part of parish community life. Thanks to Michelle Bruno and Nick Frank, we have settled on the following: Jan. 18 - Movie Day and Pizza Party, February 20 - Sledding at Punder-son, March 19 - Food Basket delivery & Pizza, April 23 - Clean-up day at Mariapoch, May 14 - Hike or Bike

by Grandview, June 26 - Ethnic Potluck, July 23 - Parish Picnic, August 21 - Ice Cream Social @ Sprinkle Park, Sept. 23, Wine Tasting at Lal-eure, October 8 - Corn Maze, November 21 - Food Basket delivery & Pizza Party, December - Caroling @ Briar Hill, Blossom Hill. If you are you interested, join us. This is our parish community having fun!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2015 SCHEDULE

GENERATIONS OF FAITH at St. Edward

Starts with a Penance Service @ 12:30pm
Generations of Faith Noon-3:00pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

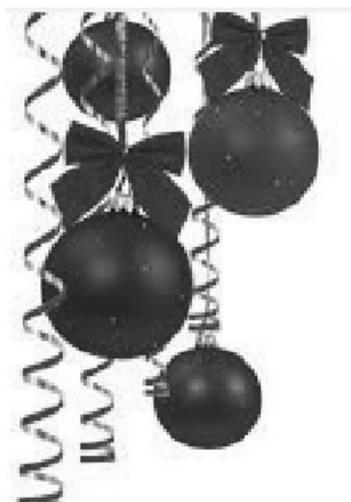
Friday, December 11, 7:00pm
Advent Penance Service St Edward
Monday, December 14 Penance Service
7:30pm @ St Helen
Saturday, December 19
4:15-5:00pm St E & 7:15pm St L
Monday, December 21 7:00pm in the Chapel
Wednesday, December 23
7:00pm St Lucy

PARISH MASS TIMES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25
8:30am @ St. Edward
10:30am @ St. Lucy



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