

SS. Edward & Lucy News

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

MARCH 2016

EPIDEMIC OF LONLINESS

by Fr. Burkley

In a recent edition of *National Review* there appeared an article by Kevin Hassett entitled "An Epidemic of Loneliness." This article, from an objective source should give us a little to think about. He begins, "For more than 100 years sociologists have studied an empirical regularity: when the population share of Protestants relative to Catholics rises, suicides increase markedly. Two themes emerged to explain the pattern. 1) Catholics but not Protestants are dissuaded from suicide by the fear that it will lead to eternal damnation. 2) Protestants are more likely to have weaker ties to the community, and it is this separation from the support of a community that leads to despair and suicide . . . Researchers have begun to explore

religion and the role of community generally . . . and the community-based explanation seems to be more widely accepted, while Protestants commit suicide more than Catholics, atheists are even more likely to take their own lives than Protestants . . . That brings us to America today. With religion on the decline and community engagement waning, the literature might suggest that a surge in suicide could be in store for us . . . As Protestantism spread and Catholicism declined in Europe, individuals found themselves increasingly separated from the community support mechanisms that could help sustain them in difficult times. Suicides surged. Today's coarsening world is having a similar effect on far too many . . ."

An important aspect of parish life here is community-building, whether at Mass, at Generations Of Faith, in our parish outreach and ministries. We talk regularly about engagement with the parish community. Our Parish Pastoral Council discusses ways we can augment and strengthen parish community. We need this parish community as much as our parish community needs us. I worry about our young parishioners who can reach maturity never having known or been shown parish community, much less having sensed a need for it. Where is it all leading? A community of God's people. A community that supports one another; a community that really means at the Sign of Peace at Mass: "we can count on each other!"

WOMEN'S CLUB

by Maria Cocco

One of the many blessings in my life as part of the SS. Edward & Lucy Parish community has been my involvement in the Women's Club. This organization of wonderful women has made a difference not only in my life but in our Parish life.

Last year this group provided the opportunity for any person from our Parish to join in the Living Rosary in May and then again in October. Doing the Rosary in this context was so spiritual and provided us as a Parish Family the ability to share this special prayer in a very powerful way. We also did a road trip to the "Servants of Mary Shrine" in Windsor - which again we do annually. This time our sharing the Rosary was in a breathtaking venue enjoying God's beautiful creations.

In May of every year we sponsor a social event, our "Mother Daughter

Banquet." Over the past few years we have been striving to expand the theme of that day and celebrate all women as "Daughters of Mary." We love seeing mothers, grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, etc.; but we also value an afternoon spent in fellowship both with family and with fellow women in our parish. So this year when you see the event published please consider participating as a woman of the parish, you can come alone or bring a friend and get to meet some pretty special people.

Towards the end of the year we take an opportunity to have a craft night and share fellowship and end up with something nice to take home. This past year we made lovely cards as well as bracelets. In prior years we made items such as snowmen door stops, place mat purses, blessing bracelets and so much more.

One of our signature events is our Christmas event with Santa. We tried

something new this year and had breakfast with Santa. Everyone is always welcome to attend this event. It is one of my favorite events as I see the look on the children's faces it's something that can't be described. It's also a great opportunity to take some of those photos with Santa in an unrushed atmosphere. And don't forget the children get to decorate a sugar cookie just for themselves.

All these events afford us social opportunities but this group prays, shares, and supports one another as Women of Christ. All women of the parish are invited to participate at any of our events. You are also welcome to attend our meetings just to see what we are about. Participating does not require a commitment but once you get to know the group you'll see the many opportunities that await you.

Keep an eye on the bulletin to check

for our upcoming events. The events described above are only some of the events that we sponsor. We will have our living rosary again in May and October, our "Mother Daughter/ Daughters of Mary" banquet, our trip to the "Servants of Mary" shrine, our craft night, and Breakfast with Santa just to name a few events planned for this year. We continue to look for other opportunities to support our Parish Family as we enjoy the company of other women of the parish.

THE LIVING ROSARY

by Joan Komar

A few years ago a friend invited me to the Living Rosary at Rose Hall. I had no idea what this was about but I showed up.

I entered a dimly lit hall and was warmly welcomed. At the end of the hall were long tables set in a strange pattern. Upon closer look, they were set up to resemble the shape of a rosary. Each table contained white and blue votive candles each surrounded by a ring of flowers. In the center of the tables was a statue of our Blessed Mother. It was beautiful.

Still not knowing what to expect, I was asked to stand single file around the tables along with everyone else. Marie Cocco was at a small podium at the base of the "rosary" where she led the opening prayers. A long match was lit and given to the first person in line at which time they voiced a prayer request close to their heart. Everyone reflected on his or her request as they lit the first candle and we said the appropriate Our Father or Hail Mary. The match was presented to the next person in line and it continued like that until all of the candles were lit thus concluding the rosary.

It is difficult for me to explain the beauty and serenity of this ceremony. The feeling that our Blessed Mother has heard all of us and all of her blessings have been showered upon us. We gathered afterwards for refreshments provided by the Women's Club members not to reflect but to socialize.

I invite all who have hesitated in participating this one Tuesday evening twice a year for about an hour to

truly feel for yourself the joy and serenity of this hour; Sharing with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ this moment of being with our Blessed Mother as she requested - to pray the rosary - in such a special way.

God's Blessings upon us all.

LIFE IS ALWAYS SACRED

submitted by Judy Chilkowski, article reprinted from National Catholic Register

On Sept. 20, Pope Francis met with members of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and encouraged obstetricians to defend life, as Catholic News Agency reported.

"Life is always sacred and always of quality. And not as a matter of faith, but of reason and science," the Pope said. "Each one of us is invited to recognize in the fragile human being the face of the Lord, who, in his human flesh, experienced the indifference and loneliness to which we often condemn the poorest, either in the developing nations or in the developed societies," he also said, "Each child that is unborn, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who, even before he was born, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world." He added: "And each old person, even if infirm or at the end of his days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded, as the 'culture of waste' proposes. They cannot be discarded."

LET GO OF YOUR GRUDGES

submitted by Judy Chilkowski

As we enter deeper into the Lenten season, I thought it was wise to share with you the words and advice of Michael Josephson, "it's a good time to clean out the clutter in our lives. That means disposing of useless papers, and unused stuff, but also throwing away old grudges."

The prevalence and durability of grudges proves Maya Angelou's observation that people don't always remember what you said or did, but they do remember how you made

them feel.

Grudges are nothing more than toxic memories of how someone made us feel.

But Confucius taught that "To be wronged is nothing unless we continue to remember it." So why do so many of us choose to consciously preserve and revisit toxic feelings that detract from our happiness?

Perhaps we fool ourselves into thinking we can inflict some sort of pain on the person who wronged us. In fact, holding on to a grudge is like holding on to a hot stone. It doesn't hurt the stone or the person who gave it to us; it only hurts the one holding it. Carrying a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee.

It doesn't matter how justified the bitter feelings are or how right we are. Holding on to a grievance turns pain into suffering. In a peculiar way it empowers the wrongdoer to hurt us again and again.

So give yourself a great gift. Muster the good sense and strength to root out and release deep-seated and long-held resentments.

If you can, forgive and forget. But all that's really necessary is a firm decision to let go of your grudges so you can move forward and free yourself of the chains of resentment.

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be here to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you.

EASTER SYMBOLS AND TRADITIONS

from *History.com*

You won't find them in the Bible, but many cherished Easter traditions have been around for centuries. The most prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, the Easter bunny reportedly was introduced to America by the German immigrants who brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare. The decoration of eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13th century, while the rite of the Easter parade has even older roots. Other traditions, such as the consumption of Easter candy, are among the modern additions to the celebration of this early springtime holiday.

EASTER BUNNY

The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.

EASTER EGGS

Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are likely linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to

some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. In the U.S., the White House Easter Egg Roll, a race in which children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs across the White House lawn, is an annual event held the Monday after Easter. The first official White House egg roll occurred in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. The event has no religious significance, although some people have considered egg rolling symbolic of the stone blocking Jesus' tomb being rolled away, leading to his resurrection.

EASTER CANDY

Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America, after Halloween. Among the most popular sweet treats associated with this day are chocolate eggs, which date back to early 19th century Europe. Eggs have long been associated with Easter as a symbol of new life and Jesus' resurrection. Another egg-shaped candy, the jelly bean, became associated with Easter in the 1930s (although the jelly bean's origins reportedly date all the way back to a Biblical-era concoction called a Turkish Delight). According to the National Confectioners Association, over 16 billion jelly beans are made in the U.S. each year for Easter, enough to fill a giant egg measuring 89 feet high and 60 feet wide. For the past decade, the top-selling non-chocolate Easter candy has been the marshmallow Peep, a sugary, pastel-colored confection. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania-based candy manufacturer Just Born (founded by Russian immigrant Sam Born in 1923) began selling Peeps in the 1950s. The original Peeps were handmade, marshmallow-flavored yellow chicks, but other shapes and flavors were later introduced, including chocolate mousse bunnies.

EASTER PARADE

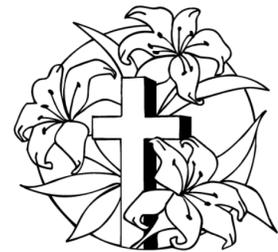
In New York City, the Easter Parade tradition dates back to the mid-

1800s, when the upper crust of society would attend Easter services at various Fifth Avenue churches then stroll outside afterward, showing off their new spring outfits and hats. Average citizens started showing up along Fifth Avenue to check out the action. The tradition reached its peak by the mid-20th century, and in 1948, the popular film *Easter Parade* was released, starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland and featuring the music of Irving Berlin. The title song includes the lyrics: "In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it/You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade."

The Easter Parade tradition lives on in Manhattan, with Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street being shut down during the day to traffic. Participants often sport elaborately decorated bonnets and hats. The event has no religious significance, but sources note that Easter processions have been a part of Christianity since its earliest days. Today, other cities across America also have their own parades.

Did You Know?

The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds. It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and supported by an internal steel frame.



For God so loved
the world that he gave
his one and only Son.

John 3:16

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, March 19, 20

Palms will be distributed and blessed at all weekend Masses

HOLY THURSDAY, March 24

6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner St L
7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
St L
8:30 pm Adoration until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25

12:00 pm Stations of the Cross
Mariapoch
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, March 26

11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt St L
12:00 pm Blessing of Food St L
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service & Mass St E

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27

8:30 am Mass at St. E
10:30 am Mass at St. L

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday, March 11, 7:00 pm
Lenten Penance Service St L
Sunday, March 13 12:30 pm
Lenten Penance Service St L
Monday, March 21 7:00 pm St Edward Chapel
Wednesday, March 23 7:00 pm St L
Friday, March 25 4:00 pm St E



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