Pastoral Minister/R.C.I.A.
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:
740-587-4160
MIKE MILLISOR
SARAH SWEEN

Parish Office: 740-587-3254
Fax: 740-587-0149
E-mail: church@saintedwards.org

Mass Schedule
SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:
SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY: 8:15 a.m.
10:45 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:
TBA in bulletin

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS:
SATURDAY: 4:00-4:30 p.m.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON
Parish Office: 740-587-3254
Fax: 740-587-0149
E-mail: church@saintedwards.org
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, JANUARY 25 –
The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Martin Ospina by Lopez Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 –
Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops
9:00 a.m. Wm. Jay McCabe (RIP) by Monna McCabe

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 –
Saint Angela Merici, Virgin
9:00 a.m. Nick & Carmela Demassi (RIP) by Dick Schmitz

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 –
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church
9:00 a.m. Esther Newell (RIP) by Mickey Smith

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
9:00 a.m. Sr. Marie Hohman (RIP)
by Charles & JoAnn Hohman

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
5:00 p.m. Noel Tulipan, MD (RIP) by Mary Elliott

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 –
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:15 a.m. Liz Loescher (RIP) by Mary Verdon
10:45 a.m. Sheldon Humiston (RIP) (Anniversary)
by Dot Humiston
4:30 p.m. Mass at Swasey Chapel, Denison University
for the Living & Deceased Members
of St. Edward Parish

Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.

ALTAR SERVERS:
5:00 p.m. Joe Pappas, Daniel Pappas, Luke Pappas
8:15 a.m. Jack Wolf, Grace Wolf, Natalie Cannon
10:45 a.m. Anya Mitton-Fry, Sophia Mitton-Fry,
Ashley Montagnese

LECTORS:
5:00 p.m. Fleur Metzger, Chuck Peterson
8:15 a.m. Dave Wolf, Pattie Wolf
10:45 a.m. Nick Hahn, Richard Hoben

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
5:00 p.m. Mary Klark, Gary Kristensen, John Martin,
Monna McCabe-Ashcraft, Katy Paumnier
8:15 a.m. Alex Deak, Lisa Deak, Lisa Cannon, Chris Carter,
Gary Carter
10:45 a.m. Jennifer Zarins, Lorraine Carlson, Barb Doran,
Margo Downing, Von Downing, Melissa Fink,
Paul Gassman, Rebecca Gassman,
P.J. Gassman

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS:
Barb Scholten, Alex & Lisa Deak

OPENING: I Sing the Mighty Power of God (#423)
PSALM/GOSPEL ACC.: p. 64-65
PREP. OF GIFTS: The Servant Song (#386)
COMMUNION: One Bread, One Body (#342)
CHOIR (10:45 a.m.): Lead, Kindly Light (Warner)
CLOSING: The Spirit Sends Us Forth (#377)
MASS PARTS: Gloria (below),
Land of Rest Mass, Holy Cross Mass

GLORY to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of goodwill.
We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you.
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly king, O God, almighty Father.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 24, 2016 – YEAR C

CANTORS
5:00 p.m. Randy Kerr
8:15 a.m. Hailey Bruce
10:45 a.m. Kayla Drummond

GIFT BEARERS:
5:00 p.m. Volunteer
8:15 a.m. Mary Verdon
10:45 am. Dot Humiston

SUNDAY NURSERY
The Nursery/Playroom for young children is open during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. To be added to the Sunday schedule of volunteers, contact the new coordinator, Kristen Gilbert, at 740-920-4078 or Email: kgilbert740@yahoo.com

Sunday Offertory Collection
The Sunday offertory collection for January 17th was $8,413.76. The Propagation of the Faith collection was $1,775.89.
3. I very much hope to see many of you here for the beginning of our Parish Mission next Sunday (continuing through Tuesday evening.) The topic is Mercy – what it is, and how we practice it in our Christian lives. Fr. Paul Fagan, Redemptorist priest from New York, will be our presenter. Stay for lunch after next Sunday’s 10:45 Mass and join us at 1:00 p.m. for the first presentation.

WELCOME!
You may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray you will find peace, hospitality and friendship with us.

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 24
Food Pantry Collection
PSR – See schedule
St. Gianna Mother’s Ministry – Noon – Hall
Ignite – 6:30 p.m. – Hall

Monday, January 25
Eucharistic Adoration – 9:30 a.m. until Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – Chapel
Bridge Group – 6:30 p.m. – Hall
Lighthearted Scripture – 7:00 p.m. – Lounge

Tuesday, January 26
Parish Council – 6:30 p.m. – Lounge
RCIA – 7:00 p.m. – Hall
Choir – 7:00 p.m. – Loft
Men’s Group for Rediscovery – 7:30 p.m. – Classroom

Wednesday, January 27
Rosary Makers – 9:30 a.m. – Lounge
PSR – See schedule
Men’s Faith Sharing Group – 7:00 p.m. – Chapel

Thursday, January 28
Scripture Study – 9:30 a.m. – Classroom 8
Knights of Columbus – 7:00 p.m. – Hall

Saturday, January 30
That Man is You – 6:45 a.m. – Hall

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION – 2015-2016
The PSR schedule this week is

Today, Sunday, January 24
Grades 5, 6, 7, 8... 9:30-10:30 a.m.
15 minute break for dismissal and arrival
Grade Pre-K/K... 10:45 a.m. to the end of Mass

This Wednesday, January 27
Grades 1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A... classes from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
Grade 2-A Parents Workshop (while children in class) for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in the Church at 5:15 p.m.
Grades 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B... classes from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Grade 2-B Parents Workshop (while children in class) for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in the Church at 6:30 p.m.

RCIA
The RCIA Period of the Catechumenate continues this Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The topics are the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Anyone in the parish is invited to attend.

ST. EDWARD YOUTH MINISTRY

January 24th – Follow: How Does God Guide Us? 6:30-8:30 p.m.
January 31st – Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do?

MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT
Clothe the Naked. Please bring any gently used or new clothes to our clothing drive on January 24th! It’s a great time of year to donate winter clothes like jackets and gloves!

SPECIAL EVENTS
SPRING RETREAT – Our annual, big retreat is coming early this year! We will be on retreat February 19-21 at Glen Helen Nature Preserve. This two night retreat is for 8th-12th grade students ready to recharge their faith. Going back to the original use of the word, we are retreating to rally our troops and gain more strength for the spiritual battle in our faith. Please join us by emailing youth@saintedwards.org or by turning in your retreat registration to the office. Registration forms can be found in the office and in the mail.

NEWMAN CATHOLIC CLUB
Denison Newman Club
January 24 – Mass in Swasey Chapel, 4:30 p.m.
February 26-28 – Annual Retreat at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark, Ohio. All Denison students are invited to join their colleagues for a weekend of fellowship and faith formation. Retreat cost is low and all you need to bring is a sleeping bag. Food and lodging and transportation is provided. Please contact youth@saintedwards.org to register or for more information.

THE PARISH MISSION IS COMING!
We are pleased to welcome Fr. Paul Fagan who will be leading our Parish Mission in the Church on Sunday afternoon, January 31st at 1:00 p.m. and on Monday and Tuesday evenings (February 1-2) at 7:00 p.m. A reception will precede the Sunday session and follow the Monday and Tuesday evening sessions in the Parish Hall. The theme of the Mission is Living By Faith – The Challenge of the Holy Year of Mercy. The topics for each session are:

Sunday, January 31: The Mystery of God’s Mercy – what is it?
Monday, February 1: The Challenges of God’s Mercy – what are they?
Tuesday, February 2: The Living of God’s Mercy – how do we make it a part of our lives?
Fr. Fagan is a member of the Passionist Religious Community, and preaches and leads missions and retreats throughout the United States.
Childcare will be available. Anyone needing a ride to and from any of the Mission sessions should contact the Religious Education office (740-587-4160).
FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION ~ JANUARY 24

We are so grateful for the generous donations during the month of December. We have 17 new volunteers working at the pantry, many of them are scheduled to provide transportation for the families. With the arrival of cold winter weather, the service of providing transportation could not have come at a better time.

As we move into the New Year we pray for your continued support. During January, donations of jelly, Hamburger Helper, canned vegetables, pasta noodles and personnel items would be greatly appreciated.

D-O-U-B-L-E CELEBRATION!

MARDI GRAS (Fat Tuesday) and VALENTINE BUFFET DINNER WITH THE FOREVER YOUNG BAND

Parishioners over 50 and friends are invited to an all-inclusive evening on February 9th at St. Edward Church Parish Hall for $21.00 per person (B.Y.O.B.). Arrive after 5:30 p.m. eat at 6:00 p.m. The evening ends at 9:00. After a scrumptious buffet dinner, enjoy vocalists Barbara McComb and Dick Gorney, Jerry Cope as instrumentalist, Dale McComb on the drums, Carol Cope and Chris Merhlinger Smith on the keyboard as they play songs from the past. Get ready to relax and enjoy a wonderful evening of music, food and dancing if you desire! Come and celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) Saint Valentine Day. Dress as you choose! PREPAID reservations are due by February 5th!

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LINE, NEW HAVEN, CT.

Many more towns on deluxe motorcoach trip June 8 to 14, 2016

***ACCEPTING NAMES FOR WAITING LIST ONLY AT THIS TIME***

If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please call or email your name, e-mail address and phone number. If a passenger(s) cancels, you will be contacted to fill the cancelled seat. (Seven days – six nights $95.00 per person double occupancy. $75.00 deposit required upon signing).

For questions or Edwardian reservations, contact Linda at 740-323-3105 or email lindawoolard@windstream.net. Make checks payable to The Edwardians and mail to Linda Woolard, 481 Beacon Road, Newark, OH 43055 for reservations.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY MYSTERY BUFFET DINNER

On Thursday, March 17th ~ Mark your calendar for a St. Patrick’s Day Mystery ~ Buffet Dinner and Suitcase Theater, at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Full details to follow.

You are welcome to come and join the Edwardians!

NEWARK CATHOLIC DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Newark Catholic Drama Department presents “WEST SIDE STORY,” January 29th and 30th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Midland Theatre, Downtown Newark. Tickets are $15.00 at the door.
ST. GI ANNA MOTHER’S MINISTRY
St. Gianna was an Italian Pediatrician and a patron saint of mothers. This new group plans to build fellowship and friendships for mothers and their children in the parish. We plan to initiate a meal train for new moms, play dates, and many more activities fun for women and children of all ages. Even those women without children are welcome to join this new ministry. Our first meet and greet will be Sunday, January 24th in the Parish Hall after the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Please contact Ann Clark if you would like more information at Annclark5809@gmail.com or simply stop by to join us for our first event on January 24th.

IMMEDIATE NEED ~ THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS
Tom Martin of our parish, recently deceased, spent much of his “retirement” as a key individual in making our St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store the success it is today. Tom’s leadership in making the Thrift Store an avenue of financial support for the Food Pantry and the Haven Shelter is unmatched. He will be sorely missed.

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store needs our help! There are many chores at the Thrift Store in need of volunteers that can lift, thus, please consider stopping by the Thrift Store and donating an hour or two a week. Simply ask for the manager, Crystal, and tell her you’re there to give an hour or two of your time. The Thrift Store hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday – 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Thrift Store phone number is 740-349-8425. Thank you. God Bless, Scott Scholten, Financial Secretary K of C #10876.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017
Attention all prospective Kindergarten through 8th grade families! On Sunday, January 24th, St. Francis de Sales School will host an Open House and Registration for the 2016-2017 school year. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., please come visit us and find out what makes St. Francis special—a faith-based education, a tight-knit community and a commitment to all children meeting high expectations and achieving great things!

If you cannot make it on Sunday the 24th, come visit us the week of January 25th. Please call the school with questions at 740-345-4049 or email Principal Sally Mummey at smummey@cdeducation.org.

TIME FOR A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?
It’s not just hammers and nails: It’s relationships too. Enrich your marriage by taking a WorldWide Marriage Encounter weekend! The next two weekends are February 19th-21st and April 22nd -24th, both in central Ohio. For more information or to register, contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880 or visit our website at www.wmecolumbus.org.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – JANUARY 24
Open House Today, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament School is a Catholic, Christ-centered community whose mission is to educate the whole child – body, mind, and soul—in order to form life-long disciples of Christ who love the Truth, practice the Faith, and live virtuous lives.

Come see what we have to offer for your child. Meet our staff and tour our classrooms with our current families and students. If you cannot make the open house today, please call the school office at 740-345-4125 or email svanhorn@cdeducation.org to tour our school. Enrollment for Blessed Sacrament School is open year round. You can find us on the web at bslacschool.net.

2016 LENTEN SOUP SUPPER/SPEAKER SERIES
During Lent, we prepare ourselves for the Easter celebration of the paschal mystery: Christ’s death and resurrection. In his encyclical on the environment, Laudato Sí (On Care For Our Common Home,) Pope Francis invites us to contemplate another “joyful mystery” – the world, created by God and entrusted to our care. Our Tuesday evening talks will consider what Pope Francis is saying to us in Laudato Sí. Using themes identified by the US bishops, speaker Paul Radkowski will discuss the document from a different perspective each week.

The weekly schedule is:

Tuesday, February 16 – Our Common Home – Building on the teaching of previous popes, Pope Francis refers to the earth as “our common home.” How does Laudato Sí explain the meaning of that phrase? What troubles afflicting “our common home” does Pope Francis call to our attention? {SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00 p.m. ~ hosted by the Knights of Columbus}

Tuesday, February 23 – We Are Not God – Scripture makes clear that while we humans are not God, we do have a unique responsibility to care for the earth. In Laudato Sí, how does Pope Francis interpret scripture to illustrate our proper relationship with the created world? {SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00 p.m. ~ co-hosted by the WISE and the RCIA group}

Tuesday, March 1 – Global Solidarity – In Laudato Sí, Pope Francis identifies the need for an “integral ecology” that strengthens solidarity among all peoples of the world, especially those living in poverty. How does he use these concepts to promote the dignity of all humans everywhere? {SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00 p.m. ~ hosted by the Edwardians}

Tuesday, March 8 – Eucharist and Creation – As the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist is central to our lives, including our relationship with the created world. In Laudato Sí, how does Pope Francis propose that we consider this connection between the Eucharist and creation? {SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00 p.m. ~ co-hosted by the PSR Teachers/Parents and the Preschool Teachers}

Tuesday, March 15 – A Time to Act, A Reason to Hope – Pope Francis calls us, as individuals and as Church, to care for our world by acting with hope. For we who are faithful followers of the risen Christ, how does Laudato Sí challenge us to live this call? {SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00 p.m. ~ co-hosted by St. Vincent DePaul, the H.S. Youth Group & the Adult Faith Formation Committee}
The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club – together with Bishop Frederick F. Campbell – will recognize Mr. Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew parish as Catholic Man of the Year for the Diocese of Columbus on Friday, February 5th! Mark your calendar and plan to participate in this popular and inspiring luncheon event to be held at St. Patrick church in downtown Columbus! Mass (optional) at 11:45 a.m.; luncheon begins 12:15 p.m.; adjournment around 1:15 p.m. Reservations not needed, but please bring $10.00 to cover the lunch and meeting costs. Questions? Contact Tim Merkle at 614-476-0739 or htm@ejhlaw.com.

DAN SCHUTTE CONCERT AND PRESENTATION

Come hear a dynamic concert covering 40 years of music that plays an important role in our liturgy! Catholic composer Dan Schutte is coming to St. Elizabeth Church to play music for worship. Dan wrote familiar songs like: Here I Am, Lord, City of God, Sing A New Song, Mass of Christ the Savior, and more as a member of the St. Louis Jesuits. Friday, February 12, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15.00.

On Saturday, February 13th. Dan will be holding a workshop, “Whom Shall I Send? Responding in Faith to God's Call.” Open to all as a Lenten Day of Reflection, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Pastors’ Hall, with music throughout. $25.00 per person, includes breakfast and lunch. Discount tickets for both events are $35.00.

Info & tickets online at www.StElizabethChurch.org, or contact Rich Krehnovi, Music Director, at 891-0150, ext. 15 or StElizabethConcert@gmail.com.

“MEDIEVAL ORIGINS OF MODERN MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN RELATIONS”

The Pontifical College Josephinum’s annual lecture series continues Thursday, February 11, 2016, with a presentation by Dr. Thomas Madden, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University. Dr. Madden will present “Crusade and Jihad: Exploring the Medieval Origins of Modern Christian/Muslim Relations” at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessing Center on the Josephinum campus. The event is free of charge and open to the public; reservations not required. For more information, please call the Academic Dean’s office at 614-985-2274.

BETHESDA POST-ABORTION HEALING MINISTRY

Sometimes memories can keep us from experiencing the fullness of new life even following the reception and graced forgiveness from the Sacrament of Penance. If you have experienced abortion in your life and the memory continues to haunt you, perhaps inviting Jesus often into that memory will open your spirit to the peace only He can give. Begin by praying “Jesus, I don’t want to be chained any longer to the memories of my abortion. Please come and heal me.” To share the graces of this journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential lines: 614-309-0157 or 614-309-2651 or visit our website at bethesdah Healing.org.

Un ministerio de sanacion para los que sufren despues de un aborto: Si quieres hablar con alguien en espanol, favor de llamar 614-309-0810.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

The Catechism Corner

This past week marked the 43rd anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Also held this past week was the 43rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Attended by thousands of pilgrims including some fellow St. Edward parishioners, the March provides an opportunity and place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of the human person. The theme for this year’s March was, “Pro-Life and Pro-Woman go Hand in Hand.” So what does the CCC tell us about abortion? Paragraphs 2270-2275 are collectively entitled “Abortion.” 2270 – Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. 2271 – Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. 2272 – Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. 2273 – The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of civil society and its legislation. 2274 – Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being. 2275 – “It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material.”

When most of us think of Baptism, we think about immersion in Holy Water. However, for St. Paul, the water is secondary to something else — namely the Holy Spirit.

Specifically, Paul says, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” It is this Spirit which makes us one, a unified body in Christ.

That is what makes us one, regardless of who we are. Paul uses the illustration of a human body to prompt us as to what it means to be part of a Catholic community of faith. We may not look the same, and we may not even function the same, but that is the key to our lives of stewardship. We are truly one, united through Baptism and united in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis shares a story of a time he baptized the seven children of single mother. After the baptisms, she said to the Pope (to be) “Father, you make me feel so important,” to which the Pope replied, “Where do I come in? It is Jesus who makes you feel important.” We are one, and each of us is important, united through the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. www.catholicsteward.com
“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the Rule of Saint Benedict (73:3)

"It is perfectly true that we die with Him in baptism and rise from the dead: but this is only the beginning of a series of deaths and resurrections. We are not ‘converted’ only once in our life but many times, and this endless series of large and small ‘conversions,’ inner revolutions, leads finally to our transformation in Christ.”

Excerpted from “Life and Holiness” by Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO

Monday, January 25 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:15-18 Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Meditation: Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' last words to his apostles point to his saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of his saving death and his glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the world. Their task is to proclaim the good news of salvation, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a nation, but it is for the whole world – for all who will accept it. The gospel is the power of God, the power to forgive sins, to heal, to deliver from evil and oppression, and to restore life. Do you believe in the power of the gospel?

Prayer: O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer for Conversion:
O Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus, and in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, I ask that You fill me with the knowledge of Your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Enlighten me, dear Lord! Teach me to live in a manner that is worthy of You, so as to be fully pleasing to You, full of good works bearing good fruits and ever growing in knowledge of You. Strengthen me, a lost lamb, dear Lord, with every power of Your Holy Spirit, in accordance with Your might, for all endurance and patience, with joy, giving thanks to You O Father! Make me fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in the Light. Deliver me from the power of darkness and transfer me into the kingdom of Your Beloved Son, Jesus, in whom is redemption and the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

Contemplation: This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for
effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection?

**Tuesday, January 26 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time**

**Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 3:31-35** The mother of Jesus and his brothers arrived at the house. Standing outside, they sent word to Jesus and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, “Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you.” But he said to them in reply, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Meditation:** Jesus is God’s love incarnate – God’s love made visible in human flesh (1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God – his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God is a friend of God and a member of his family – his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

**Prayer:** O God, who adorned Saints Timothy and Titus with apostolic virtues, grant through the intercession of them both, that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly homeland. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** One of the early martyrs of the Church, Lucian of Antioch, once said: “a Christian's only relatives are the saints” – namely those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and adopted as sons and daughters of God. Those who have been baptized into Jesus Christ and who live as his disciples enter into a new family, a family of “saints” here on earth and in heaven. Jesus changes the order of relationships and shows that true kinship is not just a matter of flesh and blood. Our adoption as sons and daughters of God transforms all of our relationships and requires a new order of loyalty to God first and to his kingdom of righteousness and peace. Do you want to grow in love and friendship? Allow God's Holy Spirit to transform your heart, mind, and will to enable you to love freely and generously as he loves.

**Wednesday, January 27 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time**

**Saint Angela Merici, Virgin**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 4:1-20** On another occasion, Jesus began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, “Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” He added, “Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.” And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. He answered them, “The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.” Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no roots; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”
Meditation: Jesus' parable of the sower is aimed at the hearers of his word. There are different ways of accepting God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to what he or she doesn't want to hear, usually because they think they know better. Then there is the shallow hearer. He or she fails to think things out or think them through; they lack depth. They may initially respond with an emotional reaction, but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else. Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen, to hear with clarity, and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn, or one that thinks this doesn't apply to them. They listen in order to understand and to become a better disciple of Christ.

Prayer: May the Virgin Saint Angela never fail to commend us to your compassion, O Lord, we pray, that, following the lessons of her charity and prudence, and express it in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: God gives grace to those who hunger for his word, his teachings, his truth that they may understand his will and have the strength to live according to it. Faith in his word is the way to wisdom, and to ponder God's divine plan is to grow in the truth, the way, and the life of Christ. Do you hunger for his word?

Thursday, January 28 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:21-25

Jesus said to his disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden except to be made visible; nothing is secret except to come to light. Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear." He also told them, "Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Meditation: Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood “light” as an expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In his light we see light (Psalm 36:9). His word is a lamp that guides our steps (Psalm 119:105). God's grace not only illuminates the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illuminates the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. In fact, our mission is to be light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

Prayer: O God, who made Saint Thomas Aquinas outstanding in his zeal for holiness and his study of sacred doctrine, grant us, we pray, that we may understand what he taught and imitate what he accomplished. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus remarks that nothing can remain hidden or secret. We can try to hide things from others, from ourselves, and from God. How tempting to shut our eyes from the consequences of our sinful ways and bad habits, even when we know what those consequences are. And how tempting to hide them from others and even from God. But, nonetheless, everything is known to God who sees all, who hears all, who knows all. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in God's light and who seek this truth. Those who listen to God and heed his voice will receive more from him. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light, and letting his light illuminate what is right and good and true?

Friday, January 29 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the Kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But
once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the
birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were
able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained
everything in private.

**Meditation:** What can mustard seeds teach us about the kingdom of God? The tiny mustard seed literally
grew to be a tree which attracted numerous birds because they loved the little black mustard seed it
produced. God's kingdom works in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of
men and women who are receptive to God's word. And it works unseen and causes a transformation from
within. Just as a seed has no power to change itself until it is planted in the ground, so we cannot change
our lives to be like God until God gives us the power of his Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of
your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The Lord of the Universe is ever ready to transform us by the power of his Spirit. Are
you ready to let God change you by his grace and power? The kingdom of God produces a transformation
in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield to Jesus Christ, our lives are
transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Paul the Apostle says, “we have this
treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us” (2
Corinthians 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?

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**Saturday, January 30 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 4:35-41** On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to
the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats
were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already
filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you
not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The
wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have
faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and
sea obey?”

**Meditation:** Jesus' sleeping presence on the storm-tossed sea is revealing of the sleeping faith of his
disciples. They feared for their lives even though their Lord and Savior was right there with them in the
boat. They were asleep to Christ while he was present to them in their hour of need. Despite our fears and
anxieties, we must remember that the Jesus is ever present to us. Whenever we encounter trouble, the
Lord is there with the same reassuring message: “It is I, do not be afraid.”

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of
your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** A simple yet profound question to ask yourself: Do you recognize the Lord's presence
with you, especially when you meet the storms of adversity, sorrow, fear, challenge, anxiety and
temptation? Where is your faith in Christ? What are the characteristics of faith and how can we grow in it?
Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. Believing is only possible by grace and the help of the
Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and who opens the eyes of the mind to understand and accept the truth
which God has revealed to us. Faith enables us to relate to God rightly and confidently, with trust and
reliance, by believing and adhering to his word, because he is utterly reliable and trustworthy. If we want
to live, grow, and persevere in faith, then it must be nourished with the word of God. Fear does not need
to cripple us from taking right action or rob us of our trust and reliance on God. Courage working with
faith enables us to embrace God's word of truth and love with confidence and to act on it with firm hope in
God's promises. The love of God strengthens us in our faith and trust in him and enables us to act with
justice and kindness towards our neighbor even in the face of opposition or harm.