

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.org

Newsletter—April 15, 2018

Father Scott Holmer, Administrator

Maureen Curtis, Director of Religious Education

(301) 249-9599 during Religious Education hours

Tuesday 4:00pm to 8:00pm, Wednesday 6:00pm to 8:00pm and Sunday from 9:00am to 11:00am

(301) 249-9199 Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm

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Upcoming Dates to remember

- **Sunday, April 15** – Third Sunday of Easter; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Pre- K and Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; Donut Sunday after all the Sunday morning Masses
- **Tuesday, April 17** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm-6:30pm, Sacrament Class for 6th, 7th, 8th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, and 2 from 6:30pm-8:00pm; Confirmation Practice from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
- **Wednesday, April 18** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; First Communion Practice from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Sunday, April 22** – Fourth Sunday of Easter; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Pre- K and Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass;
- **Tuesday, April 24** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm-6:30pm, Sacrament Class for 6th, 7th, 8th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, and 2 from 6:30pm-8:00pm; Confirmation Practice from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
- **Wednesday, April 25** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; First Communion Practice from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Saturday, April 28** – Confirmation Practice with sponsors at 2:00pm
- **Sunday, April 29** – Fifth Sunday of Easter; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Pre- K and Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; Confirmation Mass at 2:00pm
- **Tuesday, May 1** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm-6:30pm, Sacrament Class for 6th, 7th, 8th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and Confirmation Level 3 Wrap-up class from 6:30pm-8:00pm; First Communion Practice from 5:30pm to 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, May 2** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm

Saint Days April 15 – April 21

April 15 – Blessed Caesar de Bus

April 16 – Saint Bernadette Soubirous

April 17 – Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

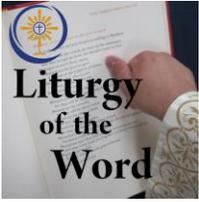
April 18 – Blessed James Oldo

April 19 – Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

April 20 – Saint Conrad of Parzham

April 21 – Saint Anselm

Please go to www.franciscanmedia.org to learn about the saints. At this website you can sign up for an email delivery for the “Saint of the Day.”



April 15, 2018 – Third Sunday of Easter

April 15 is the Third Sunday of Easter. During the Sundays of Easter the first reading is proclaimed from the Acts of the Apostles and not the Old Testament. The Acts of the Apostles teach us about the beginning of our Church. The First Reading is from Acts 3:13-15,17-19 (*Peter preaches that Jesus has been raised from the dead and calls upon the people to repent*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 4:2,4,7-8,9 (*A prayer seeking God's favor*). The Second Reading is from 1 John 2:1-5a (*Those who know God keep his commandments*). The Gospel is from Luke 24:35-48 (*Jesus appears again to his disciples and shares a meal with them*). You can find these all the readings for everyday of the year on the United States Bishop's Conference web site – www.usccb.org; there is a tab at the top of the page for "Readings". The following reflection on Gospels come from the website for our textbooks – www.FindingGod.org. I encourage you to look at this website.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Family Connection

Family life is strengthened through storytelling and shared meal times. In a similar way, Christian life is sustained by God's word in Scripture and by Christ's presence in the Eucharist. We are especially sustained in our faith through our weekly celebration of Mass. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that the Scripture and the Eucharist are given to us so that our acts of bearing witness to Christ might be strengthened.

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*As you gather as a family, ask each person to share their favorite story about your family. Talk about the importance of these memories about your family life and the importance of the meals you have shared together as a family. Recall that these stories and meals strengthen the love you share. In a similar way, our Christian life is strengthened by sharing God's Word and the Eucharist at Mass. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 24:35-48. Discuss the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples after their shared meal. The Eucharist also sends us to be Christ's witnesses in the world today. Conclude by praying together that we will be strengthened by God's word and by Jesus' presence in the Eucharist to be witnesses to Christ. Pray together *Tantum Ergo* or today's psalm, Psalm 4.*

Tantum Ergo

Saint Thomas Aquinas

With heads bowed let us now worship a sacrament so great;
And let the old teaching give way to the new;
Let faith reinforce our belief where the senses cannot.

To the Father and the Son let there be praise and jubilation,
Salvation, honor, virtue, and also blessing;
To the Holy Spirit let there be equal praise.

Gospel Activities

Go to the Catholic Mom website – www.catholicmom.com for coloring pages and puzzles for this Sunday's and the Christmas Gospel – look under "Sunday Gospel Activities.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint Gianna Beretta Molla. Her feast day is April 19. The below reflection comes from the Franciscan website, www.franciscanmedia.org.



Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

Saint of the Day for April 19

(October 4, 1922 – April 28, 1962)

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla's Story

In less than 40 years, Gianna Beretta Molla became a pediatric physician, a wife, a mother and a saint! She was born in Magenta near Milano, the 10th of Alberto and Maria Beretta's 13 children. An active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a leader in the Catholic Action movement, Gianna also enjoyed skiing and mountain climbing. She earned degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia, eventually specializing in pediatrics. In 1952, Gianna opened a clinic in the small town of Mesero, where she met engineer Pietro Molla.

Shortly before their 1955 marriage, Gianna wrote to Pietro: "Love is the most beautiful sentiment that the Lord has put into the soul of men and women." In the next four years the Mollas had three children: Pierluigi, Mariolina, and Laura. Two pregnancies following ended in miscarriage.

Early in her sixth pregnancy, doctors discovered that Gianna had both a child and a tumor in her uterus. She allowed the surgeons to remove the tumor but not to perform the complete hysterectomy that they recommended, which would have killed the child. Seven months later in April 1962, Gianna Emanuela Molla was born at the hospital in Monza, but post-operative complications resulted in an infection for her mother. The following week, Gianna Molla died at home in Mesero, where she was buried.

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Gianna Emanuela went on to become a physician herself. Gianna Beretta Molla was beatified in 1994 and canonized 10 years later. Her Liturgical Feast Day is April 28.

Reflection

With great faith and courage, Gianna Molla made the choice that enabled her daughter to be born. We can often wish that we were in different circumstances, but holiness frequently comes from making difficult choices in bad situations.



Reconciliation and Eucharist at St. Edward's

Preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist is a two-year program:

- Students who do not attend Catholic school start their preparation at Level 1 in our Religious Education program – this class is for children in first grade and children in second grade who have not completed Level 1. Level 2 classes are for children in second grade and third grade who have completed Level 1 and are still preparing to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Children in the third grade and higher who have not received their First Reconciliation or Eucharist register for the class at their grade level (for example 4th graders would register for Level 4) and also attend the Sacrament Class on Sunday mornings;
- The children of Saint Edward parishioners who attend a Catholic school receive these Sacraments at Saint Edward's but are prepared in the first and second grade at their school. You will receive a letter in September with details about the retreats and practices that all students, both Catholic school and religious education, participate in together.



The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday, May 5 at 11:00am

Please note the following schedule:

Wednesday	April 18, 2018	5:30 – 6:30	Practice for First Holy Communion
Wednesday	April 25, 2018	5:30 – 6:30	Practice for First Holy Communion
			First Communion Mass seating requests due
Tuesday	May 1, 2018	5:30 – 7:00	Practice for First Holy Communion
			Teacher thank you notes due
			May Crowning participation
Saturday	May 5, 2018	11:00am	First Holy Communion Mass
			Children to church by 10:30
Sunday	May 6, 2018	9:30am	Mass
			May Crowning



Confirmation at St. Edward's

Preparation for Confirmation is a three-year program in the areas of knowledge, worship and service and includes students in Confirmation Levels 1 through 3 in our parish Religious Education program and the students of Saint Edward parishioners who are in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades at a Catholic school.

Students who do not attend Catholic school are required to attend classes in our parish Religious Education program during **all** three of these years:

- Confirmation Level 1 (6th grade in Catholic school) – this year the curriculum focuses on the Old Testament. Students participate in at least 3 Sandwich Sunday Service Projects
- Confirmation Level 2 (7th grade in Catholic school) – this year the curriculum focuses on the New Testament. Students participate in at least 3 Sandwich Sunday Service Projects
- Confirmation Level 3 (8th grade in Catholic school) – this year the curriculum focuses on the Sacrament of Confirmation and the meaning of it in a Catholic life. Each of the previous eight years of religious education are tied into the curriculum for this year. Students participate in the Sandwich Sunday Service Project each month from September through April.

The Confirmation Mass will be on Sunday April 29 at 2:00pm with Bishop Dorsonville.



CONFIRMATION LEVEL 3 (8TH grade in Catholic school) – please note schedule for April and May

1. **Tuesday, April 17** – Confirmation practice for all students from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
2. **Tuesday, April 24** – Confirmation practice for all students from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
3. **Saturday, April 28** – Confirmation practice with sponsors at 10:00am
4. **Sunday, April 29** – Confirmation Mass at 2:00pm; students to church by 1:00pm
5. **Tuesday, May 1** – Confirmation Wrap-up class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
6. **Tuesday, May 8** – End of year Family Picnic from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Sandwich Sunday Service Project

All of the students who are preparing for Confirmation (Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 or 6th, 7th and 8th grades in Catholic school) participate in a group service project that is referred to as the **Sandwich Sunday Service Project**. The students gather after the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month to make sandwiches; they are delivered to Martha's Table after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday. Please note the following:

1. Students in Confirmation Level 3 (8th grade in Catholic school) participate the Sandwich Sunday Service Project each month from September through April
2. Students in Confirmation Levels 1 and 2 (6th and 7th grade in Catholic School) participate in at least 3 Sandwich Sunday Service Projects during each of these years
3. The next Sandwich Sunday Service Project is May 12. Students will be asked to make sandwiches at home and bring them to church with them. This will allow families to attend the Spring Social (see details below) and still make sandwiches.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Answer the call to become an
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are needed at all Masses. Please contact Kathy Brady at Kathy.brady.pt@verizon.net or call her at 301 249-2850 if you are interested in serving in this ministry. Please also contact her if you signed up previously to serve but have not been contacted.

The qualifications of an EMHC:

1. Practicing Catholic
2. 18 years of age or older
3. Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion



Step Into Spring at Saint Edward's

The Spring Dinner-Dance, our second biggest social event of the year, will be on Saturday May 12 at 6:00pm. It will be at Boswell Hall (K of C).

1. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses through May 6. Tickets are \$5.00 per person with a \$20.00 maximum per family
2. Dinner menu to be released soon
3. There will be music and dancing, a trivia competition between tables and other games