

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

*Website—[www.stedwardbowie.org](http://www.stedwardbowie.org)*

*Newsletter—August 13, 2017*

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***Upcoming Dates to remember***

- Registration Period for 2017-18 on-going– **late fees now apply for all returning families**
- **Saturday, August 12** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project following the 5:30pm Mass for those entering Confirmation Levels 1-3 (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in Catholic school) in September
- **Sunday, August 13** – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, and 4:30pm (Filipino led)
- **Tuesday, August 15** – Feast of the Assumption of Mary; Vigil Mass at 7:30pm on Monday, August 14, 8:45am and 7:30pm on Tuesday, August 15
- **Thursday, August 17** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm - details below
- **Sunday, August 20** – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Wednesday, August 23** – Fun Day Planning Meeting at 7:00pm in the parish office
- **Sunday, August 27** – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Thursday, August 31** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm –details below
- **Sunday, September 3** – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Thursday, September 7** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below
- **Friday, September 8** – Confirmation Meeting for all Confirmation Level 3 (8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) students at 6:30pm, parents join the meeting at 8:30pm
- **Sunday, September 10** – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, and 4:30pm (Filipino led)
- **Tuesday, September 12** – **First day of Religious Education classes:** K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, September 13** – **First day of Religious Education classes:** K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm

**Saint Days August 13 – August 19**

August 13 – Saints Pontian and Hippolytus

August 14 – Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

August 16 – Saint Stephen of Hungary

August 17 – Saint Joan of the Cross

August 18 – Saint Louis of Toulouse

August 19 – Saint John Eudes

Please go to [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://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.”

## August 13, 2017 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13 is the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from 1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a (*The Lord appears to Elijah in a whisper*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 85:9-14 (*The Lord is the source of salvation*). The Second Reading is from Romans 9:1-5 (*Paul speaks of the blessings that have come to the Israelites*). The Gospel is from Matthew 14:22-23 (*Jesus walks on water, and the disciples acknowledge him as the Son of God*). You can find these all the readings for everyday of the year on the United States Bishop's Conference web site – [www.usccb.org](http://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](http://www.FindingGod.org). I encourage you to look at this website.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

*Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.*

*The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.*

*Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.*

*Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.*

*Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.*

### **Family Connection**

*The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too.*

*Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbors and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family's acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering or the Lord's Prayer.*

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**Morning Offering**

My God, I offer you my prayers,  
works, joys and sufferings of this day  
in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.  
I offer them for all the intentions of your Son's Sacred Heart,  
for the salvation of souls, reparation for sin,  
and the reunion of Christians.  
Amen.

**August 15, 2017 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

August 15 is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION; Mass times at Saint Edward's are: 7:30pm Vigil on Monday August 14, 8:45am and 7:30pm on Tuesday August 15. The First Reading is from Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a,10b (*The sign of God's salvation will be a woman clothed with the sun*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 45:10-12,16 (*The queen takes her place next to God*). The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 (*Christ has redeemed Adam's sin*). The Gospel is from Luke 1:39-56 (*Mary greets Elizabeth and sings God's praise*). You can find these all the readings for everyday of the year on the United States Bishop's Conference web site – [www.usccb.org](http://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](http://www.FindingGod.org). I encourage you to look at this website.



**Background on the Gospel Reading**

*Today's feast celebrates Mary's Assumption into heaven. It is one of three feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics in the United States. January 1 is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.*

*The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.*

*The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary's Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is*

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*fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.*

*Today's Gospel highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.*

**Family Connection**

*In today's Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary recognize the work that God is doing through them. With eyes of faith they see the power and salvation of God breaking through into their lives and into the world.*

*Gather as a family and talk about what you know about Mary and her being a model of faith. Recall that we are celebrating a holy day, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we remember that God took Mary to heaven, body and soul. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-56. In this reading we hear Mary's song of praise to God, the Magnificat. Invite each person in the family to write or draw one or more ways in which they see God working in your family life and in our world today. Use these prayers of thanksgiving to create your family's song of praise to God. Conclude by praying together this song of praise.*

**Gospel Activities**

The Catholic Mom website – [www.catholicmom.com](http://www.catholicmom.com) is on summer break for Gospel activities. I've attached a coloring page and word find for this Sunday's Gospel.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR**

All children who do not attend Catholic school should be registered in our parish Religious Education program from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Everyone who will be attending classes must re-register every year. **The registration period for the 2017-18 school year for returning families ended on June 18; registration will still continue throughout the summer but late fees now apply.** Attached is a registration form and registration information. You can also register on-line at [www.stedwardbowie.org](http://www.stedwardbowie.org). You can find the registration information by going to the "Faith Formation" tab.

The class schedule for the 2017-18 school year will remain the same as this year:

Pre-school	Sunday mornings during 9:30am Mass
Kindergarten – Level 5	Tuesday from 4:15 to 5:30 or Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:45
Confirmation Levels 1-3	Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00

The cost of text books has risen over the last few years and therefore the fee will be raised slightly. However, please do not let the fee prevent you from registering for classes. We can make alternate arrangements for payment. The fees for 2017-18 are:

One child	\$45.00
Two children	\$80.00 per family
Three or more children	\$110.00 per family

After June 18 a \$15.00 late fee will be added to the fee.

## Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. Please share this with your child. This week Saint Maximilian Kolbe is highlighted. The reflection below comes from the Loyola Press website: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). A coloring page for Saint Teresa Benedicta and August saint word find is attached.



### ***Father Kolbe, Like Jesus, Offered Himself***

#### ***Feast Day August 14***

*During the Second World War, Father Maximilian Kolbe gave shelter to thousands of Polish people, both Christians and Jews. He risked his life to help these suffering people. On February 17, 1941, he was caught and sent to a prison in Warsaw. A guard who saw his Franciscan habit and his rosary asked, "Do you believe in Christ?" Father Kolbe answered, "Yes, I do." The guard struck him in the face and asked again. Father Kolbe kept giving the same answer, and the guard kept beating him.*

*After that, Father Kolbe was given a striped convict's uniform and the number 16670. He was sent to a concentration camp, where he endured very hard work and beatings that almost killed him. Even then, he secretly heard confessions and spoke to the other prisoners about God's love. When food was brought in, he let others take their share first. Sometimes there was nothing left for him.*

*One day a prisoner escaped from the camp. To punish the rest of the prisoners, the officers said 10 men would be killed. These men would be dropped into a pit and left to slowly and painfully starve to death. The guards chose the 10 men. As the men were gathered, one cried out, "My wife, my children! I shall never see them again!" From the watching crowd, another prisoner stepped forward. "I will take his place," he said. It was Father Kolbe, prisoner 16670.*

*While they were in the pit, Father Kolbe led the nine other men in prayer and song. The depths of that pit sounded like a church full of people. No one had heard anything like it in the prison before. Father Kolbe prayed and suffered bravely, as Jesus did. He gave his life for another, and he lifted the spirits of the other nine men who died.*

*After his death, the news of Father Kolbe's great love spread to the whole world. In 1982, he was canonized. We celebrate this saint's feast day on August 14. Pope John Paul II said of Father Kolbe, "He won a victory of love. He loved both his fellow prisoners and those who put him to death. There is no greater love than this."*

## **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 (6<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

#### **CONFIRMATION LEVEL 3 (8<sup>TH</sup> grade in Catholic school) – please note schedule for September**

1. Friday September 8 – Meeting at 6:30pm required for all students; at least one parent of each student joins the meeting at 8:30pm
2. Saturday September 9 – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project. Meet in church at 5:15pm and sit together for the 5:30pm Mass and then make sandwiches for Martha's Table following Mass; required for all students
3. Tuesday, September 12 – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
4. Tuesday, September 19 – Faith Sharing Class for all students (Religious Education and Catholic school) from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
5. Saturday, September 23 – Candidate/Parent Retreat from 2:00pm through 5:30pm Mass; required for all students (Religious Education and Catholic school) and at least one of their parents
6. Tuesday, September 26 – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Sandwich Sunday Service Project**

All of the students who are preparing for Confirmation (Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 or 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) participate the Sandwich Sunday Service Project each month from September through April
2. Students in Confirmation Levels 1 and 2 (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 this Saturday, August 12 – there will **not** be dinner and games

### **CRAFTING AT SAINT EDWARD'S**

In anticipation of a 2017 Advent event at Saint Edward's that will include a Christmas Market, there is a group getting together every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 to make items for the fair. People of all experience levels are welcome; those who have no experience can learn from those who have done some crafting. If you have any ideas for things to make they would be appreciated. This is an opportunity for

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fellowship while working toward a goal. You can call the church office at 301 249-9199 with any questions.

## **SAINT EDWARD'S FUN DAY!!!**

FUN DAY IS SUNDAY OCTOBER 1. This is the day that we gather as a parish for fellowship and fun. Mark your calendar now. In the mean while planning for the big day is starting. If you want to be part of the pre-fun fun we'd love to have you and your ideas. The next planning meeting is Wednesday August 23. All of the meetings start at 7:00pm and are in the parish office (16304 Pond Meadow Lane). Contact Tracy Paquin ([paquin6@aol.com](mailto:paquin6@aol.com)) with any questions.

I will be sending more information about volunteering for Fun Day and contributing to baskets. Parents of students in Pre-K through Confirmation Level 3 (Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) will be asked to volunteer to supervise a few games. There will also be some baskets that we will ask grade levels to contribute to. This will all be detailed in separate communications in the next few weeks.