

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.org

Newsletter—February 11, 2018

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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

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Upcoming Dates to remember

- **Saturday, February 10** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project: Confirmation Level 3 attend 5:30pm Mass, Confirmation Levels 1-3 make sandwiches following Mass
- **Sunday, February 11** – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; 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; Parent/Child Eucharist Retreat for Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school) starting with 9:30am Mass and ending at 12:00 noon
- **Tuesday, February 13** – 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 3 6:30pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, February 14** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; Ash Wednesday: Masses at 8:45am, 4:30pm and 7:30pm; Wednesday Religious Education students will receive ashes during class time.
- **Thursday, February 15** – Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by 7:30pm Mass
- **Friday, February 16** – Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
- **Sunday, February 18** – First Sunday of Lent; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; NO Pre-K or Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; Donut Sunday after all Sunday Masses
- **Tuesday, February 20** – 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 Faith Sharing from 6:30pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, February 21** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; Reconciliation from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.
- **Thursday, February 22** – Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by 7:30pm Mass
- **Friday, February 23** – Confirmation Level 3 Class Meeting from 6:00pm to 9:00pm; Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm preceded by Soup Supper at 6:30pm
- **Sunday, February 25** – Second Sunday of Lent; 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

Saint Days February 11 – February 17

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

February 12 – Saint Apollonia

February 13 – Saint Giles Mary of Saint Joseph

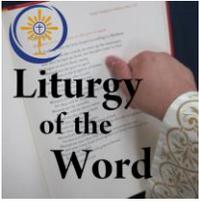
February 14 – Saints Cyril and Methodius

February 15 – Saint Claude de la Colombière

February 16 – Saint Gilbert of Sepringham

February 17 – Seven Founders of the Service Order

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."



February 11, 2018 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11 is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 (*The Law regarding leprosy is given to Moses and Aaron*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 32:1-2,5,11 (*A prayer of contrition and confession for sin*). The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 (*Paul urges the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitates Christ*). The Gospel is from Mark 1:40-45 (*Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone*). 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

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

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Family Connection

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

God, in Baptism you called me by name
and made me a member of your people, the Church.
Help all your people to know their vocation in life,
and to respond by living a life of holiness.
For your greater glory and for the service of your people,
raise up dedicated and generous leaders
who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers.

Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen me
that I may serve your people
following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name I offer this prayer.
Amen.

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."



LEVEL 1 CATECHIST NEEDED

Our Level 1 Catechist on Wednesday evenings has had to step down. The class follows a first-grade curriculum and is the first year of a 2-year preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The class meets from 6:30 to 7:45 on Wednesday evenings. If you can volunteer to teach this class please contact me at 301 249-5473, 249-9199 or at mcurtis@stedwardbowie.org.



LENT at St. Edward's

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is a season of repentance; our goal is to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and alms giving. Think about what you will do this Lent to help prepare

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you for the new life we experience on Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

1. **Fasting** can take many forms: Giving something up, doing extra good deeds, etc. Some specific fasting during Lent:
 - a. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** – No meat (abstinence) for all Catholic 14 years and older; Catholics from age 18 to 60 fast by only eating 1 full meal and 2 smaller meals and no eating between meals
 - b. **Fridays during Lent** – No meat for all Catholics 14 years and older. At Saint Edward's we will have Simple Soup Suppers on 3 Fridays in Lent. This can also be a form of alms giving if you give the money you would normally spend on a bigger meal to those in need. We will be asking people to make meatless soups – details in the coming weeks.
2. **Alms giving** is how we reach out to help others in need.
3. **Prayer:** There are many ways we can pray during Lent:
 - a. Resolve to do some spiritual reading,
 - b. Use an app on your phone/tablet to do an on-line retreat, bible study or pray with the daily readings: Jesuit Prayer, 3 Minute Retreat from Loyola Press, Sacred Space, Pray as you Go Daily Prayer
 - c. You can also receive daily emails from Dynamic Catholic (DynamicCatholic.com) or Loyola Press (loyolapress.com)
 - d. Participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Thursdays in Lent from 6:00pm to 7:00pm
 - e. Attend daily Mass – Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:45am; Tuesday, Thursday at 7:30pm

Here is the schedule for Lent at Saint Edwards:

- Ash Wednesday, February 14 – Mass times 8:45am, 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Ashes will be distributed during Mass. Wednesday evening Religious Education students will receive ashes during class time
- Stations of the Cross:
 - Friday February 16 – 3:00pm
 - Friday February 23 – 7:30pm, preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:30pm
 - Friday March 2 – 3:00pm
 - Friday March 9 – 7:30pm, preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:30pm
 - Friday March 16 – 3:00pm
 - Friday March 23 – 7:30pm, preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:30pm
- Lent Retreat with Father Scott – Saturday March 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm
- Reconciliation
 - Parish Reconciliation Service – Monday March 19 at 7:00am
 - Reconciliation for Religious Education students – Tuesday March 20 and Wednesday March 21 during class time
 - Every Wednesday evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Every Thursday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Our Lady of Lourdes. Her feast day is February 11. A coloring and word find page is attached. The following reflection comes Loyola Press website (www.loyolapress.com).

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Our Lady of Lourdes

Feast day February 11

Each year over 2 million people make their way through the mountainous country of southeastern France to Lourdes. They come seeking cures, hoping to find answers, believing, and praying. At Lourdes, people recall the Lady dressed in white, with a blue sash, yellow roses at her feet, and a Rosary on her arm—the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On February 11, 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. This was the first of 18 visits, many of them with 20,000 people present. When Bernadette asked the Lady's identity, she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Just four years earlier, the pope had proclaimed it a dogma that Mary was conceived immaculate without original sin. The Blessed Virgin, through Bernadette, had come to call sinners to a change of heart. Her message was a request for prayer and penance. She also instructed Bernadette to tell the priests that a chapel was to be built on the site and processions held.

On February 25, 1858, the Lady told Bernadette to dig in the dirt and drink of the stream. Bernadette began to dig, and after several attempts she was able to find the water to drink. The water continued to flow from where she had dug with her hands until it was producing over 32,000 gallons of water a day—as it still does. There have been over 5,000 cures recorded but less than 100 of them have been declared miraculous by the Church. Most of these have taken place during the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We may never travel to Lourdes and join in the processions, but we can know always that we have a Mother to help us and lead us to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray to her:

Grant us, O merciful God, protection in
our weakness,
that we, who keep the Memorial of the
Immaculate Mother of God,
may, with the help of her intercession,
rise up from our iniquities.
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.

Sacramental Preparation



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

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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

Parents of children in Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school):

Please note the following important dates for First Holy Communion -

1. **Sunday, February 11 – Parent/Child Retreat from 9:30am Mass to 12:00noon**



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 February

1. **Saturday, February 10** – 5:30pm Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project
2. **Sunday, February 11** – Service Opportunity; help at First Eucharist Retreat from 9:30am to 12:00 noon
3. **Tuesday, February 13** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
4. **Tuesday, February 20** – Faith Sharing Class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
5. **Friday, February 23** – Class meeting from 6:00pm to 9:00pm for all students; Pasta Pot Luck

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dinner, write Bishop Letters, attend Stations of the Cross

6. **Sunday, February 25** – February Faith Sharing due
7. **Tuesday, February 28** – CCD class for Religious Education students 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 February 10



Music Ministry at Saint Edward's

The Music Ministry is gearing up after their summer break. Practices have begun! First of all, please welcome Ms. Megan Weeks as our new Music Director. Megan grew up at Saint Edward's and was part of the Children's, Youth and Adult Choirs and directed the Adult choir two years ago. Megan would love to have new voices in all of the choirs:

1. Children's Choir – for children in Kindergarten through 5th grades. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30.
2. Youth Choir – for young people in 6th grade through high school. They rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30.
3. Adult Choir – rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00.