

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.org

Newsletter—January 14, 2018

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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, January 13** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project; Confirmation Level 3 (8th grade in Catholic school) meet in church at 5:15pm for 5:30pm Mass; Confirmation Levels 1-3 (6th, 7th and 8th grades in Catholic school) meet after Mass for sandwich making
- **Sunday, January 14** – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, and 4:30pm (Filipino led); NO Pre-K CCD or Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass
- **Tuesday, January 16** – 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 6:30pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, January 17** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; First Reconciliation Practice from 5:30 to 6:30 for all Level 2 students (2nd grade in Catholic school)
- **Friday, January 19** – Live Christ-Share Christ, a prayer and worship opportunity, at 7:00pm- all are welcome; Youth Rally, Mass and March for Life in Washington DC.
- **Sunday, January 21** – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Pre-K CCD and Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; Donut Sunday after all Sunday Masses
- **Tuesday, January 23** – 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; First Reconciliation Practice from 5:30 to 6:30 for all Level 2 students (2nd grade in Catholic school)
- **Wednesday, January 24** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm
- **Friday, January 26** – First Reconciliation at 7:00pm, children to church by 6:30pm; Confirmation Level 3 (8th grade in Catholic school) Meeting from 6:30pm to 9:00pm – make Confirmation shields and host reception for Reconciliation students and their families

Saint Days January 14 – January 20

January 14 – Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 15 – Saint Paul the Hermit

January 16 – Saint Berard and Companions

January 17 – Saint Anthony of Egypt

January 18 – Saint Charles of Sezze

January 19 – Saint Fabian

January 20 – Saint Sebastian

^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."

January 14, 2018 –Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14 is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19 (*The Lord calls Samuel*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 40:2,4,7-8,8-9,10 (*A prayer of commitment to follow the will of the Lord*). The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20 (*Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit*). The Gospel is from John 1:35-42 (*John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus received his first followers*). 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

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

Family Connection

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life.

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Before your family gathers, look around your house and gather some items that your family might have that remind you of your faith. Perhaps you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home, a statue of Mary, or statues or other art depicting saints. In today's Gospel we learn about how Andrew led his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Read today's Gospel, John 1:35-42.

In our family life, we also help to lead one another to Jesus. Talk together about the items that you gathered, discussing what these items mean to you and how you might use them during the day for prayer. Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in our faith in Jesus. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

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 Sebastian, a favorite Confirmation saint for boys. His feast day is January 20. A coloring page is attached. The following reflection comes from the Loyola Press website (www.loyolapress.com).



Saint Sebastian

Feast day January 20

Sebastian was the son of a nobleman who was a Christian. He joined the Roman army in the year 283 and kept his Christian beliefs secret so he could be a spy in the army.

Some Christians who knew the truth about Sebastian brought a woman named Zoe to him. She had lost the power of speech. Sebastian prayed with her and she quickly recovered. As a result, many people who knew her became Christians.

Around the same time, Emperor Diocletian promoted Sebastian to be guard of the Praetorian Guard, a regimen that acted as the emperor's own bodyguard. Diocletian hated all Christians and had no idea someone in his trusted office was leading a double life.

Some time later, the authorities discovered Zoe and some of her friends were Christians. They were arrested and sentenced to death. It was too much for Sebastian. He went to see the emperor and announced he was a Christian too. Diocletian was furious. He ordered that Sebastian be put to death in a terrible way.

Sebastian was stripped and tied to a tree. His fellow officers used him as a target for archery practice, and arrow after arrow were shot into him. A Christian woman named Irene came to rescue his body and was amazed to discover that Sebastian was still alive. She cared for his many wounds and nursed him back to health.

As soon as he recovered, Sebastian went and hid in a passageway and approached Diocletian as he walked by. Sebastian told him what he thought of his cruelty.

Diocletian was shocked to see him alive and said nothing. But as soon as he recovered, he ordered Sebastian to be put to death. This time Sebastian was beaten to death with heavy clubs and his body was thrown into one of the city's sewers.

Pre-school CCD Class

There is a Pre-school Religious Education class that meets most Sundays during the school year during the 9:30am Mass. This class is open to any potty-trained child who is 3, 4, or 5 (but not yet in kindergarten). Currently, we only have 3 children registered for this class. The children learn about God and our Catholic faith, at their level, while their parents are in Mass. I recommend that if you have children this age that you take advantage of this opportunity. Parents drop off their child before Mass and pick them up after Mass. The next class is Sunday, January 21.

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 January

1. **Saturday, January 13** – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project; meet at 5:15 for Mass; sandwich making following Mass
2. **Tuesday, January 16** – Faith Sharing class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
3. **Tuesday, January 23** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
4. **Sunday, January 28** – January Faith Sharing due
5. **Friday, January 26** – Class meeting from 6:30pm to 9:00pm for all students; make Confirmation shields and host First Reconciliation reception
6. **Tuesday, January 30** – 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 January 13

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.



First Reconciliation will be on Friday, January 26 at 7:00pm. 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 January schedule for Reconciliation:

1. Wednesday January 17 – Reconciliation practice from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
2. Tuesday January 23 – Reconciliation practice from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
3. Friday January 26 – First Reconciliation at 7:00pm; children to church by 6:30pm



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. They will sing at the 9:30am Mass for the first time on October 8.
2. Youth Choir – for young people in 6th grade through high school. They rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30. They will sing at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass for the first time on October 7.
3. Adult Choir – rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00.

Saint Pius X Regional School

Saint Pius X Regional School, a 2016 National Blue-Ribbon School, will host an open house on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Families are invited to tour the campus, and meet faculty, administration, students and parents. They will learn about the academic program and extracurricular activities. Please visit stpiusbowie.org for more information.