

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

*Newsletter—March 11, 2018*

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***Upcoming Dates to remember***

- **Thursday, March 8** – Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by 7:30pm Mass
- **Friday, March 9** – Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm preceded by Soup Supper at 6:30pm
- **Saturday, March 10** – Lent Retreat from 10:00am to 2:00pm – space is limited, reservations required; Sandwich Sunday Service Project for Confirmation Levels 1-3: Confirmation Level 3 attend 5:30pm Mass together, Confirmation Level 1-3 make sandwiches following Mass
- **Sunday, March 11** – Fourth Sunday of Lent; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; NO PRE-K
- **Tuesday, March 13** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm-6:30pm, Sacrament Class for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and Confirmation Level 3 Faith Sharing from 6:30pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, March 14** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; Reconciliation from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.
- **Thursday, March 15** – Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by 7:30pm Mass
- **Friday, March 16** – Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm; Confirmation Level 3 Retreat from 4:30pm to 11:00pm
- **Sunday, March 18** – Fifth 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; Donut Sunday after all Sunday Masses; Altar Server Training from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- **Monday, March 19** – Parish Penance Service at 7:00pm; 3 priests will be hearing Confessions
- **Tuesday, March 20** – Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm-6:30pm, Sacrament Class for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm-8:00pm; Reconciliation during class time for Levels 3 through Confirmation Level 3
- **Wednesday, March 21** – Religious Education Classes: Sacrament Class for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grades 5:30pm-6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; Reconciliation during class time for Levels 3 through 5
- **Thursday, March 22** – Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by 7:30pm Mass
- **Friday, March 23** – Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm, preceded by Soup Supper at 6:30pm

**Saint Days March 11 – March 17**

March 11 – Saint John Ogilvie

March 12 – Blessed Angela Salawa

March 13 – Saint Leander of Seville

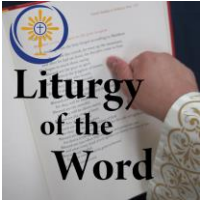
March 14 – Saint Maximilian

March 15 – Saint Louise de Marillac

March 16 – Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer

March 17 – Saint Patrick

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.”



## March 11, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11 is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The First Reading is from 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 (*The causes for the Israelites' captivity in Babylon are described*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 137:1-2,3,4-5,6 (*A lament from exile for the loss of Jerusalem*). The Second Reading is from Ephesians 2:4-10 (*In grace we have been saved, so that we may do the work of the Lord*). The Gospel is from John 3:14-21 (*Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life*). 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**

*The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.*

*Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.*

*In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.*

*The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.*

*In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.*

### **Family Connection**

*Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great*

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*mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

*After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about what it felt like to be in the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn't see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today's Gospel, John 3:14-21. John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the Act of Contrition.*

**Act of Contrition**

My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.

In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,

I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,

and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his name, my God, have mercy.

## Gospel Activities

Go to the Catholic Mom website – [www.catholicmom.com](http://www.catholicmom.com) for coloring pages and puzzles for this Sunday's and the Christmas Gospel – look under "Sunday Gospel Activities."



## ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS: CURRENT AND NEW

Altar Server training will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. **This session is required for both current Altar Servers and those who would like to be an Altar Server.** All boys and girls in fourth grade who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to be Altar Servers. This is a wonderful ministry for the young people of our parish. Please call the office (301 249-9199) with any questions.



## LENT at St. Edward's

We are beginning the 4th week of Lent. Lent is a season of repentance; our goal is to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and alms giving. How are you doing with your Lenten promises so far? It's not too late to start something if you haven't yet and if you've fallen off you can recommit! Our Lenten practices help prepare us for the new life we experience on Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

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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. You can participate in the Lenten Food Drive: bags were given out after all Masses on March 2 and 3; they are due back this Sunday, March 10 and 11. The food will be delivered to the Bowie Food Pantry.
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:

- Stations of the Cross:
  - 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; \$10.00 fee – reservation needed
- Reconciliation
  - Parish Reconciliation Service – Monday March 19 at 7:00pm
  - 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

## Lent Retreat – Demons in the Desert: A Survival Guide for Lent

Father Scott will be leading this Lent Retreat on Saturday March 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Saint Edward's. The retreat will include Mass, talks, lunch and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Space will be limited so you will need to reserve a spot in advance. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Call the office at 301 249-9199 or email at [office@stedwardbowie.com](mailto:office@stedwardbowie.com) to reserve your spot.

## Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Blessed Angela

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Salawa. Her feast day is March 12. She's not a saint yet, but hopefully our prayers will help her cause. The following reflection comes from the Franciscan Media website ([www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)). This week we also have Saint Patrick (March 17); you can read about him on the Loyola Press website or Franciscan Media website. The attached coloring and activity page is about Saint Patrick.

#### *Blessed Angela Salawa*



***Saint of the Day for March 12; (September 9, 1881 – March 12, 1922)***

#### ***Blessed Angela Salawa's Story***

*Angela served Christ and Christ's little ones with all her strength.*

*Born in Siepraw, near Kraków, Poland, she was the 11th child of Bartłomiej and Ewa Salawa. In 1897, she moved to Kraków where her older sister Therese lived. Angela immediately began to gather together and instruct young women domestic workers. During World War I, she helped prisoners of war without regard for their nationality or religion. The writings of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross were a great comfort to her.*

*Angela gave great service in caring for soldiers wounded in World War I. After 1918, her health did not permit her to exercise her customary apostolate. Addressing herself to Christ, she wrote in her diary, "I want you to be adored as much as you were destroyed." In another place, she wrote, "Lord, I live by your will. I shall die when you desire; save me because you can."*

*At her 1991 beatification in Kraków, Pope John Paul II said: "It is in this city that she worked, that she suffered and that her holiness came to maturity. While connected to the spirituality of Saint Francis, she showed an extraordinary responsiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit" (L'Osservatore Romano, volume 34, number 4, 1991).*

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#### ***Reflection***

*Humility should never be mistaken for lack of conviction, insight or energy. Angela brought the Good News and material assistance to some of Christ's "least ones." Her self-sacrifice inspired others to do the same.*



## **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

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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**



## **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.

**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 March**

1. **Saturday, March 10** – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project for all students; meet in seats for Mass at 5:15pm and make sandwiches following Mass
2. **Tuesday, March 13** – Faith Sharing class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
3. **Friday, March 16** – Confirmation Retreat for all students from 4:30pm to 11:00pm
4. **Tuesday, March 20** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm; Reconciliation during class time
5. **Sunday, March 25** – March Faith Sharing due
6. **Tuesday, March 27** – 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 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

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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 March 10



## Music Ministry at Saint Edward's

The Music Ministry is gearing up after their summer break. Practices have begun! Ms. Megan Weeks is our Music Director; she 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 5<sup>th</sup> grades. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30.
2. Youth Choir – for young people in 6<sup>th</sup> 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.