

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

*Newsletter—May 6, 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, May 5** – First Holy Communion Mass at 11:00am; children to church by 10:30am
- **Sunday, May 6** – Sixth Sunday of Easter; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Last day of Pre- K and Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30am Mass; High School Youth Group at 7:00pm
- **Tuesday, May 8** – Last day of Tuesday 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; Family Picnic during each session
- **Wednesday, May 9** – Last day of Wednesday Religious Education Classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm-7:45pm; Family Picnic during each session
- **Saturday, May 12** – Parish Spring Dinner Dance at 7:00pm in Boswell Hall at Knights of Columbus (see details below); Sandwich Sunday Service Project – students make sandwiches at home so all families can attend the dinner dance (see details below)
- **Sunday, May 13** – The Ascension of our Lord; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am
- **Sunday, May 20** – Pentecost Sunday; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 1:30pm (Filipino led – please note this is a new date/time for this Mass; it will not be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 1:30pm); Donut Sunday after 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am Masses
- **Sunday, May 27** – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Sunday, June 3** – Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am

**Saint Days May 6 – May 12**

May 6 – Saints Marian and James

May 7 – Saint Rose Venerini

May 8 – Saint Peter of Tarenataise

May 9 – Saint John of Avila

May 10 – Saint Damien de Veuster of Molokai

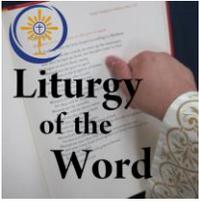
May 11 – Saint Ignatius of Laconi

May 12 – Saint Nereus and Achilleus

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.”



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN WHO WILL RECEIVE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON SATURDAY, MAY 5 AT 11:00AM



## May 6, 2018 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6 is the Sixth 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 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 (*The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4 (*A song of praise for God's salvation*). The Second Reading is from 1 John 4:7-10 (*God is love*). The Gospel is from John 15:9-17 (*Jesus commands us to love one another*). 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 follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.*

*When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.*

*One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.*

*In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.*

*Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.*

*Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.*

*This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that*

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

*he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.*

**Family Connection**

*In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.*

*As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word generosity. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did. Conclude in prayer together by praying Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.*

**Prayer for Generosity**

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,

Teach me true generosity.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve.

To give without counting the cost,

To fight heedless of wounds,

To labor without seeking rest,

To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward

Save the knowledge that I have done your will.

Amen.

**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.

**Saint of the Week**

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint Damien de Veuster. His feast day is May 10. The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website:

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). A coloring page is attached



**Saint Damien de Veuster (Martyr of Molokai)**

**Feast day May 10**

*Joseph de Veuster was born in Belgium on January 3, 1840. While at college, he decided God was calling him to be a priest. He joined the same community his brother had joined and took the name Damien.*

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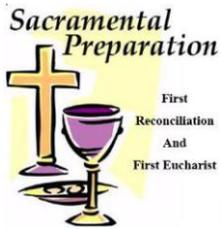
*Damien's brother had dreamed of being a missionary overseas. But he became ill and was unable to go. Damien offered to go in his place. He traveled to Hawaii and was ordained in Honolulu.*

*For nine years, Damien served the people in different villages around Hawaii. While working, he heard about a settlement of lepers on the island of Molokai. He was told that life on the island was terrible for the lepers. They were very poor, and there was not one doctor or priest on the island. Father Damien thought he was needed there. He went to Molokai to work with the lepers.*

*Those who could walk came to meet Father Damien's boat. They wanted to see this priest who had come to work with them. They were sure he wouldn't stay long when he saw what life there was like. Lepers often have unpleasant sores, and some even lose fingers and toes. Because there were no laws or police on the island, many who were not very ill lived wild lives.*

*Father Damien got busy right away. He cleaned up huts, nursed those who were very sick, and tried new medicines. Those able to help were put to work building better houses. Father Damien preached and offered Mass, but he also built roads, water systems, orphanages, and churches. He even started a choir and a band. He made the lepers feel that they were people with dignity. They learned to better respect themselves and one another.*

*Father Damien always began his homily with "My dear lepers." One Sunday he stood before his congregation and began his homily by saying "My fellow lepers." At first, it was very quiet. Then people began to sob. Their beloved Father Damien had gotten the disease. Even though he was ill, Father Damien carried on his work. Eventually, a group of Franciscan sisters from New York, under the leadership of Mother Marianne, came to help. Father Damien died when he was 49 years old.*



## 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.



**The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday, May 5 at 11:00am**  
**Please note the following schedule:**

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

**Congratulations to the following newly Confirmed Catholics. They were fully initiated into the Catholic Church on Sunday April 29 at 2:00pm by Bishop Dorsonville. It was a powerful moment. Please pray for them as they continue their journey.**

Alejandro FRANCIS OF ASSISI Avilés  
Hannah ANNE Belcourt  
Jordan MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL Gaitwood  
Jahi PHILIP THE APOSTLE Gooding  
Diego JUAN DIEGO Jimenez  
Patricia VERONICA New  
Precious LUCY Onyenwe  
Anezka PAUL Rodriguez Vigil  
Vonn ISIDORE OF SEVILLE Sayasa  
Nicholas LUKE Tantengco

Camden CATHERINE OF BOLGNA Baker  
Deja ANTHONY OF PADUA Berry-Allen  
Matthew ISIDORE OF SEVILLE Gobantes  
Chelsea KATHARINE DREXEL Ibezimako  
Ian ALBERTO HURTADO Lathrop  
Dexter MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL Nkimbi,  
Kamsi CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA Ogbuehi,  
Michelle DYMPHNA Rodriguez  
Tyler JOHN PAUL II Shaw

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.



### **CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 (7<sup>TH</sup> grade in Catholic school)**

You should have received a few emails during the past week. One was from Maureen Curtis outlining requirements for Confirmation. The other emails came from Maureen Curtis through “sign-up genius.” You are asked to sign up for an interview time slot

## 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 May 12. Students will be asked to make sandwiches at home and bring them to church with them. The sandwiches should be brought to church by 11:30am on May 13. 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@verizone.net](mailto:Kathy.brady.pt@verizone.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