

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.org

Newsletter—November 5, 2017

Father Scott Holmer, Administrator

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

- **Sunday, November 5** – Thirty-first 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 during 9:30am Mass; MINISTRY FAIR AFTER ALL MASSES
- **Tuesday, November 7** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, November 8** –Religious Education classes: Sacrament Class from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm;
- **Thursday, November 9**–Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below
- **Friday, November 10** – Confirmation Level 3 Shrine Pilgrimage: be at church by 8:45am and return at 3:00pm
- **Saturday, November 11** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project: Confirmation Level 3 students meet at 5:15pm for 5:30pm Mass, Confirmation Levels 1-3 meet after Mass to make sandwiches
- **Sunday, November 12** – Thirty-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); Pre-K CCD and Children’s Liturgy during 9:30am Mass
- **Tuesday, November 14** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and Confirmation Level 3 Faith Sharing from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, November 15** –Religious Education classes: Sacrament Class from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm;
- **Thursday, November 16**–Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below
- **Saturday, November 18** – Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Retreat from 3:00pm through 5:30pm Mass; Rite of Enrollment during 5:30pm Mass

Saint Days November 5 – November 11

November 5 – Venerable Solanus Casey

November 6 – Saint Nicholas Tavelic and Companions

November 7 – Saint Didacus

November 8 – Blessed John Duns Scotus

November 9 – Dedication of Saint John Lateran

November 10 – Saint Leo the Great

November 11 – Saint Martin of Tours

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.”

November 5, 2017 – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5 is the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Malachi 1:14b-2:2b,8-10 (*Through the prophet Malachi, God judges the priests of Israel and calls them to be more faithful to the Covenant*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 131:1-3 (*We find peace in the Lord*). The Second Reading is from 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9,13 (*Paul gives thanks to God for the way in which the Thessalonians received the word of God*). The Gospel is from Matthew 23:1-12 (*Jesus warns against following the example of the scribes and the Pharisees and teaches that those who would be great must be servants*). 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

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honored and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. Phylacteries are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. Tassels refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

Family Connection

"Do as I say, not as I do." How many of us have been tempted to say this to our children? In today's Gospel we hear a resounding reply from Jesus, "Practice what you preach." Those who know us best, our family and especially our children, can identify the inconsistencies between what we want to teach and the example that we give. The challenge for all of us, especially for those of us who are parents, is to model with consistency the faith and the Christian way of life we wish to teach our children.

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to practice what you preach. Identify some examples of people you know who practice what they preach. What do you observe about these people? What do you admire about them?

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In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus talk about the importance of acting in ways that are consistent with our faith. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12. Talk together about ways in which your family might better practice the faith that you profess. Choose one action to take that will show your faith in action. Pray together that your family's faith will be shown consistently in your actions. Pray the Prayer for Vocations.

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 Gospel – look under "Sunday Gospel Activities.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. November 9 is the feast of the Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica. Read below why this is a feast day! The reflection below comes the Loyola Press website (www.loyolapress.com) A coloring and activity page is attached.



The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica ***Feast day November 9***

Christians first met in homes to hear Jesus' teachings and to celebrate the Eucharist. When the Christians were no longer persecuted for their faith, they built beautiful churches. Sometime before the fourth century, a palace owned by a noble Roman family named Laterani had been built. It became the property of the Emperor Constantine. Constantine had recognized Christianity as the religion of the empire, and he donated to the Church the palace and other buildings on the site. This became Rome's oldest church. It was given the title Basilica of the Savior, but later was dedicated to John the Baptist and called St. John Lateran.

St. John Lateran was the home of the popes—the center of the Catholic world for many years. Twenty-eight popes are buried there. Although our pope now lives at the Vatican and presides at St. Peter's basilica, St. John Lateran is considered his cathedral as the bishop of Rome. The dedication of this basilica is a happy occasion for the Church because it reminds us of our beginnings, our unity. It stands as a monument to God and all that God does through the Church.

November Service Project – Thanksgiving Baskets

Our service project for November will be contributing food items to make Thanksgiving Baskets for families in need. In order to get a variety of items for each basket below is a suggested list of needs divided by grade level. All items should be boxed or canned (no fresh or frozen items). The baskets will be assembled on Sunday, November 19 at 12:30pm; all help is appreciated. Drivers are needed on Monday, November 20 at 9:00am to deliver the baskets to local elementary schools; please contact Rosemary at rovin14@verizon.net if you can help.

Pre-K/Kindergarten	Cranberry Sauce
Grade Level 1	Canned Vegetables
Grade Level 2	Canned Gravy
Grade Level 3	Stuffing
Grade Level 4	Canned Fruit
Grade Level 5	Canned Pie Filling – Apple, Cherry, Pumpkin (with evaporated milk)
Grade Level 6	Box Pie Crust Mix
Grade Level 7	Boxed or Canned Potatoes or Canned Sweet Potatoes
Grade Level 8	Boxed Bread Product – Corn Muffin Mix or Quick Bread Mix
High School	Coffee/tea/hot chocolate

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 November

1. **Tuesday, November 7** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
2. **Friday, November 10** – Trip to the Shrine; be at church by 8:45am, return at 3:00pm
3. **Saturday, November 11** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project; be at church at 5:15pm for 5:30pm Mass
4. **Tuesday, November 14** – Faith Sharing class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
5. **Saturday, November 18** – Sponsor/Candidate retreat from 3:00pm through 5:30pm Mass; Rite of Enrollment during 9:30am Mass
6. **Sunday, November 19** – Service opportunity at 12:30pm to help assemble the baskets
7. **Tuesday, November 21** – NO CLASS

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8. **Sunday, November 26** – Due: November Faith Sharing
9. **Tuesday, November 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 Saturday, November 11

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 27 at 7:00pm. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday, May 5 at 11:00am



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.



MINISTRY FAIR – NOVEMBER 4/5

There are many ministries at Saint Edward's. You can learn about them at the Ministry Fair on November 4/5 after all the Masses. Have you thought about where God is calling you to serve? The answer could be at the Ministry Fair!

Refreshments will be served.



CRAFTING AT SAINT EDWARD'S FOR THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

There will be a Christmas Market at Saint Edward's on December 2 and 3. There is a group getting together every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 to make items for the market. 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 fellowship while working toward a goal. You can call the church office at 301 249-9199 with any questions.



DONUT SUNDAY HAS MOVED TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!!!

The next Donut Sunday will be on November 19!!! It is a time for parishioners to share donuts and fellowship. As with all ministries, **Donut Sunday needs volunteers to make it work.** It is a great way to contribute your time and talent to our parish. It is a once a month commitment and only involves you staying after the Mass you serve at. Donut Sunday volunteers choose the Mass that they will help at; currently 11:30am Mass is the biggest need but all Masses could use some more volunteers. The 11:30 Mass only had one person helping on October 15; this is a lot of work for one person but would be easy to do with more hands. To volunteer sign up at the Ministry Fair, or if you have any questions, contact Kelly Foster at atc5869@yahoo.com