

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.org

Newsletter—October 1, 2017

Father Scott Holmer, Pastor

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

(301) 249-5473 Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm

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Upcoming Dates to remember

- **Sunday, October 1** – Twenty-sixth 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; **Saint Edward’s Fun Day from 12:30pm to 4:00pm; Volunteers Needed**
- **Tuesday, October 3** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, October 4** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm
- **Thursday, October 5** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below
- **Saturday, October 7** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project – Confirmation Level 3 (8th grade in Catholic school) meet at 5:15 for 5:30pm Mass; Confirmation Levels 1-3 (6th-8th grades in Catholic school) meet after 5:30pm Mass to make sandwiches
- **Sunday, October 8** – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 4:30pm (Filipino led); Pre-K CCD and Children’s Liturgy during 9:30am Mass
- **Tuesday, October 10** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, October 11** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm
- **Thursday, October 12** – Meeting for parents of Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school) students preparing for Reconciliation; Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below
- **Sunday, October 15** – Twenty-sixth 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
- **Tuesday, October 17** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, October 18** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm
- **Thursday, October 19** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below

Saint Days October 1 – October 7

October 1 – Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

October 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels

October 3 – Saint Theodora Guérin

October 4 – Saint Francis of Assisi

October 5 – Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

October 6 – Saint Bruno

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary

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.”

October 1, 2017 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1 is the Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Ezekiel 18:25-28 (*It is possible to turn from sin and preserve one's life*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 25:4-9 (*A prayer to God for mercy*). The Second Reading is from Philippians 2:1-11 (*Be like Christ who humbled himself and was exalted by God*). The Gospel is from Matthew 21:28-32 (*Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience*). 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

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

Family Connection

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.

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.

Thursday Night Mass is Coming Back!

The Thursday evening 7:30pm Mass will return on October 5.

2017-18 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious Education classes (CCD) for the 2017-18 school year have begun. Students should have brought home a folder with important information. Please read the contents of the folder; it includes the following information:

- A letter from Maureen Curtis
- Calendar for the year
- Student Information Form/Internet Release Form – please fill out both sides and return to class
- Volunteer opportunities – volunteers are needed as hallway monitors, substitute teachers and parking lot monitors
- Fun Day Flyer – information on volunteer opportunities and grade level baskets

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED

A Kindergarten teacher is needed for the Tuesday afternoon session. This class meets from 4:15 to 5:30pm. There is a teacher's manual. No experience is needed; the basic requirement is someone who is active in the Catholic faith with a desire to share it with the children of our parish. Please contact Maureen Curtis (mcurtis@stedwardbowie.org or 301 249-5473) if you are able to volunteer for this important and rewarding ministry. All volunteers who work with children must submit to a background check.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week there are many saints that I could have highlighted: Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, Our Lady of the Rosary. You can find information on these saints on the Loyola press website (www.loyolapress.com) or the Franciscan media website (www.franciscanmedia.org). I have chosen to highlight the feast of the Guardian Angels, which is October 2. The reflection below comes from the Loyola Press website (www.loyolapress.com). A coloring and activity page for the Archangels is attached.



Guardian Angels

Feast Day October 2

Here is a riddle for you: I am always with you, but you never see me. I am not God, but I was created by God. I protect and guide you. Who am I?

God gave us guardian angels to protect and guide us. Saint Jerome wrote that the human soul is so valuable in heaven that every human person has a guardian angel from the moment the person comes into

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being. These pure spirits, which we can neither see nor feel, play an important role in our lives. Jesus refers to them when he says, "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

Angels are messengers from God. The word angel comes from the Greek word for "messenger." In a very real way, these powerful spirits point out to us the ways of God. Guardian angels assist us in work or study. In times of temptation, these spiritual beings direct us to do good. Thomas Aquinas said that angels are the most excellent of creatures because they have the greatest intelligence next to God.

Perhaps the guardian angels are best known for protecting us from physical danger, but their main role is to care for the salvation of our souls. It is wonderful to know that God has promised to love, protect, and be with us always. One way he does this is through the care of the angels. Whenever you meet with danger or discouragement, your guardian angel is your personal, heavenly bodyguard. The angels also offer prayers to God for us. Because angels always see and hear God, they can intercede for us. We should love our guardian angels, respect them, and pray to them.

In early Christianity there was no feast for the guardian angels, just one for the archangels. But in the 15th and 16th centuries, the feast of the Guardian Angels was unofficially celebrated in Austria, Spain, and Portugal. In 1608 Pope Paul V made it a universal feast. In doing so, he helped to make us aware of the guardian angels, not just one day in October, but every day of our lives.

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 October

1. **Tuesday, October 3** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
2. **Saturday, October 7** – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project; students in their seats for 5:30pm Mass by 5:15, sandwich making following Mass. Required for all students
3. **Tuesday, October 10** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
4. **Tuesday, October 17** – Faith Sharing class for all students, Religious Education and Catholic school, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
5. **Tuesday, October 24** – Saint Fair; 4:15 – 7:30pm – required for all students. Pizza will be served
6. **Wednesday, October 25** – Saint Fair; 6:30 – 7:30pm – required for all students
7. **Sunday, October 29** – Due: October Faith Sharing, Confirmation Fee, Sponsor Certificate;

Volunteer opportunity – help at Reconciliation Retreat from 9:30am to 12:30pm

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, October 7; there will not be dinner and games

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.



Parents of children in Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school), please note the following important Fall dates:

1. **Thursday October 12 at 7:00pm** Parent meeting – required for at least one parent of each child preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
2. **Sunday October 29 from 9:30am to 12:00noon (please note this is a new date)** – Parent/student Reconciliation retreat – required for all children preparing for Sacrament of Reconciliation with at least one of their parents. The retreat will start with all attending the 9:30am Mass.

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. They will sing for the first time at the 9:30 Mass on October 1.



SAINT EDWARD'S FUN DAY!!!

FUN DAY IS THIS SUNDAY OCTOBER 1. I HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU ON SUNDAY. This is the day that we gather as a parish for fellowship and fun. We still need cakes for cake walk, desserts, side dishes and full 2-liter bottles of soda. You can leave any of these in the kitchen after any Mass or bring them with you when you come to Fun Day.



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.

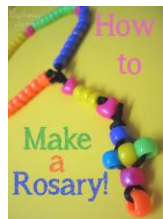
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DONUT SUNDAY HAS MOVED TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!!!

Donut Sunday, which took a break over the summer, returned on Sunday September 17. Donut Sunday 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. To volunteer, or if you have any questions, contact Kelly Foster at atc5869@yahoo.com



ROSARY CLUB

For girls ages 10-16 begins Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Ascension church. Those who attend will learn how to make knotted rosaries that will be donated to our military. They will meet monthly in the Saint John Paul II classroom which is located upstairs of the office at Ascension church. If you have any questions please contact Kristen Bryant at ascensionbowieyg@gmail.com