

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Newsletter—September 3, 2017

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***Upcoming Dates to remember***

- Registration Period for 2017-18 on-going— **late fees now apply for all returning families**
- **Thursday, August 31** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm –details below
- **Sunday, September 3** – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Thursday, September 7** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below; Fun Day Meeting at 7:00pm in the church office
- **Friday, September 8** – **Confirmation Meeting for all Confirmation Level 3** (8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) students at 6:30pm, parents join the meeting at 8:30pm
- **Saturday, September 9** – Confirmation Level 3 (8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) Mass attend 5:30pm Mass; Sandwich Sunday Service Project following Mass for Confirmation Levels 1-3 (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades in Catholic school)
- **Sunday, September 10** – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, and 4:30pm (Filipino led)
- **Tuesday, September 12** – **First day of Religious Education classes:** K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, September 13** – **First day of Religious Education classes:** K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm
- **Thursday, September 14** – Crafting for the Christmas Market from 6:30pm to 8:30pm– details below; Fun Day Meeting at 7:00pm in the church office
- **Sunday, September 17** – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; **First day of Pre-K CCD and Children’s Liturgy** during 9:30am Mass; Donuts after all Sunday morning Masses
- **Tuesday, September 19** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 4:15pm to 5:30pm, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, September 20** –Religious Education classes: K-Level 5 6:30pm to 7:45pm

**Saint Days September 3 – September 9**

September 3 – Saint Gregory the Great

September 4 – Saint Rose of Viterbo

September 5 – Saint Teresa of Calcutta

September 6 – Blessed Claudio Granzotto

September 7 – Blessed Frederic Ozanam

September 8 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9 – Saint Peter Claver

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.”

## September 3, 2017 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3 is the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Jeremiah 20:7-9 (*Jeremiah laments but cannot fail to speak in God's name*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 138:1-3,6,8 63:2-6,8-9 (*Our souls yearn for God*). The Second Reading is from Romans 12:1-2 (*Paul encourages the Romans to stay faithful to God*). The Gospel is from Matthew 16:21-27 (*Jesus speaks of his Passion and rebukes Peter for his objection*). 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 continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.*

*Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.*

*Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.*

### **Family Connection**

*Peter was expecting a Messiah that would carry out a different plan than the one Jesus had explained. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We too have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine.*

*As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 16:21-27. Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying? Notice how Jesus reprimands Peter. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that we expect? Pray together that your family will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our human imaginings. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 63.*

## Gospel Activities

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

## 2017-18 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

**Religious Education classes (CCD) for the 2017-18 school begin as follows:**

Tuesday September 12	4:15-5:30	Kindergarten – Level 5
	6:30-8:00	Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3
Wednesday September 13	6:30-7:45	Kindergarten – Level 5
Sunday September 17	During 9:30 Mass	Pre-school Children’s Liturgy of the Word

A schedule of classes is attached.

Children who do not attend Catholic school should attend the parish Religious Education program. Returning families should have registered by now; all families should re-register every year. If you have not registered yet please register promptly. The fees for returning families who did not register before June 18 are:

One child	\$60.00
Two children	\$95.00 per family
Three or more children	\$125.00 per family

You can use the attached form to register, fill out a form in the classroom hall, or register on-line on [www.stedwardbowie.org](http://www.stedwardbowie.org) – click on the “Religious Education” icon.

## Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. Please share this with your child. This is a week where I had a tough time choosing the saint to highlight – I chose Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) because she lived in our lifetime. I recommend, however, that you also investigate some of the other saints this week; on September 8 we celebrate the birthday of Mary, mother of Jesus. The reflection below comes from the Loyola Press website: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). An activity page for Saint Teresa is attached.



### ***Saint Teresa of Calcutta***

#### ***Feast Day September 5***

*When we think about the difference that love can make, many people very often think of one person: Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. A tiny woman, just under five feet tall, with no tools except prayer, love, and the unique qualities God had given her, Mother Teresa is probably the most powerful symbol of the virtue of charity today.*

*Mother Teresa wasn’t, of course, born with that name. Her parents named her Agnes—or Gonxha in her own language—when she was born to them in Albania, a country north of Greece.*

*Agnes was one of four children. Her childhood was a busy, ordinary one. Although Agnes was very interested in missionary work around the world, as a child she didn’t really think about becoming a nun; but when she turned 18, she felt that God was beginning to tug at her heart, to call her, asking her to follow him.*

*Now Agnes, like all of us, had a choice. She could have ignored the tug on her heart. She could have filled her life up with other things so maybe she wouldn’t hear God’s call. But of course, she didn’t do that. She listened and followed, joining a religious order called the Sisters of Loreto, who were based in Dublin, Ireland.*

## SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

*After two months in Ireland, spent mostly learning how to speak English, Agnes got on a boat (in 1928, hardly anyone took trips by plane), and 37 days later she arrived in the beautiful, busy, complicated country of India.*

*In India, Agnes took her final vows as a sister and took the name Teresa, after Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower. She spent 15 years teaching in a girl's school in Calcutta, a job that she loved and was very good at. But then one day, she heard that call again.*

*The voice in her heart was telling her that she was to make a very big change in her life—that she should leave her teaching position and go into the streets of Calcutta and care for the poor.*

*So Sister Teresa listened and said yes. She had lived in India for years, and she knew how desperate the poor of that country were, especially in the big cities. It was these people, the dying poor, that Sister Teresa felt a special call to love. After all, these were people who had absolutely no one else in the world to love them. Not only were they poor, but they were also dying. Why did their feelings matter? Wouldn't they be gone soon enough?*

*Teresa saw these people differently. She saw them through God's eyes, which means that she saw each of them as his dear child, suffering and yearning for some kind touch or word, some comfort in their last days on earth. She heard that call and chose to live it out—to let God love the forgotten ones through her charity. As is the case with all great things, Teresa's efforts started out small. She got permission to leave her order, to live with the poor, and to dress like them, too. She changed her habit from the traditional one to the sari worn by Indian women. Her sari would be white with blue trim, the blue symbolizing the love of Mary. She didn't waste time, either. On her very first day among the poor of Calcutta, Mother Teresa started a school with five students, a school for poor children. That school still exists today. She quickly got some training in basic medical care and went right into the homes of the poor to help them.*

*Within two years, Teresa had been joined by other women in her efforts, all of them her former students. She was soon "Mother Teresa" because she was the head of a new religious order: the Missionaries of Charity.*

*The Missionaries of Charity tried to care for as many of the dying as they could. They bought an old Hindu temple and made it into what they called a home for the dying. Hospitals had no room or interest in caring for the dying—especially the dying poor—so the dying had no choice but to lie on the streets and suffer. The sisters knew this, so they didn't wait for the poor to come to them. They constantly roamed the streets, picking up what looked from the outside like nothing but a pile of rags, but was actually a sick child or a frail old person.*

*When a dying person came or was brought to Mother Teresa and her sisters, they were met with nothing but love. They were washed and given clean clothes, medicine, and—most important—someone who could hold their hand, listen, stroke their foreheads, and comfort them with love in their last days.*

*One of the most feared diseases in the world is leprosy. It's a terrible sickness that deadens a person's nerves and can even cause their fingers, toes, ears, and nose to eventually fall away. You know that in Jesus' time, lepers were kept away from communities. Lepers in poor countries like India, where they have a hard time getting the medicines to treat the disease, are often treated the same way.*

*So Mother Teresa saw people with leprosy in the same way—through God's loving eyes. She got the help of doctors and nurses, gathered lepers from the slums, and began treating and caring for them in a way that no one before her had tried to do.*

*Mother Teresa's work of love started out small, but it isn't small anymore. There are more than four thousand Missionaries of Charity today, living, praying, and caring for the helpless in more than a hundred different houses around the world, including in the United States.*

*Mother Teresa died in 1997, but even now, when we think about her work, we can learn all we need to know about love: It doesn't take any money or power to love. It doesn't take great talent or intelligence. It simply takes love.*

*Mother Teresa did wonderful, brave work in caring for the forgotten, but if there's one thing she would want you to remember about love, it's that you don't have to travel to foreign countries to practice the virtue of charity. In fact, love has to start where you live.*

## 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 September**

1. **Friday September 8** – Meeting at 6:30pm required for all students; at least one parent of each student joins the meeting at 8:30pm
2. **Saturday September 9** – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project. Meet in church at 5:15pm and sit together for the 5:30pm Mass and then make sandwiches for Martha's Table following Mass; required for all students
3. **Tuesday, September 12** – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
4. Tuesday, September 19 – Faith Sharing Class for all students (Religious Education and Catholic school) from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
5. **Saturday, September 23** – Candidate/Parent Retreat from 2:00pm through 5:30pm Mass; required for all students (Religious Education and Catholic school) and at least one of their parents
6. **Tuesday, September 26** – 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 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 Saturday, September 9

## 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.



**Parents of children in Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22 from 9:30am to 12:00noon – 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**



## 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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SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

**FUN DAY**

**SAINT EDWARD'S FUN DAY!!!**

FUN DAY IS SUNDAY OCTOBER 1. This is the day that we gather as a parish for fellowship and fun. Mark your calendar now. In the mean while planning for the big day is starting. If you want to be part of the pre-fun fun we'd love to have you and your ideas. The remainder of planning meetings will be on Thursdays in September. All of the meetings start at 7:00pm and are in the parish office (16304 Pond Meadow Lane). Contact Tracy Paquin ([paquin6@aol.com](mailto:paquin6@aol.com)) with any questions.

I will be sending more information about volunteering for Fun Day and contributing to baskets. Parents of students in Pre-K through Confirmation Level 3 (Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Catholic school) will be asked to volunteer to supervise a few games. There will also be some baskets that we will ask grade levels to contribute to. This will all be detailed in separate communications in the next few weeks.

TICKETS for Fun Day will go on sale the weekend of September 9/10.



**DONUT SUNDAY IS MOVING TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!!!**

Donut Sunday, which took a break over the summer, is returning 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](mailto:atc5869@yahoo.com)