

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.com

Newsletter—January 13, 2019

Father Scott Holmer, Pastor

Maureen Curtis, Director of Religious Education

(301) 249-9199 Monday through Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm

(301) 249-9599 during Religious Education hours

Tuesday 4:00pm to 8:00pm, Wednesday 5:30pm to 8:00pm and Sunday from 9:00am to 11:00am

religioused@stedwardbowie.com

LIKE SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR ON FACEBOOK

Upcoming Dates to remember

- **Saturday, January 12** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project for Confirmation Levels 1, 2, and 3 following 5:30pm Mass; Confirmation Level 3 attends 5:30pm Mass
- **Sunday, January 13** – The Baptism of the Lord; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; Pre-K Religious Education and Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:30am Mass
- **Tuesday, January 15** –Religious Education Classes (CCD); Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, Level 5 from 4:15 to 5:30, Confirmation Levels 1, 2, and Confirmation Level 3 Faith Sharing from 6:30 to 8:00
- **Wednesday, January 16** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm; Reconciliation Practice for Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school) from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Sunday, January 20** – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am; NO Pre-K Religious Education or Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:30am Mass; HS Youth Ministry at 7:00pm
- **Tuesday, January 22** –Religious Education Classes (CCD); Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, Level 5 from 4:15 to 5:30, Confirmation Levels 1, 2, and 3 from 6:30 to 8:00; Reconciliation Practice for Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school) from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Wednesday, January 23** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm;
- **Friday, January 25** – Women’s Prayer and Fellowship Ministry meets at 9:30am; FIRST RECONCILIATION for Level 2 (2nd grade in Catholic school) children at 7:00pm; Confirmation Candidate Meeting from 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Saint Days January 13 – January 19

January 13 – Saint Hilary of Poitiers

January 14 – Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 15 – Saint Paul the Hermit

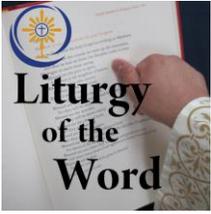
January 16 – Saint Berard and Companions

January 17 – Saint Anthony of Egypt

January 18 – Saint Charles of Sezze

January 19 – Saint Fabian

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.”



January 13 – Baptism of the Lord

January 13 is the Baptism of the Lord; it is the last day of the Christmas season. The First Reading is from Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 (*Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30 (*A prayer praising God's greatness*). The Second Reading is from Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7 (*Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit*). The Gospel is from Luke 3:15-16,21-22 (*Jesus is baptized by John*). 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 we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

Family Connection

Every family has a unique identity that is defined by the behaviors, attitudes, and expectations that govern a family's daily life. This identity is influenced by the family history of the parents, but each family's expression of this history is unique. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' behavior, attitudes, and expectations were governed by his identity as God's beloved Son. In our Baptism, we were made children of this same heavenly Father. This identity as members of the family of God, and as brothers and sisters of Jesus, also shapes our family's daily life.

As you gather as a family, identify some of the expectations and behaviors that govern your family life by answering the question, "What are some of the things that make our family life unique?" Celebrate these things about your family life. Read today's Gospel, Luke 3:15-16,21-22. Observe that Jesus' identity as the Beloved Son of the Father governed his behaviors, attitudes, and expectations. Recall that at our Baptism we were made children of this same heavenly Father. How does this identity as a member of the family of

God govern and shape our family life? Conclude in prayer together that we will remain faithful to our baptismal identity as children of God and as brothers or sisters of Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

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."

Another resource for Gospel activities is the Franciscan website – www.franciscanmedia.org. You can subscribe to a weekly newsletter that has Gospel reflections and activities.

Christmas at Saint Edward's

The Christmas season ends today with the Baptism of the Lord.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. All of the saints this week are people who lived in the early days of the Church; I have chosen Saint Hilary of Poitiers; his feast day is January 13. The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website: www.loyolapress.com. I couldn't find a Coloring or Word Find page for Saint Hilary; I've attached a Coloring and Word Find page for Jesus' Baptism.



Saint Hilary

Feast day January 13

Hilary was born to pagan parents of Poitiers, France, in 315. After training in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Afra. All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary's studies led him to read Scripture. He became convinced that there was only one God, whose Son became man and died and rose to save all people. This led him to be baptized along with his wife and daughter.

The people of Poitiers chose Hilary to be their bishop in 353. He spoke out against Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. When Emperor Constantius II wanted him to sign a paper condemning Saint Athanasius, the great defender of the faith, he refused. The emperor was furious and exiled Hilary to Phrygia. In exile, he preached, wrote, and suffered, and even asked to debate the Arian bishops. Fearing Hilary's arguments, Arian's followers begged the emperor to send Hilary home. The emperor, believing Hilary was also undermining his authority, recalled him. Hilary's writings show that he could be fierce in defending the faith, but in dealing with the bishops who had given in to the Arian heresy, he was charitable. He showed them their errors and helped them to defend their faith. Though the emperor called Hilary "disturber of the peace," Saints Jerome and Augustine praised him as "teacher of the churches."



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

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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 an additional class to prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- 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 by early September with details about the retreats and practices that all students, both Catholic school and religious education, participate in together.

Level 2 Parents please note:

- Reconciliation Practice:
 - Wednesday January 16 from 5:30 to 6:30pm
 - Tuesday January 22 from 5:30 to 6:30pm
- First Reconciliation will be on Friday January 25 at 7:00pm



Confirmation at St. Edward's

Confirmation

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.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2:00pm with Bishop Dorsonville

Confirmation Level 3 students – please note the following January schedule:

- December 30 – December Faith Sharing, Baptism Certificates (for those not baptized at Saint Edward's) and 12 Service Hours due
- January 12 – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project for all students; meet in church at 5:15 for Mass; sandwich making will follow Mass
- January 15 – Faith Sharing class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- January 22 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- January 25 – Class meeting for all students from 6:30pm to 9:00pm; candidates will make their Confirmation shields and host a reception for children receiving First Reconciliation
- January 27 – January Faith Sharing due
- January 29 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

- January 31 – Service Opportunity; Babysit at church for children of parents attending First Eucharist Parent meeting from 6:45pm to 8:15pm

Sandwich Sunday Service Project

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 January 12.



Women's Prayer and Fellowship Ministry

The Women's Prayer and Fellowship Ministry meets the last Friday of each month at 9:30am. The next meeting will be on January 25. Father Scott will give a talk on Angels and Guardian Angels. All women of the parish are welcome!



High School Youth Ministry

The High School Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday January 20 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All those in 9th through 12th grade are welcome to bring a friend or two for breakfast for dinner!. The theme is "The Incarnation/Dignity of the Human Person."



SAINT PIUS X Regional School

Saint Pius X Regional School will host an open house on Sunday, January 27 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Families are invited to tour the campus and meet faculty, administration, students and parents. Prospective families will also learn about the academic program and extracurricular activities. For more information visit their website: www.stpiusbowie.org.