

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

*Newsletter—January 27, 2019*

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Maureen Curtis, Director of Religious Education

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

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***Upcoming Dates to remember***

- **Friday, January 25** – FIRST RECONCILIATION for Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Catholic school) children at 7:00pm; Confirmation Candidate Meeting from 6:30pm to 9:00pm
- **Sunday, January 27** – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; 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 29** – 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
- **Wednesday, January 30** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm
- **Thursday, January 31** – First Communion Parent Meeting – required for parents of Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Catholic school) students at 7:00pm
- **Friday, February 1** – First Friday Holy Hour at 9:30am
- **Sunday, February 3** – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; 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, February 5** – 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
- **Wednesday, February 6** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm
- **Saturday, February 9** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project, Confirmation Level 3 meets at 5:15pm in church for 5:30pm Mass, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 meet after 5:30pm Mass to make sandwiches
- **Sunday, February 10** – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; 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

**Saint Days January 27 – February 2**

January 27 – Saint Angela Merici

January 28 – Saint Thomas Aquinas

January 29 – Servant of God Brother Juniper

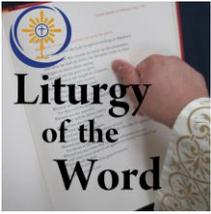
January 30 – Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

January 31 – Saint John Bosco

February 1 – Saint Ansgar

February 2 – Presentation of the Lord

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."



## January 27 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 27 is the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Nehemiah 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10 (*Ezra reads from the book of the Law and interprets it for all to understand*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 29:8,9,10,15 (*A song of praise of the Law of the Lord*). The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 (*Paul explains that all were baptized into one body of Christ*). The Gospel is from Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21 (*In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus reads aloud from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and announces that this Scripture is now fulfilled*). 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 reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."*

*Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.*

*As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.*

*Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.*

*This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.*

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*The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God.*

**Family Connection**

*Jesus was the one sent by God to bring salvation to the world. Jesus announced that mission using the framework we hear in today's Gospel from the prophet Isaiah: glad tidings will be brought to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God in his person—through his life, death, and Resurrection. We are charged with the task of continuing the mission that Jesus began. Jesus set the framework for all of us when he announced his ministry in today's Gospel. Jesus also gave us the helper we would need to enable us to participate in his mission. The Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we, the Church, might serve the Kingdom of God.*

*Gather with your family and suggest that they try to picture the vision that Jesus describes using the words of the prophet Isaiah as you read today's Gospel, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21. Think about your neighborhood, your community. What are the situations and who are the people who most need to see this vision fulfilled? What steps would be necessary to make the vision a reality for them? Make a family commitment to pray for the Kingdom of God and to take a particular action that will address a need you see in your community. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,  
by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit  
help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
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 Gospel – look under "Sunday Gospel Activities.

Another resource for Gospel activities is the Franciscan website – [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org). You can subscribe to a weekly newsletter that has Gospel reflections and activities.

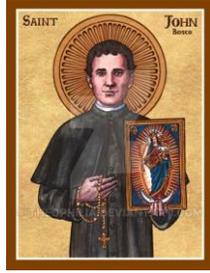
**Saint of the Week**

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint John Bosco; his feast day is January 31. The below reflection comes from the Franciscan website:

[www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org). A coloring page and January saint word search is attached.

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#### **Saint John Bosco**

#### **Saint John Bosco's Story**

*John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play.*

*Encouraged during his youth in Sardinia to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.*

*After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.*

*By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.*

*John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales.*

*With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.*

#### **Reflection**

*John Bosco educated the whole person—body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do—work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Yet, because John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that come with talent and ability, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.*

**Saint John Bosco is the Patron Saint of: Boys, Editors, Youth**



### **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

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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 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:

- First Reconciliation will be on Friday January 25 at 7:00pm
- First Communion Parent Meeting – required for all parents of Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Catholic school) children 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 (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 will be on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2:00pm with Bishop Dorsonville

Status reports were emailed to students and parents on January 16; please respond by January 25 that you received the report. If you have not received the report please contact Maureen Curtis.

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

- 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; Response to Status Reports due
- January 27 – January Faith Sharing due
- January 29 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- January 31 – Service Opportunity; Babysit at church for children of parents attending First Eucharist Parent meeting from 6:45pm to 8:15pm

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## Sandwich Sunday Service Project

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 February 9.



## High School Youth Ministry

The High School Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday February 10 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All those in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to bring a friend!



## 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](http://www.stpiusbowie.org).

## St. Thomas Aquinas Tutorial (STAT)

STAT is a Catholic homeschooling tutorial program, meeting twice weekly, which provides the opportunity for homeschooled children in grades 2-8 to receive instruction from dedicated and talented tutors hired by STAT. There will be Parent Information Night on January 31 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church. Please RSVP to [richardsonsmail@yahoo.com](mailto:richardsonsmail@yahoo.com) and visit [www.statonline.org](http://www.statonline.org) for more information.