

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.com

Newsletter—January 6, 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

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Upcoming Dates to remember

- **Friday, January 4** – Holy Hour following 8:45am Mass - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- **Sunday, January 6** – The Epiphany 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; Donut Sunday after all Sunday Masses; HS Youth Ministry at 7:00pm
- **Tuesday, January 8** –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 9** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm
- **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
- **Friday, January 25** – Women’s Prayer and Fellowship Ministry meets at 9:30am

Saint Days January 6 – January 12

January 6 – Saint André Bessette

January 7 – Saint Raymond of Peñafort

January 8 – Saint Angela of Foligno

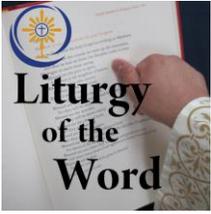
January 9 – Saint Adrian of Canterbury

January 10 – Saint Gregory of Nyssa

January 11 – Blessed William Carter

January 12 – Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

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 6 – Epiphany of the Lord

January 6 is the Epiphany of the Lord. The First Reading is from Isaiah 60:1-6 (*Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13 (*Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord*). The Second Reading is from Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 (*Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ*). The Gospel is from Matthew 2:1-12 (*The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage*). 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 visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Family Connection

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledged who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

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 is not over! The Church celebrates Christmas until the Baptism of the Lord (this year on January 13). So, you don't have to take down your decorations until after January 13. Keeping them up will help teach the children that Christmas isn't only a day but a liturgical season.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint André Bessette; his feast day is January 6. The below reflection comes from the Franciscan Media website: www.franciscanmedia.org. A Coloring and Word Find page is attached.



Saint André Bessette

Feast day January 6

Saint André Bessette's Story

Brother André expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph.

Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!" When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

Reflection

Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that? Superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and

medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets his saints help him bless his children.



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 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

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.

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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 1 – NO CLASS; Christmas vacation
- January 8 – CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- 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
- 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 6 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. All those in 9th through 12th grade are welcome to come and bring a friend. Bring your favorite game!