

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

*Newsletter—February 3, 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***

- **Saturday, February 2** – Men’s Group Meeting at 9:00am; All men in the parish 18 years old and older are encouraged to attend
- **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; First Communion Parent/Child Retreat from 9:00am to 12:30pm; Altar Server Training for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and older at 12:30pm in the church; High School Youth Group Meeting from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- **Tuesday, February 12** –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, February 13** – Religious Education Classes (CCD); RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm
- **Sunday, February 17** – Sixth 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

**Saint Days February 3 – February 9**

February 3 – Saint Blaise

February 4 – Saint Joseph of Leonissa

February 5 – Saint Agatha

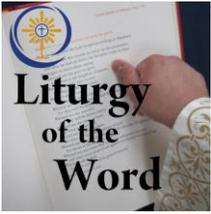
February 6 – Saint Paul Miki and Companions

February 7 – Saint Colette

February 8 – Saint Josephine Bakhita

February 9 – Saint Jerome Emiliani

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.”



## February 3 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 3 is the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19 (*The Lord assures Jeremiah that he will deliver him from all who fight against him*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 71:1-2,3-4,5-6,15,17 (*A song of God's salvation*). The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 (*Paul describes love as the greatest of virtues*). The Gospel is from Luke 4:21-30 (*Jesus is rejected in his hometown of Nazareth*). 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**

*This Sunday we read from the Gospel of Luke, continuing immediately from last week's Gospel. Recall that in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and announced that this Scripture was now fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet they seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's son. They do not expect such words from someone they believe that they know.*

*This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe him to be. The story of Jesus' preaching and rejection at Nazareth is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of salvation. In Luke's Gospel this incident appears at the beginning of Jesus' ministry; in Matthew and Mark, this event is placed considerably later, after Jesus has preached and taught elsewhere. Only Luke identifies the content of Jesus' teaching in any detail, telling us that Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue. In Mark and Matthew's Gospels, Jesus teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth, and the townspeople take offense because Jesus is only the son of a carpenter. They reject his authority to teach them. In Matthew and Mark, it is only after Jesus is rejected that he observes times when Israel has rejected prophets.*

*In Luke's Gospel, the people are surprised but not immediately offended by Jesus' words in the synagogue. It is the words that follow his reading from the prophet Isaiah that seem to offend them. Jesus challenges and provokes the people of Nazareth by referring to examples in which Israel rejected the prophets. He also challenges them to respond to his message, the message of a prophet, in a way that is different from their ancestors. This call for a new response leads to his rejection.*

*It is helpful to consider the historical context of Luke's Gospel. Luke has witnessed the acceptance of the gospel message among many Gentiles. He endeavors to explain why the Good News of Jesus has not been as well-received by his Jewish contemporaries. Luke's report interprets the cause of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth in the context of this later Christian history. Just as the people at Nazareth did not welcome the Good News that Jesus announced, so too many among the people of Israel will not accept the preaching of the gospel.*

*After Jesus' words of challenge, Luke reports that there was a movement to kill Jesus by throwing him over a cliff. This differs from the reports found in Mark and Matthew's Gospels, where Jesus is said to be unable to perform miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Luke says that Jesus walks away from the crowd that intended to kill him; it is not yet his time. The animosity of the people of*

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*Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through his death on the cross that Jesus offers God's salvation to all.*

**Family Connection**

*Jesus' statement that no prophet is accepted in his home town reminds us that it is often difficult to hear a challenging message from those who know us best, even if it is true. Perhaps we remember and even regret this aspect of our childhood and adolescence. We may have overlooked the wisdom and guidance of our parents, while allowing the voices of others—teachers, friends, and counselors—to carry more weight, even when these people were telling us the same thing. Perhaps this developmental stage is unavoidable. Perhaps as we have matured, we have come to a new appreciation for our parents and others whose perspective and experience we once rejected. Today's Gospel provides an opportunity to talk about and to learn from such experiences.*

*As you gather as a family, consider proverbs or other wise sayings that are familiar to your family (“Blood is thicker than water;” “All that glitters is not gold.”). Consider what these proverbs mean and whether you believe them to be true. Why or why not? Jesus challenges the people of Nazareth by reminding them of old sayings that seem to have a lot of truth in them. Let's listen to this Gospel and consider what these proverbs mean. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 4:21-30. Ask: **What were the proverbs that Jesus quoted?** (Physician, cure yourself; No prophet is accepted in his native place.) Consider the meaning of these proverbs and look for examples from your own family life that show their truth. Consider how your family might accept one another's wisdom and guidance and not reject the prophets in your midst. Conclude by praying together 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.

**Ministries of the Month**

Each month at Donut Sunday you will have the opportunity to learn about a different ministry in our parish. This month Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) for Mass and the Homebound will be highlighted. Both of the ministries are in need of new volunteers.

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Altar Server Training is scheduled for February 10 at 12:30pm. A flyer with details is attached.

## February Happenings at Saint Edward's

Please note the following activities at our parish during the month of February:

1. February 2 – Men's Group Meeting at 9:00am. This is the first meeting for this group. It is open to all men of the parish who are 18 and older. Encourage the men in your life to come and pray, discuss faith and enjoy some fellowship!
2. February 2/3 – Learn about the Ministries of the Month, ALTAR SERVERS AND EMHC, after all Masses. February 3 is Donut Sunday. Go to the social area after Mass and enjoy a donut and fellowship with other parishioners.
3. February 10 – Altar Server Training at 12:30pm. All children in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older, who have received their First Holy Communion, are encouraged to be Altar Servers. Call the office at 301 249-9199 with questions. Flyer is attached with details
4. February 10 – High School Youth Group meets from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All high school students of the parish are encouraged to come and bring a friend. Contact Karen Italiano, our Youth Minister, at [youth@stedwardbowie.com](mailto:youth@stedwardbowie.com) with any questions.
5. February 15 – Live Christ/Share Christ at 7:00pm. All are welcome! This is an opportunity to grow in faith with fellow parishioners. Contact the office at 301 249-9199 for further information
6. February 22 – Ladies of Saint Edward's Prayer and Fellowship Group – 9:30am. All women of the parish welcome!
7. February 23 – Volunteer Breakfast at 9:00am at the K of C Hall for those who volunteer in the ministries of the parish and their families. Invitations have been mailed. If you didn't get one and think you should have, please contact me.

## Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint Josephine Bakhita; her feast day is February 8. The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). A coloring page and February saint word search is attached.



**Saint Josephine, Bakhita, c. 1868–1947**

**Feast day February 8**

*"It is an act of justice for the rich to help the poor."*

*Saint Josephine, affectionately known as Bakhita ("fortunate one"), was born in the southern Sudan region of Darfur. She was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery, eventually working in Italy as a nanny for a wealthy family. It was during this time that she was introduced to formal religion and came to know the Daughters of Charity of Canossa, or the Canossian Sisters. Bakhita was drawn to the Catholic Church.*

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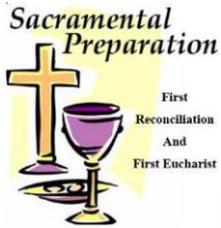
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*She was baptized in 1890 and given the name Josephine. Six years later she entered the Canossian Sisters convent in Schio, Italy.*

*At her canonization ceremony on October 1, 2000, Pope John Paul II said of St. Josephine: "In today's world, countless women continue to be victimized, even in developed modern societies. In St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights."*

*Bakhita knew the reality of being a slave, an immigrant, and a spiritual seeker. Even while she was outwardly denied freedom and human dignity, her spirit was free. It was that freedom of spirit that allowed her to follow her heart and live her true vocation.*

*Spend some time reflecting on areas of your life where you are not free. What is it that enslaves you? How might God be calling you to greater freedom in this area?*



## 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 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 Communion Parent/Child Retreat – required for all Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Catholic school) children and at least one of their parents. It will start with all attending 9:30am Mass and end at 12:30pm (the end time is a change due to the cancellation of the Parent Meeting on January 31)



## 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

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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

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

- February 3 – Service Opportunity helping at Donut Sunday
- February 5 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- February 9 – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project; all students meet in church for 5:30pm Mass at 5:15pm
- February 10 – Service Opportunity; Help at the First Communion Parent/Child Retreat from 9:00am to 12:00pm
- February 12 – Faith Sharing Class for all students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- February 19 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- February 22 – Class meeting for all students from 6:00pm to 9:00pm; candidates will write letters to Bishop Dorsonville and have a pot luck pasta dinner
- February 24 – February Faith Sharing due
- February 26 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

### 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! The topic for the meeting is “Personal Prayers/Adoration.” Bring your favorite dessert to share!