

St. Edward Parish

North Plains, Oregon

August 23, 2020

Pastor

Fr. Michael Vuky
Cell 971-217-5335
mvuky@yahoo.com

Holy Eucharist to Sick & Shut-ins

Rita Nussbaumer 503-647-5262

Parish Office

Hours Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Office Phone 503-647-2131

Email Address

mail@stedwardnp.org

Mailing Address

PO Box 507
North Plains, OR 97133

Rectory Shipping Address

10990 NW 313th Avenue
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Office Manager Nancy Vandehey

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Religious Education

Director Nancy Vandehey

Phone 503-647-2131
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Mission Statement

St. Edward is a welcoming Catholic Parish embracing God our Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit. We gather in **Faith** to give glory and praise to God as a worshipping community. We gather in **Hope** to educate, form and nurture spiritual growth of our individual parishioners, families, and community through the administration of the sacraments, catechesis, prayer and devotion and fellowship. We gather in **Charity** to provide social outreach in our works of mercy.

Parish Pastoral Council

Mitch Nussbaumer 2020-2023 (Chair)
Dian Duyck 2019-2022 (Vice Chair)
Kristina Heagh-Avritt 2018-2021
(Secretary)
John Reding 2020-2023
Bob VanderZanden 2018-2021
Patrick Weis 2019-2022

Confessions:

Saturday 4:30-5:15 pm

Masses:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning Mass 9:15 am

Wednesday Morning Mass 9:00 am

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

1st Wednesday of the month, following
9:00 am Mass, closes at 7:00 pm

Funeral Service

Contact the parish office before making any funeral arrangements involving St. Edward Church facilities. The office will involve Father Michael as soon as possible. Thank you.

Infant Baptism

Before scheduling a date for baptism, parents must be registered members of St. Edward Parish and attend a baptism preparation class. To register for a baptism class and for more information, contact the parish office. An appointment will be scheduled with Father Michael.

Matrimony

Couples are asked to contact the parish office. The office will then send a letter explaining parish policies and an information form to be filled out and returned. No date can be set until there is a conference with the parish priest, at least six months prior to the wedding.

Parish Hall Use

If any parish committee, ministry, or group is planning a meeting or gathering in the parish hall, it is important that you call Nancy in the parish office for availability.

Mass Intentions can normally be offered on Wednesday mornings and Saturday evenings. Please submit requests through the parish office. A suggested stipend is \$10.

Bulletin Announcements

The deadline is 12:00 pm on Tuesday for the following Sunday. Call the parish office or email mail@stedwardnp.org.

Dear Parishioners,

As previously announced, the weekend of August 15-16, we exercised the option to observe the Solemnity of the Assumption in place of the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time. As a result, there were a few who may have not received the message earlier via pulpit and bulletin announcements. And upon arriving to church or via live stream, were confused especially since they were expecting the readings from the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

I received a few messages via text or email regarding this, but more along the lines of those who were delighted to have a chance to celebrate the Assumption yet had prepared ahead of time for the proper readings designated for the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Some even asked me what I would have preached about if the Solemnity of the Assumption was not observed. I shared with them that I would have prepared a homily on God's mercy and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This prompted some curiosity of what I would have said.

During my morning prayer time on Monday, I was praying for an idea for this week's Pastor's Notes and I thought to myself, perhaps I could utilize my pastor's notes for the week. What turned out to be an idea for the week moved towards offering a 4-week series.

So, for this week's first installment, I will address the Scriptural foundation of the Sacrament. Then, I will address the hang-ups and reservations on why people seldom utilize this Sacrament. Follow up with how to prepare for the Sacrament through an examination of conscience for both beginners and veterans (those who frequent more often). And finally, some practical tips of how to celebrate the Sacrament and the post-Confession maintenance that will, hopefully, plant that seed of desire to go more routinely.

To begin: What is the Scriptural basis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation? The Sacrament of Reconciliation was instituted on Easter Sunday evening when Jesus walked through the doors of the locked upper room where the disciples were huddled out of fear. Our Lord then wished them "peace" and then Jesus commissioned them to be the greatest peacemakers in the world by instituting this ministry of mercy.

Jesus commanded:

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (c.f. John 20:21-23).

This is an important moment because according to the religious institution of the time, only God is able to forgive the sins against God. For this reason, time and time again, the Pharisees would challenge Jesus' authority whenever He would "forgive the sins" of others such as the paralytic because in the eyes of the Pharisees, they only saw Jesus as a human man and not God.

But Jesus is not only human, He is divine. He is the Son of God and, thus, has the power and authority to forgive sins. As a result, through His power and authority as God, He institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation and commissions the Apostles to be ministers of mercy.

The next key point is this: Jesus says, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retained are retained" (c.f. John 20:23). So, in order to know what sins are to be forgiven and which ones are to be retained, since must be told and confessed to another, i.e., minister of Reconciliation, a priest who has been given faculties

by the Bishop who is in the line of the Apostles.

As I have shared in my RCIA class when reflecting upon the Sacrament of Reconciliation, notice that Jesus did not bestow on the Apostles the gift to read people's minds. This aspect of confessing sins to a priest is an essential necessity to receiving the grace of mercy and forgiveness.

As a priest, I realize that it is not easy and can be uncomfortable to admit when one is wrong or when one has made a poor moral decision. As a priest, I have heard the question of why do we have to tell anyone our sins out loud, can't I just pray to God and say that I am sorry and confess to Him without the priest as part of the process? The answer is no. Confessing to the priest is non-negotiable as it is an essential part of the Sacrament for validity.

Next week, I will address the most common anxieties, reservations and misperceptions. But until then, allow me to end our first installment with this insight that I always found to be very hopeful and comforting. What has always struck me is why did Jesus elect to institute the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Easter Sunday evening? He could have selected any other moment to do so.

Yet, He chose Easter Sunday because, as Jesus taught in the parable of the Prodigal Son which centers upon God's mercy, forgiveness, love, patience and compassion as well as the effects of sin to divide and estrange us in our relationships with God and others, the experience to return to the Father begins with these humble words: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you" (c.f. Luke 15:21).

And then hearing the Father say:

Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found (c.f. Luke 15:22-24).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is about experiencing death from sin into life again. Each time we participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it is a Resurrection experience, an opportunity for a great spiritual reset in our lives. My hope is that this 4-week series will be a time for greater renewal and understanding to reset our desire, appreciation and usage of this Sacrament.

Blessings,
Fr. Michael

Live Streaming of Masses

The Archdiocese of Portland will continue to live stream the 11:00 am Sunday Mass from The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception every week until the gather restrictions have been lifted. Go to <https://archdpdx.org/live-masses>.

St. Edward/St. Francis of Assisi/Visitation is also live streaming the 10:00 am Sunday Mass in Verboort every week. Download Zoom.us, enter Meeting ID: 993 4497 4746, password HolyMass.

Monthly Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration begins again on Wednesday, September 2nd from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. Come join us!

FORMED.ORG

We have renewed our annual subscription. Please add this FREE Catholic resource as part of your media platform. Go online to www.formed.org and select "Enter code" link. Input the Parish Code: **HWNN8P** and create your own personal login and password to begin enjoying the free content.

If you have any problems logging in or accessing your account, please contact Julia, Parish Care for FORMED, parishcare@formed.org or call 1-844-367-6331 and provide the Parish Code **HWNN8P** under our registered name St. Francis of Assisi, Banks, Oregon for all three parishes.

Pick of the Month

Fr. Michael's Pick:
"FORMED Now! The Power of Bad News"

Dr. Tim Gray, President of Augustine Institute and Dan Burke, former President and CEO of EWTN, discuss why we give so much attention to bad news rather than the good. As humans, we are motivated by love and fear. However, the current media and the news cycle feeds only on fear that can cause worry, anxiety and angst. My hope is that you find their thoughts and observations insightful. You will never listen to the news ever the same again. Run Time: 30 minutes.

Fr. Juan Jose's Pick:
TBA

This Week

Saturday, August 22nd

Confessions by appointment only

Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward

Sunday, August 23rd

Mass 9:15 am

Intentions: RIP Gerry Romjue

Mass 5:00 pm

Intentions: RIP Derald Schmidt

Wednesday, August 26th

Mass 9:00 am

Intentions: RIP Dick Duyck

Saturday, August 29th

Confessions by appointment only

Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

Intentions: RIP Dale VanderZanden

Sunday, August 30th

Mass 9:15 am

Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward

Mass 5:00 pm

Intentions: Living & Deceased Members of the Altar Society

New: Face Covering Requirements

Face coverings are legally required at indoor gatherings, including in churches, per statewide directive. All who are 5 years and up must wear face coverings in church in Phases 1 and 2 of reopening. Those are excepted who perform activity that makes wearing a mask "not feasible," like the presider (throughout Mass) and the lectors (while reading). Singers and musicians are not excepted (they must wear face coverings even when singing). Exceptions are also made for people with disabilities or diagnosed medical conditions that preclude them from wearing masks. In these few cases, special seating accommodations should be made so those unable to wear masks have seating in a cry room or choir loft away from the rest gathered. Children 2 and under should not wear masks. Wearing a face covering at church is not optional. Churchgoers cannot be allowed entrance without a mask. The pastor and door monitor must strictly enforce this requirement. By archdiocesan requirement, masks must still be used by ministers when distributing Holy Communion. A presider *may* wear a mask throughout Mass.

USDA Food Box Program

A USDA grant has made it possible for Oregon families to receive FREE produce, dairy or combo boxes that are distributed at selected Archdiocese of Portland Catholic Churches, other faith-based organizations, local food pantries, civic organizations and homeless shelters.

As the COVID-19 pandemic extends into the summer months, more and more Oregonians are struggling to meet their basic need of food security. Many others struggle with isolation and can't travel to their local grocery store. The USDA food box program ensures that lack of financial resources, transportation, and isolation do not create a barrier to fresh food.

The USDA has partnered with Pacific Coast Fruit to provide 275,000 food boxes per month in our region. In order to make that happen, Pacific Coast Fruit has partnered with Archdiocese of Portland to distribute boxes to the needy of our state through August 28, 2020. USDA may elect to extend the program depending upon program success and available remaining funds.

For more information, please go to <https://evangelization.archdpx.org/usda-food-box>.

Religious Education

Grades 1-5 Including 2nd Grade Sacramental Prep for 1st Holy Communion and Confession

Please contact Nancy Vandehey (St. Edward) at 503-647-2131, Lynda Hertel (St. Francis of Assisi) at 503-799-5952, or Genelle Duyck (Visitation) at 503-887-8878 to register. Once you register, this will help us to assign cohorts (of less than 10) with a designated location to meet. Or if you family would like digital/online instruction, we will provide texts, online videos, and live streaming options.

Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

Please contact Laura Nevis at 503-575-5608 or email Inevis@farthing.com to register. Once you register, beginning September 13, 2020 and every 2nd Sunday of the month, the group will meet in Visitation church 6:00-7:00 pm for a liturgical celebration with teaching lesson with Fr. Michael. Live streaming via Zoom meeting will be available for those who are interested in participating virtually.

High School Youth Group (grades 9-12)

Please contact Laura Nevis at 503-575-5608 or email Inevis@farthing.com to register. Once you register, this will allow us to divide the teens into cohorts and assign each cohort a designated Sunday once a month to meet in Visitation church 6:00-7:00 pm for a liturgical celebration with teaching lesson with Fr. Michael. Live streaming via Zoom meeting will be available for those who are interested in participating virtually.

High School Youth Confirmation

Those entering 9th grade this 2020-2021 school year or older are invited with their parents to attend a virtual meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 pm. Please contact Laura Nevis at 503-575-5608 or email Inevis@farthing.com to register.

RCIA

Interested in Exploring the Catholic Faith or know someone who is? Having questions or aren't sure? Or are you ready to start the process of beginning Catholic? Then call Fr. Michael at 971-217-5335 or email mvuky@yahoo.com.

Expanding to Love and Serve Campaign

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, we are waiting to reschedule the neighborhood meeting. Then we will be able to be assigned a hearing date with the City of North Plains Planning Commission. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Michael, Dick Vandehey (Chair), Dick Krueger (Vice Chair), or Bob VanderZanden (Vice Chair).