

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stedwardbowie.com

Newsletter—August 18, 2019

Father Scott Holmer, Pastor

Maureen Curtis, Director of Religious Education

(301) 249-9199 Monday through Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

(301) 249-9599 during Religious Education hours (September through May)

Tuesday 6:00pm 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

- **Registration for the 2019-20 school year is on-going; late fees apply after June 9**
- **Sunday, August 18** – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Sunday, August 25** – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Sunday, September 1** – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Saturday, September 7** – Sandwich Sunday Service Project for Confirmation Levels 1-3 following 5:30pm Mass
- **Sunday, September 8** – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Tuesday, September 10** – First Day of Classes Confirmation Levels 1-3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, September 11** – First Day of Classes RCIC 5:30pm-6:30pm, Kindergarten-Level 5 from 6:30pm to 7:45pm
- **Friday, September 13** – Confirmation Level 3 Meeting; Students at 6:30pm, Parents at 8:30pm
- **Saturday, September 14** – Confirmation Level 3 Parent/Student Retreat from 2:00pm through 5:30pm Mass
- **Sunday, September 15** – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am
- **Tuesday, September 17** – Religious Education (CCD) Classes: Confirmation Levels 1-3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- **Wednesday, September 18** – Religious Education (CCD) Classes: RCIC 5:30pm-6:30pm; Kindergarten-Level 5 from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Saint Days August 18 – August 24

August 18 – Saint Louis of Toulouse

August 19 – Saint John Eudes

August 20 – Saints Bernard of Clairvaux

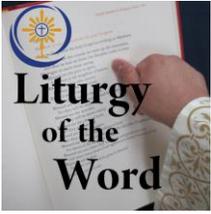
August 21 – Saint Pius X

August 22 – Queenship of Mary

August 23 – Saint Rose of Lima

August 24 – Saint Bartholomew

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.”



August 18 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 18, is the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10 (*Jeremiah is punished for criticizing the wealthy for their corruption and their injustice to the poor*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 40:2-4,18 (*A prayer for God's help*). The Second Reading is from Hebrews 12:1-4 (*Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus*). The Gospel is from Luke 12:49-53 (*Jesus has come not only to bring peace but also division*). 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.loyolapress.com. I encourage you to look at this website.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Having reminded the apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that he has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is baptizing with water, but someone mightier is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming judgment. It is also the fire of the Spirit that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, will describe descending on the disciples on Pentecost. That fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the good news of Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming judgment. His baptism will be the conflict into which he will be immersed as he approaches Jerusalem and his death on the cross. His followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus' birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: "Master, now you may let your servant go in peace." Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think he has come to bring peace; he has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here he reminds the crowd that those who commit to him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. The angel who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah said John would go before Jesus to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. But a commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict.

Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today's reading, he reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

Family Connection

Families strive for unity and togetherness. Nobody enjoys occasions when divisions in family life become all too evident. Yet, in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says that he has come to bring division and that members of households will be divided.

Talk as a family about the things that you do together to bring about family unity (togetherness), such as sharing meals, going to church together, celebrating special occasions, or sharing family traditions.

Explain that all of these things are important and that Jesus wants families to show this kind of love for

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

one another. Point out that this Sunday's Gospel sounds as though Jesus is saying something very different. Tell your children to listen closely as you read aloud Luke 12:49-53.

Explain that sometimes as parents, you have to make decisions that are unpopular with your children. You don't do it to divide the family but because it is the right thing to do. In the short run, such decisions may "divide" children from their parents. In the long run, however, doing the right thing will bring about a deeper unity. Talk to your children about decisions that they have to make that might be unpopular with their friends and how these decisions may divide them from others. Encourage them to pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift of courage (fortitude) so that they may do the right thing even if unpopular. Conclude by praying a spontaneous prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for the gift of courage (fortitude).

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.

Summer Faith Activities

School and Religious Education are on summer break; however, this doesn't mean we should forget about our relationship with Jesus. Here are some suggestions for families to grow in faith over the summer:

1. Mass –
 - a. Don't forget to participate in Mass each Sunday, even when you are on vacation. Check masstimes.org for local Catholic churches and their Mass times
 - b. Try to attend Mass during the week; Mass times at Saint Edward's are Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:45am and Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm
2. Prayer – Remember to pray each day with your children
 - a. Pray formal prayers they've learned during the year
 - b. Pray spontaneous prayer (informal prayers)
 - c. Pray with Scripture
3. Learn about our Faith
 - a. Catechism
 - b. Saint books and stories
 - c. Catholic Websites: www.loyolapress.com; www.franciscanmedia.org; www.catholicmom.com;
4. Participate in Service Projects – see St. Edward's Community Outreach below
5. Vacation Bible School – Ascension Catholic Church is hosting a Vacation Bible School the week of August 12-16; the registration deadline is August 5. The theme will be "Discovery Mission: Catholic Vocation Bible School." It is open to children in grades K-5. Please go to the Vacation Bible School tab on the parish website or email ascensionscheduler@gmail.com for details.

Please let me know if you would like more information on any of this or help with some resources.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 10, Wednesday, September 11 and Sunday, September 15. The schedule of classes is:

Sunday during 9:30am Mass	Pre-school and Kindergarten
Tuesday evening 6:30 to 8:00pm	Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and e
Wednesday evening 6:30 to 7:45pm	Kindergarten through Level 5

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

If you haven't registered yet, Registration forms are in the CCD hall. You can also register on-line on the parish website: www.stedwardbowie.com. Look under the Faith Formation tab.

CATECHISTS NEEDED:

We are in need of 2 Catechists (teachers) for the 2019-20 school year: one for the Pre-K and the other for Kindergarten classes on Sunday mornings during the 9:30am Mass. There is not any experience needed – you will have a manual. The only requirement is a desire to pass on the Catholic Faith to these young children.

All volunteers who work with children must complete the Archdiocesan Child Protection Policy. This must get started before you can be in the classroom. If you are interested in volunteering to teach, please contact Maureen Curtis at 301 249-9199 or religioused@stedwardbowie.com.

Saint Edward's Community Outreach

St. Edward's Community Outreach will be collecting School Supplies for the Bowie Food Pantry. The Bowie Food Pantry will be putting together packs for students in need. The requested items are:

3 RING BINDERS-1" AND 2", SINGLE SUBJECT NOTEBOOKS,
POCKET DICTIONARIES AND THESAURUSES, DRY ERASER MARKERS AND ERASERS
REGULAR AND JUMBO GLUE STICKS, MARKERS, COMPOSITION BOOKS, GRAPH PAPER
COPY PAPER, FLASH DRIVES, QUART AND GALLON ZIPLOCK BAGS, PAPER TOWELS
CLOROX WIPES, LIQUID SOAP, HAND SANITIZERS, KLEENEX

Please place them in the Plastic Bins at the entrances during the month of August.

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I chose Saint Pius X; his feast day is August 21. The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website: www.loyolapress.com. A coloring page is attached.



Saint Pius X Feast day August 21

"I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor." These words were part of the will that Pope Pius X left at his death on August 20, 1914.

He was born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, the second of 10 children. His father was a poor parish clerk in Riese, Italy, and his mother worked as a seamstress. At 11, Giuseppe was accepted as a student in high school. Every day, he walked five miles to school and back. At 15, he began attending the local seminary. When his father died, Giuseppe wanted to come home and help with the family. His mother, however, would not let him.

In 1858, he was ordained and then worked as a parish priest for 17 years. He believed his call was to encourage those who were poor to lead Christian lives and to help them overcome financial problems. He was, however, named spiritual director of the major seminary and chancellor of the diocese. Later, he became a bishop and then a cardinal.

In 1903, this little-known cardinal was elected to become Pope Pius X. He took as his motto "Restore all things in Christ." He emphasized the importance of the Eucharist. He directed that children as young as seven should be allowed to receive the Eucharist. He initiated changes in Church music and worship. He began a biblical institute. He gave the first official impetus to the modern liturgical renewal.

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Pope Pius X believed that real peace could be achieved only through social justice and charity. He sponsored and sheltered refugees with his own resources. He wrote an encyclical encouraging Latin American bishops to improve the treatment of native people working on plantations. He worked to stop the world from going to war. When Europe entered World War I, Pius was heartbroken and said, "I would gladly give up my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge." Just a few weeks after the war started, Pope Pius X died.



Reconciliation and Eucharist at St. Edward's

Preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist is a two-year program. Students typically start in 1st grade in Level 1. Children must complete Level 1 before entering Level 2. They will receive Reconciliation at the end of January during Level 2 and First Holy Communion in May at the end of Level 2.

Children who are in the fourth grade and older and have not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist prepare for these Sacraments in our RCIC program. Children in the third grade and older who have not been baptized should also participate in this program.



Confirmation at St. Edward's

Confirmation at Saint Edward's is a three-year preparation; it includes those who attend both Religious Education classes at Saint Edward's and those who are in the 6th through 8th grades in a Catholic school. Students typically start Confirmation Level 1 Religious Education classes in the 6th grade. Candidates for Confirmation must complete Confirmation Level 1 and Confirmation Level 2 before entering Confirmation Level 3. In Religious Education classes: Confirmation Level 1 students focus on the Old Testament; Confirmation Level 2 students focus on the New Testament; Confirmation Level 3 students focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation and living a Catholic life in light of the Old and New Testaments.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00pm with Bishop Campbell.

Confirmation Level 3 students, please note the following important dates:

1. Friday September 13,
 - a. 6:30pm – Confirmation Meeting for all Confirmation Level 3 students, including those who attend Religious Education (CCD) classes and 8th grade Catholic school. Students should know who their Confirmation saint and sponsor will be by this meeting
 - b. 8:30pm – Parents join the meeting
2. Saturday September 14 – Parent/Candidate retreat from 2:00pm through 5:30pm Mass; required for all Confirmation Level 3 students (8th grade in Catholic school) and their parent.

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

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

3. The next Sandwich Sunday Service Project is September 7.



High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry is for all of the high school students in our parish; this includes those who were recently Confirmed and will be entering high school in the Fall. Summer schedule is as follows:

1. Sunday August 18 – Mini Golf from 6:30 to 8:30pm (Dropoff/Pickup at Night Hawk Golf Center)*

*Permission slips will be provided and are required for these events.

Please contact Karen at youth@stedwardbowie.com for details or with any questions.



MEN'S SHELTER NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Volunteers are needed to help create and serve one meal at the men's homeless shelter in Capital Heights, Maryland. On the first Thursday of each month, volunteers from St Edwards prepare and serve a Turkey Divan dinner to the men at the Prince Georges House Transitional Shelter located at 603 Addison Rd in Capital Heights Md (very close to the Addison Rd Metro Station on the Blue/Silver lines). We meet at 5pm to start the preparations. The meal is simple yet hearty and we generally eat with the men. Again, this would be a once a month commitment. If you are interested, please contact Rico Allegrino at 301-249-6544.