

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

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

*Newsletter—March 17, 2019*

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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, March 15** – Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm; Soup Supper at 6:30pm
- **Saturday, March 16** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Confession time from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- **Sunday, March 17** – Second Sunday in Lent: 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, March 19** – Religious Education Classes (CCD): Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, Level 5 from 4:15 to 5:30, Confirmation Levels 1, 2, 3 from 6:30 to 8:00; Reconciliation for Level 2 through Confirmation Level 3 during class time
- **Wednesday, March 20** – Religious Education Classes (CCD): RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm; Reconciliation for Level 2 through 5 during class time
- **Friday, March 22** – Confirmation Retreat from 4:30 to 11:00pm Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
- **Saturday, March 23** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Confession time from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- **Sunday, March 24** – Third Sunday in Lent: 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, March 26** – Religious Education Classes (CCD): Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, Level 5 from 4:15 to 5:30, Confirmation Levels 1, 2, 3 from 6:30 to 8:00
- **Wednesday, March 27** – Religious Education Classes (CCD): RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm;
- **Friday, March 29** – Confirmation Retreat from 4:30 to 11:00pm Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
- **Saturday, March 30** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Confession time from 4:00pm to 5:00pm

**Saint Days March 17 – March 23**

March 17 – Saint Patrick

March 18 – Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

March 19 – Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary

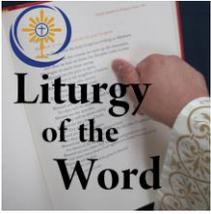
March 20 – Saint Salvator of Horta

March 21 – Blessed John of Parma

March 22 – Saint Nicholas Owen

March 23 – Saint Turbius of Mogrovejo

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."



## March 17 – Second Sunday of Lent

March 17 is the Second Sunday of Lent. The First Reading is from Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 (*God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising him many descendants*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 17:1,7-8,8-9,13-14 (*A prayer to God who is our salvation*). The Second Reading is from Philippians 3:17-4:1 (*Paul encourages the Philippians to remain firm in their faith that Christ will subject all things to himself*). The Gospel is from Luke 9:28b-36 (*Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, John and James*). 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.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). I encourage you to look at this website.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

*On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.*

*The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.*

*The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.*

*As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.*

*On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.*

*In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus'*

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*Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.*

#### **Family Connection**

*In today's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to the disciples saying, "Listen to him." The Transfiguration was a focused moment for the disciples when they heard God speaking to them and experienced Jesus in glory. They most certainly left this focused moment with a new appreciation for the importance of Jesus' words even if they did not yet understand everything that he had taught them. During Lent, we are invited to consider our attentiveness to Jesus and to one another. In the pace and noise that often characterizes family life, how well do we listen to one another? What opportunities do we have for quiet prayer?*

*As you gather as a family, count the number of pieces of equipment in your home that produce sound: televisions, radios, CD players, computers, video games, etc. Observe if sometimes more than one piece of equipment is playing simultaneously and how this might affect communication. Discuss the question: What is it like to try to talk with one another when this equipment is on?*

*Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 9:28-36. Consider whether the noise and pace of your family life allows family members opportunities for quiet prayer. During Lent, it may be appropriate for your family to choose a time for quiet in the household by turning off televisions, radios, and CD players. Consider whether your family would like to establish such a time during this Season of Lent and suggest that it might allow you the opportunity to listen more attentively to one another and to find time for quiet prayer. Spend a few such moments as a family, asking God to help you listen well to one another and to Jesus.*

#### **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.

#### **Lent at Saint Edward's**

The liturgical season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 6.

Lent is a penitential season during which we prepare spiritually for the Sacred Triduum. The Triduum is the holiest time of our liturgical year; it is three days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) where we participate in Christ's Paschal Mystery, his suffering, dying and rising. Busted Halo has a good 3-minute summary of what Lent is about – go to youtube and search Busted Halo Lent.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence
  - Fasting: Adults between the ages of 18 and 59 fast by eating only one full meal and two smaller meals. They do not eat between these meals.
  - Abstinence: All Catholics from age 14 and older refrain from eating meat
- Lent is a season of Fasting, Prayer and Alms Giving
  - Fasting – in addition to the obligatory fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, many people give up other things during Lent. It can range from food items to social media. Whatever you choose, and encourage your children to do, should remind you that you are fasting to remember what Jesus did for us.
  - Prayer – there are many ways to enhance your prayer life.

Here are some resources:

- Loyola Press: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/len>

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- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever>
- Pray As You Go: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (you can also download the Pray As You Go app on your phone)
- Sacred Space: <https://www.sacredspace.ie> (you can also download the Sacred Space app on your phone)
- Jesuit Prayer: <https://jesuitprayer.org/> (you can also download the Sacred Space app on your phone)

Here are some other suggestions:

- Attend the Parish Lenten Retreat which will be led by Father Charlie Smiech, a Franciscan Priest from April 6 through April 10
  - Father Smiech will preach at all Masses on April 6 and 7
  - He will lead retreat activities in the church on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 8-10.
- Receive Reconciliation (go to Confession) during Lent. Confession times during Lent are:
  - Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00
  - Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00
- Participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 or on the First Friday of the month (April 5) from 9:30am to 10:30am
- Attend Stations of the Cross:
  - March 22 and April 5 at 3:00pm
  - March 15, 29 and April 12 at 7:30pm
- Attend Daily Mass: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:45am; Tuesday, Thursday at 7:30pm
  - Almsgiving – The purpose of almsgiving during Lent is to remember those who are less fortunate just as Jesus did during his ministry on earth. This year we will be supporting Food for the Poor during Lent – see the attached flyer.

## March Happenings at Saint Edward's

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

1. March 22, April 5 – Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
2. March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13 – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Confession Time from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
3. March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17 – Confession from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
4. March 14, 21, 28 – Christmas Market Crafting from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
5. March 15, 29 and April 12 – Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm; Soup Suppers before Stations of the Cross; sign up in the East Wing of church after Masses on March 9-10 to volunteer to make a meatless soup!
6. March 29 – Ladies of Saint Edward's Prayer and Fellowship at 9:30am

## High School Youth Ministry



The High School Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday March 17 at Larkin Chase Nursing Home from 3:45pm to 6:00pm. All those in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to bring a friend!

## Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint Patrick; his feast day is March 17. Pray that she will be canonized a saint of the Catholic Church! The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). A coloring and word find page is attached.



**Saint Patrick, 389-461**

**Feast day March 17**

*How do you teach a classroom that's as big as a whole country? How do you teach a whole country about God?*

*St. Patrick's classroom was the whole country of Ireland and his lesson was the good news of Jesus Christ. How in the world did he do it? Well, it was only possible because he depended totally on God.*

*But letting God give him strength and direction didn't always come naturally to St. Patrick. That was a lesson he had to learn himself. And he didn't get to learn it from understanding, gentle teachers in a comfortable classroom. He learned it from a band of thieving, roving pirates.*

*Although we think of Ireland when we talk about St. Patrick, he wasn't actually born in Ireland. He was born in Britain, perhaps even in Scotland. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather had been a priest. But Patrick didn't think too much about God. We don't really know why this was. He probably thought he didn't need God. He probably thought other things could bring him as much happiness as God could. God just wasn't on Patrick's mind as he roamed the fields of his homeland, tending animals and learning how to be a man.*

*But his happy, carefree life ended one day when crowds of strangers appeared on the horizon. They looked dangerous and frightening, and they were. They were pirates and thieves, on their way to capture slaves to take back to Ireland. Patrick was one of those hundreds of captives. He was snatched from his family and his home. He was taken from all of his future hopes and dreams. Patrick was thrown on a ship, bound in chains, and taken over the sea to Ireland. He was sixteen years old. For six years, Patrick was a slave in Ireland. He was put to work watching sheep and cattle. Patrick had just enough food to live on, and when he wasn't working, he tried to rest in tiny huts that were damp and cold.*

*But something strange and wonderful happened in Ireland. All alone, frightened for his life, and among people who worshiped trees and stones, Patrick opened his heart to God.*

*That happens to a lot of us, doesn't it? When everything's going great, we don't have any time for God. But then something awful and painful happens, and there we are, back at God's feet.*

*During those years, Patrick started to pray. He thought about God all the time, and it gave him peace of mind. He knew that no matter how much he was suffering, God loved him.*

*Eventually, Patrick escaped from slavery and traveled to France, which in those days was called Gaul.*

*We're not sure exactly how much time Patrick spent in Gaul. But it was enough time for him to draw closer to God as he prayed and studied in a monastery.*

*One night, deep in a dreamy vision, Patrick heard voices. He heard many voices, joined together, pleading with him.*

*"Come back," the voices cried, "come back and walk once more among us."*

*Patrick knew it was the Irish people calling him.*

*Strengthened by the courage that only God can give, Patrick went back. He returned to the very people who had stolen him from his family, worked him mercilessly as a slave, and knew little, if anything, about the love of the true God.*

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*Before he left Gaul, Patrick was made the bishop of Ireland. He then traveled across the sea to teach Ireland about Jesus Christ.*

*It wasn't easy. The people of Ireland practiced pagan religions. They worshiped nature, and they practiced magic. They feared the spirits they believed lived in the woods. The Irish people believed they could bring evil spirits down on those they wanted to harm.*

*Patrick had a big job ahead of him. He had to show a country full of students that there was no point in worshiping nature. Trees can't forgive your sins or teach you how to love. The sun, as powerful as it is, could not have created the world. Patrick explained things using simple examples that people could easily understand. For example, he used the three-leaf clover to show people how there could be three persons in one God.*

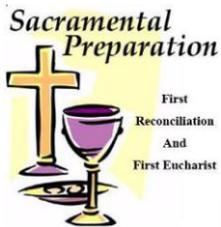
*Patrick preached to huge crowds and small villages. He preached to kings and princes. He preached in the open air, and he preached in huts. Patrick never stopped preaching, and he never stopped teaching. He couldn't stop—the whole country of Ireland was his classroom, and he couldn't afford to miss even one student!*

*Soon, Patrick had help. Men became priests and monks. Women became nuns. Wherever they lived, those monks and nuns settled in monasteries and set up schools. More students were being reached every day. But, of course, the greatest help Patrick had was from God.*

*When he was young, Patrick had forgotten God, but that would never happen again. He knew that God supported him in every step he took. God gave Patrick the courage to speak, even when Patrick was in danger of being hurt by pagan priests who didn't want to lose their power over the people.*

*Patrick's most famous prayer shows us how close he was to God. It's called "St. Patrick's Breastplate." A breastplate is the piece of armor that protects a soldier's heart from harm.*

*Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ within me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ at my right, Christ at my left.*



## 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Catholic school) please note the following schedule:**

Sunday	April 7, 2019	First Communion Mass participation requests due (details below)
Wednesday	April 10, 2019 5:30 – 6:30	Practice for First Holy Communion
Thursday	April 18, 2019 7:30pm	Holy Thursday Mass

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		This is not required, but encouraged	
Wednesday	April 24, 2019	5:30 – 6:30	Practice for First Holy Communion First Communion Mass seating requests due (details below)
Tuesday	April 30, 2019	5:30 – 7:00	Practice for First Holy Communion Teacher thank you notes due (details below) May Crowning participation (details below)
Saturday	May 4, 2019	11:00am	First Holy Communion Mass
Sunday	May 5, 2019	9:30am	Mass May Crowning



## 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 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 March schedule:

- March 19 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- March 22 – Confirmation Retreat for all students from 4:30pm to 11:00pm
- March 29 - CCD class for Religious Education students from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- March 31 – March Faith Sharing and remainder of Service Hours due

## 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 April 13.