

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SERVICE WORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Website—www.stewardbowie.com

Newsletter—April 14, 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, April 12** – Soup Supper at 6:30pm; Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm
- **Saturday, April 13** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Confession time from 4:00pm to 5:00pm; Sandwich Sunday Service Project for Confirmation Levels 1, 2 and 3 after the 5:30pm Mass, Confirmation Level 3 meets at 5:15 for 5:30pm Mass
- **Sunday, April 14** – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion: 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, April 16** –NO Religious Education Classes (CCD) -Easter Break
- **Wednesday, April 17** – NO Religious Education Classes (CCD) -Easter Break
- **Thursday, April 18** – Holy Thursday; Morning Prayer at 8:45am; Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper at 7:30pm
- **Friday, April 19** – Good Friday; Morning Prayer at 8:45am; Neighborhood Walking Stations of the Cross at 12:00noon (start in the church); Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm in the church; Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 7:30pm
- **Saturday, April 20** – Morning Prayer at 8:45am; Blessing of Baskets at 12:00noon; Easter Vigil at 8:00pm
- **Sunday, April 21** – Easter 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;
- **Tuesday, April 23** –Religious Education Classes (CCD): Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 4, Level 5 from 4:15 to 5:30, Confirmation Levels 1, 2 from 6:30 to 8:00; Confirmation Practice from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
- **Wednesday, April 24** – Religious Education Classes (CCD): RCIC from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Levels 1-5 from 6:30 to 7:45pm; First Communion Practice from 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Saint Days April 14 – April 20

April 14 – Blessed Peter Gonzalez

April 15 – Blessed Caesar de Bus

April 16 – Saint Bernadette Soubirous

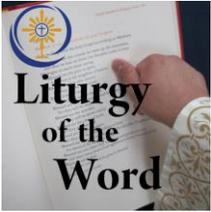
April 17 – Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

April 18 – Blessed James Oldo

April 19 – Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

April 20 – Saint Conrad of Parzham

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.”



April 14 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

April 14 is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. This is the beginning of Holy Week, the holiest time of our Church year. Mass begins with a Gospel for Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40 (*Jesus sends his disciples for a colt and then rides into Jerusalem*). It then proceeds with the Entrance Procession of the liturgical ministers and Mass as usual. The First Reading is from Isaiah 50:4-7 (*The Lord's Servant will stand firm, even when persecuted*). The Responsorial Psalm is from Psalm 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 (*A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers*). The Second Reading is from Philippians 2:6-11 (*Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him*). The Gospel is from Luke 22:14-23:56 (*From the cross, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness and promises that the good thief will be with him in paradise*). 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

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum, three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they shouted blessings and praise to God. This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

Luke's Gospel is the only one to report the exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus' response shows that this event, and those yet to come, are part of a divine plan. We hear this echoed again in Luke's description of the Last Supper when Jesus speaks of Judas' betrayal, saying that the Son of Man "goes as has been determined."

At the Liturgy of the Word on this Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Luke. We will hear these events proclaimed again during the Triduum when we read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

Throughout Luke's Gospel we see that Jesus' words and actions proclaim the Kingdom of God. This motif continues throughout Luke's passion narrative. Jesus appears to be in total command of events at the Passover meal as he hands over the kingdom to his disciples. He welcomes them to the Passover meal announcing that this will be his last until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled.

As throughout Luke's Gospel, however, the disciples show little understanding of this kingdom that Jesus often announces. Following the meal, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus takes the opportunity to distinguish the meaning of leadership in the Kingdom of God from the forms of leadership seen in the world.

Jesus initiates a conversation with Simon and predicts his denial. Jesus then instructs his disciples to prepare themselves for the events that will follow. His words reveal an awareness of the challenges that all of them will face in the days ahead. As the disciples and Jesus enter the Mount of Olives, Jesus indicates the importance of the disciples' time in prayer, telling them that through prayer they will be able to face the challenges ahead.

As he prays, Jesus is tested. In the garden, an angel is sent to strengthen him and to prepare him for the events ahead. After this moment, Jesus is again in charge of the events and circumstances.

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In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is portrayed as active and vocal throughout his passion. When one of the disciples strikes the high priest's servant, Jesus heals the man, an event reported only in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus stops the disciples' protest against his arrest by noting that this is the "time for the power of darkness." Jesus engages and responds when brought before the Sanhedrin; his words speak about the "power of God" that will bring about the reign of the Son of Man. When questioned by Pilate, Jesus responds with just one phrase; yet before Herod, Jesus refuses to speak.

When Luke describes the Way of the Cross and Jesus' crucifixion, he calls to our attention many events that are not reported in the other Gospels. Throughout his Gospel, Luke has paid heed to the women who accompanied Jesus. Now, on the road to Calvary, Jesus speaks to the women who walk with him. Only Luke reports Jesus' words of forgiveness spoken from the cross. And only Luke reports the dialogue between Jesus and the good thief. Finally, in contrast with the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Luke reports no words of abandonment spoken by Jesus on the cross. Instead, Jesus, in full command until his death, commends his spirit to his Father and takes his final breath.

Throughout Holy Week, we will continue to reflect on the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son and brought to fulfillment the Kingdom of God.

Family Connection

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of salvation Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Luke's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week: Sunday Luke 19:28-40, Monday Luke 22:14-23, Tuesday Luke 22:24-38, Wednesday Luke 22:39-71, Thursday Luke 28:1-25, Friday Luke 23:26-49, Saturday Luke 23:50-56

After reading from the Gospel each day, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, e.g., "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love is This."

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.

Holy Week at Saint Edward's

Holy Week begins on Sunday April 14 with the Mass of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. This is the holiest time in the Church year. It ends with the Triduum and Easter Sunday. The Triduum 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 Holy Week – go to youtube and search Busted Halo Holy Week. Please note the following:

- Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

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- Those who are aged 18 through 60 are obligated to fast by eating only big meal (the other two meals together should not equal the major meal). There is no eating between meals
- All those 14 and older should abstain from eating meat
- Holy Week Schedule:
 - Holy Thursday, April 18 – Morning Prayer at 8:45am, Altar Server Practice at 4:00pm, Mass of the Lord's Last Supper at 7:30pm; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
 - Good Friday, April 19 – Morning Prayer at 8:45am, Neighborhood Walking Stations of the Cross at 12:00noon (start in church), Stations of the Cross in church at 3:00pm, Altar Server Practice at 10:00am, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:30pm
 - Holy Saturday, April 20 – Morning Prayer at 8:45am, Practice at 10:00am for all ministries and candidates with their sponsors, Easter Vigil at 8:00pm
 - Easter Sunday, April 21 – Mass Times: 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am

Saint of the Week

Each week I will highlight a saint whose feast is that week. This week I have chosen Saint Bernadette Soubirous; her feast day is April 16. The below reflection comes from the Loyola Press website: www.loyolapress.com. A coloring page is attached.



Saint Bernadette Soubirous, 1844-1879

Feast Day April 16

It's hard to tell the truth sometimes. But it's especially hard when no one else sees things quite the way you do.

Maybe Saint Bernadette's story will help you out. She was just a young girl who saw something amazing and told the truth about it. Hardly anyone believed her at first, and people even made life difficult for her and her family because of what she said she saw. But Bernadette never backed down, and the truth she told has helped millions of people, even people who live today.

Bernadette's life wasn't easy to begin with. She and her family lived in terrible poverty in a village in France called Lourdes. By the time she was 14, Bernadette had been sick so often that she hadn't grown properly. She was the size of a much younger girl. She, her parents, and her younger brothers and sisters all lived in a tiny room at the back of someone else's house, a building that had actually been a prison many years before.

They slept on three beds: one for the parents, one for the boys, and one for the girls. Every night they battled mice and rats. Every morning, they woke up, put their feet on cold stone floors, and dressed in clothes that had been mended more times than anyone could count. Each day they hoped the work they could find would bring them enough bread to live on that day.

Bernadette's life was terribly difficult, but she wasn't a miserable girl. She had a deep, simple faith in God. She didn't mind any of the work she had to do, whether it was helping her mother cook or taking care of her younger brothers and sisters. There was, though, one thing that bothered her. She hadn't been able to attend school very often, and she didn't know how to read. Because of that, she had never learned enough about her faith to be able to receive her first Communion. Bernadette wanted to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, but her days, which were full of hard work, left little time for learning.

Like other girls, Bernadette had many friends. She spent time with them in the countryside, playing and gathering wood for their families' fireplaces and stoves. One cold February day, Bernadette was out with

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her sister and a friend, doing just that. They wandered along the river until they came to a spot where a large, shallow cave called a grotto had formed in the hilly bank. Bernadette's sister and friend decided to take off their shoes and cross the stream.

Because she was so sickly, Bernadette knew her mother would be angry if she plunged her thin legs into the icy water, so she stayed behind. But after a few minutes, she grew tired of waiting for her companions to return. She took off her stockings and crossed the stream herself.

What happened then was very strange. The bushes that grew out of the grotto walls started blowing around as if they were being blown by a strong wind. Bernadette looked up. High above her in the grotto stood a girl. The girl was wearing a long white dress with a blue sash and a white veil. Yellow roses were at her feet, and she held a rosary. She nodded at Bernadette and then stretched out her arms.

Bernadette was afraid, of course, but it wasn't the kind of fear that made her want to run away. She stayed where she was and knelt down. She reached into the pocket of her worn-out dress, found her own rosary, and started to pray with the girl. When she finished, the girl disappeared.

Bernadette didn't know who or what she had seen. All she knew was that being there had made her feel happy and peaceful. On their way back to Lourdes, she told her sister and friend what had happened, and soon the whole village knew.

Over the next few weeks, Bernadette returned to the grotto and saw the beautiful girl several times. Each time she went, more people went with her. Although only Bernadette could see the girl in white, when the other villagers prayed with her in the grotto, they felt peaceful and happy too. Those who were sick even felt that God had healed them while they prayed.

During those moments in the grotto, the girl spoke to Bernadette only a few times. She told her that a pure, clear spring flowed under the rocks. She told her that people needed to be sorry for their sins. And near the end, the girl said one more thing: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

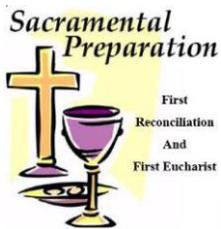
Bernadette had no idea what this meant. She repeated it to herself over and over on her way back to the village so she wouldn't forget the strange, long words. When she told her parish priest what the girl had said, he was quite surprised.

The priest knew that what the mysterious girl had said meant that she was Mary, Jesus' mother. The mysterious girl of the grotto had told Bernadette who she was. But it was not very common for people—especially poor little girls who couldn't read—to think of Mary as the "immaculate conception," a phrase that reminds us of how God saved Mary from sin even before she was born.

When Bernadette told people what the girl had said, it convinced many people that she hadn't made her story up and that what she'd seen really had come from God. Not everyone believed her, though. Bernadette had to tell her story over and over again, sometimes to village and church leaders who weren't very kind to her and her family.

Today, millions of people go to Lourdes every year, to the grotto where Bernadette saw Mary. They go to pray. They go to wash their sick bodies in the spring Mary told Bernadette about. They go to open their hearts to God, as Mary and Bernadette had.

And just think—all of this happened because a young girl named Bernadette told the truth!



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.

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- 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 (2nd grade in Catholic school) please note the following schedule:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|---|
| Thursday | April 18, 2019 | 7:30pm | Holy Thursday Mass |
| | | | 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 |
| Tuesday | April 30, 2019 | 5:30 – 7:00 | Practice for First Holy Communion |
| | | | Teacher thank you notes due |
| | | | May Crowning participation |
| Saturday | May 4, 2019 | 11:00am | First Holy Communion Mass |
| | | | Children to church by 10:30 |
| Sunday | May 5, 2019 | 9:30am | Mass |
| | | | May Crowning |



Confirmation at St. Edward's

Confirmation

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.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2:00pm with Bishop Dorsonville

Confirmation Level 3 students – please note the following March/April schedule:

- April 13 – Mass and Sandwich Sunday Service Project for all students; students come to Mass at 5:15pm and make sandwiches after Mass
- April 23 – Confirmation Practice for all students from 6:00pm to 7:15pm
- April 27 – Confirmation Practice for all students and their sponsor at 10:00am
- April 28 – Confirmation Mass at 2:00pm; students to church by 1:00pm

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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 April 13.



High School Youth Ministry

The High School Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday April 14 for Stations of the Cross and a Barbecue from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All those in 9th through 12th grade are welcome to bring a friend! Please bring chips and drinks to share.



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 April 26. Please join them to pray Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



Men's Group

The Men's Group meets every month on the first Saturday from 8:30am to 10:00am. The next meeting is May 12 (note this is the second Saturday because First Holy Communion is on the first Saturday). All men of the parish aged 18 and older are welcome to participate!