

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR WESTMINSTER, MA

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday..... 4:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Wednesday..... 8:00 AM (Church)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(978) 874-2362

PARISH STAFF

Pastor..... Rev. Juan Herrera
Deacon..... Malcolm S. Colgate
Parish Secretary
& Bookkeeper..... Linda Barrows
Director of Music..... Anna Richard
Building Manager..... David Provencal
Religious Ed. Coordinator..... Diane Pitney

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Programs for education in our Faith are held weekly. Call/Email Religious Education
(978) 874- 1559 Reled@stedwardconf.org

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3-3:30 PM in Chapel, or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Must be made at least one year in advance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the Rectory to schedule a Baptismal instruction.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please let us know of anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you would like to become a member, please fill out a parish registration form.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA): Adults who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic Faith are invited to join the RCIA. Please call the Rectory for information.

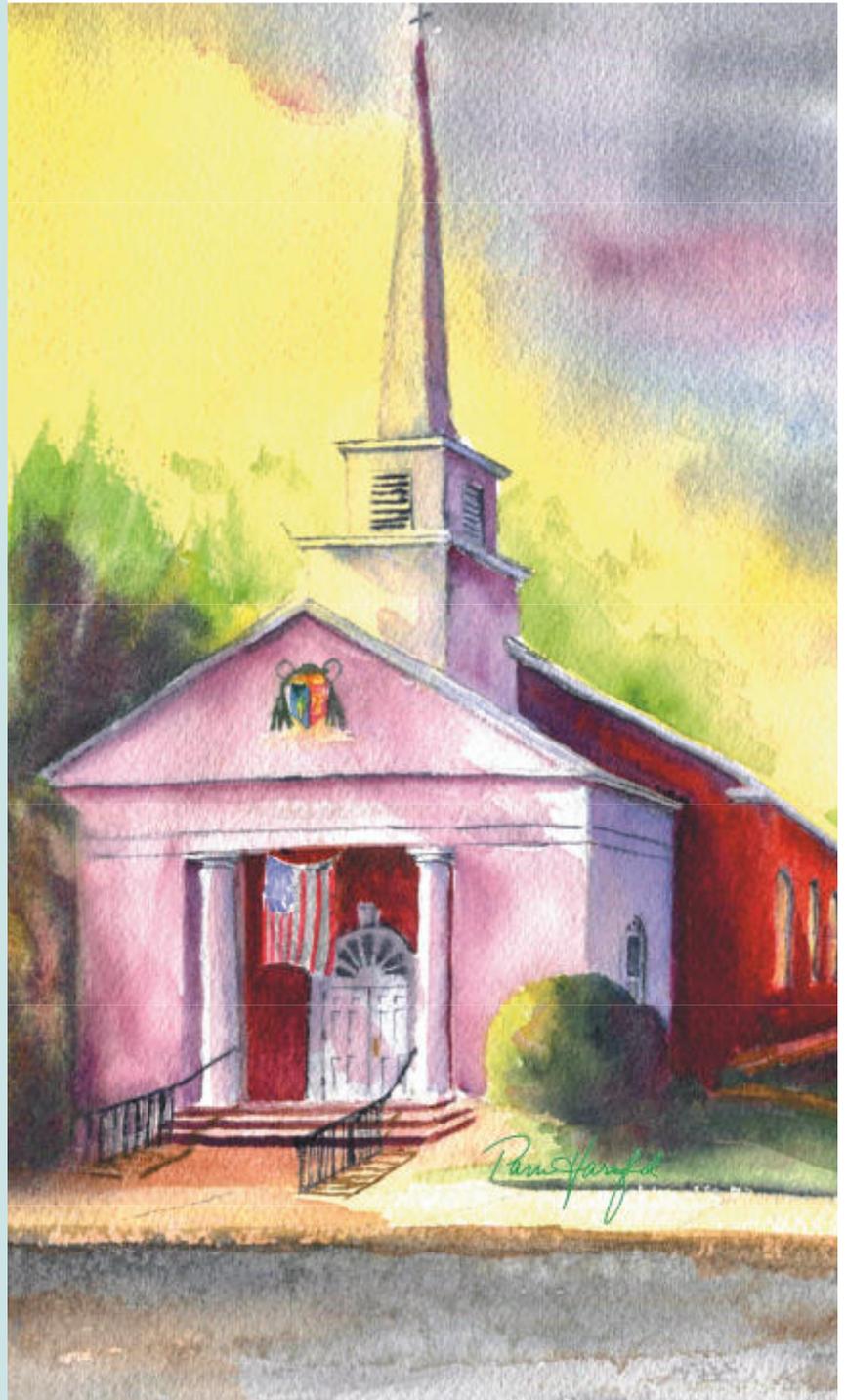
VISITATION OF THE SICK

Our Eucharistic Ministers are pleased to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a family member would like to receive Communion, please call the Rectory.

If you know of someone from the Parish who is in the hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor, please let us know.

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Contact Anna Richard at 978-874-0012



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Mass Intentions For The Week

Mass Intentions will be celebrated
Live Stream on Facebook page and YouTube.
 The Daily Masses will be celebrated in the Main Church.

Saturday... February 20

4:00 PM John Talbot, 4th Anniv; Req by Family

Sunday... February 21 First Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Peter Williams; Req by Goddaughter Amy

11:00 AM John Lambert; Req by Deborah Lambert & Family

1:00 PM Baptism of Oliver Michael Garceau

Monday ... February 22

8:00 AM Bernard Merta; Req by Lee Ann & Randy Merta

Tuesday ... February 23

8:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Wednesday ... February 24

8:00 AM For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory

6:00 - 7:00 PM Confessions and Holy Hour

Friday February 26

8:00 AM Morning Mass

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Live Stream

Saturday... February 27

4:00 PM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday... February 28 Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Grace Zarrella; Req by Carpenter Family

11:00 AM Joseph A. Barrows; Req by Family

2021 Partners in Charity Appeal

We ask every member of St. Edward's Parish to support the work of our Lord Jesus made possible through the annual Partner's in Charity appeal. We still need \$9,122. to make our parish goal. Please take an envelope (in the back foyer) and complete your pledge envelope, indicating your gift or pledge today. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our mission as a diocese. Please be as generous as possible. If you have already made a gift to the 2021 appeal we thank you. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal. We have \$23,378.00 in pledges, 72% so far. Our campaign ends March 6. You can also make your gift online at www.partners-charity.net. Thank you!

Collection for the Church in Latin America - Feb. 21st
 Help our Brothers and Sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean share our faith. Visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Confession can be received on Saturdays from 3 PM to 3:30 PM or by appointment.

Location: In the Chapel.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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Charitable Donations Statement

Parishioners who would like to receive a Financial Statement for your stewardship offering to St. Edward's for 2020, should call Linda in the parish office at 978-874-2362. Your statement will be mailed to you.

Let us give what we cannot keep to gain what we cannot lose.



Last Sunday's Offering	\$2,658.00
Online Giving	\$ 835.00

Thank you for your generous support of the Parish. Your weekly financial support enables Saint Edward's to provide for the needs of our Parish.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear community,

This first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of St. Mark is presenting Jesus in the desert and describing without details how He was tempted by Satan. After forty days, Jesus went back to Galilee and preached: "This time is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel".

Jesus is the example that we must be faithful to God, even though temptations surround us. As Jesus, we need to be strong in our will and our commitment to God, leaving behind our sinful ties to envy, selfishness, pride, arrogance and embrace a life of humility, generosity, kindness, and a Holy life offered from Him.

Lent is an invitation to transform our lives. Every Wednesday in our parish we will have a Holy Hour in the main church and the Sacrament of Confession in the chapel from 6 PM - 7 PM. Everyone is welcome to pray and receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Looking forward to seeing you!

God is Good!
Fr. Juan

Deacon Information Sessions

The Office of the Diaconate is seeking active men of faith in the Diocese of Worcester who may be discerning a vocation as a permanent deacon. Two online information sessions have been scheduled on February 23 and March 4 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Each session should last from 1.5 to 2 hours. Men between the ages of 31 and 60, married or single, who are interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate and the process for become a deacon may pre-register for one of the Information Sessions at worcederdiocese.org/register-for-information-session. An email with the link to the online session will be sent out prior to the scheduled date.

The DCCS Mass for Youth is a celebration at the Cathedral for members of American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts of the USA, and Scouts-BSA. It will be celebrated on **February 28th at 10 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Worcester** to bring these three youth serving organizations together as a diocesan community to commemorate the founding of the American Heritage Girls and Scouts-BSA in early February and the Girl Scouts in early March. This qualifies for the Girl Scout Sunday Patch or the Scouts-BSA Scout Sunday Patch and American Heritage Girls Scout Sunday patch. We ask all scout participants to come in uniform and to bring their unit flag and stand.

Small Group Discipleship Youth Ministry Training

All adult youth leaders are invited to join us for a 5-part training series on small group discipleship! Join us by Zoom beginning on Wednesday, March 24 from 7:30-8:30 pm. and continuing on select Wednesdays throughout the spring. All sessions will be facilitated by Everett Fritz, a nationally acclaimed youth speaker and author of the book *The Art of Forming Young Disciples*. Cost to participate in the entire series is \$25. To get more information on the program, sessions topics, and dates or to register go to neworchester.org/small-group-discipleship-training

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Making Peace Between Faith & Science

Fr. Stephen Lundrigan will present *Making Peace between Faith and Science: A Catholic Approach*, on Monday, March 1st at 7 p.m.. Join us in person in the church hall at Holy Rosary, 135 Nichols St. Gardner MA or watch live on Facebook. at Annunciation Parish Gardner Massachusetts. Father will take questions from both those who attend in person and on Facebook.

Eddy's Chowder House - Fridays of Lent, February 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.
St. Edward's Church Hall.

Menu: Clam Chowder, Corn Chowder, and Fish Chowder, by the Bowl, Pint or Quart. Made from scratch in house. Take Out Only.

Annual Priestly Discernment Retreat

The Office for Vocations announces that the annual priestly discernment retreat for men high school aged or older will take place on Saturday, March 27 from 9-5 at North American Martyrs in Auburn. Join us for a day of prayer, witness talks from priests and seminarians, and a presentation from Bishop McManus on discerning a priestly vocation. Social distance guidelines will be followed.

The Catholic Free Press (envelopes in back foyer)

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Lent Bible Study for Young Adults

All young adults are invited to join us for a virtual Lenten Bible Study every Tuesday evening of Lent at 8pm beginning on Feb 23. The Bible study will involve Lectio Divina along with a discussion. Each session will be unique to that Sunday's gospel reading so individuals are welcome to attend all gatherings, some, or even just one or two. Feel free to attend as often as you are able! To sign up to receive the Zoom link, go to neworchester.org/lent-lectio-divina

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you; Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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