

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR WESTMINSTER, MA

MARCH 7, 2021 | 3RD 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.

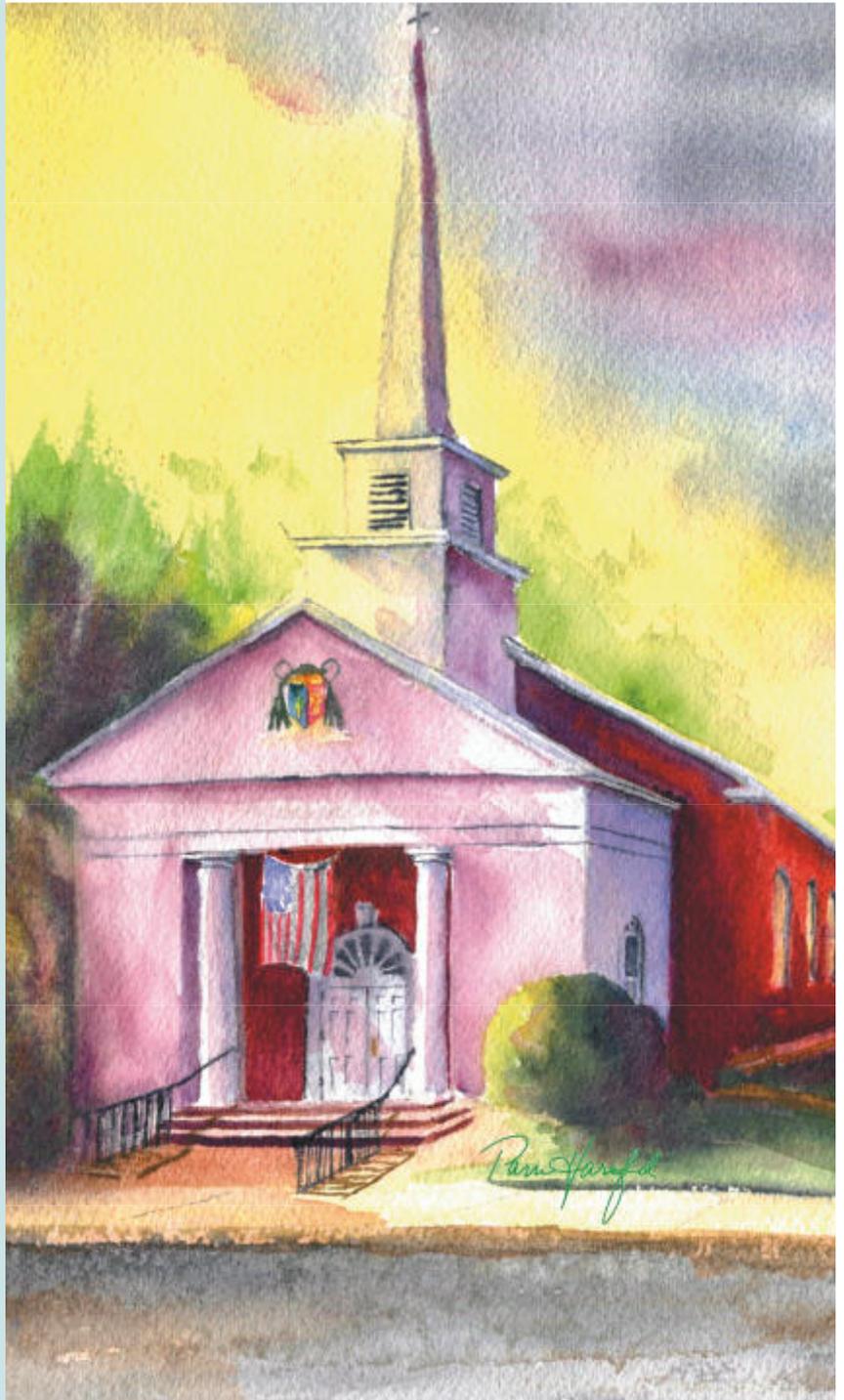
VISITATION OF THE SICK

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... March 6

4:00 PM Marta Klemetti; Req by Anita Dube

Sunday... March 7 Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners
 11:00 AM Connie Johnson; Req by Curtin Family

Monday ... March 8

8:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Tuesday ... March 9

8:00 AM For an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Wednesday ... March 10

8:00 AM For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 6:00 - 7:00 PM Confessions and Holy Hour

Friday March 12

8:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Live Stream

Saturday... March 13

4:00 PM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday... March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Deceased members of the Pepin & Marini Families
 Req by Emile & Mary Pepin
 11:00 AM Loretta LaCasse; Req by Barrows Family

The Catholic Free Press (envelopes in back foyer)

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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 \$4,656. 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 \$27,843.00 in pledges, 86% so far. Our campaign ends March 6. You can also make your gift online at www.partners-charity.net. Thank you!

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

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

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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	\$2,021.00
Online Giving	\$1,269.00

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

"The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2462).

Charity is usually associated with sharing material possessions usually money or food. This practice is completely acceptable and necessary however, we are forgetting the spiritual dimension of almsgiving which is to donate with our hearts to those who are in need. I remember a professor who said: "almsgiving is to give from what we need not from our surplus or leftovers" that is the dynamic of true generosity.

We are also called, during this time of lent, to be generous and compassionate with our words. Let us avoid being uncharitable judges and let us be kind with our words and opinions making visible the face of God.

Thank you to all the parishioners who donated to the partners in charity campaign. We know that in this difficult time, we made our best effort to benefit the 25 programs in our diocese.

God is Good!
Fr. Juan

CRS Rice Bowl

This is a Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And it's an opportunity for us as a parish to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call to go out and encounter those most in need. **This year we ask that you enclose a check with your donation total, instead of loose change.** We are not allowed to use the coin machine inside the bank because of COVID-19. Thank you in advance.

Catholic Men's Conference Schedule - Saturday, March 20

If you purchased a ticket for last year's (cancelled) conference we already know who you are. On Thursday, March 18 you will receive an email with a link to the 2021 conference. You do not have to pay anything. If you did not purchase a ticket last year and would like to participate in this year's 'remote and interactive' conference please call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 for a ticket (\$20). You can view this year's entire conference from home or with friends. The schedule is: 12:00 noon to 12:45 pm ~ Welcome by Bishop McManus followed by: Dr. Scott Hahn: "*The Road to Emmaus: The Path to Lifelong Conversion*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Scott Hahn *** 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm ~ Bishop Robert Reed: "*O God, Just Give Me One More Chance*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Bishop Reed *** 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm ~ Luis Soto: "*Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Luis Soto *** 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm ~ Dr. Scott Hahn: "*The Power of the Sacraments*" ~ then 'Live' Questions & Answers with Scott Hahn *** 4:00-5:00 pm ~ Mass with Bishop McManus and concluding comments.

Readings for the week of March 7, 2021

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

ARE YOU A ST. JOSEPH?

Can you live like St. Joseph for 100 Days??? Then join 1230AM & 970AM Emmanuel Radio's "Year of St. Joseph" 100 Men Challenge. Be one of our first 100 men to live like St. Joseph in prayer, action, and stewardship for 100 days. In this year of St. Joseph, answer your call to faith like St. Joseph did. For details/to join the challenge visit 1230radio.com or call (508) 767-1230.

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.

Eddy's Chowder House - Fridays of Lent, March 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.

On-line study of Evangelium Vitae -The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join "Live the Gospel of Life" a 6-week on-line study of St. John Paul II's landmark encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. The sessions will be via Zoom on six consecutive Wednesdays, March 3 - April 7, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. You must pre-register in order to receive materials and the login link. Register by email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org with your name, parish, and email address; include the words "EV Study Registration" in the subject line. All are welcome!

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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