

SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR WESTMINSTER, MA

MARCH 21, 2021 | 5TH 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.

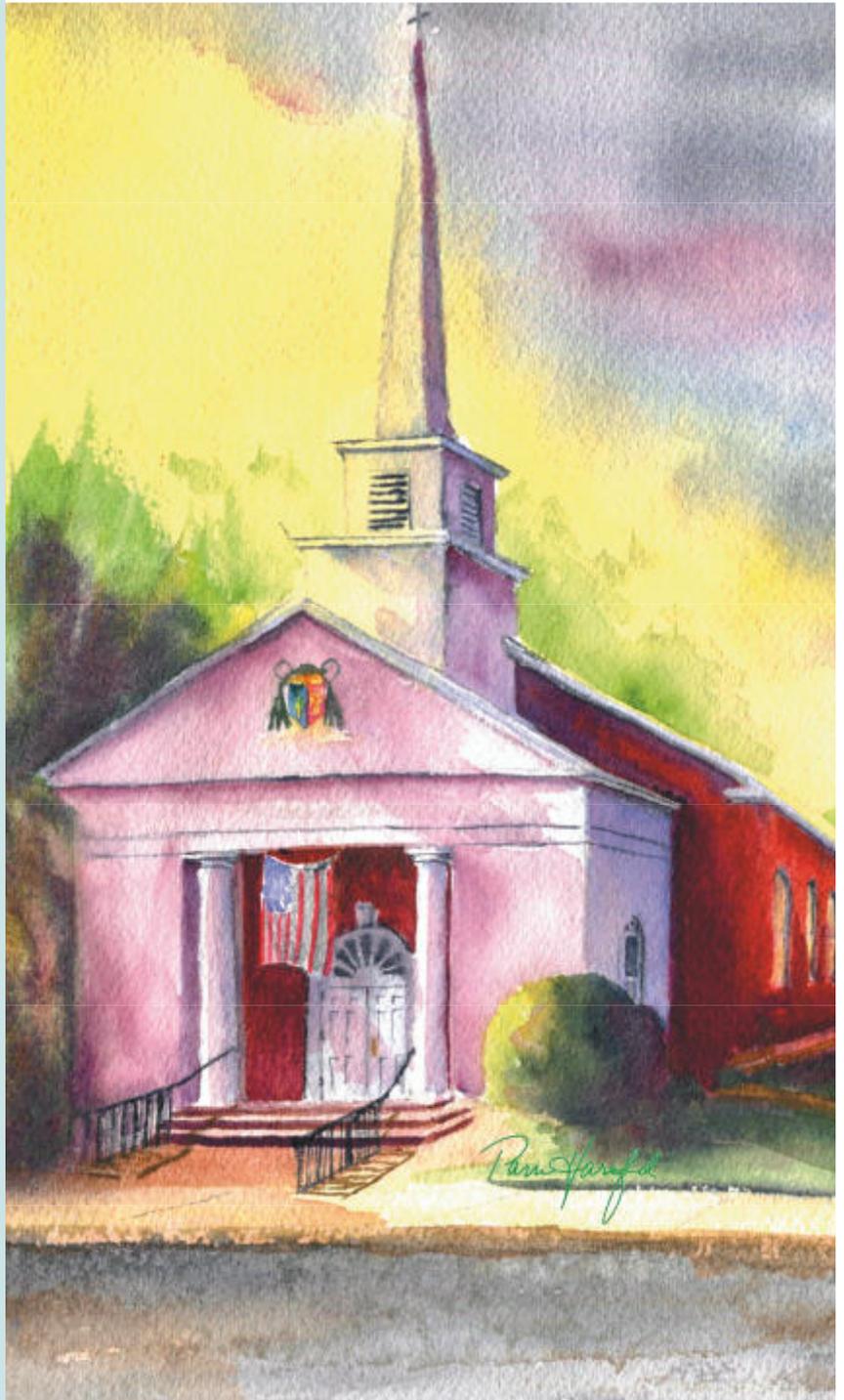
VISITATION OF THE SICK

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 20

4:00 PM Margarite Trainque, 23rd Ann; Req by Family

Sunday... March 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

11:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Monday ... March 22

8:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Tuesday ... March 23

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

Wednesday ... March 24

8:00 AM For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory

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

Friday March 26

8:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Live Stream

Saturday... March 27

4:00 PM Clifton Griggs, 20th Ann; Req by Daughter Jean-Guy Breard; Req by Ed & Claire Gingras

Sunday... March 28 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 AM Mass for the Intentions of the Parishioners

11:00 AM Frank E. Thompson; Req by Colautti Family

12:15 PM Drive through parking lot for Palms

Mass Intentions

To book a Mass in memory of a loved one, an anniversary or any special intention, call the Parish Office, 978-874-2362, booking through 2021.

Since we have added Masses, we'll try to have one intention per Mass.

The requested offering for a Mass is \$10.00 in our Diocese.

Catholic Relief Services - March 21

Support the Catholic Relief Services collection Help Jesus in disguise for the vulnerable and needy around the world and right here at home.

Please use an envelope, there are some in the back foyer.

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.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -
 RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
 ©LPi

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33) What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

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.



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

Last Sunday's Offering	\$2,815.00
Online Giving	\$879.00
Fuel	\$153.00

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

During these first four weeks of Lent, we have been reflecting on the Lenten practices of almsgiving and prayer. Today we are making a reflection about fasting. The purpose of our fast is not to become physically weak or lose weight, but to create a hunger, a spiritual craving that only Christ can fill. In fasting from our hearts, we express our love of God and acknowledge our sinfulness. Fasting is not just to stop eating, but it is creating a self-discipline that may help us to make our own will stronger.

In the Bible we find a lot of references about fasting, especially in the Old Testament. Fasting is more than penance or punishment for a person's sins. We need to use fasting to bring us into a higher spiritual level. Fasting is more than denying ourselves food. It is denying ourselves the pleasure of criticizing or judging others, gossiping, or spreading false witness against our neighbor. Fasting, in Christian way, is to strengthen our relationship with God and show love and respect to our neighbors as an act of justice.

Real fasting is realized when every sacrifice leads us to a true encounter with God as our creator and seeing others as God's blessings in our lives.

God is Good!

Fr. Juan

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England is recruiting non-profit placement sites for the coming (September to June) year. Ignatian Volunteers commit to two days/week of service with nonprofit agencies working with people experiencing poverty, injustice, or marginalization. They are men and women, 50 years of age and older, in a 26-year-old program combining service and spirituality, supported by Jesuits of the USA East Province. There is a modest partnership fee. IVC volunteers are generally retired or semi-retired professionals and have been actively serving in the New England since 2009. IVC New England volunteers work in Worcester and surrounding communities. For more information, contact IVC New England Regional Director Dave Hinchin at newengland@ivcusa.org.

Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church... Please believe in the possibility for hope, help, and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Every arch/diocese/eparchy in the US now has a victim assistance coordinator who is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the arch/diocese/eparchy, and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative if you desire. The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester is Judith Audette, Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363.

Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
 Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56
 Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39



LEGACY OF HOPE Kick-off at St. Edward's

On Mar. 16, 2021 the campaign will begin here in our Parish. 'Building on the legacy of faith with which we have been entrusted, it is our privilege to provide hope for the future of the Catholic Church in Central Massachusetts. With this in mind, I invite you to be a part of the Legacy of Hope Capital Campaign, a landmark financial endeavor to strengthen our local parish communities and our diocesan Church'

- Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester.

Diocese of Worcester's

Environmental Stewardship Ministry

Reflection on Care for Creation

Pledge to give up one "nonessential" item daily next week (i.e. coffee, ice cream, soda, texting, online gaming) and donate the money saved or gather lightly-used clothing, shoes, housewares, and furniture to donate as follows:

- ~Your local food banks or charity-run thrift shop
- ~Your Church's offertory or Lenten Rice Bowl
- ~Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Make-A-Wish International
- ~Check with your employer to sponsor matching gift/contribution

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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