

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Journeying as a Catholic community, we embrace the mission of Jesus Christ, striving to live and spread Jesus' message of love, sharing our gifts through discipleship, liturgical celebration, spiritual formation, and outreach.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 20, 2020
DECEMBER 25, 2020

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him

Jesus.

He will be great and will be called

Son of the Most High.”

Luke 1:31-32

Our Advent journey...



...is fulfilled with our celebration of the Birth of Our Lord.



“For today in the City of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”

Luke 2:11



Opening of Bicentennial Year - January 18/19, 2020
Closing of Bicentennial Year - January 16/17, 2021

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS

First Reading: *2 Samuel 12*

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm."

Psalm: *Psalms 89*

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Romans 16:25-26*

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long Ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God.

Gospel: *Luke 1:31-32*

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." ©LPi



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

Second Reading

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith? ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp? ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Journey -

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them. Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey. This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - EXCERPTS**First Reading:** *Isaiah 52:10*

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Psalm: *Psalms 98*

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 1:3*

When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Gospel: *John 1:14*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. ©LPi

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE****First Reading**

While still in captivity in Babylon, Isaiah announced to the Israelites the “good news” of God’s promise of salvation and redemption. How will you celebrate God’s promise to Israel fulfilled today in the birth of Jesus?

Second Reading

The author of Hebrews opens his letter affirming Jesus’ identity as God’s Son and his superiority over all creation, even the angels. Who do you know needs to hear about the gift of the newborn Jesus?

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of John opens with this beautiful Christological hymn, defining Jesus as “the Word made flesh.” What does this image tell us about Jesus? ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ is born! When we say something very routinely, it often runs the risk of becoming void of meaning. When greeting someone, the usual question of, “how are you?” rolls immediately off our tongues. Do we really care about how the person is or is this simply a casual, somewhat insincere, greeting? A person can be absolutely miserable and claim that they are fine. The exclamation of “Merry Christmas” runs this same risk. There is meaning behind those words, but we may not be in sync with their depth. God becoming one like us is a cause for great merriment and joy! Do we find ourselves in that place today? We will gather at the homes of family and friends, share a meal, open gifts and spend the day in celebration. We will greet them with the common greeting of “Merry Christmas.” Those words can flow from our tongues “just because” that’s what we’re supposed to say, or they can flow from our tongues because of the profound, life-changing specialness of what we celebrate today. Christmas can easily get preoccupied with the sights and sounds as if they were ends in and of themselves: the decorations, lights, presents, gatherings, food, music, and traditions. But, rather than being ends, all of these things are really pointers to a greater truth that has dawned upon us. Christ our Savior has come to us and changed our lives. This is truly the time to be merry! Merry Christmas!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Full of Joy- Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what. What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, “All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?” What I found out was that these weren’t paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab’s tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up. This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PRAYER INTENTIONS

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please pray for those associated with our parish who are sick or unable to worship with us, that they experience strength in the Lord's unending compassion and love:

Jennike Duignam, Helen Finnilla, Peter Gritis, Rick and Danielle Huber, Marge O'Connor, Maximus Perrello, John L. Thomas, Jeanette Thompson, Mary Vandewalle, Eileen Westcott, Karen Wright and all victims of the coronavirus, war, terrorism, violence, and natural disasters.

Lord, hear our continued prayers for those dealing with an on-going illness, may they experience fortitude and peace:

Jamie Aguilar, Cathy Alden, Anne Michelle Andrews, Chris Ballalo, Herb Baugh, Nanci Bolling, Mike Bonner, Mary Jane Burke, Sherry Cart, Cathy Casey, Sophia Chan, Mary Alice and Ed Christie, Regina Corcoran, Sherry Crawford, Noah Cross, Bobbi Danielle, Mike and Diana Dougherty, Josephine Douglas, Sue Driscoll, Nicole Florio, Wayne Frith, Sarah Fyock, Kathy Galligan, Emily Gardener, Humberto Gomez, Jeff and Spencer Hamm, Tom Hammerstone, Thomas Hardy, Hartwell Harrison, Neico Hayden, Grover Helsley, Michael Hoffman, Rita Holloman, Grant Ilkani, Graham Jennings, Joseph Jones, Marlene Kacmar, Fr. Dan Klem, Rick Lessard, Kim Lourenco, Margaret Day Magno, Marg Mayer, Connie Mikuski, Daniel Miller, Patty Minnick, Lando Mojica, Vera Mulherin, Lois Pearn, Marian Piracci, Rose Marie Pulleyblank, Dan Raible, Grant Rake, Jean & Joe Raugh, James Rein, Rod Rezek, Kaeden Ross, Mary Serra, Kelly Shanahan, Beau and Suki Simpson, Sam Sponeybarger, Tony Stanton, Larry Steele, Grace Stivers, Greg Stivers, Laura Sullivan, Nathan Tarantino, Tony Toler, Billy Vogelson, Tracy Waldo, Benjamin Weldon, Marie Wilborn, Ella Wilkinson, Barbara Williams, and Sam Young.

Lord, hear our prayers for all the souls of the faithful departed:

Emily Johnson, mother of Bev Nelson; Anna Coderoni, mother of Gary Coderoni; Carol Wesby, wife of Stephen Wesby; Tom Edwards, husband of Eileen Edwards; Dorothy Thacker, mother of Lisa Lamberson and Yvonne Sarlo, and all victims of the coronavirus, war, terrorism, violence, and natural disasters.

Please pray for the parishioners of Holy Trinity cluster and bless the works of their outreach:

St. Anthony in Norton; Holy Spirit in Jonesville; Sacred Heart in Big Stone Gap; and St. Joseph in Clintwood.

Please pray for those service men and women who fight for our freedom:

Taylor Armstrong, US Army; 2nd Battalion 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment; Daniel Beirne; Major David Bhatta-US Army; Richard Currie Braun, Airforce; Ensign Ian Burke, USN; Joseph Brandon Butler; Ross Butler; ENS Jimmy Callahan, USN; Lt. Michael Callahan, USN; Capt. Scott P. Campbell; Matthew Coccia, Army; SSGT. John Maxwell Cosper and Unit, US Army Special Forces; Cpt. Mike Curran; Major Spencer D. Curtis, Judge Advocate, National Guard; Col. Seth Enterline; Navy Lt. Coleen Fagan; Capt. Leroy O. Flynn; Capt. Peter Fritz; PFC Jose Luis Garcia, National Guard; Spec. April Garrett; LCpl Kevin Hackman, Marines; Diana Honings USCG; Matt Horansky; Capt. Katie Hulcher; 2nd Lt. Megan Hulcher, RN; Capt. Thomas Hulcher; Capt. Renee Kane, Army; Major Nathan Kane, Air Force; Lt. Col. David Kaulfers, Army Corps of Engineers; Sgt. A. David Kelly; Staff Sgt. Steven Kelly, US Army; Josh Kozup, Army; Ryan Larson, Army; Grayson Larus, Ensign US Navy; Nicole Lee; Stacey Lee; Clara Mailloux, Navy Airman; Bryan J. McCabe U.S.C.G.; Sean McHugh, Army; Brendan Meadows, Pvt. US Army; Christine Michel; Major T. Alex Mitchell, First Lt. USMC Kevin Morrison; Capt. Quentin Mueller; Wilson Mustian, Army; Adam Peers, Army; Capt. Lerv Remias; Sgt. Jared Roussell; Capt. Javone Seaborn; Jonathan Schulte; Jobon Seaborn, Army; Lt. Curren D. Shorte; Vincent Stransky; Sgt. Christopher Sturtevant; Capt. Thomas Tombs, Chandra Weatherell; Cpt. Matthew Weisner; Brennan Wilkes, US Navy; Major Justin Wolfe, USAFR; Ava Wood, Army, 2Lt.; Phillip Wood; and Steve York.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Go to our website, <https://stedchurch.com>.

On the **Home** page, on the left-hand side, click on **Coming Up Next** for **Parish Highlights**.

Sign Up for our

Parish-Wide Email Communications. Under announcements, see **Subscribe to Flocknote**.



How to reserve your space for Mass.

On **Tuesday**, you may go to our website, <https://stedchurch.com>. Scroll down to bottom of announcements and click on **“select here to sign up.”** At the top, click on create an account if you do not have one, then, log in.

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9am Daily Morning Mass

- Public and live streamed
- Reservation encouraged for attendance



9:30am Reconciliation



9:30am-4pm Personal Prayer in the Commons

- Enter through door closest to the Columbarium.
- Several safety protocols are in effect.

Daily Virtual Rosary

- Details on Facebook



SATURDAY - SUNDAY

9:00am Reconciliation on Saturday

- No 4:00pm Reconciliation!



5pm Saturday Eucharistic Liturgy

- Public and live streamed.
- Reservation required for attendance



8am Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy

- Public, but not live streamed.
- Reservation required for attendance



11am Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy

- Public and live streamed
- Reservation required for attendance



5pm Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy

- Public, but not live streamed.
- Reservation required for attendance



PLEASE BE ON TIME WHEN ATTENDING MASS!

Per requirements, all doors will be locked and no one admitted once Mass begins. Face masks (covering your mouth AND your nose) must be worn from the time you enter the building until you exit the building.



Information about our Christmas Liturgies can be found on page 6.

Christmas Reflection can be found on page 9.

REFLECTION



TODAY'S READINGS: SUNDAY, December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

REFLECTION

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself." We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God. The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent! If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPi



LITURGY THIS WEEK

 DAY AND READINGS	 TIME AND INTENTIONS
MONDAY, December 21 Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45	9 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Joan McDonnell †
TUESDAY, December 22 1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56	9 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Joseph Grana III †
WEDNESDAY, December 23 Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66	9 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> George Crossman †
THURSDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve Isaiah 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Matthew 1:1-25 Midnight Isaiah 6:1-6 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Eve 4 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Werner Versch † 6:30 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Joe Lukowski † 8:30 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public-</i> Margaret Rivnyak † Midnight Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Linda Rhine
FRIDAY, December 25 Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-16 John 1:1-18	Nativity of the Lord 8 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public-</i> Priests, Deacons, & Staff of St. Edward Church 10 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Monk & Helfert Families †
SATURDAY, December 26 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22	St. Stephen, First Martyr 5 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Valerie Day †
SUNDAY, December 27 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40	Feast of the Holy Family 8 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public only-</i> Parishioners, Living & Deceased † 11 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public and livestreamed-</i> Pat Costello † 5 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-public only-</i> Tom DuPuis †



The Parish Center Office will close at Noon on Tuesday, December 22. We will reopen on Monday, January 4. For **EMERGENCY CALLS ONLY**, dial 272-2948 and follow the prompts. Leave a message describing the nature of your EMERGENCY and include a name and phone number for us to call.

LITURGY TEAM - Fr. Don Lemay, Pastor 272-2948

Anita McCabe, Coordinator 864-4712 anitam1@stedwardch.org

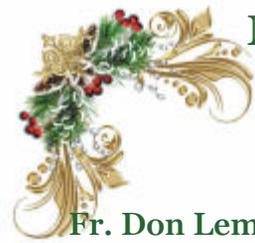
MINISTRY SCHEDULE - Sherri Gravins 864-4706 sherri.gravins@stedwardch.org

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES BY RESERVATION ONLY!

We hope that those who are not able to be with us in person
will join with us in celebrating the

Birth of Our Lord

via livestream at 4pm, 6:30pm, or Midnight on Christmas Eve,
or at 10am on Christmas morning.



May your Christmas be blessed
with peace and love.
May the New Year be filled
with joy and hope.

Fr. Don Lemay, Fr. Maxwell Appiagyei, and the St. Edward Parish Staff



MUSIC MINISTRY - Liz Goodwin, Director of Music 864-4717

Katie Wooldridge, Violinist, Instrumental Coordinator

Mary Beth Schutte, Handbell Director 304-4837

liz.goodwin@stedwardch.org

katie.wooldridge@stedwardch.org

mbssings@gmail.com

Many years ago, I began work as a newly minted choral director in the Brownsville Independent School District (Brownsville, TX). It was delightful to lead 7th and 8th grade singers through each of their first SATB Christmas Carols! Already a veteran Alto, I fell completely in love with the simple harmonic beauty “**Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming**”. I hope you enjoy reading the excerpt below from author Robinson Meyer, a staff writer at [the Atlantic](#):



“**Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming**” is an easy carol to write about, because I do not have to convince you it is beautiful. Pull up any choral recording, slide over to the penultimate phrase—“amid the cold of winter”—and listen hard to that last word. Between the first and second syllable of *winter*, the minor chord blossoms into major. I mean this seriously: What else is there to say? Here is the chill of winter transfigured into an ardent flame; here is theology as harmony. “Lo, How a Rose” even includes an extended pastoral analogy and an allusion to the Book of Isaiah.

Most Christmas carols, and most of our popular music generally, exist for the rhythm or melody. Consider how much mileage “Angels We Have Heard on High” gets out of its cascading *glorias*, or how much of the fun of “Carol of the Bells” springs from its icy intervals or insistent tempo. But “Lo, How a Rose” exists for the chords. There is almost no rhythmic variation: The four voices move together, syllable after syllable, in patient homophony. This is a hymn about beholding and listening. It’s about watching revelation flourish.

The tune we now know first appears in a regional hymnal in 1599 as “Es Ist ein Ros Entsprungen.” Michael Praetorius, a court composer in central Germany, wrote the familiar harmonization 10 years later. Such ends the meaningful musical history of “Lo, How a Rose.” There have been a few changes to the text since then—more German verses were added in the 19th century, and the most common English translation was written in 1894—but essentially none to the music. Hear the song today, in church or in a mall, and you’ll almost certainly hear the exact chords Praetorius wrote, in the order he wrote them. For more than 400 Decembers, singers have waited on “Lo, How a Rose.” It is a text in sound; it is a set of tones and pauses; it is a cogent path of breath and time. *Robinson Meyer, The Atlantic*

OFFICE OF HUMAN CONCERNS, JUSTICE & PEACE, HAITI TWINNING

Jennifer Snider 864-4718 jennifer.snider@stedwardch.org

HAITI MINISTRY



The next Haiti Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 21 at 6:30pm. It will be a virtual meeting.

ST. EDWARD PARISH CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROGRAM

THANK YOU from Care to Share RVA:

"I'd like to thank all the parishioners who donated to Care to Share, RVA. You are all amazing!! You truly went above and beyond with all the wonderful Christmas gifts you bought for homeless adults throughout Richmond. I am humbled by your generosity!!"

Please check out our Facebook page as I will be posting pictures over the next few weeks.

I hope you and your families have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Thank you again!!

Kelly Freda, Care to Share, RVA

HUMAN CONCERNS COVID-19 RESPONSE

If you would like to be added to a list for email updates from Jennifer with the latest ways to help, please email jennifer.snider@stedwardch.org. If you are in need of emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, or food, contact Jennifer for help.

St. Peter's downtown has asked for some help with their outreach programs to people experiencing homelessness. If you have any of the following items in new/slightly used condition, please drop them off at the Parish Center: backpacks, small portable tents, small roll-up blankets, washcloths, hot hand warmers, warm hats, gloves (men/women), scarves, thick socks, sweatpants/shirts (men/women, all sizes), jackets, sweaters, rain ponchos. They are asking that **these items be new**: men's undershirts in M, XL, XXL; men's boxers in M, L, XL, XXL; women's bras (sports/stretchy kind) in M, L, XL. **Please label the items for St. Peter's.**



THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to this cause so far! We already have sent 4 SUV-loads worth of items to St. Peter's! **We will be extending this program throughout the winter months**, so please consider bringing any of these items to the Parish Center for the next couple of months.

Experience the **JOY** of giving in the Advent and Christmas Seasons.



The **JOY** of giving will continue into 2021!

Merry Christmas

Let us try to partake of the true Christmas, that of Jesus, who draws near to us — God-with-us, close to us — in order to receive the grace of this celebration, which is a grace of closeness, love, humility, and tenderness.

—
Pope Francis
at St. Peter's Square
after the Angelus,
December 18, 2016

POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER

@Pontifex 12/11/20

"Accompanied by the Mother of Jesus on the journey toward Christmas, in these times that are difficult for many, let us make an effort to rediscover the great hope and joy brought to us by the coming of the Son of God into the world."

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION OF YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILIES

Joan Nelson, Director	864-4708	joan.nelson@stedwardch.org
Peggy Byers, Religious Education Coordinator	864-4714	peggy.byers@stedwardch.org
Andrew McCarthy, Youth Ministry Coordinator	864-4715	andrew.mccarthy@stedwardch.org
Alys Eaton, Edge Coordinator	864-4719	alys.eaton@stedwardch.org
Candace Aud, Outreach in Love Coordinator		candace.aud@stedwardch.org

MASS ONLINE Daily Mass at 9am M-F, Saturday at 5pm, & Sunday at 11am will be live streamed

Live stream: facebook.com/stedchurch. Weekend worship aids: stedchurch.com then click on *Livestream Videos and Mass Aids* to find the link to the latest video and the most recent weekend worship aid.



Facebook.com/stedchurch
Facebook.com/stedwardyouthministry



Stedchurch.com



@stedyouth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Program schedules

Sunday Morning K-5th IN PERSON
EDGE Connect on Sunday IN PERSON
From 9:30-10:30am AND
2nd Grade via Zoom w/Catechists **VIRTUAL**
Sundays at 4pm
Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 21, 28,
Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr. 18, 25, May 2, 16, 23

EDGE Connect on Thursday VIRTUAL
From 6:00-6:45pm
Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Apr. 22, 29, May 6, 20, 27

Families of Faith-all ages learn together VIRTUAL
Sundays from 3:00-4:15pm
Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 31, Feb. 7, 21, Mar. 7, 21,
Apr. 18, May 2, 23.

Families of Faith-all ages learn together VIRTUAL
Thursdays from 6:00-7:15pm
Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 11, 25, Mar. 11, 25, Apr. 22,
May 6, 20.

EDGE Connect on Sunday IN PERSON
AND
Life Nights on Sunday IN PERSON & VIRTUAL
From 6:30-7:45pm
Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 24, 31, Feb. 14, 21, 28, Mar. 7,
14, 21, 28, Apr. 18, 25, May 2, 16, 23

Outreach in Love-Younger IN PERSON
Sunday from 9:30-10:30am
Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7, 21, Mar. 7, 14, 28

Outreach in Love-Older IN PERSON & VIRTUAL
Wednesday from 7:00-8:30pm
VIRTUAL DATES Dec. 16, Jan. 6, 13, 27, Feb. 3,
24, Mar. 3, 10, 24
IN PERSON DATES Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Mar. 17

Life Teen Connect on Tuesday IN PERSON
From 6:30-7:45pm
Dec. 22, Jan. 12, 29, 26, Feb. 9, 16,
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 20, Apr. 13, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Sunday Afternoon Preparation IN PERSON
From 12:15-1:30pm **in the Gym**
Oct 25, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 3, 31 with Parents,
Feb 21, Mar 21 with Parents, Apr 18.

Tuesday Evening Prep IN PERSON & VIRTUAL
From 6:30-7:45pm **In person in Church**
Oct 27, Nov 10, Dec 15, Jan 5, Feb 2 with Parents, Feb 23,
Mar 23 w/Parents, Apr 20. **(Virtual sessions on Zoom)**

YOUTH MINISTRY

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
FRIDAYS 7:00PM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

January 8 & 22 Youth Group

January 6, 13 & 20 Youth Group

To sign up email Alys.Eaton@StEdwardCh.org

January 27 XLT

Masks and distancing required!

Check in **OUTSIDE** the Bosco Center

For information contact Andrew.McCarthy@StEdwardCh.org
Masks and distancing required!

OFFICE OF PASTORAL CARE & ADULT FAMILY LIFE
 Anita McCabe, Director 864-4712 anitam1@stedwardch.org

REFLECTION



TODAY'S READINGS: Christmas, December 25

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

The Nativity of the Lord

If the salutation, "Merry Christmas," is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the "more" really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord! A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from "doing" for the poor to "being with" the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis. It is one thing to sing out the words, "Joy to the World," and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manger at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured. The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, "I and me," but, "we and us," and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind. What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you? LPi

The Nativity of the Lord

*Our hearts are aglow
 with the joy of Christmas!*

Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace.

At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet.

*In the silence, reflect
 on the other senses of the season.*



Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly.

Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father.

Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms.



Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, **welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.**



OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Month	Budget*	Actual as of	Over<Under>
Jul-Sep	\$ 396,462	(9/30) \$ 350,701	\$ <45,761> Q1
Oct	\$ 126,397	(10/31) \$ 132,503	\$ 6,106
Nov	\$ 166,550	(11/30) \$ 131,614	\$ <49,579>
Dec	\$ 214,964	(12/11) \$ 91,627	\$ <123,337>

*Please note:

we now show the total budget for the month rather than each week.

A very heartfelt thank you for your generosity!

**Due to the early Bulletin transmission date of Friday, December 11, contributions received after that date are not reflected in the totals above.*

Welcome to **PARISH SOFT'S MY OWN CHURCH** - go to <https://stedchurch.com> and click on the link. Once set up, you may update your contact/family info, view your contributions, and receive end of year statements.

WELCOME TO ST. EDWARD CHURCH!

If you have moved into the area from another Catholic Church or have found St. Edward to be the parish in which you choose to worship, consider registering. Pick up a registration packet at the

- Parish Life Desk in the Commons after any weekend Liturgy,
- Parish Center during office hours, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday, or
- Go to our website, www.stedchurch.com/ImportantForms.

Questions? Call 272-2948. Not of the Catholic faith? To learn more, call Anita at 864-4712.

MAILING ADDRESS:

2700 Dolfield Drive
N. Chesterfield, Virginia 23235-2618

Phone: (804) 272-2948

FAX: (804) 560-3565

Email: stedward@stedwardch.org

Website: <https://stedchurch.com>



ST. EDWARD CHURCH IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS.

Visit our website, <https://stedchurch.com>, and follow the link under **PROTECTING CHILDREN**.

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday.

By appointment only

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Call 272-2948 and follow prompts.

***See page 4 for full details concerning Liturgies and Reconciliation ***

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Saturday 5:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)
Sunday 8:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Monday-Friday 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday 9:30am
Saturday 9:00am

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Day Chapel 9:30am-4:00pm
on the first Friday of the month;
9:30am-Noon on all other Fridays.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In the Healing Chapel after each weekend Liturgy or by appointment.

BAPTISM

To schedule or for parent classes, call Peggy at 864-4714.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

For information, call Peggy at 864-4714.

CONFIRMATION

For information, call Andrew at 864-4715.

ADULT SACRAMENTS

Inquiries about initiation sacraments for adults, call Anita at 864-4712.

MARRIAGE

Registered parishioners are to contact the Parish Office at 864-4701 at least six months prior to setting a date. Pre-marriage formation is required.

PASTORAL CARE

Call Pat at 864-4701 or Anita at 864-4712 when you or a family member is admitted to the hospital or local care facility, when you need a weekly visit with Communion, or to add someone to our weekend prayer list for the sick or deceased.

◆IN SERVICE TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY◆

Pastor	Rev. Donald H. Lemay	272-2948
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Maxwell Appiagyei	272-2948
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Bob Ewan	379-5920
Deacon	Rev. Mr. James D. Greer	372-6080
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Kevin Hogan	864-4707
Business Administrator	Jan Webb	864-4704
Administrative Assistant for Clergy/ Parish Registration	Pat Plonski	864-4701
Receptionist	Karen Britton	272-2948
Director, Pastoral Care & Adult Family Life	Anita McCabe	864-4712
Director, Evangelization of Young Families	Joan Nelson	864-4708
Religious Education Coordinator	Peggy Byers	864-4714
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Andrew McCarthy	864-4715
Edge Coordinator	Alys Eaton	864-4719
Director, Social Ministry	Jennifer Snider	864-4718
Director, Music	Liz Goodwin	864-4717
Bulletin/Columbarium	Carolyn Bartsch	864-4710
Event Scheduling/Ministry Schedules/ WeShare Contributions	Sherri Gravins	864-4706
Custodian for Church Building	Bob Oliver	
Custodian for Church Building	Mac Boneparte	
Pastoral Council Chairperson	Warren McKeon	379-3235
Finance Council Chairperson	Robert Kuzemchak	276-0463
St Edward-Epiphanay Catholic School	Tracy Hamner	272-2881
Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight	David Rodini	218-3464
St. Edward Ladies Auxiliary	Margaret McDonnell	897-3715

PARISH BULLETIN: Bulletin info should be **submitted two weeks** in advance of publication date and is subject to approval and space availability. Email to carolyn.bartsch@stedwardch.org.

MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM: For appt. Jan Webb, 864-4704, jan.webb@stedwardch.org or Carolyn Bartsch, 864-4710, carolyn.bartsch@stedwardch.org.

HEARING LOOP SYSTEM
If your hearing aid or cochlear implant has an activated T-coil, you may access our hearing loop system. Not sure? Ask your audiologist.

AUTOMATIC DOOR
•We have an automatic door on the far left side of the Church.
•Doors on the far right side of Church are open 8:30am-5:00pm, M-F.

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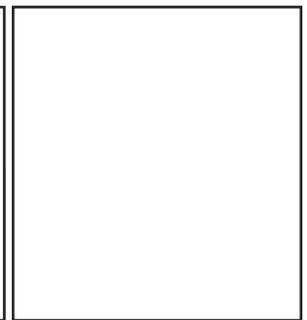
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