

# 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.*

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 29, 2022

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY** 2022-23

**STARTS JUNE 1ST!**  
INCLUDING ALL RISING 9TH GRADE TEENS!

- Stuebenville Youth Conference  
July 7-10 (3 spots left!)
- High School Mission Week  
August 8-12 (7 spots left!)
- Wednesday Night Youth Group  
6:30-8:00 pm each week
- Unleashed Bible Study (rising 11th-Grads)  
Tuesdays from 9:00-11:30 am
- Summer Lock-in (6th-12th)  
August 19-20
- Life Teen Kickoff  
September 18
- Winter Retreat  
January 13-15

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
andrew.mccarthy@stedwardch.org  
804.223.6388



Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 30th, at 10a. In observance of this day, the Parish Office will be closed. We will reopen on Tuesday, May 31st, at 9a.

Join us this weekend in welcoming our visiting priest, Fr. Tochi!  
See page 10 for more information about his visit.

## 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/](http://www.stedchurch.com/) Important Forms. Questions? Call 272-2948. Not of the Catholic faith? To learn more, call Sherri at 864-4706.

### MAILING ADDRESS:

2700 Dolfield Drive  
N. Chesterfield, Virginia  
23235-2618  
Phone: (804) 272-2948  
FAX: (804) 560-3565  
Email: [stedward@stedwardch.org](mailto: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.

### 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: 7:15am, 8:45am, 11:15am, & 5:00pm  
Weekday: Monday-Friday 9:00am

### RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday 9:30am  
Saturday 4:00pm

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the Church: Fridays, 9:30am-10:30am  
Last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm  
For information, contact Andrew at 864-4715.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In the Healing Chapel 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 Sherri at 864-4706.

### MARRIAGE

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

### PASTORAL CARE

Call Pat at 864-4701 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. Paul Kkonde	272-2948
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Bob Ewan	379-5920
Deacon	Rev. Mr. James D. Greer	372-6080
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Kevin Hogan	864-4707
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Gregg Whisler	564-2125
Business Administrator	Jan Webb	864-4704
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Pat Plonski	864-4701
Receptionists	Miriam Grau & Lisa Mizell	272-2948
Pastoral Assistant	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	Rachael Mattio	864-4719
Director, Social Ministry	Jennifer Bousquet	864-4718
Director, Music	Liz Goodwin	864-4717
Associate Director of Music	Joe Guardino	864-4710
Communications/Parish Registration	Kathleen Wood	864-4711
Columbarium	Anita McCabe	864-4712
Business Manager/Adult Formation	Sherri Gravins	864-4706
Custodian for Church Building	Bob Oliver & Mac Boneparte	
Pastoral Council Chairperson	Nghia Nguyen	878-0325
Finance Council Chairperson	Robert Kuzemchak	276-0463
St Edward-Epiphany Catholic School	Tracy Hamner	272-2881
Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight	Tom Shepley	396-0169
St. Edward Ladies Auxiliary, President	Marilyn Mare	379-9505

### MEMORIAL GARDEN &

### COLUMBARIUM

Anita McCabe, 864-4712, [anitam1@stedwardch.org](mailto:anitam1@stedwardch.org) or Jan Webb, 864-4704, [jan.webb@stedwardch.org](mailto:jan.webb@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.

### PARISH BULLETIN

Bulletin info should be submitted two weeks in advance of publication date and is subject to approval and space availability. Email: [kathleen.wood@stedwardch.org](mailto:kathleen.wood@stedwardch.org).

**JUNE 4/5**



PRAY  
SERVE  
LEARN  
MEET

## **re:connect**

STOP BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER  
FOLLOWING ALL MASSES TO SEE  
HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN  
YOUR PARISH!



# PRAYER REQUESTS

*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*

**Jacob Alt, Jennifer and Madlynn Ferhenbacher, Brian Gentilini, Margaret McDonnell, Theresa McKinnon, Roger Walker** 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, Chris Ballalo, Nanci Bolling, Mike Bonner, Mary Jane Burke, James Butler, Sherry Cart, Cathy Casey, Mary Alice Christie, Ryan Colavita, Regina Corcoran, Bobbi Daniello, Mike & Diana Dougherty, Josephine Douglas, Sue Driscoll, Donald Fields, Samantha Finnegan, Nicole Florio, Wayne Frith, Kathy Galligan, Emily Gardener, Angela Gardner, Verena Goins, Mary Grace Greer, Jeff and Spencer Hamm, Tom Hammerstone, Thomas Hardy, Hartwell Harrison, Neico Hayden, Grover Helsley, Rich Hoho, Rita Holloman, Grant Ilkani, Graham Jennings, Melissa Jennings, Joseph Jones, Sr., Marlene Kacmar, Uni and Robert Kemp, Oliver Khoury, Fr. Dan Klem, Kim Lourenco, Margaret Day Magno, Marg Mayer, Connie Mikuski, Daniel Miller, Rick Mizell, Lando Mojica, Vera Mulherin, Marie Oliver, Lois Pearn, Brian Pickral, Marian Piracci, Rose Marie Pulleyblank, Dan Raible, Grant Rake, Jean Raugh, Bob Rice, Pat Rollins, Kaeden Ross, David Russ, Sam Sponeybarger, Kelly Shanahan, Beau and Suki Simpson, Tony Stanton, Garry Stelmach, Michelle Stelmach, Grace Stivers, Greg Stivers, Laura Sullivan, Barbara Swan, Ashley Talley, Tony Toler, David Turner, Billy Vogelson, Tracy Waldo, Benjamin Weldon, Marie Wilborn, Ella Wilkinson, Barbara Williams, Donna Wilson, and Sam Young.**

*Lord, hear our prayers and continue to bless*

**Cindy Norwood and Eduardo Marquez-Cervantes, married on May 21st.**

*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*

**Yasmin Acevedo, A1C; Taylor Armstrong, US Army; 2nd Battalion 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment; Daniel Beirne; Major David Bhatta-US Army; Richard Currie Braun, Air Force; LTJG Ian Burke, USN; Joseph Brandon Butler; Ross Butler; LT Jimmy Callahan, USN; LCDR Michael Callahan, USN; Capt. Scott P. Campbell; Matthew Coccia, Army; SSGT. John Maxwell Coper and Unit, US Army Special Forces; Rear Adm. Mike Curran, USN; Major Spencer D. Curtis, Judge Advocate, National Guard; Col. Seth Enterline; Navy Lt. Coleen Fagan; Capt. Leroy O. Flynn; SSgt Brad Freda, Air Force; 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, Lieutenant, 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; SFC Richard Molnar, US Army Reserves; Kevin Morrison; Major Jon Mueller, Air Force; Capt. Quentin Mueller; Wilson Mustian, Army; Adam Peers, Army; Capt. Leru Remias; Sgt. Jared Russell; Capt. Javone Seaborn; Jonathan Schulte; Jobon Seaborn, Army; Lt. Curren D. Shorte; Vincent Stransky; Sgt. Christopher Sturtevant; Major Thomas Tombes, Chandra Weatherell; Cpt. Matthew Weisner; Brennan Wilkes, US Navy; Justin Wolfe, Lt. Col., Air Force; Phillip Wood; and Steve York.**

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

**SUNDAY, MAY 29  
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
SECOND COLLECTION - DIOCESAN HOME MISSIONS**

7:15, 8:45, 11:15 am Eucharistic Liturgies..... Church  
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy..... Church

**MONDAY, MAY 30  
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED  
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY**

10:00 am Daily Morning Mass..... Church  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts #1893..... Cafeteria

**TUESDAY, MAY 31**

9:00 am Daily Morning Mass..... Church  
10:00 am Bible Chicks..... Nursery

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**

9:00 am Daily Morning Mass..... Church  
6:30 pm High School Youth Group..... Bosco Center

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2**

9:00 am Daily Morning Mass..... Church  
10:00 am Morning Praise Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room  
6:00 pm Bell Canto Handbell Rehearsal..... Choir Room  
6:00 pm SEES Graduation Mass..... Church  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal..... Choir Room

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3**

7:00 am Men of St. Joseph..... Chapel  
9:00 am Daily Morning Mass..... Church  
9:30 am Friday Adoration..... Chapel  
5:00 pm Blessed Sacrament Baccalaureate..... Church

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**

4:00 pm Reconciliation..... Healing Chapel  
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy..... Church  
Community Weekend » re:connect

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

7:15, 8:45, 11:15 am Eucharistic Liturgies..... Church  
Community Weekend » re:connect  
12:30 pm Confirmation Mystagogy..... Pavilion  
1:00 pm The Bible Timeline..... Chapel  
2:00 pm Baptism Session for Parents..... Nursery  
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy..... Church  
Community Weekend » re:connect



# Reflection



**SUNDAY  
May 29**

**Acts 1:1-11  
Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23  
Luke 24:46-53**

We have the ability to walk with joyful hope! Jesus, during his earthly ministry, pointed the way to God's kingdom. What is finally understood about God's kingdom is that it is filled with the glory of Christ! We are all in the process of being emptied into and becoming one with Christ. We are new creations, clothed in Christ, made in God's very image and likeness, and on this incredible journey of glory. The Ascension allows us to see this truth about ourselves and it enlightens our hearts. Christ who was most perfectly, vividly, and brilliantly transfigured before the very eyes of the disciples will be our destiny. Seeing only imperfectly now, we will see perfectly then. We will bask in the brilliance of understanding and truth. Christ is our destiny and our hope. Alleluia! Believing this with our whole heart allows us to walk proudly through life's darkness. There is so much that can upset us and weigh us down. Sometimes, life's news can not only be challenging but downright discouraging. Our own lives can easily become unsettled and empty. We rely too much on the things of this world to please us and wonder how we lost our excitement, enthusiasm, wonder, and joy. Getting so caught up in superficialities and unnecessary dependencies, we lose our axis, anchor, and center. Today, we can claim it back again! We are reminded that it is not here that we find fulfillment but in the world of Christ yet to come. Jesus sent this promise of his Father upon his disciples, and he sends it to us as well. Faith in God really has power to change things. In essence, all we have to do is believe in what God promises. God is ever close to us. He can even use what we see as the "useless scraps of life" to create "God moments" of inspiration and invitation. Then, even what is perceived as unpleasant, distasteful, or even hurtful can be transformed into an experience of joy. The Ascension of Christ becomes our reference point for self-knowledge. This firm anchor allows us to work through whatever comes our way and never be robbed of joy! @LPi

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

Day and readings	Time and intentions
MONDAY, May 30 Acts 19:1-8 John 16:29-33	10:00 am Memorial Day Mass <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Linda Surovcik †
TUESDAY, May 31 Zephaniah 3:14-18 Luke 1:39-56	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Jim and Marge Ryan †
WEDNESDAY, June 1 Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11-19	St. Justin, Martyr 9:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Sarah Fyock †
THURSDAY, June 2 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 John 17:20-26	9:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Richard Panchyshyn Sr. †
FRIDAY, June 3 Acts 25:13-21 John 21:15-19	SS. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs 9:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Jay Stegmaier †
SATURDAY, June 4 Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23	5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Sterling Durham †
SUNDAY, June 5 Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23	Pentecost Sunday 7:15 am Eucharistic Liturgy  Ronald Gripshover † 8:45 am Eucharistic Liturgy  Parishioners, Living & Deceased † 11:15 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i>  Jeanette Thompson † 5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy  Vivean Eccleston †

See page 10  
for the **offertory collections**  
and information regarding *WeShare*  
and contribution envelopes.



### Liturgy team

Fr. Don Lemay, Pastor  
Anita McCabe, Coordinator  
Sherri Gravins, Ministry Schedule

272-2948  
864-4712  
864-4706

anitam1@stedwardch.org  
sherri.gravins@stedwardch.org

#### May 31 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a fairly late feast, going back only to the 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in 1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39-45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages. It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist’s account of this meeting. Rather Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet’s rendition of the scene. Elizabeth’s praise of Mary as “the mother of my Lord” can be viewed as the earliest Church’s devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth’s (the Church’s) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God’s words. Then comes the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Here, Mary herself—like the Church—traces all her greatness to God.

#### Reflection

One of the invocations in Mary’s litany is “Ark of the Covenant.” Like the Ark of the Covenant of old, Mary brings God’s presence into the lives of other people. As David danced before the Ark, John the Baptist leaps for joy. As the Ark helped to unite the 12 tribes of Israel by being placed in David’s capital, so Mary has the power to unite all Christians in her son. At times, devotion to Mary may have occasioned some divisiveness, but we can hope that authentic devotion will lead all to Christ and therefore, to one another. ~FranciscanMedia



### Music Ministry

Liz Goodwin, Director of Music  
Joe Guardino, Associate Director of Music  
Katie Wooldridge Geisert, Violinist, Instrumental Coordinator

864-4717  
864-4710

liz.goodwin@stedwardch.org  
joe.guardino@stedwardch.org  
katie.wooldridge@stedwardch.org



Join  
us  
at the  
Diamond!



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

St. Edward Music Ministry

Youth Choir & Schola

will sing the

Star Spangled Banner at the Diamond

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30pm

Tickets (804)359-3866



June  
7th!



office of human concerns, justice & peace, haiti twinning

Jennifer Bousquet

864-4718

jennifer@stedwardch.org

# HAITI MINISTRY

The next Haiti Committee meeting will be June 20 at 6:15pm, in person at the parish center and on Zoom.



## HAITI SOLIDARITY WEEKEND June 11 and 12

Mark your calendars for June 11 and 12! There will be Haitian coffee for sale and opportunities to talk with committee members about sponsorship.



Due to civil unrest and the lingering pandemic in Haiti, the pastor of our twin parish, Fr. Alphonse, will not be joining us this year. Please continue to keep Holy Family in your prayers.

# WESTOVER HILLS



THANK YOU to all parishioners who helped with the teacher appreciation luncheon on May 4th. The team provided mason jar salads, homemade desserts, drinks, and some gift cards as raffle prizes for the teachers. If you are interested in being a volunteer with Westover Hills Elementary, email [aliciabmeyer@comcast.net](mailto:aliciabmeyer@comcast.net).



# APPALACHIA MINISTRY

## Fill a Book Bag!

Once again, St. Edward Appalachia Ministry would like to help the residents of far southwest Virginia by purchasing and filling book bags for students. This year, the need is greater than ever before. We will be working with parishioners of St. Anthony's in Norton on this project to help support their outreach to their neighbors and to help increase the Catholic presence in the community.



We will be collecting monetary donations toward this effort for the next few weeks, then purchase the items online for local pick-up in Wise County. This benefits their local economy and saves us from transporting everything 360 miles by car.

## What will we purchase?

- Backpacks
- Pens/pencils/erasers
- Colored pencils/markers/ crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks & highlighters
- Composition notebooks & paper



## \$40 will purchase a filled backpack!

Any donation is greatly appreciated. Drop checks in the collection basket made out to "St. Edward Church" with "Appalachia" in the memo. Cash donations should be placed in a labeled envelope. You can also go to the parish website and donate on WeShare Online. Our goal is 300 backpacks.

Stop by the table in the community center June 4 and 5 at Community Weekend to talk to parishioners involved in this ministry. Questions? Contact [jennifer@stedwardch.org](mailto:jennifer@stedwardch.org). Thanks!

# POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER

@Pontifex 5/23/22

"Whoever welcomes a person in need performs not only an act of charity, but also of faith, because he or she recognizes Jesus in the brother or sister."

office of evangelization of youth & young families

Joan Nelson, Director
Peggy Byers, Religious Education Coordinator
Andrew McCarthy, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Rachael Mattio, Edge Coordinator
Candace Aud, Outreach in Love Coordinator

864-4708
864-4714
864-4715
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Facebook.com/stedchurch
Facebook.com/stedwardyouthministry
Facebook.com/outreachinlove

Stedchurch.com

@stedyouth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

We are working on improving our online registration process. As soon as we're up and running, we will notify you that registration for 2022-2023 programs are open!

- Summer Family VBS July 18-22 evenings
Sunday morning Religious Ed. PK-5th 10-11am
MS/HS Small Groups Sunday 10-11am
MS/HS Small Groups Thursday evenings
Edge & Life Teen 6:30-8pm Sundays
Families of Faith in person/Zoom hybrid



SACRAMENTS

Baptism

For the complete schedule, see our website, www.stedchurch.com. Click on Sacraments, then Baptism. Contact peggy.byers@stedwardch.org to schedule or for info.

First Penance and First Holy Communion And Confirmation

Preparation for Sacraments begins in the Fall. Watch for registration information in the Bulletin and Parish Weekly Email

TEENS



SUNDAYS 6:30- 8PM

Life Teen (High School) and Edge (Middle School) are the catechetical programs offered for our teens. The full schedule is posted on our website, www.stedchurch.com. Click on Ministries, then Evangelization to view the dates.

Service | Prayer | Community | Fun

Youth Activities @ St. Edward

HIGH SCHOOL YM ROSARY WEDNESDAYS 6PM
HS YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8:00PM
9th grade-recently graduated seniors

June 1 Youth Group



## office of pastoral care

Pat Plonski 864-4701, pat.plonski@stedwardch.org  
Anita McCabe 864-4712, anitam1@stedwardch.org

## Adult Family Life

Sherri Gravins 864-4706,  
sherri.gravins@stedwardch.org

### SUNDAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. (Acts 1:9)

**Psalms:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Ps 47)

**Second Reading:** Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf. (Heb 9:24)

**Gospel:** As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. (Lk 24:51)



### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** In his final words spoken to the apostles before he ascended into heaven, Jesus commissioned them to bear witness to his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. When have you borne witness of your faith in Jesus to others?

**Second Reading:** Paul teaches the Ephesians that in his resurrection and ascension, Jesus now resides in heaven with the Father and with complete authority and power, and the Church is his body here on earth. How often do you think about your faith community in this way?

**Gospel:** The ascension of Jesus is repeated as both the final episode in the Gospel of Luke and the opening scene in the Acts of the Apostles. Why do you think Jesus' ascension was so important to Luke, who authored Acts? ©LPi

### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Pope Francis states, "The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is now in the Lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us." God is present in every space and time. There is nowhere that God cannot be found and nothing that God cannot use to reveal his presence and intent to us. The neighbor who gets under our skin, the demanding coworker we see every day, the person at the supermarket who is rude to us, the elderly person we met on our daily walk who seemed so disheveled, the perfect sunrise that greeted us in the morning, and the wonderful aroma and taste of our first sip of coffee. All can be used by God to awaken us, humble us, and bring us to a heightened sense of His presence. We are given opportunities, always and everywhere, to live in the fullness of Christ. With hearts enlightened by these "God moments," we can anticipate that day when we are all fully and eternally one with Christ. This promise is what allows us to live with joyful hope! ©LPi

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Famous Last Words

A fun way to waste an hour or two on the internet is to Google "famous last words." There are entire websites devoted to chronicling the last utterances of celebrities and historical figures. I think the fascination with parting words stems from the drama of a person's final moment on earth. We want to ascribe some kind of power and significance to the last words they say, especially if they are our loved ones, because it gives us something to carry with us in our grief. In Jesus' case, every word he ever said had power and significance, but especially those he said before ascending into Heaven: "You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth." And then he was gone. If I were one of the Apostles, I think a small anxiety attack would have commenced at that point. As much as they knew and believed that Christ was still with them, it must have felt awfully lonely standing there staring at an empty sky, with the mother of all homework assignments having just been handed down. Stewardship is intimidating by nature. The baptismal call is an honor and a gift. But it is also a little scary bearing witness to Christ. When we doubt ourselves, let's return to Christ's last words and cling to the faith he had in his Father's love for us. He says not "you will be witnesses" but "you are witnesses." We already have what we need. God is within us, and we take Him wherever we go. Maybe I'm just saying it because it's my idea - but it sounds like a conference we could all use. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



May 29 - NO CLASS - Happy Memorial Day Weekend

June 5, 1:00-2:30pm

20. Messianic Fulfillment - Part 3 *Luke*

June 12, 1:00-2:30pm

21. The Church - Part 1 *Acts*

June 19, 1:00-2:30 pm

22. The Church - Part 2 *Acts*

June 26, 1:00-2:30 pm

23. The Church - Part 3 *Acts*

**A second collection will be taken this weekend for this diocesan mission. Please read the following letter from Fr. Tochi, Pastor of the Central Virginia Catholic Cluster (three rural parishes - St. Theresa in Farmville and two mission parishes - Immaculate Heart of Mary in Blackstone and Sacred Heart in Meherrin).**

“Hello! My name is Fr. Tochi Iwuji. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with you this weekend. I come to you with hat in hand...Our parishes are comprised of very faithful Catholics, many with limited financial resources. As part of the diocesan mission co-op, I have been asked to come to you all to present our financial needs and ask for your help. At the present time, we have specific needs at all three parishes.

**St. Theresa:** church roof repair, grade & asphalt our new parking lot, dishwasher for parish center

**Immaculate Heart of Mary:** three large trees to be cut down in parking lot, roof repair, replace gutters

**Sacred Heart:** ceiling repair in church, mark parking spaces in parking lot

As you can see, we have many needs to be addressed. I and my parishioners are asking you to prayerfully consider assisting us with these necessary projects. Know that my prayers, along with the Cluster parishioners, are with you. May God bless you abundantly! Sincerely, Fr. Tochi Iwuji”

**offertory collections**

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Month	Budget	Actual as of	Over Under
July-Apr	\$ 1,479,243	\$1,751,062	\$ 271,819
May	\$ 147,860 (5/23)	\$ 107,553	\$ <40,307>

**Note:** We show the total budget for the month rather than each week.

*A very heartfelt thank you for your generosity!*

**If You Receive Weekly/Monthly Contribution Envelopes...**

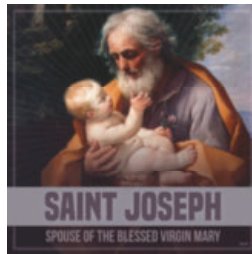
Due to supply chain issues, the envelope company is unable to get the needed amounts for certain colors of paper. So the envelope color for various funds may be different than usual. For example, we have seen May/June envelopes for Capital Projects printed in white with border, green, and blue. **Look at the printed text on your envelopes to ensure you are using the correct envelope for your fund designation.**

**If You Donate Online...**

You may have noticed the **WeShare** program has been updated to a new version. Thank you for your patience!

**Put the Family in the Hands of the Father**

The Men of St. Joseph meet weekly Friday mornings, 7am-8am, and host a communion prayer service the First Friday of each month. The Magnificat is used as the main source for the daily readings and Sunday gospel discussed during the one hour prayer meetings. If you are interested in learning more about the MOSJ group, please contact: Deacon Kevin Hogan (khogan@richmonddiocese.org), Carl Tarantino (nuccarl@comcast.net) or Phil Sido (phil.sido@gmail.com) - or just show up Friday morning.



The St. Edward Retired Men’s Breakfast Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30am. For more information, call Bill Heipp at 804-794-3749 or Dave Mueller at 804-639-5885.



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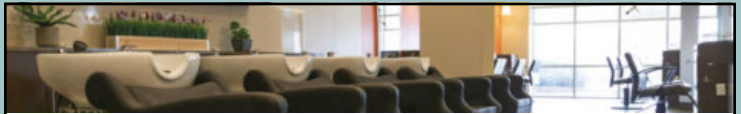
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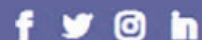


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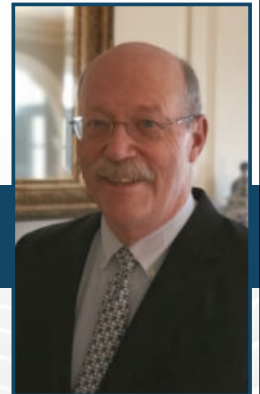
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