

HOLY MASS ON THE LITURGICAL FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS (Excerpt)

Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia Second Sunday of Easter, 11 April 2021

The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions. He patiently soothed their troubled hearts. Risen himself, he now brings about "the resurrection of the disciples". He raises their spirits and their lives are changed. Earlier, the Lord's words and his example had failed to change them. Now, at Easter, something new happens, and it happens in the light of mercy. Jesus raises them up with mercy. Having received that mercy, they become merciful in turn. It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy.

They receive mercy through three gifts. First, Jesus offers them *peace*, then *the Spirit* and finally his *wounds*. The disciples were upset. They were locked away for fear, fear of being arrested and ending up like the Master. But they were not only huddled together in a room; they were also trapped in their own remorse. They had abandoned and denied Jesus. They felt helpless, discredited, good for nothing. Jesus arrives and says to them twice, "*Peace be with you!*" He does not bring a peace that removes the problems without, but one that infuses trust within. It is no outward peace, but peace of heart. He tells them "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (*In* 20:21). It is as if to say, "I am sending you because I believe in you". Those disheartened disciples were put at peace with themselves. The peace of Jesus made them pass *from remorse to mission*. The peace of Jesus awakens mission. It entails not ease and comfort, but the challenge to break out of ourselves. The peace of Jesus frees from the self-absorption that paralyzes; it shatters the bonds that keep the heart imprisoned. The disciples realized that they had been shown mercy: they realized that God did not condemn or demean them, but instead believed in them. God, in fact, believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. "He loves us better than we love ourselves (cf. SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, *Meditations and Devotions*, III, 12, 2). As far as God is concerned, no one is useless, discredited or a castaway. Today Jesus also tells us, "Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you"....

Dear sister, dear brother, do you want proof that God has touched your life? See if you can stoop to bind the wounds of others. Today is the day to ask, "Am I, who so often have received God's peace, his mercy, merciful to others? Do I, who have so often been fed by the Body of Jesus, make any effort to relieve the hunger of the poor?" Let us not remain indifferent. Let us not live *a one-way faith*, a faith that receives but does not give, a faith that accepts the gift but does not give it in return. Having received mercy, let us now become merciful. For if love is only about us, faith becomes arid, barren and sentimental. Without others, faith becomes disembodied. Without works of mercy, it dies (cf. *Jas* 2:17). Dear brothers and sisters, let us be renewed by the peace, forgiveness and wounds of the merciful Jesus. Let us ask for the grace to become *witnesses of mercy*. Only in this way will our faith be alive and our lives unified. Only in this way will we proclaim the Gospel of God, which is the Gospel of mercy.

The entire message will be in published in "The Crown" or you can go to http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20210404_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html



World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25, 2021

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is

continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

2021 marks the **58th Anniversary** of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

It is up to us to petition the Lord to bless us with laborers for His vineyard. To join others in pledging to continuously pray for an increase of vocations go to https://invisiblemonastery.com.

Serra North Houston Vocation Apostolate Zoom Program Meeting—All Are Invited!



Presents:
Guest Speaker
Rev. Jason Parzynski, Vocation
Director, Diocese of Trenton, NJ

One of our apostolate missions is to pray for all United States Vocation Directors. We

have seven from the North Serrans assigned to pray for Fr. Jason one hour each day of the week.

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83761999658? pwd=azhWUyttRENnZkFlLy9pTS9TMFd1UT09

Meeting ID: 837 6199 9658

Passcode: 251708

or dial in: 1-346-248-7799

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Stawaisz at starwar1@yahoo.com or Candice Tyrrell at ctyrrell@comcast.net.



Ushers are needed for the 5:00 pm Sunday Mass. If you are willing to serve, please contact Matt Thai at mthai@saintedward.org or call the Parish office.

Assuring a welcome presence, you enhance the beauty of the Liturgy and become an instrument through whom God is present to those who come to worship.

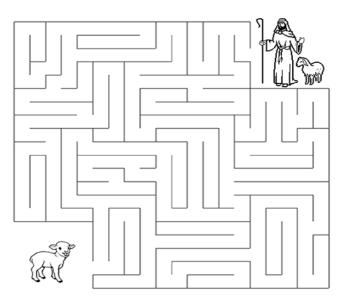
Jesus said, "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the One who sent me." (Mt 10:40)



The Good Shepherd

CHILDREN'S







Gospel Reflection for Kids

John 10:11-18: Jesus described himself in many ways. We don't know many shepherds, but in Jesus' time, they were everywhere, some very caring and others who didn't care for their sheep very well. Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows each one of us, who laid down His life for us.

Who are the people in your life who are "good shepherds" for you, who lead you, who care for you?

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

4th Sunday of Easter: April 25th

That we take time in daily silent prayer to talk and listen for Jesus' voice.

"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep... and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Him what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

DISCERNMENT PROCESS



St. Edward Catholic School will be starting its discernment process for new School Advisory Board Members for the 2021-22 school year. Open to all School and Parish members, our Advisory Board helps our school develop and meet our goals for excellence! More information on the School Advisory Board can be found here (https://stedwardschool.org/school-board).

If you feel called to this special ministry, wish to nominate someone, or are interested in more information about the Discernment process, please contact the School Principal, Erin Makel (emakel@saintedward.org).





Youth Night via zoom **Wednesday**, **April 28th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**. All teens who are currently in 9th-12th grade are invited and encouraged to join us! The theme will be *Servant Leadership*, so come learn about ways that we can serve our parish and local community.

For zoom log in information please contact Sarai Myers at smyers@saintedward.org.



We are so excited to host Vacation

Bible School this year!

June 21-25, 2021

1:15 pm-4:45 pm

Registration for all participants opens on

April 28th

Check the website or contact Lauren White at lwhite@saintedward.org for more information!



How does Faith Direct work?

- You can visit **faith.direct/TX603** and enroll securely online or text "Enroll" to **281-767-4313**.
- For those of you who would not be comfortable going online, you can still enroll in this program by completing an enrollment form and mailing it to Faith Direct. You do not need a computer to give electronically!
- You can elect to have your specified bank or credit card account debited on the 4th & 15th of the month for both offertory and any second collections you support.
- Parishioners can elect to receive "offertory cards" in lieu of envelopes to be placed in the collection basket.

Thank you! Your support has made this program a cost-effective, efficient and secure way for our parish to receive your gifts.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE:



Thank You St. Edward Catholic Community!

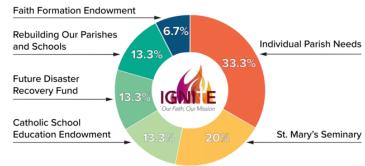


Parish Goal: \$1,366,739

Total Amount Paid to Date: 797,884

Remaining Balance: \$\frac{\$568,855}{}\$

These six urgent factors come together to form the catalyst for this historic campaign. After prayerful consideration, Cardinal DiNardo, along with pastors and the leadership of the Archdiocese, have placed before us a challenge to raise \$150 million.



MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Monday – April 26	8:30 am	LV	Kathy Psencik	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday — April 27	8:30 am	LV	Lizzy Edwards	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday – April 28		LV LV	Marvin Agustin Carmelita Lagarde	Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday – April 29	8:30 am	†	Ceferino Bautista	Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday — April 30	8:30 am 12:10 pm	LV †	Wes & Julie Matus Mark Wymore	Saint Pius V, Pope Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday — May 1	8:30 am 5:30 pm	†	Rachel Moore Larry Barrois	Saint Joseph the Worker Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday – May 2	7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm	† † LV	Keith Killman Virginia Barrios David & Gloria Castro People of St. Edward	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Open House

Thank you to all of those that attended and participated in our Open House, we hope you enjoyed it! If you missed it, please feel free to call the school to get your personal tour. We look forward to showing you a day in the life of a St. Edward Monarch.



Starting on Monday, Student Council will be collecting donations for the Spring Fundraiser. Join in on this colorful experience to get a jeans, t-shirt, and popsicle day on *April 28th*.



St. Edward Catholic School PTO officer and chair positions open for the 2021-2022 school year. To find out more about how the PTO serves our school, click the link below!

https://www.stedwardschool.org/parent-teacher-organization
If you are interested, or have questions, please
reach out to Susie Brito (britosusie@gmail.com).





STAY IN TOUCH WITH US:



CHECK THE PARISH FLOCKNOTE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

saintedward.flocknote.com

YouTube

youtube.com/channel/ UCMvIqqK2_Yswh76RQrUHuWw



facebook.com/saintedward.org



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PRAYER REQUESTS:



Rocco Family, Oberkick Family, Parsons Family, Traewick Family, Annette Bartig, Elizabeth Joseph, Fr. Joseph Vu, Fr. Kim Nguyen, Cathy Sheeren, Simon Joseph, Fr. Pat Garrett, Nellie Johnson, Bev Canales, Wanda Blasingame, Yogi & Rosie Ybarra, Nora Herrera Anna Werleman, Joseph Kennedy, Jr., Michael Peterson, June Scruggs, Michele VanCleave & family, Jeff Chango, Shirlette Grogan, Anne Melcer, Danette Lewis, Thoa Tran,

Edward Tuosto, Evelyn Tuosto, Butch Tuosto, Wendy Neuemburger, Seth Dalton, Alfred Acosta, Thomas Gandara, Jennifer Cueva, Mary Todeschini, Eric Twardowski, Margaret Hockman, Tyler Irvin, Seth Auzenne, Gregory Auzenne, Jennifer Auzenne, Shawn Auzenne, Nicole Thomas, Paul & Mark Ybarra, Marie Rodriguez, Darrell Havemann, Yolanda Cuneo, Shannon Buzak, Kelsey Plocheck, Debbye Vollert, Graciela Sauseda, Annette Gergen, John Zaborowske, Maricela Aleman, Herminia Torres, Michael Stolarski, David Lewis, Elaine Lewis, Nim_Nhiem Bui, Nhan Nguyen, Huong Bui, Bac Bui, Thuoc Bui, Lan Bui, Martha Muskiet, Jose Hernandez, Sterling Rogers, Keith Welch, Sue Epstein, Jeannie Snyder, John Paolini, Rob & Katie Pate, Imelda McBride, Sajiv Soysa, Herbert Jennings, Evelyn Thompson, Ron Myers, Steve Otwell, Sonja Arellano, Beverly Barresi, Abby Broussard, Patricia Cessac, Julie Matus, Maria Lucila Ospina, Beatriz Valencia, Jennifer Rekieta, Raquel Runge

Our Troops and First Responders and all those affected by COVID-19

To make a request to add someone to the prayer list, please email us at info@saintedward.org or call the Parish office.



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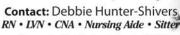
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