

St. Edward Parish

Pastor

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Parochial Vicar

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Holy Eucharist to Sick & Shut-ins

Brian Meeuwsen 503-828-5660

Parish Office

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Religious Education

Director Tammy Scheenstra
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North Plains, Oregon
December 8, 2024

Mission Statement

St. Edward is a welcoming Catholic Parish embracing God our Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit. We gather in **Faith** to give glory and praise to God as a worshipping community. We gather in **Hope** to educate, form and nurture spiritual growth of our individual parishioners, families, and community through the administration of the sacraments, catechesis, prayer and devotion and fellowship. We gather in **Charity** to provide social outreach in our works of mercy.

<p>Parish Pastoral Council</p> <p>Patrick Weis 2023-2026 (Chair) Dian Duyck 2023-2026 (Vice Chair) Lisa Thompson 2022-2025 (Recorder) Jaymi Yazzolino 2022-2025 Charlie Lucas 2024-2027 Leah Nussbaumer 2024-2027</p>	<p><u>Confessions:</u></p> <p>Saturday 4:30-5:15 pm or by appointment, call/text Fr. Michael 971-217-5335 or Fr. Augustus 971-392-8449.</p> <p><u>Masses:</u></p> <p>Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Sunday Morning Mass 9:15 am Wednesday Morning Mass 9:00 am</p> <p><u>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament</u></p> <p>1st Wednesday of the month, following 9:00 am Mass, closes at 7:00 pm</p>
<p><u>Funeral Service</u></p> <p><i>Contact the parish office before making any funeral arrangements involving St. Edward Church facilities. The office will involve Father Michael as soon as possible. Thank you.</i></p> <p><u>Infant Baptism</u></p> <p><i>Before scheduling a date for baptism, parents must be registered members of St. Edward Parish and attend a baptism preparation class. To register for a baptism class and for more information, contact the parish office. An appointment will be scheduled with Brian Meeuwsen.</i></p> <p><u>Matrimony</u></p> <p><i>Couples are asked to contact the parish office. The office will then send a letter explaining parish policies and an information form to be filled out and returned. No date can be set until there is a conference with Pastoral Associate, Brian Meeuwsen, at least six months prior to the wedding.</i></p>	<p><u>Parish Hall Use</u></p> <p><i>If any parish committee, ministry, or group is planning a meeting or gathering in the parish hall, it is important that you call Nancy in the parish office for availability.</i></p> <p><u>Mass Intentions</u> can normally be offered on Wednesday mornings and Saturday evenings. Please submit requests through the parish office. A suggested stipend is \$10.</p> <p><u>Bulletin Announcements</u></p> <p><i>The deadline is 12:00 pm on Tuesday for the following Sunday. Call the parish office or email mail@stedwardnp.org.</i></p>

Dear Parishioners,

Our Advent journey continues as we strive to remain watchful and alert as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Lord. This past week we conducted our Advent Adult Faith Formation with Fr. Augustus who offered an opportunity on December 3-4 of Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction, Confession and presentation. Fr. Augustus reflected upon the following topics of “the Virtue of Hope” and “What is an Indulgence?” These are two very appropriate topics especially as Pope Francis has designated this upcoming 2025 as a Jubilee Year of Hope.

The Jubilee Year of Hope will start on December 24, 2024 and conclude on December 25, 2025. As Fr. Augustus shared in his presentation, the papal bull which announced this year of Hope, the virtue of hope is visibly seen through the works of mercy, that is, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. In other words, mercy is the ability to look outside of ourselves and recognize what is lacking in another person and responding to that need.

The Season of Advent is a great time to be pilgrims of hope through works of mercy especially with opportunities such as the Advent Giving Tree which as a parish, we are sponsoring local families who are in need. It is our way to share the Christmas joy and cheer with those who may not have the resources that we have been blessed with. For this is what it means to be a disciple, to share the Good News.

And the first disciple was Mother Mary who upon her *fiat*, “let it be done unto me,” obediently accepting the vocation to be the Mother of God, she went in haste to share the Good News to her cousin, Elizabeth. We, too, are called to follow her example of sharing the Gospel to others through the work of our hands, feet, heart, lips, eyes and ears.

This upcoming Monday, December 9th, we will hear that Gospel passage as we honor Mary by celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Please note that due to December 8th falling on a Sunday, we are observing the Immaculate Conception on Monday which is a holy day of obligation. The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception affirms our belief that Mary was blessed among women and was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception.

Pope Francis, reflecting on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, stated that Mary, conceived without sin, reflects “the beauty of God who is all love, grace and self-giving.” He also stated that Mary reminds us that “yes, we are sinners, but we are no longer slaves to sin.” Pope Francis prayed that the celebration of the Immaculate Conception would “help us make our whole lives a ‘yes’ to God, a ‘yes’ comprised of Adoration of Him and daily gestures of love and service.”

This upcoming Thursday, December 12th, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as we once again honor Mary, our Mother. She is the patroness of not only our Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon but also United States, Mexico and all of the Americas, as well as the protector of the unborn.

As we focus on these two great feasts of our Church, my hope is that through our devotion to Mary, through our prayers and spiritual reflections, through our acts of mercy, and through our desire for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, we will truly be spiritually prepared as we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Pastor's Notes (continued)

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9
8:30am Mass with School children Visitation, Verboort
9:00am Mass with School children St. Francis of Assisi, Roy
5:30pm Mass St. Edward, North Plains
7:00pm Mass Visitation, Verboort

Blessings,
~ Fr. Michael

This Week

Saturday, December 7th

St. Edward Country Christmas Festival 9:00am-3:00pm
Confessions 4:30pm
Vigil Mass 5:30pm
Intentions: RIP Bernice Dummer

Sunday, December 8th

Mass 9:15am
Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward
High School Youth Group meets 6:00-7:30pm at Visitation

Monday, December 9th Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mass 5:30pm
Intentions: RIP Tex Ermatinger
Men of Conviction 7:00-8:30pm in the parish hall

Wednesday, December 11th

Mass 9:00am
Intentions: RIP Paul Vuky
Religious Education (grades 1-5) 4:00-5:15pm

Saturday, December 14th

Confessions 4:30pm
Vigil Mass 5:30pm
Intentions: RIP Regina Duruiheakor

Sunday, December 15th

Mass 9:15am
Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward
Middle School Youth Group meets 6:00-7:30pm at Visitation for Advent Service Project

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, has been transferred to be observed on Monday, December 9. Mass schedule is as follows:

North Plains - 5:30pm Mass; Roy - 9:00am Mass with school children; Verboort - 8:30am Mass with school children and 7:00pm Mass

FORMED.ORG

To begin to utilize this Catholic Resource, go online to www.formed.org and select "Enter code" link. Input the Parish Code: HWNN8P to create your own personal login and password and begin enjoying the FREE content.

Pick of the Month

Fr. Michael's Pick:

"Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns"

In Adore, popular author and speaker Fr. John Burns and illustrator Valerie Delgado of Pax, will help you reclaim the sacred sense of longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent, focusing on a new theme each week - vigilance, preparation, nearness, and Emmanuel - that you can relate to your life. (Run time: 6 episodes between 7-12 minutes each)

Offertory

Weekly contributions needed for budget goal:	\$4373.00
Offertory total for 11/30 & 12/1:	\$3375.35
Online total:	\$643.00
Over (Under):	(\$354.65)

Giving Tree

Please continue to choose tags from the Giving Tree. The totes are in the vestibule of the church ready to accept the wrapped gifts. Please return all items by December 15th to ensure the committee has time to deliver the gifts before Christmas.

Thank you for helping less fortunate local families have a more joyous Christmas. Please call Jane Reding at 503-544-5956 if you know of a family in need or have any questions.

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service - praying, teaching, and caring for those in need - usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

Religious Education Christmas Program

Families are invited to attend the Religious Education Grades 1-5 Christmas Program at St. Edward Church on December 22, 2024 after the 9:15am Mass. A reception will follow; all are invited and encouraged to attend.

Religious Education

Religious Education (Grades 1-5)

Meets 4:00-5:15pm in parish hall.

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

Meets Sunday, December 15 from 6:00-7:30pm Advent Service Project at Visitation Parish Center. Bring a Santa hat and holiday spirit for activities in arts and crafts that will be given to our elderly and homebound. Food and drink will be served.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)/Mission Krewe Calgary, Alberta 2025

Meets Sunday, December 8 for a lesson from 6:00-7:30pm at the Visitation Parish Center.

Confirmation Preparation (Grades 7-12)

No session in the month of December. Please submit your confirmation sponsor name and prayerfully discern your Confirmation Saint Name that will be required to be submitted on Saturday, January 25 at Session #4 5:30pm Vigil Mass at St. Edward.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Meets Sunday, December 8 from 11:45-12:30pm in St. Francis of Assisi Church basement. Fr. Augustus will be presenting on "Mary and the Communion of Saints."

All questions concerning Religious Education for Youth (grades 1-12) and Adult (OCIA) programs, please contact Tammy Scheenstra, 971-245-9913 or tammy.scheenstra@hotmail.com.

Advent Adult Faith Formation Handout

For those who attended the series or missed out, Fr. Augustus has handouts of the content of his presentations on "What is the virtue of Hope" and "What is an indulgence?" available on a Microsoft Word file. Please reach out to Katie Bernards (kbernards@sfa-roy.org), Donna Heesacker (churchsecretary@vcsknights.org) or Nancy Vandehey (n.vandehey@stedwardnp.net) to request the copies.

"Hoist Hope" Capital Campaign Phase II

Pledge cards and donations in the amount of \$150,000 are flowing in steadily to match the additional \$900,000 from key donors and friends of St. Edward. Our total is \$2,655,766.49 in cash donations and committed pledges over a 5-year period. The parish community is invited to match their additional commitment of \$900,000 and hopefully exceed it. Please prayerfully consider reupping or making a new Pledge Commitment to our "Hoist Hope" Capital Campaign Phase II. Projected groundbreaking is Spring 2025 with completion of the expansion Winter 2026. For questions, please call the parish office at 503-647-2131 or www.stedwardnp.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Michael, Dick Vandehey (Chair), Dick Krueger (Vice Chair), or Bob VanderZanden (Vice Chair).