

St. Edward Parish

Pastor

Fr. Michael Vuky
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Parochial Vicar

Fr. Augustus Duruiheakor
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Pastoral Associate

Brian Meeuwsen
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Holy Eucharist to Sick & Shut-ins

Brian Meeuwsen 503-828-5660

Parish Office

Hours Tues-Fri 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Religious Education

Director Tammy Scheenstra

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North Plains, Oregon

December 14, 2025

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 style="text-align: center;">Parish Pastoral Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dian Duyck 2023-2026 (Chair) Leah Nussbaumer 2024-2027 (Vice Chair) Lisa Thompson 2022-2025 (Recorder) Patrick Weis 2023-2026 Charlie Lucas 2024-2027 Karen Kemper 2025-2028</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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 style="text-align: center;"><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 style="text-align: center;"><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,

For those who missed out on Fr. Augustus' Advent Adult Faith Formation Presentation on the Sacraments of Healing, here is a summary of his presentation. Enjoy the read!
~ Fr. Michael

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *The reconciliation of man through the forgiveness of sin stands at the heart of the mission and ministry of Christ. It was this mission that generated the greatest polemic/controversy, no other mission of Christ was more scandalous and shocking to His Jewish listeners than that He has power to forgive sins "Who can forgive sins, but God alone" was the outcry in Luke 5:21. If therefore there is any proclamation of the Church that may continue to be an embarrassment and yet an enduring challenge to all people, it is that Jesus confers this power to the Church to forgive since "If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven" (John 20:22-23). Before His ascension into heaven, Christ conferred to His apostles and their successors the duty to announce reconciliation with God, to baptize for the forgiveness of sin and to forgive or retain sin in the name of God. The same mission of Christ also stands at the heart of the Church as the enduring gift of God to believers and the enduring mission of the Church, to the world. It is the pathway of the gospel since the beginning of Christ's public ministry was marked by the clarion call "Repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). This mission is the essence of the Church because the whole Church is reconciliatory, the Church accomplished and continues to accomplish the mission of forgiveness and reconciliation entrusted to her primarily through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

RECONCILIATION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: *God chose the people of Israel among others not because they were more numerous or more powerful but because He loved them, redeemed them, protected them, and guided them to the promised land. He established a covenant with them, a contract of love but this people forgot the goodness of God, distanced themselves from Him and worshipped idols. In the face of the conduct of the chosen people, God did not hasten but He showed His mercy which extended to all. Through the prophets, he exhorted the people to repent and return to Him, to give up their sinful ways which will lead them to death.*

RECONCILIATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: *The God of forgiveness who in the Old Testament spoke to us through the prophets, spoke to us at the fullness of time through His Son. Christ is the word of forgiveness pronounced by God in time with the full force of His love. He is the great forgiveness of God that took flesh for he came not for the just but for sinners (Matt. 9:14). Christ's attitude towards sinners is revealed in the parables of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7), and the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10). In all these parables, the love of God is revealed in a concrete manner. This love is made visible in Jesus of Nazareth. The Christ of the gospel is a friend of sinners, he meets with them, dialogues with them, and grants them pardon by virtue of his authority. The New Testament passages also talked a lot about forgiveness of sin in connection with conversion and baptism. When someone is baptized, he/she is meant to put sin behind him, for he/she becomes a new creature, and should start a new way of life. But speaking of the new life after baptism, Paul says: "But how can we who died to sin still live in it" (Roman 6:2). At the same time, it is still clear that this is the ideal and we do not live up to it in practice. John explains this in his first epistle when he writes: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the trust is not in our lives" (I John 1:8). These obviously show that the first century Christians knew that their members would sin after their baptism. If the ideal were always achieved, there would be no need for this advice. Therefore, this Sacrament is that whereby one obtains God's mercy for the offense committed against him after Baptism, and are at the same time reconciled with the Church which he/she has wounded by his/her sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for his/her conversion (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1422). Sacrament of Reconciliation is an ecclesial*

Pastor's Notes (Continued)

ministry entrusted to the Church as a community of salvation. In the exercise of the ministry of reconciliation, the priest should always bear in mind that the ministry is not his. He is not to bind and lose at will like a judge in the courtroom. It is an ecclesial ministry. This implies that it can only be exercised within the Church. The sacrament does not belong to the priest, he is only a minister and custodian.

Mary, Refuge of sinners, pray for us!

Fr. Augustus, Parochial Vicar

This Week

Saturday, December 13th

Women's Advent Reflection 10:00am Visitation Convent

Confession 4:30pm

Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward

Sunday, December 14th

Mass 9:15am

Intentions: RIP Kathie Thomas

Middle School Youth Group Advent Service Project
12:00-2:00pm at St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, December 15th

Men of Conviction 7:00-8:30pm

Wednesday, December 17th

Mass 9:00am

Intentions: RIP Al & Mary Santos

Religious Education Classes (grades 1-5) 4:00-5:15pm in
Visitation convent

Saturday, December 20th

Women's Advent Reflection 10:00am Visitation Convent

Confession 4:30pm

Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Intentions: RIP Fr. Dennis Robb

Sunday, December 21st

Mass 9:15am

Intentions: Parishioners of St. Edward

High School Youth Group Advent Service Project
12:00-2:00pm Church Decorating

Offertory

Weekly contributions needed for budget goal:	\$4373.00
Offertory total for 12/6 & 12/7:	\$3734.25
Online total:	\$2078.53
Over/(Under):	\$1439.78

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:

"Augustine Institute Bible Conference: The Season of Advent"

6 Episode Series with the nation's most dynamic Scripture scholars such as Dr. Tim Gray, Dr. Michael Barber, Dr. Bronwen McShea, Dr. Brant Pitre, and Dr. James Prothro discussing the Role of Nature, Prophecy, & Reason in Seeking the Messiah, the Manger and the Eucharist, Advent through the centuries, Mystery of Christmas of the Birth of Jesus, and how to Prepare for Advent.
(Run Time: 6 episodes of 30-40 minutes)

They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Parish Advent Book Gift

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, this year's Parish Advent Book gift is Matthew Kelly's "Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy." A complimentary copy per parish family can be picked up at the entrance of the church. Enjoy the read!

Religious Education for Children (Grades 1-5)

Next class is Wednesday, December 17th, 4:00-5:15pm. The students will present their Christmas Program in the Visitation Church beginning at 4:15pm. Light refreshments following in the convent.
All are welcome!

Religious Education

Religious Education (Grades 1-5)

Meets Wednesday 4:00-5:15pm at Visitation Convent.

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

Meets Sunday, December 14 from 12:00-2:00pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Advent Service Project of Christmas Caroling to our elderly and homebound parishioners. Please dress warmly as we will be on a wagon pulled by a tractor. Pick up at the end of the event is at Visitation Parish Center.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Meets Sunday, December 21 from 12:00-1:30pm. Advent Service Project of Christmas decorating at St. Edward and Visitation. Sign up with Tammy Scheenstra and we will assign you which church to help.

Confirmation Preparation (Grades 7-12)

4th Lesson on the Eucharist Saturday, January 17 at the 5:00pm Vigil Mass at Visitation Church.

Mission Krewe 2026

Christmas Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser. 1 pan of 9 rolls for \$25. Only a total of 100 orders until we sell out. Deadline to order is December 15; order online using QR code on flyer or go to parish website.. Pick up on Tuesday, December 23 at the Visitation Parish Center.
Thank you for your support.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Sunday, December 14 from 11:45am-12:30pm lesson on "Four Last Things" in the St. Francis of Assisi Church basement. Please reach out to Fr. Michael at mvuky@yahoo.com or text 971-217-5335 for all inquiries and questions.

Adult Faith Formation (adults 18 or older)

Thank you to all those who attended the Advent Adult Faith Formation on the Sacraments of Healing with Fr. Augustus.

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

"Hoist Hope" Capital Campaign Phase II

Pardon our dust! Construction is underway and the bills will need to be paid. Please consider in following the dedication of those donors and offering a new pledge or modifying your existing pledge. Also, annual RMD donations are a source of consistent funding as each penny and dollar gets us closer to our goal of already received and pledged \$3,250,594.71.

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