



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR Third Sunday of Lent

The mystery of divine presence is a central theme throughout Scripture, emphasizing both God's nearness and transcendence. Key theophanies - such as those experienced by Abram, Gideon, and Moses - depict this divine encounter through varying names: "the angel of the Lord," "God," and "the Lord." This variability highlights the complexity of how God reveals Himself to humanity. Moses' encounter with the burning bush is a prime example: although he sees fire in the bush, he instinctively knows it is the presence of God, as shown by his fear and the decision to hide his face. This reveals an important theological insight: human encounters with God are mediated and clearly distinct from God's full, incomprehensible reality, until Jesus revealed God personally.

The burning bush symbolizes the paradox of divine immanence and transcendence: it burns without being consumed. This represents how creation exists through God's sustaining presence, yet remains distinct and intact. Just as the bush remains whole while aflame, so too does all creation exist through God without being overwhelmed. Every created being is a "burning bush," alive through God's presence, yet preserving its own essence. This demonstrates the intimate yet non-intrusive nature of God's relationship with creation - sustaining without consuming, enlivening without erasing.

Moses' encounter also includes the revelation of God's name, "I am who am" (the tetragrammaton: YHWH - יהוה), expresses divine self-existence and unchanging reality. This name signifies that God is not just another being but the source of all being. While sacred and rarely spoken aloud, this name underlines God's dynamic presence in history, continually calling individuals to participate in His work of freedom from sin. This revelation laid the foundation for Christian thought, which sees God as the necessary Being who sustains all things.

The theme of divine presence continues in Jesus' parable of the barren fig tree. In Mark and Matthew, Jesus curses the tree as a prophetic sign of Israel's unfruitfulness, but Luke offers a perspective of mercy and patience. The tree, having failed to bear fruit, is given one last chance before being cut down. This parable symbolizes those who resist God's call for spiritual renewal, particularly the religious leadership of Israel. The vineyard owner initially plans to uproot the tree, but the gardener persuades him to give it one more chance - mirroring God's patience before judgment.

Jesus' audience would have appreciated the humor in the gardener's suggestion: rather than just watering the tree, he proposes spreading manure around it, a humorous critique of religious leaders. While judgment is deserved, God offers a final opportunity for transformation. The tree cannot save itself; it needs the gardener's help, just as humanity requires God's grace for renewal.

Saint Paul echoes this call for vigilance in his letter to the Corinthians. He warns against complacency, drawing on the Exodus story to explain the Christian life. Just as the Israelites, despite experiencing God's mighty acts, fell into idolatry, so too must Christians remain faithful. For Saint Paul, and as is found throughout the New Testament, God's self-revelation reaches its fullness in Christ. The "rock" that gave water to the Israelites in the wilderness, he says, was Christ, the source of spiritual nourishment.

The Gospel also recalls the need for repentance. Jesus refers to recent disasters as a call to return to God, warning that without repentance, both Israel and the His future Church risk destruction. This points to the coming judgment on Jerusalem but carries a broader message: security lies not in religious status but in a living, responsive faith.

A common thread runs through the readings is that God is not an abstract concept but an active, personal presence in history. Whether through Moses' commission, Jesus' parable, or Saint Paul's exhortation, the message remains clear: divine mercy calls for a response. Just as God freed Israel from physical bondage, He continues to offer spiritual liberation to humanity. However, this salvation is not automatic; it requires attentiveness to God's presence and a willingness to bear fruit.

As Lent reminds us, the time for renewal is now. God, the One Who Is, sustains and redeems but also calls humanity to action. The fig tree stands as a symbol upon which a decision is to be made: will we remain barren, or will we embrace the nourishment offered and bear the fruit of a life transformed by divine grace?

+ Archimandrite Glen J. Pothier

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Week of March 23, 2025

Saturday, March 22

8:30 AM Thank J. Kalaghan

By Robert Kalaghan

5:30 PM †Carole Manning By Joan Navin

By Priscilla Schmeelk

Sunday, March 23

7:00 AM †Parishioners and Benefactors of The Basilica of Saint Edward

9:00 AM †Jeffrey Lewis

By Theresa & Alan Spizman

10:30 AM Special Int. Michael Schenck

By Eleanor Schneck

12:00 PM †Margarita Iglesias Muiña

By The McNulty & Muiña Families

Monday, March 24

7:30 AM Special Int. Theo Nadal

By Vivian J. Kroner

8:30 AM **†**John Mariani

By The Fontanarosa Family

Tuesday, March 25

7:30 AM †Lillian O'Sullivan

By Melissa Simon

8:30 AM †Istavan Sipos

By Dr. Ildiko Sipos

Wednesday, March 26

7:30 AM †Paul Thibadeau

By Mary Lynn Rogers

8:30 AM †Marjorie Pichel

By The White Family

Thursday, March 27 7:30 AM †Susan Byrd

By Sally Ohrstrom

8:30 AM **†**Steven O'Riley

By Robert P. Kalaghan

Friday, March 28

7:30 AM **†**Francis Bud Sanzone

By Mr. & Mrs. Chris Kam & Familly

8:30 AM **†**Peter William Henderson

By Edward Henderson

Saturday, March 29

8:30 AM †Dolores Diaz

By Alessandra Gieffers

5:30 PM †Dale A. McNulty

By Marietta Muina McNulty

Sunday, March 30

7:00 AM †Parishioners and Benefactors of The Basilica of Saint Edward

9:00 AM †Jeffrey Lewis

By Theresa & Alan Spizman

10:30 AM **Special Int.** Michael Schenck

By Eleanor Schneck

12:00 PM †Margarita Iglesias Muiña

By The McNulty & Muiña Families

#### MASS INTENTIONS

# UNSCHEDULED MASSES FOR LIVING AND **DECEASED**

- For the souls in purgatory the longest By Pat Egan
- † Servicemen killed in action By Patrick Egan
- + Thomas Christopher Cleary, Jr. By Dan Cleary & Rosemary Kalthoff
- Joe Watson By Kathy Giordanella
- + Jean Thompson By C.A. & Joe Knoll
- + Ahuva Simone By Ihor & Ofelia Lenko
- + George Pequin By Brenda Trillo

**Special Intention** Brenda Meyers

By Mary Lynn Rogers

#### **ROSARY GROUP**

Everyone in the parish is invited to join in the Rosary Group that meets every day after the 8:30 AM Mass, Monday through Saturday, to say the Rosary in the church.

#### PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

Located in the vestibule of the Church is a binder where parishioners can write down their prayers and intentions, that they would like to be remembered at Mass.



### **LENTEN RELECTION**

Please join Father Glen every Tuesday during Lent after the 8:30 AM Mass for a Lenten Reflection.

## **FAITH FORMATION CORNER**

- NO CLASSES TODAY
- Mark your calendars, folks! We'll be gathering for class on March 30th. And don't forget, March 23rd is the start of our Spring Break—enjoy!

#### **Catholic March Madness**

Prepare for Lent with our Catholic March Madness event! This is a fun and educational way to learn about the Saints. Each class will choose a bracket to support. May your favorite Saint be crowned victorious! I hope your picks are doing well!

I hope you have been able to stick to your Lenten goals so far, keep trying!

April 4th we will have a Pizza and Pasta night from 6-8pm in the Parish hall. Volunteers are needed, please contact Elizabeth for more information.

CRS Rice Bowl initiative is going strong, please join us in supporting Catholic Relief Services.

# Easter Services 2025

Tenebrae Service Wednesday, April 16 7:00 PM

# Holy Thursday, April 17

Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM

#### **Good Friday, April 18**

2:30 PM, Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM, Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

#### **EASTER**

Blessing of Easter Baskets, April 19 12 Noon on Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
April 19
7:30 PM

Easter Sunday April 20

7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12 Noon

# SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025

## Sunday Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1 -6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9 *Scrutiny Readings:* Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**Monday** 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

**Friday** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

## Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 *Scrutiny Readings:* 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

## **BE AWARE OF SCAMMERS!!**

With all the technology that surrounds us in all parts of our daily lives, we need to be ever present and aware of our surroundings. Unfortunately, we have people with ill intentions that we encounter everywhere we go, even when we are trying to focus on our prayer life in Church. With this in mind, please know that there are dishonest people who may approach you for money with a heart-wrenching story. We at Saint Edward do not condone this kind of behavior. The Catholic Church has many programs set up to aid people who truly need help, all requests are vetted through the parish office and Catholic Charites.

BE VIGILANT!!



#### DSA ANNOUNCEMENT

I would once again like to invite you to join me in supporting the 2025 Diocesan Services Appeal. The Diocese of Palm Beach's appeal provides support within our faith family and for the greater community beyond our parish, including education, parish resources and social ministries. Our valued seasonal parishioners and those who are regular visitors are also welcome to consider a gift and go to the diocesan website at www.diocesepb.org to make a pledge. The Diocese of Palm Beach's 2025 appeal provides support within our faith family and for the greater community beyond our parish, including education, parish resources and social ministries. Please consider a gift and donate at the diocesan website, www.diocesepb.org. This year the Basilica of Saint Edward goal is \$317,000.00, to date we have collected \$256,208.96. Please consider making a donation at this time, if you have already done so, thank you for your generosity.

#### **LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS**

For those who require (for a medical reason) low-gluten hosts, please notify the priest celebrating Mass at <u>least 10 minutes before Mass begins</u>. Recently, several people have made this request when the entrance procession for Mass is about to begin, which is too late. If you are late for Mass, you can make a Spiritual Communion, and / or receive a blessing from the priest who is celebrating Mass.

Remember, too, that low-gluten hosts must contain enough gluten for them to be constituted as 'wheat', which is essential to the Sacrament. Hosts that are gluten-free are invalid matter for consecration.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AT SAINT EDWARD CHURCH

Please join Saint Edward Church on our newly launched instagram page @st.edwardpb and our facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ St.EdwardCatholicChurch

We will be updating both sites with upcoming parish activities like Faith Formation and other Saint Edward Guild Events.

# REGARDING THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Only baptized and practicing Catholics, in good standing with the Church—and if married, are presently in a marriage recognized by the Church—may present themselves for Holy Communion, after fasting for at least one hour, and being free of any unconfessed mortal sin.

#### **BIBLE REFLECTION**

Frankie Stevens and Linda Valenti invite all parishioners to Thursday morning Bible reflection. We will be meeting on Thursday Mornings at 9:30 AM in the Pastoral Ministry Office. All are welcome!



We are introducing an exciting program that gives you a new way to support our parish: "eGiving" through Faith Direct.

- You can visit faith.direct/FL1169 and enroll securely online.
- For those of you who would not be comfortable going online, you can still enroll in This program by calling their Customer Service Team at 866–507-8757.
- You can elect to have your specified bank or credit card account debited on either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for both offertory and any second collections you support.







#### Rector:

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Glen J. Pothier, JCL, DTh, PhD Pastoral Ministry:

Director of Religious Education:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bockmeyer

Email: ebockmeyer@stedwardpb.com

Music Director: Mrs. Alicia Branch ......832-0400 **Organist:** Mr. Stewart Foster......832-0400

Email: stedwardch@aol.com

Food Pantry Ministry.....832-0400 Eucharistic Ministers ......832-0400 Lectors ......832-0400 Ushers Coordinator: Mr. Bob Slater ......832-0400

Women's Guild:

President: Mrs. Joanie Huff ......832-0400

E-mail: guild@stedwardpb.com

**Altar Servers:** 

Coordinator: Mr. Pat Shandorf......832-0400

Parish Office:

Mrs. Maggie Shepherd ......832-0400

E-Mail: stedwardch@aol.com

#### Registering in the Basilica of Saint Edward

The law of the Church defines a parish as a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a [Diocese]. The pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop. The law of the Church also states that a parish is to be territorial and embraces all the Christian faithful within a certain territory [ cc 515, 518]

The certain territory for the Basilica of Saint Edward established at its founding is the area of Palm Beach Island from the north end of the Island south to Sloan's Curve. To register as a parishioner of Saint Edward requires residence within its territory. Please contact the parish office to make an appointment to come in and register.

#### **Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office for information.

#### Confession

Saturday at 4:30 PM

### First Penance and First Eucharist Programs

Beginning in the First Grade, children of registered parishioners are to be enrolled in a two- year Parish Religious Education sacramental program. Registered parishioners whose children attend Catholic Grade Schools are to participate in the immediate sacramental preparation programs of the Parish. Please contact the parish office for more information.

#### **Confirmation Program**

Children of registered parishioners who are to be enrolled as candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation must have been baptized, capable of renewing their Baptismal promises, and properly instructed by participation in the two-year parish program beginning in the seventh grade. The Sacrament of Confirmation is usually scheduled for September, when the candidate is a ninth grader.

#### Marriages at the Basilica of Saint Edward

The Basilica of Saint Edward reserves the celebration of the sacrament of marriage to registered parishioners who are practicing Catholics and their immediate family members. Registration requires residence within the territory of the parish [ the North End of the Island south to Sloan's Curve.] New parishioners must be registered for one year before being considered for the scheduling of a marriage.

## Saint Edward Marriage Regulations

All couples intending to marry at Saint Edward must meet with the pastor. No date is promised or scheduled before this initial meeting with the pastor, who is to assess the freedom to marry of the couple and explain other marriage regulations. Saint Edward Parish is not a destination site for marriage and Saint Edward does not rent the Church to non-parishioners for marriage ceremonies.

#### Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick can be administered to the sick after the age of reason when the person begins to be in danger due to sickness or age. It is preferred that the sacrament be administered when the person is in control of their faculties. Please contact the parish in emergencies. After hours leave a message as directed by the parish voicemail.



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