

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, NEW FAIRFIELD



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:30 AM Rose & Antonio Dalessio R/B Their Granddaughter
 9:00 AM Mary Davey R/B Nancy & John Justiniano

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:30 AM Klemens Susmeyer R/B Renee & Carl Lehner
 9:00 AM Thomas LaBarbera R/B Ruth LaBarbera

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:30 AM John P. Previdi R/B Mary Louise
 9:00 AM Robert Martinson R/B The Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:30 AM Joseph Anello R/B Bob & Jackie Coote
 9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:30 AM Dennis LeBlanc R/B Winnie & Vincent Rossitto
 9:00 AM Willard & Leslie Stripling R/B Connie & Bob Pileggi

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:30 AM William Larsen R/B Mr. & Mrs. Letizia
 4:30 PM Parish Intentions Cervero
 6:00 PM Parish Intentions Riendeau

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:30 AM Parish Intentions Gray
 9:00 AM Parish Intentions Ryan
 11:00 AM Parish Intentions Cervero
 5:15 PM Parish Intentions Riendeau

THE CHAPEL LAMP will burn this week for those families facing medical uncertainties.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP will burn this week in memory of Raymond Spinello at the request of Lila Spina.

Dear Friends:

Lent is almost upon us. March 1st is Ash Wednesday. Please take a moment to read the bulletin regarding the Lenten regulations.

On Ash Wednesday we will be handing out a "Care Note" on prayer. We hope that you will use the Lenten journey as a time of deepening your faith life. We will also provide you with a special prayer time on Friday evenings. More information will follow.

We remind you that our mass schedule for Lent will be 7:30 & 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM. We hope that many of our parishioners will join us for mass during the week.

Please watch for other prayer opportunities and Bible Study in the bulletin. May we all "take up the cross and follow the Lord!"

Peace,
 Msgr. Ryan

LITURGY EVENTS

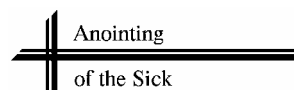
March 1st: Ash Wednesday
 March 4th: 4:30 PM Anointing of the Sick
 March 11th: 9:00 AM St. Patrick's Day Mass
 March 12th: 9:00 AM Girl Scout Sunday

SUNDAY – A DAY OF PRAYER

What are you doing with your Sunday? Do you work? Do you visit family? Do you do sports? Do you just rest?

OR

Do you come to Church? Feed at the Lord's table! Gain strength and direction for the week ahead! Make Holy the Lord's Day – make Sunday a Day of Prayer.



Anointing
 of the Sick

The Parish will celebrate the communal Anointing of the Sick of our Parish during the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, March 4th. The Parish priests will be present to administer the Sacrament. We invite the sick and aging of our Parish for this celebration.

LITURGY PLANNING DAY FOR COUPLES

Couples planning to be married in 2006 are invited to a Liturgy Planning Session on Sunday, March 5th at 12:15 PM in the Church. The priests of the Parish and music ministers will be present to assist you in planning your wedding ceremony.

Invitations are being sent to all couples being married at St. Edward's in 2006. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200 Ext. 11.



The parish family of St. Edward the Confessor welcomes Thomas James Gallacher and Joseph James Stelzel who were baptized here last weekend.

Parish Support

2-05-06

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Budgeted Expenses..... | \$14,800.00 |
| Interest on Mortgage | \$3,040.00 |
| Total Parish Weekly Expenses | \$17,840.00 |
| Offertory | \$13,608.50 |
| Monthly | \$2,328.50 |
| Total Weekly Income | \$15,937.00 |
| 582 donors gave \$12,926.00 in weekly envelopes for an average gift of \$20.49. 54 donors gave \$1,252.00 in make-up envelopes for an average gift of \$23.62. In cash an estimated 75 donors gave \$430.50 for an average gift of \$5.74. | |
| 2,039 attended Mass this year, 2,126 attended last year. | |

MAKE UP ENVELOPES

Another snowstorm this past weekend has affected our weekly donations. The Parish of St. Edward's needs your support. Please remember to use your make up envelopes.

Don't forget the Parish has developed a system to accommodate your donation by credit card (Master Card and Visa). You may use the card provided in your envelope packets or call Luanne Hogan at the Parish Office (746-2200).

Readings for Next Week – February 26, 2006

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Hos 2:16b, 17b, 21-22/ 2 Cor 3:1b-6/ Mk 2:18-22



LENT IS COMING

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Our Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday is as follows:

- Masses: 7:30 & 9:00 AM, 5:30 & 7:30 PM;
- Service with Ashes: 12:00 PM;
- Children's Service: 4:00 PM.

Ashes will be distributed during Masses & Prayer Services.

LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

Please join us for daily Mass Monday through Friday during Lent at 7:30 & 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM. There will also be a Lenten Prayer Service every Friday at 7:30 PM.

LENTEN FAST & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, is a day of **fast** and **abstinence**. On Ash Wednesday, **all Catholics age 14 and older are obliged to abstain from eating meat. All Catholics in good health between the ages of 18 and 60 are also obliged to fast.** Fasting means having one full meal and two light meals that day. Eating between meals is not permitted, although drinking liquids is allowed.

The **Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.** On Fridays, **all Catholics age 14 and older are obliged to abstain from eating meat.**

Good Friday, April 14th, is a day of fast and abstinence.



JOIN THE PARISH E-MAIL LIST

Many thanks to all who have subscribed to the Parish email list. We hope to use this list to email newsworthy items to our parishioners on an as needed basis. Subscribing is easy.

Email us your address at parishlist@saintedwardchurch.org or you can subscribe directly from the home page of the Parish website

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The prevention of child sexual abuse

Adults are not helpless to prevent child sexual abuse. In fact, there are five steps that adults can take to help create and maintain safe environments for children. These five steps go a long way toward preventing child sexual abuse:

1. Know the Warning Signs
2. Control Access
3. Monitor All Programs
4. Be Aware
5. Communicate Your Concerns

These steps will be discussed over the course of the next five weeks and are the main focus of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program in our Diocese.

The following date has been set for the "Protecting God's Children" Awareness session at St. Edward's: Wednesday March 8th at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Please contact Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200, Ext. 11 for further information.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY



Danbury Hospital will hold a Medical Town Meeting called "**Living Responsibly, Dying with Dignity**" on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium from 7 to 8:30 PM. Experts from the Danbury Hospital Ethics Committee discuss ethical issues in health care, end-of-life stages for people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, intensive care admissions, living wills and advance directives. For further information call (203) 797-7247.

MARCH 2006 WORKSHOPS

Please join us on Sunday March 5th as our Parish welcomes Sister Mauryeen O'Brien, O.P., Coordinator for Ministry to the Bereaved, Separated and Divorced for the Archdiocese of Hartford. Sr. Mauryeen is certified in Bereavement and Divorce Counseling and in Facilitator Training for the Support Groups, Seminars and Supportive Services of the Bereaved and Divorced.

3:30 – 5:00 PM "A JOURNEY FROM GRIEF TO HEALING" – Working through the stages of grief because of the death of a loved one. Meeting in the Parish Hall.

7:00 – 8:30 PM "THE PROCESS OF GRIEF DURING SEPARATION AND DIVORCE" – What we go through during a separation or divorce. Meeting in the Adult Ministry Center.

If you or someone you love is grieving or if you or someone you love is going through or has gone through a divorce, PLEASE JOIN US! For further information, please contact either Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200 Ext. 11 or John Anello at 746-9595.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The second and third factors in helping to control Cancer risk are maintaining a "normal" weight and including more fiber and less animal fat in the diet. Maintaining weight reduces risk for breast, colon and rectal cancers.

NOTE: BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AFTER ALL MASSES IN CONFERENCE ROOM. B.

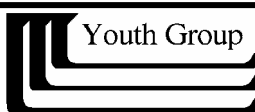
2006 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

Next Sunday, February 26th from 3 to 5 PM in the Parish Hall, we will have an afternoon to say thank you for your past giving to the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

Come join us for an afternoon of musical entertainment with Donna Moore accompanied by Dan Kean.

We will also have a short presentation by Mr. Bill Hoey, Vice President of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. He will address the services provided by your donations.

Please come and join us for a relaxing afternoon. RSVP by email to parishoffice@saintedwardchurch.org or calling the Parish Office at 746-2200.



Youth Group

**FROM THE DESK
OF FR. JOE:
746-2200 EXT. 17**

**ST. EDWARD'S WORKCAMP/
SR. YOUTH GROUP**

All meetings are **MANDATORY** for workcampers. Meetings will start with a youth group activity and planning for youth group events...the last part of the meeting will deal with Workcamp info...please join us after the 5:15 Mass.

March 5th: Mandatory Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

Save the Date! Saturday March 11th 7:30 PM St. Edward's Night at The Trashers Game. Tickets will be on sale in February. Help us send our Workcampers on their service trip in July.

Save the Date! Americares - May 6, 2006.



**FROM THE DESK
OF MARJ CUTLER
746-0755**

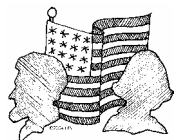
MCutler@saintedwardchurch.org

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP
(Grades 6th, 7th & 8th)**

Next Meeting: Friday Night "DJ Skate." We'll meet Friday, March 3rd, 7:30 PM in the Hall and take a bus to the Danbury Ice Arena. Parent Pick-up in the Hall at 10:30 PM. \$12 and the permission slip must be returned to the Jr. Youth Group Parish Office by February 24th. If you have any questions or would like to chaperone, please call or e-mail me.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

The priests and catechists of the Parish find a difficult moment in ministry when a child states that they would like to go to mass on Sunday but their parents are not attending mass. Please pray each day during February for the children who are longing to come to the Eucharist each week!



OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of President's Day. Have a happy Holiday!



TODDLER TEA

All infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, along with their parents/caregivers, are invited to come for a morning of songs, crafts, snacks and social time. Toddler Tea is on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Church Hall, from 9:30 to 11 AM, and is open to the public. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st. For more info, call Tricia Quinn at 746-0056.

PRAISE & WORSHIP GATHERING

Prayer Chapel Tuesdays 7:30 PM. Be Blessed! Come and join us lift up the Lord. He is a rewarder to those who seek him diligently. Heb. 11:6.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Among important issues involving the dignity of human life with which the Church is concerned, abortion necessarily plays a central role. Abortion, the direct killing of an innocent human being, is *always* gravely immoral (*The Gospel of Life*, no 57); its victims are the most vulnerable and defenseless members of the human family. It is imperative that those who are called to serve the least among us give urgent attention and priority to this issue of justice.

Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life (2001), Introduction

WOMEN OF WONDER –

A WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Women of St. Edward the Confessor Parish are invited to participate in Women of Wonder (WOW). WOW is a women's discussion group (for all ages) that will meet in the Adult Ministry Center on alternating Tuesdays. WOW's mission is to be a community of women that invigorates minds and spirits through discussion, nurtures Christianity in daily living, reaffirms the value of the individual and offers support. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 21st 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM.** Our topic will be "What is TRUE SACRIFICE in our lives today?" Please bring a brown bag lunch. Access for the handicapped will be provided. For more information and to participate in this discussion opportunity, please call Family Life Minister Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200, Ext. 11.

"BIRTHRIGHT SHOWER"

St. Edward's Ladies Guild will hold their Annual "Birthright Shower" on Wednesday, February 22nd at their monthly meeting which will be after the 9:00 AM Mass. Monetary donations as well as gifts ranging from newborn to 2 years of age may be left in the box in the Gathering Space. Please be generous.

WELLNESS AND FITNESS

Spring Ahead... join us for Saturday morning wellness and fitness. MBSR yoga is a gentle and enjoyable fitness activity that incorporates breathing and meditation for an overall health experience. 6 sessions starting February 25th. See flyer for details.

HEALING LIFE'S HURTS THROUGH PRAYER

Msgr. Ryan will share with the Parish an hour of praying the Bible and guided prayer for "Healing Life's Hurts." The session will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Is your heart heavy? Do you live within a broken relationship? Are you looking for healing and reconciliation? Where can I find the words? Come read the scriptures and find a place for prayer in your life.

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Next Admin Comm | 3-07-06 | 6:00 PM |
| Next Blue Ribbon | 3-04-06 | 8:30 AM |
| Next Staff Meeting | TBA | Noon |
| Next Finance Comm | 3-02-06 | 7:30 PM |
| Liturgy Comm | 2-23-06 | 7:30 PM |

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CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2/20/06-2/26/06

Monday – 2/20/06 President’s Day - Parish Office Closed

7:30 p.m. – St. Edward’s Prayer Group/Prayer Chapel

Tuesday – 2/21/06

9:30 a.m. – Toddler Tea/Hall/Kitchen

3:00 p.m. – Children’s and Youth Choir/Church

3:00 p.m. – Faith Formation Babysitting/AMC

4:30 p.m. – Faith Formation Dismissal/Entire Hall

4:45 p.m. – Cherub Choir/Church/Cry Room

7:00 p.m. – AA Meeting/Entire Hall/Kitchen

7:30 p.m. – Praise and Worship Gathering/Prayer Chapel

Wednesday – 2/22/06

9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos /Meeting Rooms 5-6

9:30 a.m. – Ladies’ Guild Meeting/Meeting Room 9/Kitchen

10:00 a.m. – Joy Club/Hall

11:15 a.m. – Terrific Twos/Meeting Rooms 5-6

1:00 p.m. – Terrific Twos/Meeting Rooms 5-6

3:00 p.m. – Faith Formation Babysitting/AMC

4:30 p.m. – Faith Formation Dismissal/Entire Hall

7:30 p.m. – Family Life Ministry Mtg./Conf. Rm. A

7:30 p.m. – K of C Boy Scout Mentoring/Conf. Rm. C

7:30 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal/Church

Thursday – 2/23/06

9:30 a.m. – Ladies’ Guild Sewing Group/Hall

7:30 p.m. – Liturgy Committee Meeting/Conf. Rm. C

7:30 p.m. – Contemporary Choir/Conf. Rm. A

Friday – 2/24/06

3:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Prayer Group/Prayer Chapel

8:30 p.m. – AA Women’s Group/AMC

Saturday – 2/25/06

8:00 a.m. – Bulletin Assemblers/Conf. Rm. C

10:00 a.m. – Lift Your Spirit Yoga/Hall

After all Weekend Masses/Gathering Space

St. Patrick’s Dinner Dance Ticket Sales

Workcamp Trasher Ticket Sales

Sunday – 2/26/06

**“Mardi Gras” Breakfast in the Hall after the
9AM and 11AM Masses**

11:30 a.m. – “Breaking Open the Word”/Conf. Rm. C

3:00 p.m. – Annual Bishop’s Appeal Fundraiser/Church

4:15 p.m. – Youth Mass Choir Practice/Church

Calendar subject to change with additions & cancellations.



SAVE THE DATE!

There will be a Special “Mardi Gras” Breakfast in place of the regular Sunday Coffee Time on Sunday February 26th (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday) after the 9:00 and 11:00 AM masses.

Please join us for a Continental Breakfast and a

Pre-Lenten Program for all families - “Lenten Traditions, Prayers and Reflections for Families”. There will be food, music and fun for the entire family! Adults and children are invited! For more information, please call Jane Arseniadis, Family Life Minister at 746-2200 Ext. 11. Hope you can come!