

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, NEW FAIRFIELD



MONDAY, JANUARY 2

7:30 AM Souls in Purgatory
 9:00 AM Paul & William Bodisch R/B Joan & Ron Bodisch

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:30 AM Terence Shannon R/B The Foley Family
 9:00 AM James Kawulicz R/B The Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

7:30 AM Mary Schutzman R/B Kathy & John Goetz
 9:00 AM Salvatore Gagliano R/B The Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

7:30 AM Leona Thomas R/B The Salvato Family
 9:00 AM For the Intentions of Julia Warnken R/B
 The Ladies Guild

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

7:30 AM Elizabeth, Louis Jr., Louis Sr. & Doreen Worzar R/B
 The Family
 9:00 AM James Joyce R/B Bridie & John

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

7:30 AM Ed DeMayo R/B The Buhrman Family
 4:30 PM Parish Intentions Ryan
 6:00 PM Parish Intentions Riendeau

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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

THE CHAPEL LAMP will burn this week for Peace on Earth at the request of the McWilliams Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP will burn this week in memory of John Zinser at the request of the Zinser family.

Parish Support

12-18-05

Budgeted Expenses.....	\$14,800.00
Interest on Mortgage	\$3,040.00
Total Parish Weekly Expenses	\$17,840.00
Offertory	\$14,701.50
Monthly	\$300.00
Total Weekly Income	\$15,001.50
578 donors gave \$12,227.00 in weekly envelopes for an average gift of \$21.15. 56 donors gave \$1,822.00 in make-up envelopes for an average gift of \$32.54. In cash an estimated 127 donors gave \$652.00 for an average gift of \$5.13.	
2,029 attended Mass this year, 2027 attended last year.	

USE OF CREDIT CARDS

We have a very mobile parish. Your weekly donation is important to us. We realize some weekends you need to be away! 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) to make your donation by credit card.



From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Parish Staff I thank you for all the support you have given St. Edward's in 2005. Our love, prayers and service have touched many hearts.

I ask for your openness and understanding as we enter 2006. With God's help and all of us working for our Vision Statement "We are the Living Presence of Jesus Christ Recognized through our Love, Prayer and Service" we will accomplish much in 2006 in the name of Jesus Christ!

God bless you always!

Peace,
 Msgr. Ryan

LITURGY EVENTS

January 8th: 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy
 11:00 AM Blessing of Expectant Mothers

BAPTISM

The Parish family of St. Edward the Confessor welcomes Hannah Paige Aukland and Kendra Makenzie Aukland who were baptized here last weekend.

PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS

We are asking all couples who are having their babies baptized at St. Edward's to participate in our Parish Pre-Baptismal Class. If godparents are nearby, they are also welcome to attend.

The Parish leadership invites you to use our Pre-Baptismal Class as a moment to build a community among our young families and grow in our faith.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd. Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year!!!

CALENDAR

The Parish Calendar is available after all masses. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Leonard Immucci and Green Funeral Home for sponsoring our calendar.

Readings for Next Week – January 8, 2006

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12



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.

BUDGET ISSUES

As we stated on December 4th, the Parish is experiencing a 7.5% drop in contributions and an 8% increase in expenses. As a result, we have taken the following actions:

- The temperature in the building has been dropped to 66° occupied and 62° unoccupied, so please bring a sweater!
- Lighting around the Parish grounds has been limited to only essential lighting.
- Parish expenditures for supplies has been reduced by 50%
- We ask all Parish groups to clean up the rooms that have been used and turn off lights when you leave.
- We ask all parishioners to keep the Church clean. Please put hymnals back in the racks and pick up any flyers or booklets left in Church.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Parish Finance Committee is looking for a few good workers to assist Msgr. Ryan in preparing and monitoring the Parish budget, assisting Parish staff in managing their budgets and marketing people to spread the good news about our Parish. If you have a background in finance, accounting or marketing, please send a resume or letter of interest to serve to Msgr. Ryan, P. O. Box 8866, New Fairfield, CT 06812.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

For the third year in a row, the Diocese of Bridgeport has been found to be in full compliance with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People with programs in place that are increasing awareness and nurturing Safe Environments in all 87 parishes, 39 Catholic schools, and many other diocesan ministries in every community throughout Fairfield County. In the two years since the launch of the Safe Environment Program in the diocese, approximately 25,000 clergy, employees, parents and volunteers have been trained and pre-registered using the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults program. "Our training program exceeds the Charter mandates by including all volunteers and employees, not just those persons who work directly with children," says Erin Neil, Director of Safe Environment for the Bridgeport Diocese. "Our policy is to screen every adult who operates in the Church so that parents can feel comfortable and safe with having their children participate fully in every activity that the Church has in place." The result is a powerful deterrent to sexual predators. "The program is working," Neil concludes, "thanks to having everyone in our Catholic community on board and fully committed." The following dates are for "Protecting God's Children" Awareness sessions at St. Edward's: Sunday Jan. 15th, 12:45 PM, Sunday Feb. 5th, 12:45 PM and Wednesday March 8th, 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Please contact Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200, Ext. 11 for further information.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Attention Grandparents - Are you a grandparent or other relative raising your grandchildren? Join the "**Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren**" support group at the Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center. Choose to attend evening or morning meetings either Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 PM or Fridays from 10:00-12:00 PM. Childcare provided. For info or inclement weather, call Addie Sandler 748-4542 before you go.

FISH PROGRAM

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Parish transportation assistance program will terminate on December 31st. We thank the Program Director, Dot Gallagher, for her dedicated service and leadership along with all the program volunteers who throughout the years have provided an invaluable service to our community. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your commitment to our Parish and community.

DOLLAR SUNDAY

BIRTHRIGHT, 238 White Street in Danbury is a non-profit emergency pregnancy service offering a person-to-person operation based on the belief that every pregnant woman has the right to give birth and every child has the right to be born. Next Sunday please be generous and leave your donation in the wall safes at the church doors or with a member of the Social Concerns Ministry.



ST. EDWARD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

One of the missions of the St. Edward Knights of Columbus Council is to serve St. Edward's Parish. Beginning this month and on a periodic basis thereafter we will inform the parishioners of the activities of the Knights regarding our Parish. Much of what we do is not only due to the time our members volunteer but also through the support of your generous contributions to our fund raising efforts. In November, the Knights:

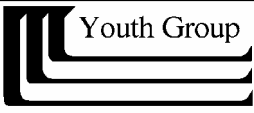
- Provided parking support for the families and friends who were attending the Confirmation Mass;
- Donated \$500 toward the Parish Outreach Program which provided food baskets to families within New Fairfield and surrounding areas;
- Provided a stipend to Fr. Sylvester for his ministry work;
- Assisted Fr. Fred in setting up the Crèche;
- Erected a "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign on the Rectory property;
- Assisted other members of the Parish in selling tickets for the Parish New Year's Eve Dance.

We encourage all Catholic men to become a member of our council. If any man is interested in learning more about the Knights, please contact Pete Greco, Grand Knight at 746-0744 or John Justiniano at 797-1704.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

We can live our changed lives with the confidence that "...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Php. 1:6).

NOTE: A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM YOUR PARISH NURSES!



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.

January 8th: MANDATORY Meeting
Please save the Date! Saturday March 11th 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.



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

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

Next Meeting: Friday, January 6th, 7-9 PM in the Hall - Planning Session for Mystery Night (January 20th).

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

As we begin 2006, we pray for all children who will be born in this year. Our world has not chosen to protect life in the womb. So may we pray: Lord Jesus, come protect the life of our children!



Faith Formation

746-4270

The Office of Faith Formation is currently recruiting volunteers to be part of our Parish Education Committee. The members of this Committee will meet four times a year with Msgr. Ryan and myself.

The mission of this Education Committee is to assess the future needs of our Faith Formation Programs and assist the pastor in making the necessary recommendations which will help benefit all of our parishioners here at St. Edward's Parish.

If you are interested in being part of this fact-finding team, please send a letter of intent to me at the below address or by email. Thank you.

Mrs. Ellen Venturini
P. O. Box 8866
New Fairfield, CT 06812
eventurini@saintedwardchurch.org



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, January 3rd. For more info, call Tricia Quinn at 746-0056.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the *inviolability of human life*. Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights is not defended with maximum determination.

Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici* (1988), no. 38



"Partners in Faith" is a useful resource to help parents in their family's Catholic education. This monthly publication, in Adobe reader format, can be printed from our website and used in your home and family setting to teach and promote faith-filled ideas, habits and behaviors. You can access the January issue from the Education/Resources tab on St. Edward's website homepage.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Each month on First Friday between the hours of 7-8 PM we ask you to remember in prayer the intention for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

CHILDREN'S MASS JANUARY 8TH

On Sunday, January 8th at 9:00 AM, we will have a special Children's Liturgy. Since we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on Monday January 9th, we have planned the theme of "Baptism" for the January 8th Liturgy. Danielle Browne, daughter of Scott and Debbie Browne, will be baptized at mass. We invite our children to come and watch this teachable moment.



Christmas is a very busy time in a parish church. It could not be celebrated without the help of many volunteers and staff. On behalf of the Parish family, we thank Dan Kean and Gloria Hudson, all the Music Ministries, the Lectors, the Eucharistic Ministers, and the Ushers for their service to the Parish in making our liturgies prayerful and festive. A special thank you to the Liturgical Design Committee. Our Church and Hall were prayerful and beautiful. A special note of thanks to the Knights of Columbus who helped make our parking lot safe on Christmas Eve. May the peace of the newborn Christ be with all of you.

Next Admin Comm	1-09-06	6:00 PM
Next Blue Ribbon	1-07-06	8:30 AM
Next Staff Meeting	1-09-06	Noon
Next Finance Comm	1-26-06	7:00 PM
Liturgy Comm	1-23-06	7:30 PM

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CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1/2/06-1/8/06

Monday – 1/2/06 (Parish Office Closed)

Tuesday – 1/3/06

9:30 a.m. – Toddler Tea/Hall
3:00 p.m. – Children’s and Youth Choir/Church/Cry Room
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 – 1/4/06

9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos/ Meeting Rooms 5-6
10:00 a.m. – Joy Club/Meeting Room 3-4
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
7:15 p.m. – Liturgical Design/Conf. Rm. A
7:30 p.m. – Adult Choir/Church

Thursday – 1/5/06

9:30 a.m. – Ladies’ Guild Sewing Group/Hall
9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos (**Make up**)/ Meeting Rooms 5-6
11:15 a.m. – Terrific Twos (**Make up**)/Meeting Rooms 5-6
3:00 p.m. – Faith Formation Classes Grade 6/Hall
7:30 p.m. – Contemporary Choir/Conf. Rm. A

Friday – 1/6/06

9:30 a.m. – Women’s Contemplative Prayer Group/AMC
10:00 a.m. – First Friday Adoration/Prayer Chapel
3:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Prayer Group/Prayer Chapel
4:00 p.m. – Children’s Liturgy Rehearsal/Church
7:00 p.m. – Junior Youth Group/Hall
7:30 p.m. – Pre Baptism Class/Church
8:30 p.m. – AA Women’s Group/AMC

Saturday – 1/7/06

8:00 a.m. – Bulletin Assemblers/Conf. Rm. C
8:00 a.m. – Men’s Prayer Breakfast/Conf. Rm. A/Kitchen
8:00 a.m. – First Saturday Rosary/Prayer Chapel
8:30 a.m. – Blue Ribbon Committee/Conf. Rm. B
10:00 a.m. – Yoga/Hall

After all Weekend Masses/ Dollar Sunday/Gathering Space

Sunday – 1/8/06

9:00 a.m. – Children’s Liturgy/Church
11:00 a.m. – Blessing of Expectant Mothers Mass/Church
11:30 a.m. – “Breaking Open the Word”/Conf. Rm. B
12:00 p.m. – RCIA for Children/Conf. Rm. C
4:15 p.m. – Youth Mass Choir Practice/Church
6:30 p.m. – Workcamp Meeting/Hall

Coffee and Donuts in Hall after the 9AM & 11AM Masses

Calendar subject to change with additions & cancellations.

CRECHE

The outdoor Christmas Creche was completed on Christmas Eve morning when Jesus, Mary and Joseph were replaced. Thank you to Fr. Fred and the Iowa craftsmen who worked to complete the forms, which were sent Fed Ex. A thank you to the Knights who came and reset the scene.

The original Mary and Jesus were returned on the evening of December 26th.