

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, NEW FAIRFIELD



MONDAY, JANUARY 23

7:30 AM Joseph Francis Zapiana R/B Ellen Venturini
 9:00 AM Eileen Pinjenburg R/B Frank & Kathie Murtha

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

7:30 AM Anna Spandi R/B The McGuirk Family
 9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

7:30 AM Renee Ellen Robilliard R/B Her Parents
 9:00 AM Claire McDermott R/B John & Theresa O'Gara

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

7:30 AM Elizabeth O'Sullivan R/B Mary McCarthy
 9:00 AM Eileen Backmann R/B The Corbett Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

7:30 AM Joanne Marotta R/B Louise Duplessis
 9:00 AM Willard & Leslie Stripling R/B Connie & Bob Pileggi

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 AM Colin Batson R/B Kathleen & Jack Pape
 4:30 PM Parish Intentions Ryan
 6:00 PM Parish Intentions Cervero

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

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

THE CHAPEL LAMP will burn this week for our college students returning to school. We pray for your safety and success.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP will burn this week for the intentions of Susan Jano at the request of Renee Lehner.

Dear Friends:

On January 29th we will celebrate "Catholic Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport." Immaculate High School will be with us at the 11:00 AM Mass on the 29th and we will also prayerfully remember our own Catholic education and all those who worked so hard to give us a "good education."

I ask you to remember the 82 children from our Parish that are presently enrolled in area Catholic schools. Our children make up 40 percent of students enrolled at St. Gregory School and we have Parish children enrolled at St. Joseph Danbury, St. Peter Danbury and Sacred Heart Danbury.

The Parish presently supports the Diocesan Catholic schools through our assessment of \$51,000.00. This amount is funded through our Parish monthly collection. We thank those who contribute monthly and also ask all parishioners to support Catholic education through the monthly collection.

I have to say thank you to all that helped educate me. I hope you will remember the education you received!

Peace,
 Msgr. Ryan

LITURGY EVENTS

February 2nd: Candlemas Day
 February 3rd: Feast of St. Blaise
 February 5th: 9:00 AM Boy Scout Sunday

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Dan Kean our Parish Liturgical Minister has recently had a music piece published by GIA. We thank God for the blessing Dan Kean is to our Parish.



CANDLEMAS DAY

The blessing of candles will take place on Thursday, February 2nd, at the 7:30 and 9:00 AM masses.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

The Feast of St. Blaise is Friday, February 3rd. It is our tradition to have the Blessing of Throats at the 7:30 and 9:00 AM Masses on the Feast Day. We will have a special prayer service at 7:00 PM.

PARISH CENSUS

We are in the process of assessing our Parish Census. There are 921 families listed in our census that we consider inactive. "Inactive" means a family is listed in the census but the name does not appear on any of our ministry lists, volunteer lists, Faith Formation lists and/or sacramental lists. These families will soon be receiving a letter asking them to update their Parish census.

Parish Support

1-08-06

Budgeted Expenses.....	\$14,800.00
Interest on Mortgage	\$3,040.00
Total Parish Weekly Expenses	\$17,840.00
Offertory	\$15,383.00
Monthly	\$687.00
Total Weekly Income	\$16,070.00

545 donors gave \$11,517.00 in weekly envelopes for an average gift of \$21.13. 95 donors gave \$2,309.50 in make-up envelopes for an average gift of \$24.31. 2 donors made yearly/quarterly gifts of \$750.00. In cash an estimated 87 donors gave \$806.50 for an average gift of \$9.27.

2,008 attended Mass this year, 2,037 attended last year.

2005 TAX LETTERS

We are presently preparing letters to each parishioner recognizing contributions to the building fund for 2005 and weekly donations totaling **\$500 or more**. Letters will be mailed by January 31st. If you have any questions or need a letter for donations under \$500, please contact Linda in the Parish Office, 746-2200, Ext. 15.

MAKE UP ENVELOPES

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

Readings for Next Week – January 29, 2006 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dt 18:15-20/ 1 Cor 7:32-35/ Mk 1:21-28

BAPTISM

The Parish family of St. Edward the Confessor welcomes Lauren Marie Alonzo, Brenna Clare Casey, Meghan Mary DeBellis and Nicholas Alexander Parker who were baptized here last weekend.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS!

We welcome all to our Parish community! If you have recently moved to the New Fairfield/Danbury area and are joining us for Sunday Mass or one of our many Parish programs and if you haven't already done so, please come into our Parish Office to formally register. We have a wonderful new program for new parishioners - the "BASIC Ministry" (BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST) to personally welcome new members and invite them to join us in becoming active participants in our Parish.



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



"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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

A Sense of Empowerment

"As a person trained in the Protecting God's Children program, I now find my sense of empowerment returning. I'm encouraged by the sense of social permission the VIRTUS program ("Protecting God's Children") has given me to communicate my concerns without feeling as if I'm indicting someone when I observe something that concerns me and then share that concern with those who can do something about it. In fact, because of my Protecting God's Children experience, I'm more aware of *my responsibility* as a caring adult to be another set of eyes for any child placed in my path."

"Making the World a Better Place One Person at a Time"
Donna Albertone, M.P.A. Guest writer for the VIRTUS Programs

The following dates have been set for "Protecting God's Children" Awareness sessions at St. Edward's: Sunday February 5th at 12:45 PM and 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



WHEELS FOR SENIORS makes available power (electric) wheelchairs to senior citizens and those permanently disabled of any age, usually at no out of pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. The electric wheelchairs are provided to those who cannot walk and cannot self-propel a manual wheelchair in their home and who meet the additional qualifications of the program. Call 1-888-294-9005 for more information on the details of this program.

PREPARING A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

This booklet is designed to help those who must face the often unfamiliar task of preparing a Catholic Funeral. The booklet helps explain how to manage the many practical details that go into planning a Catholic Funeral and to help gather the information that will be of help for the surviving family, the Parish and the funeral home. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of this booklet should call the Social Concerns Office, 746-9595.

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

We received a warm thank you letter from Jerri Mannion, Program Director of Case Management/Homeless Outreach regarding our recent Christmas Gift Project. She writes, "Once again, it is difficult to find the words to convey our deep gratitude for your generosity toward our clients this Christmas. The outpouring of thoughtful, beautiful gifts overwhelmed us." One client commented as follows: (AV, Client initials), received a wonderful warm jean jacket/coat. When he opened it his eyes welled up with tears. He said, "Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh!" Then he put it on. He was so excited and he looked at himself in the mirror and said, "Wow, it makes me look brand new!"

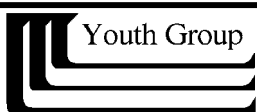
CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK

SIGN UP SUNDAY

The *Gospel* of Christ calls us to aid those less fortunate in our society and live in a society morally pleasing to God. All Catholics are called to be active and responsible participants in our society. To help Catholics meet this challenge the Bishops of Connecticut have created the Connecticut Catholic Advocacy Network. They are asking all Catholics to sign-up in January to become part of this network. Once signed-up, you will receive e-mails or regular mail on state and federal issues of importance to people of faith. The Network will also allow you to easily contact your elected officials if you so desire. Please sign up next weekend, January 28th-29th.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The second thought in developing a resolution is...Don't look forward. God sees the future. He will be with us as we face the concerns that occur and will help us see the opportunities for success.



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.

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)**

Whodunit??? Our next meeting is our Mystery Theatre on Friday, February 3rd, 7 to 9 PM in the Hall. We'll look for clues, investigate and solve who stole the artifact from the Smithsonian. (If you were here January 6th, come dressed in character)

Check out the hallway bulletin board for Bishop Lori's thank you letter in response to the Spiritual Bouquet we sent for his father who is ill. The power of prayer is awesome!

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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2006

We will be having our first planning meeting for VBS in February. If you would be interested in helping to organized and prepare for this summer's program, please call Eileen Burke at 746-4270.

**2006 COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN
LATIN AMERICA**

This weekend is the annual collection for Latin America. Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Over the past five years the Collection has distributed 87 percent of its income as pastoral grants. Several recent grants were used to train seminarians, provide pastoral care with those infected with HIV/AIDS, provide formation to high school students to serve as pastoral agents and develop and execute diocesan pastoral plans. Please contribute generously to this collection next weekend.

Next Admin Comm	2-07-06	6:00 PM
Next Blue Ribbon	2-04-06	8:30 AM
Next Staff Meeting	TBA	Noon
Next Finance Comm	1-26-06	7:00 PM
Liturgy Comm	1-23-06	7:30 PM

PRO-LIFE CORNER

At this particular time, abortion has become the fundamental human right issue for all men and women of good will...For us abortion is of overriding concern because it negates two of our most fundamental moral imperatives: respect for innocent life, and preferential concern for the weak and defenseless.

Resolution on Abortion (1989)

MARRIAGE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas is a time when the question of marriage in the church is raised many times and in many ways. On Tuesday, January 24th, Msgr. Ryan will present a discussion around these issues. A morning session will be held at 10:00 AM in the Church and repeated at 7:30 PM.

Some questions to be discussed:

- 1) What must my child do to be married in the Church?
- 2) My daughter is engaged to a divorced man. Can she be married in the Church?
- 3) Can Catholics be married in an outdoor ceremony?
- 4) My child was just baptized and we were not married by a priest. Why was the question of our marriage asked by the Parish Office?
- 5) What is the difference between an Annulment and a "Decree of Nullity?"
- 6) Explain to us what it means "Marriage is a Sacrament."
- 7) How can I have my marriage blessed by the Church?

If these questions are yours, your child's, or family and friends, come and discuss the issues.

**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 from Noon to 1:30 PM 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, January 24th 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM.** Our topic will be "Are you still in the 3rd grade?", a discussion on where we are in our faith life. 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, 746-2200 X. 11.

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY LITURGY

The commemoration of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrated on Scout Sunday, February 5th, at the 9:00 AM Liturgy. The Parish family of St. Edward's invites our parishioner Cub and Boy Scout families to join the celebration of this liturgy. Cub and Boy Scouts are asked to please plan on arriving in the Parish Hall by 8:15 AM on February 5th for procession instructions. Cub or Boy Scouts interested in participating in the liturgy as a reader, gift bearer or usher are asked to please contact Arleen Callahan, 746-6759 by January 30th.

THU FRI SAT
2 3 4
9 10 11

CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1/23/06-1/29/06

Monday – 1/23/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos /Meeting Rooms 5-6
- 11:15 a.m. – Terrific Twos/Meeting Rooms 5-6
- 3:00 p.m. – Faith Formation Classes Grade 8/Hall
- 7:00 p.m. – Faith Sharing Support Group/Conf. Rm. C
- 7:30 p.m. – Liturgy Committee Mtg./Conf. Rm. A
- 7:30 p.m. – St. Edward's Prayer Group/Cry Room
- 7:30 p.m. – Family Life Committee Mtg/Hall

Tuesday – 1/24/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Mom's Morning Out/Hall
- 10:00 a.m. – Discussion on Marriage/Church
- 12:00 p.m. – Women of Wonder Discussion Group/AMC
- 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. – Discussion on Marriage/Church
- 7:30 p.m. – Praise and Worship Gathering/Prayer Chapel

Wednesday – 1/25/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos /Meeting Rooms 5-6
- 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. – K of C Boy Scout Mentoring/Conf. Rm. C
- 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal/Church

Thursday – 1/26/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Ladies' Guild Sewing Group/Hall
- 7:00 p.m. – Finance Committee Meeting/Hall
- 7:30 p.m. – Contemporary Choir/Conf. Rm. A

Friday – 1/27/06

- 3:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Prayer Group/Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. – AA Women's Group/AMC

Saturday – 1/28/06

- 8:00 a.m. – Bulletin Assemblers/Conf. Rm. C
- 10:00 a.m. – Yoga/Hall

Sunday – 1/29/06

- 11:30 a.m. – "Breaking Open the Word"/Conf. Rm. C
- 4:15 p.m. – Youth Mass Choir Practice/Church

Coffee and Donuts in Hall after the 9AM & 11AM Masses
Calendar subject to change with additions & cancellations.



SUNDAY COFFEE

We would like to invite you to host Sunday Coffee. Coffee time is after the 9:00 and 11:00 AM Masses. Coffee, donuts and supplies are in the kitchen. We need your help to set up, serve, and clean up. Please sign up today for a date in

January. The sign up board is located next to the kitchen door.