

**ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, NEW FAIRFIELD**



**From the  
Pastor's Desk**



Fourth  
Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends,

Next weekend, April 1st and 2nd, I will be speaking about the 2006 Annual Bishop's Appeal. I believe you have received your letters from Bishop Lori and understand the Appeal process.

I will be assisting you with the message of where the Appeal dollars are used, the need for a stronger understanding of the Church and the Church we belong to.

Our Parish goal is \$175,000.00! I am asking for your understanding and financial support. May God bless you.

Peace,  
Msgr. Ryan

**MONDAY, MARCH 27**

- 7:30 AM Mary Mainella R/B The Carozza Family
- 9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory
- 5:30 PM In Thanksgiving for Prayers by the Parish Community R/B Marie

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28**

- 7:30 AM Richard Mullin R/B Louise & Peter Troll
- 9:00 AM Thomas & Freeda Laurich R/B Donovan Family
- 5:30 PM Souls in Purgatory

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

- 7:30 AM Al Salzo R/B The Shea Family
- 9:00 AM Bob Siegel R/B Cathy Siegel
- 5:30 PM Jodi Mylie R/B Daria & Mark Tsiames

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**

- 7:30 AM Michael Quinn R/B The Callahan Family
- 9:00 AM Albert Salzo R/B Don & Claire Navin
- 5:30 PM Jodi Mylie R/B Massamo & Rosann Cremonini

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**

- 7:30 AM Concetta Tarascio R/B Winnie & Vincent Rossitto
- 9:00 AM Guillermo Otero R/B Anne & Terry Guiry
- 5:30 PM Marie Benevento R/B Peter & Frances Schenk

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**

- 7:30 AM Margaret, Betty & Herb Roth R/B The Family
- 4:30 PM Parish Intentions Riendeau
- 6:00 PM Parish Intentions Ryan

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

- 7:30 AM Parish Intentions Cervero
- 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 an end to war at the request of Marie.

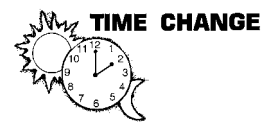
**THE SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn this week for the intentions of Msgr., Fr. Joe and Fr. Fred.

**LITURGY EVENTS**

April 9th .....Palm Sunday  
 April 16th .....Easter Sunday

**JOYFUL NOISE**

Please help make our prayer space a prayerful and joyous place. Kindly turn off your cell phones and beepers.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**  
 Please remember to set your clocks ahead next Sunday, April 2nd. Masses will be on Daylight Saving Time.

**LENT**

**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 7:00 PM.

**LENTEN FAST & ABSTINENCE**

Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. On Fridays, all Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from eating meat. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.

**Parish Support**

3-12-06

<b>TOTAL WEEKLY EXPENSES</b> .....	\$17,840.00
Budgeted Expenses .....	\$14,800.00
Interest on Mortgage .....	\$3,040.00
<b>TOTAL WEEKLY INCOME</b> .....	\$15,960.00
Offertory .....	\$15,405.00
Monthly.....	\$555.00

616 donors gave \$12,263.50 in weekly envelopes for an average gift of \$19.91. 48 donors gave \$1,272.00 in make-up envelopes for an average gift of \$28.50. 1 donor made a yearly/quarterly gift of \$250.00. In cash an estimated 170 donors gave \$1,619.50 for an average gift of \$9.52. 2,236 attended Mass this year, 2,503 attended last year.

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

**WHILE YOU ARE AWAY...**  
 Although you may be away, the Parish of St. Edward still needs your support. Please remember to use your make-up envelopes!

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – APRIL 2, 2006**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Jer 31:31-34/ Heb 5:7-9/ Jn 12:20-33

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### JOIN THE PARISH E-MAIL LIST

Many thanks to all who have subscribed to the Parish email list. Subscribing is easy. Email us your address at [parishlist@saintedwardchurch.org](mailto:parishlist@saintedwardchurch.org) or you can subscribe directly from the home page of the Parish website. We hope to use this

list to email newsworthy items to our parishioners on an as needed basis.



"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. The April issue of "Partners in Faith" is now available as well as the Lent Family Calendar. Enjoy!

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Msgr. Ryan and the Parish Administration Committee are looking for the aid of parishioners who have skills in strategic planning. The Parish leadership would like assistance in developing a plan to assess the Parish needs and programs and develop a "strategic plan for the future." If you want to share your skills with our Parish, please contact Msgr. Ryan, 746-2200 or Doug Dorsey, 746-0821.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We all play a very important role in protecting our children. There are five steps that adults can take to help create and maintain safe environments for children and prevent child sexual abuse. (Know the Warning Signs, Control Access, Monitor All Programs, Be Aware and Communicate Your Concerns.) We have addressed the first three. Step #4 will be discussed this week:

**Step # 4: Be Aware:** "It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant—that we always observe the behaviors of those who interact with children. And, we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes, this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And, sometimes, this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must teach their children about their private body parts and talk with them about the touching safety rules. They must also listen carefully to their children, and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with children. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them—at every opportunity." **Take a Moment to Review the VIRTUS Programs Tools By Sharon Womack Doty, J.D., M.H.R.**

The next "Protecting God's Children" Awareness Session will be held at St. Edward's on Wed. April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. **You must pre-register to attend this session**, please call Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200 Ext. 11.

### SOCIAL CONCERNS SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY



The Alzheimer's Association provides supportive programs and services to help people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers deal with the disease and its impact on their lives. Each chapter offers up to date information on various topics such as community resources and referral services, assists with care consultations, schedules and locations of support groups, safety services and education. The nearest local chapter office is located in Norwalk, CT and their help line # is (800) 356-5502. This is a toll free number. The website address is [www.alzct.org](http://www.alzct.org).

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We rejoice that you are joining our family to journey with us, to allow us to share our gifts with you, and for you to share your gifts and talents with us! If we can assist you in becoming an active member of our Parish community, please call the Parish Office at 746-2200 or the Parish Social Minister at 746-9595.

### AREA SENIOR SERVICES

The Social Concerns Team has recently developed an updated list of senior services programs that are available to the Danbury area. Programs include: Agency on Aging, Energy Assistance, Counseling, Healthcare and Housing Options. Please contact the Social Concerns Office at 746-9595 for further information.

### DOLLAR SUNDAY



Next Sunday is Dollar Sunday for Harmony House. This organization opened in March 1995 and provides emergency shelter for homeless women and their children. It exists to provide a safe and supportive environment for women who possess a commitment to improve their individual circumstances. Harmony House addresses issues of education, employment, medical and nutrition. Its goal is to connect each resident and her children with the resources necessary to locate permanent housing and a more stable environment. Please remember this wonderful charity and leave your donation in the wall safe at the doors or with a Social Concerns Representative. Harmony House, 5 Harmony Street, Danbury, CT 06810

### PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

We can live a faith that with God's help can renew and not destroy this planet we call home. The earth glorifies the power of God.

### THANK YOU

On behalf of Birthright, thank you to Msgr. Ryan, the clergy, the staff, the parishioners and the Ladies Guild for the beautiful gifts and contributions given to the baby shower held in February. Thank you also to the Ladies Guild for hosting the Shower.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>:** Easter Flower information and money due.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mandatory Meeting 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

**AMERICARES HOMEFRONT  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

An informational meeting about this year's home repair project will be held **Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM** in the Church Hall. All parishioners and any high school students are invited to come and find out about the home that we will be repairing. This is a great way to earn community service hours. No experience is needed except an open heart and a willingness to improve a home of someone in our community. You will make a difference. Any questions, call Doris McDermott, 746-5539.

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

**MCUTLER@SAINTEDWARDCHURCH.ORG**

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP  
(GRADES 6TH, 7TH & 8TH)**

Our service project of baking Irish soda bread and making 100 lunches for the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen was a huge success due to the generosity of the following people: Brett Cherry/STEW LEONARD'S, Peter/SHAW'S, Raheem/COSTCO, and J. D./C-TOWN. Please patronize their stores as they donated so generously to us!

The evening would not have been possible without the help of Arlene Callahan, Marni Cutler, Heather Ann Flagello, Kathy Murtha, Lisa McAskill, Joe Simons, Kathryn LaRegina and Fr. Joe. Their help was greatly appreciated!

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:** "Soup and Substance" – Join us for a soup dinner and a power point presentation of the Stations, each one created by the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation Classes.

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:** NO BOWLING—We'll try for a later date in April.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the Family Life Committee Members who made our St. Patrick's Dinner Dance a big hit. A special thank you to Bill O'Keeffe, Bill McDermott, Anne Monaco, Cal Kaplow and Kevin Early for all the work they did in organizing and running the evening's events. We are so very blessed to have these wonderful people in our Parish! They so willingly and graciously provide service to our Parish community. It was a great Irish night!

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

"By word and by prayer, and also by the renunciations and sufferings that advanced age brings with it, older people have always been eloquent witnesses and apostles of the faith in Christian communities and in families." Pontifical Council for the Laity, "The Dignity of Older People and their Mission in the Church and the World," October 1, 1998.

**COUPLES NIGHT OUT**

You are invited as ... The Family Life Committee presents "Couples Night Out" on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 to 9 PM in the Church Hall. Please join us for a very special evening with Jane and Jerry Serfass from "Forever One Marriage and Life Coaching." Jane and Jerry will lead us in a discussion of "knowing who God made 'US' to be," leading with our strengths. "Leading from Your Strengths" is a popular assessment tool that helps us to understand our own unique God-Given Strengths, Gifts, Talents and Tendencies. It will be a fun and enriching evening starting with light snacks and beverages at 7 PM and will conclude at 9 PM. See the flyer in the bulletin for more details. Hope to see you there!

**ST. EDWARD'S LADIES GUILD**

The Ladies Guild will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 AM Mass. In celebration of our Lenten Season there will be a film, "St. Faustian Kowalski" Life & Mission and we will say the Rosary.

Also, St. Edward's Ladies Guild will present "The Seven Sorrows of Mary" and "The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament" on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Church at 3:00 PM.

**ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL**

The 2006 Annual Bishop's Appeal is experiencing tremendous success in the first few weeks of activity. We hope that this year, you will join with the thousands of Catholics across the diocese and make a gift to this year's effort. We hope you can help. To make a gift, simply mail in your pledge card, contact our Parish Office, visit the website at [www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com) or call the Appeal Office at 203-416-1470.

**2006 ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL PRAYER**

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, at our baptism you gave us a share in the mission of your church. This mission invites us to work together for the good works of Catholic Education, Catholic Charities and all those programs that bring your gospel message of love to people, especially those who are less able to help themselves.

Lord, bless all our good works on behalf of the needy. The large number of people who seek our help can sometimes overwhelm us and tempt us to ask "What difference does my gift make among so many?" But help us remember that everyone's effort is important and every gift counts in your sight when, like the gift of the widow's mite in the temple that you commended, such a gift comes from a generous heart.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT*

**CALENDAR**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 3/27/06-4/2/06**

**Monday –3/27/06**

- 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. – Couples Night Out/Hall
- 7:30 p.m. – St. Edward’s Prayer Group/Cry Room

**Tuesday – 3/28/06**

- 9:30 a.m. – Mom’s Morning Out/Hall/Kitchen
- 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study/Conf. Rm. A
- 3:00 p.m. – Children’s and Youth Choir/Church
- 7:00 p.m. – AA Meeting/Hall
- 7:30 p.m. – Praise and Worship Gathering/Prayer Chapel

**Wednesday – 3/29/06**

- 9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos /Meeting Rooms 5-6
- 9:30 a.m. – Ladies Guild Meeting/Hall
- 10:00 a.m. – Joy Club/Cry Room
- 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. – Adult Choir/Church

**Thursday – 3/30/06**

- 9:30 a.m. – Ladies’ Guild Sewing Group/Hall
- 3:00 p.m. – Faith Formation Classes Grade 6/Hall
- 7:00 p.m. – Bible Study/Conf. Rm. B
- 7:00 p.m. – Grief Support Workshop/AMC
- 7:15 p.m. – Life in the Spirit Seminar/Church
- 7:30 p.m. – Contemporary Choir Rehearsal/Conf. Rm. A

**Friday – 3/31/06**

- 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Contemplative Prayer Group/AMC
- 3:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy Prayer Group/Prayer Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. – Children’s Liturgy Rehearsal/Church
- 7:00 p.m. – Soup & Substance Stations/Hall
- 8:30 p.m. – AA Women’s Group/AMC

**Saturday – 4/1/06**

- 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. – Lift Your Spirit Yoga/Hall
- 3:15 p.m. – Ministry Hour/Hall

**Sunday – 4/2/06**

- 11:00 a.m. – RCIA Third Scrutiny Mass/Church
- 12:00 p.m. – RCIA for Children/Conf. Rm. B
- 3:00 p.m. – Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Church
- 4:15 p.m. – Youth Mass Choir Practice/Church
- 6:00 p.m. – Teen Passion Play Rehearsal/Church
- 6:30 p.m. – Workcamp Meeting/Hall

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

- Next Admin Comm.....4-03-06 ..... 6:00 PM
- Next Blue Ribbon.....4-01-06 ..... 8:30 AM
- Next Staff Meeting.....TBA ..... Noon
- Next Finance Comm. ....4-06-06 ..... 7:30 PM
- Liturgy Comm. ....TBA ..... 7:30 PM