

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, NEW FAIRFIELD



MONDAY, APRIL 3

7:30 AM Marie & Kaspar R/B Marion Fuchsenthaler
 9:00 AM Jennie & Dominic Dalessio R/B The Family
 5:30 PM Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 AM Bill Capellaro R/B Jeannette & Frank Sweeney
 9:00 AM John & Philomena Pileggi R/B
 Bob & Connie Pileggi
 5:30 PM Stephen Manning R/B Molly & Thomas Whelan

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

7:30 AM Rita Keenan R/B The Goldstein Family
 9:00 AM Frank Klemczak R/B Louise Spinello
 5:30 PM Al Salzo R/B Louise & Carl Goodman

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

7:30 AM Margaret Byrnes R/B The McGuirk Family
 9:00 AM Frank Klemczak R/B Mary Pender & Peggy Hayes
 5:30 PM Joseph Piskura R/B The Family

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

7:30 AM Marie & John Mangini R/B The Family
 9:00 AM Nancy Dolan R/B Barbara & Gerry Neal
 5:30 PM Ronald Orr R/B The Broderick Family

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

7:30 AM Eleanor Nolan R/B Bernadette Quinn
 4:30 PM Parish Intentions Ryan
 6:00 PM Parish Intentions Riendeau

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

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 our RCIA candidates.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP will burn this week in memory of Anthony Grigalis at the request of Irene & Jerry Castoral.

Fifth
 Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends,
 Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter is upon us. We believe the next two weekends will be very busy. Please come to mass early and welcome all those who will join us.


Please try and invite someone back to Church for these holy days. The liturgies are planned to be prayerful and thought provoking.

As we prayerfully travel in the steps of Jesus, we pray that the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ will change our lives.


May God bless you.

Peace,
 Msgr. Ryan

LITURGY EVENTS	
April 9th	Palm Sunday
April 16th	Easter Sunday
April 30th	11:00 AM..... Engagement Ceremony

 **BAPTISM**

The parish family of St. Edward the Confessor welcomes Sean Philip Gibbons and Marcello Michael Oliva who were baptized here last weekend.

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	
3-19-06	
TOTAL WEEKLY EXPENSES	\$17,840.00
Budgeted Expenses	\$14,800.00
Interest on Mortgage	\$3,040.00
TOTAL WEEKLY INCOME	\$15,973.50
Offertory	\$15,613.50
Monthly	\$360.00
605 donors gave \$12,140.50 in weekly envelopes for an average gift of \$20.07. 61 donors gave \$1,494.00 in make-up envelopes for an average gift of \$24.49. 2 donors made yearly/quarterly gifts of \$1,000.00. In cash an estimated 124 donors gave \$979.00 for an average gift of \$7.90. 2,178 attended Mass this year, 3,187 attended last year.	

LOAVES AND FISHES COLLECTION

The special collection, taken up at this time each year, is a wonderful opportunity to practice the virtue of charity by fasting and giving alms. By abstaining from one meal each week during Lent and contributing the money saved to Loaves and Fishes, you will be reaching out in compassion to those who would be eating less or not at all without your act of self-denial. Envelopes are available at the doors of the Church. Please be generous.

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY ...

The season for First Communions, Weddings and Graduations is upon us. Vacation time will soon be here. While you are away, the Parish of St. Edward's needs your support. Please remember your make-up envelopes when you are away!

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – APRIL 9, 2006	
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	
Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/ Is 50:4-7/ Phil 2:6-11/ Mk 14:1— 15:47 or 15:1-39	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"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.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

We have a number of children in our Parish with life threatening food allergies (especially peanut products). We are asking that **NO FOOD OF ANY KIND** be brought into the Church Worship Space. The safety and well being of our children is our primary concern. We ask for your cooperation in this matter. Thank you!

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.) Step #5 will be discussed this week:

Step #5: Communicate Your Concerns "Communication is also important when we have specific concerns about an adult's behavior or when we suspect that a child is being abused or *has been* abused. Adults must communicate their concerns when they witness questionable or risky behavior in the other adults interacting with children in the parish or school environment. Communication is essential to preventing harm. When any adult in the faith community has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused, he or she has a moral (and often a legal) responsibility to report those suspicions to civil authorities. Reporting suspected abuse takes courage. However, adults who take a stand *for* children and make the call are often responsible for saving a child from terrible torment."

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 Wednesday April 26th 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



Danbury Hospital will hold a Medical Town Meeting called, "**When a Loved One Needs Care**" on April 6th from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium. Learn about available options that provide care and support for a loved one. The program explores making decisions about extended care and evaluating their appropriateness, understanding the financial maze and community resources. This meeting is free and open to the public. For further info or questions, call (203) 797-7247.

DOLLAR SUNDAY

 Sunday is Dollar Sunday for Harmony House, an organization which provides emergency shelter for homeless women and their children and addresses issues of education, employment, medical and nutrition. Please leave your donation in the wall safe at the doors or with a Social Concerns Representative.

Harmony House, 5 Harmony Street, Danbury, CT 06810

FOOD DRIVE

St. Edward's will be conducting a Holiday Food Drive on the weekend of April 22nd & 23rd. Canned fruits, vegetables and fresh food will be collected. Watch the bulletin for more details.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

If you become aware of a neighbor, friend or family member who has recently moved into our area, please let us know! We would like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to all and would invite all Catholics to become active members of St. Edward's. Please help your Parish and fellow Christians by calling 746-2200 or 746-9595.

MEN'S GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Please join the men of our Parish for the 31st Annual New Fairfield Men's Good Friday Breakfast scheduled for Friday, April 14th. This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Ralph Manfredi, Chiropractic Physician. Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Space after each Mass both this week and next.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The focus this month will be the value of exercise. God encourages us to take care of our physical bodies in a responsible way (1Cor. 6:19).

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.

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 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.



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.

April 2nd: Mandatory Meeting 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

April 7th: Friday, 4:00 to 7:00 PM, wrap/pick up Easter flowers.

FROM THE DESK OF MARJ CUTLER:
746-0755

MCUTLER@SAINTEDWARDCHURCH.ORG

JR. YOUTH GROUP (6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADES)

Friday, April 7th: NO BOWLING—We'll try for a later date in April.

Saturday, April 8th: The Jr. Youth Group is sponsoring the Parish Egg Hunt. Help is needed for 10 AM to 12:30 PM. I need 5 or 6 students to help with set-up, face-painting, general help, clean-up and even to be the Easter Bunny!

Please call me ASAP if you can help!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—THANK YOU!!

On behalf of the children and parents of our First Communion class, we would like to thank the K of C for directing the traffic at the 9:00 AM Mass on Butterfly Sunday. Thank you for your assistance!

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, April 4th. For more info, call Tricia Quinn, 746-0056.



ST. EDWARD'S LADIES GUILD

The St. Edward's Ladies Guild is presenting "The Seven Sorrows of Mary" followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, April 2nd at 3 PM in the Church. The "Seven Sorrows of Mary" is a Marian Devotional Prayer Service with sacred music and Scripture readings. It describes Mary's "seven sorrows" during her life as Jesus' mother. Please join us as members of the Ladies Guild, Msgr. Ryan, Dan Kean and Gloria Hudson present this beautiful spiritual experience.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"The main reason we are funding stem cell research in California and we are so well invested in it, is because a lot of scientists think these guys (the now-discredited South Korean scientists) are ahead of us," states Jeanne Loring, a researcher at The Burnham Institute. (*The San Diego Union Tribune 12/24/05*)

In this quote, the motivations of competition and gain among scientists pursuing embryonic stem cell research become clear, in contrast to the supposedly humanitarian motives with which embryonic stem cell researchers have blinded so many regarding the truth of what is involved in their work.

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 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, April 4th, Noon – 1:30 PM at the AMC**. Our topic is "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People". Please bring a bag lunch. Access for the handicapped will be provided. For more info, a copy of the article or to participate in this discussion opportunity, please call Family Life Minister Jane Arseniadis at 746-2200, Ext. 11.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP

Our Family Life Ministry sponsors a Support Group dedicated to the Separated and Divorced Families of our community. We welcome all who are in need of support, friendship and guidance during times of stress, uncertainty, pain, loss and loneliness. We offer confidentiality, care and compassion to our fellow sisters and brothers. Meetings are held twice a month on Sunday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Adult Ministry Center. The next meeting of the Separated and Divorced Support Group is Sunday, April 9th. For more information please call Jane at 746-2200 Ext. 11 or email @jarseniadis@saintedwardchurch.org

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

The theme of this year's Annual Bishop's Appeal, *United in Service*, calls us to join together as one Catholic family to help the neediest among us. We have received 116 pledges in the amount of \$35,980.00 which is 21% of our goal. Prayerfully consider supporting the many good works of the Diocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.

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 to those 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 4/3/06-4/9/06

Monday - 4/3/06

- 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 7/Hall
- 6:00 p.m. – Administration Committee Meeting/Conf. Rm. C
- 7:00 p.m. – Faith Sharing Support Group/Conf. Rm. A

Tuesday - 4/4/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Toddler Tea/Hall/Kitchen
- 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study/Conf. Rm. A
- 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/Hall

Wednesday - 4/5/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Terrific Twos /Meeting Rooms 5-6
- 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. – Social Concern's Meeting/Meeting Room 9
- 7:30 p.m. – K of C Boy Scout Mentoring/Conf. Rm. C

Thursday - 4/6/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Ladies' Guild Sewing Group/Hall
- 1:00 p.m. – Social Concerns- Regional Hospice
- 3:30 p.m. – Children's Liturgy Rehearsal/Church
- 7:00 p.m. – Bible Study/Conf. Rm. B
- 7:00 p.m. – Finance Committee Meeting/Meeting Room 9
- 7:15 p.m. – Liturgical Design/Conf. Rm. C
- 7:15 p.m. – Life in the Spirit Seminar/Church
- 7:30 p.m. – Grief Support Workshop/AMC

Friday - 4/7/06

- 9:30 a.m. – Women's Contemplative Prayer Group/AMC
- 10:00 a.m. – First Friday Adoration/Prayer Chapel
- 3:30 p.m. – Children's Liturgy Rehearsal/Church
- 4:00 p.m. – Workcamp Easter Flower Wrapping/Hall
- 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Prayer Service/Church
- 8:30 p.m. – AA Women's Group/AMC

Saturday - 4/8/06

- 8:00 a.m. – Bulletin Assemblers/Conf. Rm. C
- 10:00 a.m. – Lift Your Spirit Yoga
- 11:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt/Hall

Sunday - 4/9/06 Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. – Children's Liturgy/Church
 - 12:00 p.m. – RCIA for Children/Conf. Rm. B
 - 12:00 p.m. – RCIA Retreat/AMC
 - 5:15 p.m. – Teen Passion Play Mass/Church
- 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..... TBA 8:30 AM
- Next Staff Meeting..... TBA Noon
- Next Finance Comm.4-06-06 7:30 PM
- Liturgy Comm.4-24-06 7:30 PM