

Fall NEWSLETTER

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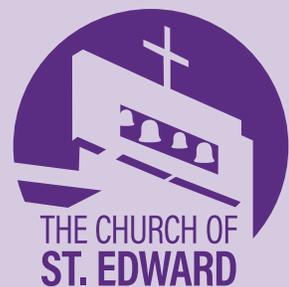
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Dear Parishioners,

I've been your new (sort of recycled) pastor for about three months now, and during that time I have to say that I have experienced a very warm welcome. Thank you to all who have helped make my return to St. Ed's such a positive experience. I'd also like to also offer a special thank you to all who helped furnish the new parish rectory. The townhome on Nesbitt Road (pretty much right across the street from the Church) is a wonderful place to "hang my hat" and call home for the years ahead. I am so grateful.

I'm also grateful to the staff and the many parish leaders and volunteers who have done so much to make the "pastoral transition" a smooth one—especially all the liturgy folks who have worked so hard to accommodate and adapt to my particular style of presiding. I've been so thankful for the positive spirit and "synergy" in bringing things together. It is truly a joy to be celebrating at St. Ed's again!

In addition to concentrating on the liturgy these past few months, I've also been working at getting to know as many people as possible. It's been wonderful reconnecting with long-time parishioners I knew "back in the day," plus all the new faces and families that make up this very special and unique community of faith. More and more I'm sensing the "pulse of the parish" and getting in touch with some of the hopes and dreams that you have for St. Ed's.

This first year I plan to continue focusing on the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish, getting to know as many parishioners as possible and supporting all the wonderful ministries and programs already happening. As the year unfolds, I also hope to start "setting the table" with leaders, staff and volunteers for engaging a future process of visioning and long-range planning for our parish community.

Please know how grateful I am for the warm welcome I have received and how excited I am to be a part of our future together.

God bless each of you and God bless the parish of St. Edward!



Fr. Rick presiding at the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, July 15

Fr. Rick Banker

Worship



Christmas decorations enhanced the worship space in 2017.

SPECIAL MUSIC PLANNED FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST. EDWARD

by Craig Walker

Join us for a Christmas Mass this holiday season! There are two choices on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24. First there will be a “family” Mass at 4pm. It will feature our Children’s Choir and Praise Team with contemporary style music. “Midnight” Mass will be at 10:30pm with our Adult Choir and chamber instruments such as flute, violin, and cello. Come early for prelude music at 10pm.

On Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, the 8:30am Mass will feature our brass ensemble. At 10:30am, the brass will be joined by our Festival Choir. We welcome all singers to join our Festival Choir for this Mass.

CONTACT US: If you’d like to participate, contact Craig Walker, or email music@stedwardschurch.org.

EVOLVING MUSIC AT ST. EDWARD

by Craig Walker

The music at our weekend Masses continues to evolve. Our Saturday 5pm and Sunday 10:30am Masses now feature modern rhythm instrumentation every week including guitar, electric bass, and drums. Our beautiful pipe organ will continue to be an important part of weekly Masses. The modern rhythm instrumentation will be coming to the Sunday 8:30 Mass before year end.

New songs are being introduced on almost a weekly basis. A great way to become familiar with those songs is to follow Church of St. Edward on Facebook and to subscribe to the weekly e-blast. New songs are routinely introduced in those spaces along with a link to a recording of those songs when available. Generally it is our practice to repeat a new song a few times in subsequent weeks so you get a chance to learn it.

In addition to new songs, we are introducing new Psalm settings, and interpreting classic hymns in new ways. We hope the new worship aid format makes it easier to follow the music during Mass. If you like to sing and would like to help support our Masses, we are looking for singers who would like to be part of a small group at the 5pm and 8:30 Masses to help lead music.

Our contemporary Mass setting—Mass of Saint Ann—continues through Ordinary Time. During Advent we will return to the much loved Mass of Joy and Peace.

CONTACT US: Your comments and feedback are always welcome. Contact Craig Walker by sending an email to music@stedwardschurch.org.

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by Craig Walker

Two years ago, we formed a team of staff and volunteer parishioners to formulate a plan to enhance the technology in our worship space including sound, video, and lighting. During this time, the team has worked together to educate ourselves, conduct research, and engage consultants regarding our direction. After a brief hiatus during our change in parish leadership, we are now poised to move ahead.

Currently we are working with as many as four vendors who specialize in these technologies. These vendors have received information regarding our goals and requirements, received architectural information, and visited our church to understand our needs. By the end of this year, we expect to receive proposals from these vendors for the sound portion of this project. They are invited to include the video and lighting portions or submit that later.

The goal of our project is to implement a new sound system in church by Easter of 2019, followed by the video phase that summer. Lighting enhancements would potentially follow in the fall of 2019. *These are targets and are subject to change.*

There may be ways you can help. We will need volunteers to assist with our new technology—running sound, video, etc. If that is of interest to you, let us know. We would like to start identifying volunteers now. Youth are especially encouraged to consider participation in this area.

ONE PARISH, TWO TABERNACLES

by Mary Kay Hird

We now have two beautiful Tabernacles at St. Edward; one in the main church, and the recently refurbished gold tabernacle in the chapel. These have been a wonderful addition to our liturgies.

The red vigil light next to the Tabernacle indicates the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Come and spend some time! When you come to quietly pray, you draw strength knowing that you are in the presence of God. He is near to us in our daily lives—He is love.



Above left: St. Edward's original gold Tabernacle was recently discovered in storage. It has been refurbished and was returned to the chapel in October. Above right: The baldachin and second Tabernacle were moved to the main church earlier this fall.

CELEBRATING THE MASS

by Mary Kay Hird

Are you looking for a unique way to get involved in the spiritual life at St. Edward? We have a vibrant group of dedicated volunteers that serve at all liturgies and we would love for you to join!

Are you being called? We would be honored to have you take an active role in the liturgies here at St. Edward.

Are you looking for a way to give back? By sharing your gifts with others, you will receive more than you give.

There really is something for everyone! Opportunities include:

Altar Servers	Art & Environment
Children's Liturgy	Choir & Music
Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters
Lectors	Linen Care
Sacristans	Ushers

CONTACT US: Call the parish office at 952-835-7101 to find out how you can share your talents.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Advent

Advent begins the first weekend of December. Weekly Masses will be celebrated each Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am.

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8. Mass at 9:00am. This is a holy day of obligation.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 13 at 7:00pm. Weekly confession schedule: 4pm Saturdays.

Eucharistic Adoration

All day on Friday, December 21, from 9:30am to 5:00pm. Weekly Exposition schedule: 7:15pm Sundays.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24. Masses will be celebrated at 4:00pm, and at 10:30pm with a musical prelude at 10:00pm.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25. Masses at 8:30 & 10:30am.

Feast of the Holy Family

December 29/30. Masses on Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am.

Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, January 1. Mass at 9:00am.

Epiphany

January 5/6. Masses on Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am.

Pastoral Care

STEPHEN MINISTRY

by Mia Ah Sani

The Church of St. Edward has proudly had a Stephen Ministry program running for over 30 years. This is very impressive, and when I was at the Stephen Minister leaders training this summer, only a handful of other churches present could claim that kind of longevity. We got a standing ovation! Since it has been active in this parish for so many years, you may already know what this ministry is about. You may have received care from a Stephen Minister in the past, or know someone who has, and felt that it was a very supportive and helpful spiritual experience. For those of you who haven't, let's explore it together.

What is Stephen Ministry? Christ Caring for People through People: That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. You could be going through loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges, and need some more support than you usually would. God never intended for us to go through these

experiences alone. That is why God brought us together as a parish, and why we have Stephen Ministry.

What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

Stephen Ministers are members of St. Edward who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

CONTACT US: To find out more about how someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Mia Ah Sani, the Director of Pastoral Care or one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Jean Smidt, Evelyn Burk, or Kathy Baumgartner.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

by Dorothy Kass

The Memorial Garden has brought peace and comfort to many grieving families for over nine years. The cremated remains of their loved ones who have died are interred in this sacred place where you can feel the presence of God.

The garden is nestled beneath the chapel walls and includes a brick path in the shape of a Celtic Cross. Granite plaques that hang from the building wall are engraved with the names of those interred within. Also within the garden is a beautiful statue of Our Blessed Mother. From inside the chapel, the Alcove of Mary looks out onto the garden.

The presence of the Memorial Garden gives comfort to those who mourn and inspires our community to celebrate the fullness of Christian life. Families appreciate the convenience of being able to visit their loved ones when attending church, or any other day and time. The garden also creates camaraderie as we share memories or work with others in caring for it.

We invite you to visit the Memorial Garden. May you find it a beautiful place to honor our loved ones and a peaceful place to pray.

CONTACT US: Call the parish office at 952-835-7101 for more information.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS WHILE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

by Mia Ah Sani

It's OK to not feel like celebrating the holidays. For those mourning the loss of a spouse, child, parent or other loved one, that first holiday season can be an emotionally trying time. Between the memories that are stirred up by the festivities, and the expectations to be jolly and full of holiday spirit, the season can mean slipping back into grief and depression for those still coping with loss.

Just as grief counselors and therapists agree that there's no right or wrong way to grieve, they also agree that there is no right or wrong way to celebrate that first holiday after the death of a loved one. However, there are ways to ease the pain of the holiday, and things that friends and family can do to help those in mourning.

For many, social support and distraction will be the best cure for the season, so it really depends on what makes you feel better. While people often isolate themselves from holiday parties out of fear of being a "downer" or of crying and getting upset in front of others, it's important to realize that those who love you understand that you're not going to be "your old chipper self" right now, and want you there anyway.

One of the hardest parts of getting through the holidays for those in grief is the belief they have to be cheerful just because it's the holidays. Those who are grieving often feel bad for not feeling good at Christmas, or if they do manage to have a good time, they feel guilty for laughing or feeling joy when they think they should still be in mourning. It's a bit of a vicious cycle.

The same kind of guilt can crop up surrounding the continuing of holiday traditions: Should they put up the decorations as usual? How can they when their loved one is not there? It can feel wrong to celebrate without the loved one, but also wrong not to celebrate. The most useful tool against these feelings of guilt and confusion is to ask oneself what the deceased would have wanted, grief experts say.

In many ways we often do the reverse: 'He's gone, and I can't do this', but that's exactly what your loved one wouldn't have wanted for you. You are not honoring the loss by depriving yourself of your traditions, or of the celebrations that the holidays entail. I try to remind people to ask themselves, 'What would he/she want for me right now?'

It's important to remember that you're allowed to be happy, you're allowed to be sad, you're allowed to do whatever you need to do. It's OK to be selfish with your own needs at this time, and it's important to be gentle with yourself. It's OK to turn down certain holiday invitations to give yourself space, but it's also OK to let your family know that you need extra support right now.

CONTACT US: Your parish is here to support you. If you would like to talk to someone, or would like more resources on grieving during the holidays, please contact Mia Ah Sani, Director of Pastoral Care, at 952-835-7101.



If you have experienced the death of a loved one, you may want to seek out a grief support group. The Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition, a large group of area churches working together to provide support and education, meets every Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00pm. Guest speakers share their own experience and professional knowledge on grief and loss. Small support groups meet after the educational presentation.

The value of grief support groups lies in the telling of stories. No effort is made to interpret, direct, or analyze. Honoring a mourner's stories helps reshape their experience and begin creating meaning and purpose in life. Stories are re-shaped not in the telling once, twice, or even three times, but over and over again.

The stories speak the truth. The stories create hope. The stories create healing.

Pastoral Care

INTRODUCING A NEW MINISTRY: CARE GIVING

by Jean Buell

“Care for Caregivers” is a new ministry here at St. Edward. As our community ages, we see more adults caring for other adults whose abilities are declining. Who are these caregivers? Most often they are:

- Spouses who are caring for their “other half.”
- Adult children who are looking after their parents.
- Friends or extended family who are assisting elders.

Unlike formal caregivers, these family caregivers are not professionally trained. In varying degrees, they provide hands-on care, social support, medical advocacy, financial oversight, and more. It’s a rewarding labor of love, and yet it can be lonely, exhausting, and stressful. The intensity can put the caregivers’ own health at risk. Self care is a need, but time limitations make it seem like a luxury.

Are you a family caregiver? St. Edward cares about you! Through Pastoral Care, we hope to be attentive and available. Our mission is to be instruments of God’s healing love and presence. For now, we’d like to reach out and let you know what resources are available here and in the community. Over time, we hope to grow this ministry according to your needs.



CONTACT US: If you are a family caregiver, please give us your name and contact info so we can reach out to you. Call Mia Ah Sani, Director of Pastoral Care, at 952-835-7101 ext. 223 or email mahsani@stedwardschurch.org. If you know of any family caregivers at St. Edward, please share this article with them.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: BEYOND BELIEF

by Jean Buell



CONTACT US: To learn more about Spiritual Direction, find a brochure outside the chapel, see the Pastoral Care section of our parish website, or call Mary and Jean at 952-835-7101 ext. 212.

There’s a curious saying from Jesus, “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” In fact, the gospels repeat it seven times! What sense does it make? Isn’t it obvious that people have ears? And isn’t it obvious that ears are for listening?

Well, yes. A deeper meaning of this saying might be “Incline yourself to hear a deeper meaning, then listen for it.” It’s almost like searching for a Vikings game on the radio. You hear blip after blip of static and such, but you’re listening for a specific announcer and background. When you hear it, you’ve scored! *And hopefully the Vikings have, too!*

My childhood piano lessons included ear training. Unfortunately, it didn’t stick, and I’m still a little tone deaf. Not so with my spiritual ears! Over the years, spiritual direction has helped me listen for depth, even in the difficulties of life. That type of listening has brought me beyond belief into a renewed relationship with God. It’s not about scoring; it’s about transforming—becoming who God created us to be.

Part of spiritual growth is attuning our senses to hear God’s invitations, to feel God’s nudges, and to see God’s activity in our lives. It’s important to have a regular practice of prayer, such as contemplative prayer. And it’s helpful to meet with a guide. A spiritual director can lend you his/her ears as you both listen for the deeper meaning in your life experiences.

Let all who have ears listen. Let all who have eyes see. And let all who have hearts be transformed...into Love!

Ministry Highlights

FAITH FORMATION

by Nicole Smalley

Meet the New Faith Formation Staff Members

This year, we have three new staff members. Forrest, Tim and Aaron, “The Big 3” as we call them, are our new Faith Formation assistants! All three have just graduated from college and are living in the Twin Cities.

Forrest grew up in Bloomington and studied Special Education at Luther College. In High School, she went with St. Edward to the Dominican Republic twice.

Tim grew up in Bloomington and has been a part of St. Edward his whole life, from faith formation, to Confirmation to Acts 29. He and Aaron met at St. John’s University, both majoring in economics.

Aaron grew up attending St. Joan of Arc and has been involved in youth ministry leading retreats and camps, which is what brought him to St. Edward.

The Big 3 have been connected to this church and each other for many years, showing us that God has been working ahead of us to make this happen. We are thrilled to have them join the team. Each Wednesday they will work primarily with Middle School, Confirmation and Base Camp, bringing energy and enthusiasm to these programs, as well as being role models for our students as they live out their faith. Please keep them in your prayers and take a minute to introduce yourself when you see them around church.



Left to right: Forrest Schrader, Tim Larson and Aaron Hove

COMMUNITY LIFE

by Donna Rubio

Christmas Sing-A-Long

Saturday, December 1 | 3:00-4:45pm

Let’s get together for some holiday cheer! Parishioners of all ages are invited to an afternoon of entertainment, crafts, and treats.

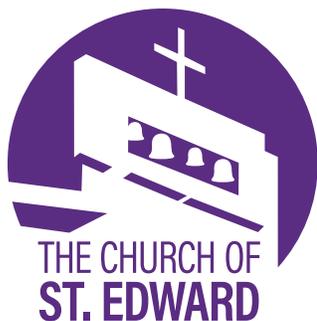
Songs will be performed by our wonderful Adult and Children’s Choirs and Faith Formation youth.

Individuals, families, and groups are also invited to share their favorite Christmas songs.

Save the Date for the 2019 Cana Dinner!

Saturday, February 23 | 5-10:00pm

Marriage can be beautiful and difficult, joyful and frustrating. Marriage is a vocation, a living sacrament, a continual work in progress. It is worth celebrating. Whether you have been married for 60+ years or just newly married, you are invited celebrate your marriage with a renewal of vows and blessing during the 5pm Mass followed by a candlelit dinner and dancing.



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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Our fall newsletter features information from Pastoral Care and Worship. Our next edition is planned for spring and will have a Administration and Social Justice focus.

This winter we plan to keep you informed on the seasons of Advent and Lent through eblasts, the parish website and additional mailings. These will include service times and special offerings for these important days in our liturgical calendar.

For the most up-to-date information, check out stedwardschurch.org/calendar.

Parish Ministry Staff

Phone: 952-835-7101; extensions listed below

Pastor.....	Fr. Rick Banker	x234
Deacon	Dc. Jim DeShane	x220
Parish Administrator	Beth Schorle	x222
Receptionist / Administrative Assistant	Sue Kruchten	x200
Director of Communications	Celeste Morris	x201
Director of Community Life	Donna Rubio	x219
Director of Liturgy	Mary Kay Hird	x217
Director of Music	Craig Walker	x231
Director of Pastoral Care.....	Mia Ah Sani	x223
Director of High School & Adult Ministries	Patrick Smalley	x211
Director of Faith Formation: Birth to Grade 8	Nicole Smalley	x210
Faith Formation Assistants.....	Forrest Schrader / Tim Larson / Aaron Hove	
Director of Facilities & Maintenance	Brian Swain	x224
Maintenance Crew	Miguel Ponce / Gene Vavra / Dave Santos	
Coordinator of Sunday School & Nursery	Bridget Grotins	
Worship Aids	Beth Schmidt	
Director of Children's Choir	Emma Shukle	
Parish Accountant	Dc. Mark Johanns	x208