

St. Edward the Confessor

December 2, 2018
1st Sunday of Advent



Thank You

Thank you very much for your support and generosity.



Last Sunday's collection amounted to \$586.25

Service of Reconciliation

As part of our Advent program, and our preparations for Christmas, there will be Service of reconciliation on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:15 in the church sanctuary.

Father Ray to visit on December 9, 2018

As this bulletin goes to print, we are expecting Father Ray Lafontaine to celebrate Mass with us next Sunday morning, December 9. We look forward to giving him a very warm welcome when he comes.

Prayer Chain for Peace



As we move into Advent we cannot deny that there is still a lot of hatred and war in our world. We can all pray for peace.

Our prayer chain for peace begins today and will run through until Christmas Eve. There is a poster in the hall where members of St John's and St Edward's are being encouraged to sign up for one day where you will intentionally pray for peace. For our prayer chain to be complete, we need at least one person to sign up on each day until December 24. Together we will continually pray for peace until we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Service of Lessons & Carols

On the second Sunday of Advent, December 9, we will join with St John's for a Service of Lessons and Carols at 3 pm in the church. Come and enjoy the combined voices of both choirs singing together.

Bible Study During Advent

For three Wednesdays in Advent (December 5, 12 and 19) there will be a bible study that will examine the Gospel of Luke, Chapter One: ***The Good News of Joy to the World***. The bible studies begin at noon at the church. Please bring your lunch.

Living with Christ Books

The Sunday Missal, Living with Christ, for 2018-2019 is available on the credenza in the hallway. Please take only one per family.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24: 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Mass
December 25: 10:00 am
Christmas Day Mass
December 31: 5:00 pm
New Year's Eve Mass
January 1, 2019: 10:00 am
New Year's Day Mass

This bulletin is prepared weekly by Ann Marie Di Michele and Craig Buchanan

Christmas Baskets

St Edward's will be preparing 15 Christmas baskets this year. We need people to deliver the baskets to the families and others to purchase gifts for the children in the families we have been given. There will be sign-up sheets in the hall. The Christmas baskets are to be delivered the week of December 17. Lynn Jansen is coordination this project.

Why is it So Difficult to Enter Into Advent ?

It happens every year, as predictably as drawing up a shopping list, decorating the tree and planning the Christmas Dinner. Every year we think, "Now THIS is the year when I really will enter into Advent." And there it stays. Nothing happens.

What if this Advent, we allow ourselves to imagine a life that is different? What if our hearts were at peace and our lives more satisfying? That longing in the most hidden corners of our hearts is something holy, a Holy Longing, a desire for a deeper relationship with God.

Advent is a time to recognize both our holy longing and the healing love God has for us, despite the many barriers we put up between ourselves and God. We can start simply and just rest at the edge of our beds in the mornings, open our hands and whisper, "Come, Lord Jesus!" If we let ourselves feel what is in our hearts, we know they are filled with love. We can carry that experience with us as we go through even the busiest of our days. We may not know exactly where to begin or how to fill this longing in our hearts but it is simple. God waits with infinite love and with arms outstretched to meet us. The words we say don't matter. We can speak as if God is a friend we have not seen in a long time, but one with whom we can sit in a comfortable silence.

It's just about taking the first step. Even if we are fearful about this next step, we can say to God what is in our hearts. In this Advent season, it's time to risk, to make the first step, to find our way back home.

"Loving God, I don't have the right words. I'm not sure where to begin, but I know you are the hope and promise of the peace to come in my life. Be with me this day. Let me look at my life and my day today and open my heart completely as I begin, "Come, Lord Jesus."