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Council #14404
Joe Hickey, Grand Knight
Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

SAINT EDWARD FAMILY CENTER

741 Washington Blvd.
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Available for rent (max. 330 People)
For Information call 616-374-7253
EMAIL fredia@wowway.biz

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Saint Edwards sites, please scan the QR code for each.



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website

Saint Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



December 29, 2024
Saint Edward Church
531 Jordan Lake St.
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Pastor: Father Tom Brown
frtombrown@sspccatholic.com

Website: www.stedwardslakeodessa.org

Office: 616.374.7253

stedwards@wowway.biz

Facebook: Saint Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
8 AM-2 PM

Closed Tuesdays & Fridays

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil **6:00 PM**

Sunday **9:45 AM**

Weekday Masses:

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. **9:00 AM**

Thursday **12:10 PM**

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Thursday **6:30 PM-7:30 PM**

Tuesday **8 am**

or by appointment

Secretary: Katherine Martin 616-374-7253

Bookkeeper: Dan Shields

DRE: Fredia 616-374-7253 ext. 202

Hall Manager: Fredia 616-374-7253 ext. 201

Prayer Chain: Gayle Peacock 616-374-8274

Pastoral Council: Kathy Carnegie, Colleen King, and Fredia Wernette

Financial Council: Andrew Snider, Jerry Tomandl, Allen Hamp, Chris Vinton, Mary Gillette & Marty Kretovic

MISSION STATEMENT

We, St. Edward's Parish, joyfully experience life in Christ through the celebration of the sacraments and dedicate ourselves to faith formation. Our parish is devoted to inspiring youth to become active followers of Christ. We live to promote love within the church and community according to the Gospel.

29 Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Lk 2:41-52

30 Monday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

31 Tuesday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord: Saint Sylvester I, Pope

1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 Jn 1:1-18

01 Wednesday: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

02 Thursday: Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctor of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

03 Friday: Christmas Weekday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-6 Jn 1:29-34

04 Saturday: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Jn 1:35-42

05 Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:0-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

This week, we reflect on the Holy Family. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. I suspect Joseph is the most difficult for us. In the scriptures, he doesn't say a word. Not one! When he is in a scene, Mary or Jesus speak. But not a word from Joseph. So, what does he think of all this? All we have is our imagination. So, what follows is not from Scripture. Not a word. But these words are thoughtful or at least thought provoking. This passage is another from Max Lucado in his book *He Still Moves Stones*.

"This isn't the way I planned it, God. Not at all. My child being born in a stable? This isn't the way I thought it would be. A cave with sheep and donkeys, hay and straw? My wife giving birth with only the stars to hear her?"

This isn't at all what I imagined. No, I imagined family. I imagined grandmothers. I imagined neighbors clustered outside the door and friends standing at my side. I imagined the house erupting with the first cry of the infant. Slaps on the back. Loud laughter. Jubilation.

That's how I thought it would be.

But now....Who will celebrate with us? The sheep? The shepherds? The stars?

This doesn't seem right. What kind of husband am I? I provide no midwife to aid my wife. No bed to rest her back. Her pillow is a blanket from my donkey....

Did I miss something? Did I, God?

When you sent an angel and spoke of the son being born---this isn't what I pictured. I envisioned Jerusalem, the temple, the priests, and the people gathered to watch. A pageant perhaps. A parade....I mean, this is the Messiah!

Or, if not born in Jerusalem, how about Nazareth? Wouldn't Nazareth have been better? At least there I have my house and my business. Out here, what do I have? A weary mule, a stack of firewood, and a pot of warm water. This is not the way I wanted it to be!...Forgive me for asking but...is this how God enters the world? The coming of the angel, I accepted. The questions people asked about the pregnancy, I can tolerate. The trip to Bethlehem, fine. But why a birth in a stable, God?

Any minute now Mary will give birth. Not to a child but to the Messiah. Not to an infant, but to God. That's what the angel said. That's what Mary believes. And God, my God, that's what I want to believe. But surely you can understand. It's not easy. It seems so....so....so....bizarre.

I am unaccustomed to strangeness, God. I am a carpenter. I make things fit. I square off the edges. I follow the plumb line. I measure twice before I cut once. Surprises are not the friend of the builder. I like to know the plan before I begin.

But this time I am not the builder, am I? This time I am the tool. A hammer in your grip. A chisel in your hands. This project is yours, not mine.

I guess it is foolish of me to question you. Forgive my struggling. Trust doesn't come easily to me, God. But you never said it would be easy, did you?

One final thing, Father. The angel you sent? Any chance you could send another? If not an angel, maybe a person? I don't know anyone around here and some company would be nice. Maybe an innkeeper or a traveler? Even a shepherd would do."

May you have a blessed Christmas!....And a good, prayerful time reflecting on the Holy Family, including St. Joseph!

Fr. Tom

MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTERS

Sunday, December 29, 9:45 am

Ronald Weaver (Dee & Roger Manshum)

Monday, December 30, 9:00 am

Corey McCormick (Marsha Stadel)

Tuesday, December 31, 9:00 am

Living & Deceased Members of the Walliczek Family

Wednesday, January 01, 9:00 am

Saint Edward Parish

Thursday, January 02, 12:10 pm

+ Carol Fust (Grief Support Group)

Friday, January 03, 9:00 am

+ Edeltraude Gerhards (Bert Walliczek)

Saturday, January 04, 9:00 am

Unborn Children

Saturday, January 04, 6:00 pm

Saint Edward Church

Lector: Greg H.

EMHC: Yvonne, & Bill S.

Sunday, January 05, 9:45 am

Ronald Weaver (Dee & Roger Manshum)

Lector: Kathy C.

EMHC: Mike R., Mary H., & Janice F.



"May the angels welcome you into paradise, May the martyrs greet you on your way, May you see the face of the Lord this day."

Please Pray for the soul of Carol Fust, wife of Anthony Fust, who passed from death to life on December 18, 2024.



"May the angels welcome you into paradise, May the martyrs greet you on your way, May you see the face of the Lord this day."

Please Pray for the soul of Edeltraud Gerhards, Sister of Nobert Walliczek, who passed from death to life on December, 2024.



Adoration

Thursday Evenings - 6 to 8 pm in the Church.

January 2,9,16, 23 & 30

Contact Suzanne King at 269-271-6406 for more information.

The office will be closed on December 31, January 1 & 2.

Mass to open Jubilee Year 2025

Join Bishop Walkowiak and Catholics around the diocese as we mark the opening of Jubilee Year 2025. The celebration begins at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, Dec. 29** at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Mass will be live-streamed on the diocesan website and YouTube for those who are unable to attend.

Televised Sunday Mass:

Join us each week for the live broadcast of Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Watch on TV on FOX 17, or online at grdiocese.org or the diocesan Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DioceseofGrandRapids/

Please Pray for:

Robert Rasche, Randy Armstrong, Manuel Rodriguez, Julie Sutton VanLiew, the poor, the grieving, and those who have asked for our prayers.



If you want to add a name, please call or contact the office. Be sure you have the consent of the person or the family member.

Grief Support Group

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 9**, at 1:00 pm, in the library. If you would like information, please call Marsha at 269-367-4403.

K-12 FAITH FORMATION INFORMATION

Faith Formation will be at 11 am on Sunday. Contact Fredia if you have any questions.

January

- 05. Faith Formation Class
- ** EPIPHANY PROGRAM @ 1 pm - *pending volunteers*
- 12. Faith Formation Class
- 19. No Faith Formation Class
- 26. Faith Formation Class

February

- 02. Faith Formation Class
- 09. No Faith Formation
- 15. Faith Formation Class
- 22. Faith Formation Class

RCIA 2024-2025

R.C.I.A. is for Baptized adults who haven't received all the Sacraments, spouses of Catholics who would like to enter the Church, or any adult who wants to learn about Catholicism & all it offers. We meet in an informal atmosphere from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at 753 5th Avenue.

- 1-08 The Mass Bishop Barron
- 1-15 Overview of the Sacraments & Baptism Alan
- 1-22 Eucharist Fr. Tom
- 1-29 Reconciliation Andrew

Please call Ann with questions at 616-374-8340.

Living and Loving the Faith

Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at 753 5th Ave. Lake Odessa. In this weekly class, we'll uncover the great spiritual treasure within our Catholic faith and learn how to live that faith boldly in an increasingly secular culture.

Please call 616-374-8340 with any questions.

- January 08 The Eucharist: Source and Summit of Christian Life
- January 15 Reconciliation and the Healing of Sin
- January 22 The Sacrament of Marriage
- January 29 The Universal Call to Mission
- February 05 The Beatitudes: Pathways to Holiness
- February 12 The Moral Life: Forming a Catholic Conscience
- February 19 Catholic Social Teaching: Faith in Action the Modern World

Cor Men's Group- The next meeting: January 11

Join us as the Cor Men's Group at 8:00 am. This is a great opportunity to deepen your faith and build strong connections with other Catholic men in our parish community.

For more information contact Andrew Coates at (269) 838-4418.

OUR PARISH OFFERING – Dec 21/22, 2024

Adults	\$ 2,973.00
Loose:	\$ 321.00
Total receipts:	\$ 3,294.00
Budgeted Weekly:	\$ 3,850.00
Overage/Shortage:	\$ (556.00)

July 1, 2024 – Dec 22, 2024 Fiscal YTD Offertory Collections

Year-to-Date:	\$ 96,414.00
Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$ 96,250.00
Overage/Shortage Year-to-Date:	\$ 164.00

Please note that "Our Parish offering" reflects the income from Sunday and Holy Day offertory only.

Your weekly offering envelopes can be dropped off at the office, placed in the locked black mailbox beside the office door, or sent through the mail to: St. Edward Church
531 Jordan Lake St.
Lake Odessa, MI, 48849

Thank you for your continued support of the church.

Counter January 5: Cindy Gillette & Joe Hickey



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 14, at 7 pm.**

**Men of the Eucharist
Strengthen by CHRIST- Responding with Joy**



Pray for Seminarian:
Braden Roth
University of St. Thomas
St. John Vianney Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Oh God, hear our prayer for the men you have chosen to follow in your Son's footsteps.
Teach them humility and fidelity to unselfishly help others.
May their devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations increase, enabling them to do your will.
Strengthen their prayer life so that they may grow spiritually without worldly distractions.
Give them courage and perseverance in their studies.
May the Holy Spirit lighten their struggles with their vocations, until they know the joy of being a priest.
We ask this through Christ your Son.
Amen.

WME Sharing Group- The next meeting: January 10

If you have ever attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience in the past, we would like to invite you to join our sharing group. We meet at St. Edward on the 2nd Friday of the month, at 7 pm in the basement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris and Darla Vinton at 410-487-5226.