

St. Edward Church — November 1967

# **OUR JOURNEY OF FORTY YEARS**

**FORTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY  
1967–2007**



St. Edward Church — January 2008

# **DEDICATION**

## **TO OUR GUIDES FOR THE JOURNEY**

FATHER JOHN REEDY 1963-1967  
FATHER LOWELL BLACKBURN 1964-1970  
FATHER JOHN WALSH 1970  
MONSIGNOR CHARLES TAAFFE 1971-1978  
FATHER GERALD QUINTAL 1978-1990  
FATHER MICHAEL HEMMING 1991-2000  
FATHER MICHAEL SPRAUER 2000  
FATHER MICHAEL PATRICK 2001-2003  
FATHER PHIL SOPKE 2003-2004  
FATHER GARY ZERR 2004-PRESENT

### **ST. EDWARD PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, and nourished by Word and Sacrament, we:

- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Build a prayerful community of believers where all are welcome.
- Become witnesses of God's saving love through our outreach to others.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We sincerely thank Father John Reedy for his tenacity in the original planning and implementation at the beginning of our forty-year journey.

We cannot possibly mention the names of the thousands of wonderful people who, over the years, have made St. Edward Catholic Parish what it is today. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the contributions that all our pastors, their staffs, and the parishioners of St. Edward have made.

**You know who you are and who you were.  
May God bless us one and all!**

**Photo Credits: Susan May, St. Vincent dePaul Archives, Archdiocese of Portland, Catholic Sentinel, St. Edward Parishioners and Archives, Keizer Times and Statesman Journal**

### 3 THINKING ABOUT THE JOURNEY

Three things happened in the early 1960s that set plans in motion:

- A restlessness in the Keizer area, mostly agricultural. There was a desire for the area to become a city, but that would take many years.
- The Catholics in Keizer were also becoming involved. A growing desire for an independent parish was budding in their minds. Many attended St. Vincent DePaul Church or even traveled to Gervais, St. Paul and elsewhere each Sunday for Mass.
- The Second Vatican Council opened its first session on October 11, 1962. This prompted additional thoughts of an independent parish. There were also more steps taken in forming the City of Keizer. In a sense, Pope John XXIII heralded these changes when he addressed the opening of Vatican II with these words:

*“Our duty is not only to guard these precious treasures [the deposit of faith] as if we were concerned only with the past, but to dedicate ourselves with an earnest will and without fear to that work which our era demands of us, pursuing thus the path which the Church has followed for 20 centuries.”*

The windows and doors of St. Edward were about to become a reality.



## MAPPING THE JOURNEY

In October of 1966, a drive was established in St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Salem to raise \$150,000 to build a parish center in the Keizer area. This church-use building would be on eighteen acres of land which had previously been purchased in 1959 for only \$21,500. Encouragement came from the members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish for it had grown from 550 families in 1950 to nearly 1,500 families by 1966. Fr. John Reedy explained, "Present parish facilities are crowded and inadequate. Establishing a new parish in Keizer will alleviate much of this." On November 1, 1966, a Funds and Advisory Committee was appointed to plan for the move to Keizer.

It was suggested that the new parish be named St. Edward in honor of the much beloved Archbishop of Portland, the Most Reverend Edward D. Howard D.D. St. Edward the Confessor was his patron saint. The Archbishop humbly accepted this honor in December of 1966.

Since the funds needed for the new church were raised in a short period of time, construction on the new parish center began on April 3, 1967 and was ready by December of that year. The structure was to be used temporarily as a church, so that when a church building was constructed, this parish center could become an auditorium.

A building to house St. Edward Catholic School was also discussed but never came to fruition. Classrooms for children's religious education, the priests' living quarters and an office surrounded the new building.

Final costs for the parish center/church building were \$112,688 with improvements being an additional \$18,700.

The first Mass was celebrated on December 7, 1967 by Fr. Lowell Blackburn who had been transferred from St. Helen Parish in Junction City. What an amazing accomplishment for Fr. John Reedy and the founding parishioners. Archbishop Robert J. Dwyer dedicated this new Church on February 4, 1968.

We look back with admiration and thanksgiving to the founders and Fr. Reedy, and say a profound present-day "Thank You for your vision for St. Edward Catholic Church and Keizer."



# JOURNALING THE JOURNEY

Much has been accomplished in the growth and changes at St. Edward Church since its inception in 1967. The number of families has increased from 475 at the beginning to 1,095 registered families in February, 2008. Our Hispanic members make up a good number of this total.

Activities have been changed, some have been added and all have contributed to our growth. In the last few years our parish has become involved with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, added more faith-sharing and Bible study groups, and continued with our Thanksgiving and Christmas free meals, gifts and coats for many people in the area. This year, over 1,000 meals were distributed at each holiday meal. There are so many more activities happening at St. Edward that are too numerous to mention here.

Following is a brief chronology of the major events that have taken place over the last forty years. We continue to grow and look forward to our next forty years.

## A HISTORY OF THE JOURNEY

- 1959: 18 acres of land purchased in Keizer
- Nov 1, 1966 Funds and Advisory Committee appointed to plan new church: Ray Kerr, Chairman, Ed Cravinho, Eric Carlson, Robert McHugh, Mickey McClure, Al Pierce, Earl Riley, Joseph Shaeffers, Robert Schreiner and Wes Schrunk.
- Dec 3, 1967 First Mass at St. Edward celebrated by Fr. Lowell Blackburn.
- 1968 First Cross installed in front of church.
- Feb 4, 1968 Dedication of St. Edward by Archbishop Robert Dwyer
- Feb, 1968 St. Edward Altar Society officers elected.
- May, 1968 First Holy Communion class at St. Edward.
- May 17, 1968 First spaghetti feed, Knights of Columbus Hall. This event later substituted for the annual chicken barbecue.
- Dec 1, 1968 Parish Council election. Robert Schreiner first President.
- April, 1969 Rectory completed, furnished and occupied by Fr. Blackburn.
- Sep 19, 1969 First Parish participation in Oktoberfest; receipts \$1,035.
- 1968: Furnishings for the new church completed and bulletins started.
- 1969: Oktoberfest booth constructed; receipts for the first year were \$1,035. Rectory purchased and remodeled.



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# A HISTORY OF THE JOURNEY

(continued)

1970:	Saturday evening Mass added to the schedule. Folk Mass established.
Mar 26, 1970	First Paschal meal
Jun 14, 1970	First chicken barbecue, Lions' Hall, Keizer.
Jun 16, 1970	First participation, Spongs' Landing Day Camp.
Sep 3, 1970	First participation at State Fair
Sep, 1970	First religious education classes at St. Edward— Kindergarten
Oct 4, 1970	Fr. John Walsh appointed Pastor.
Feb 4, 1971	Fr. Charles Taaffe appointed Pastor.
Feb 4, 1973	Fifth Anniversary of St. Edward; Archbishop Edward Howard concelebrated Mass.
Dec 1, 1974	Church mortgage burning celebration.
May 4, 1975	Fr. Taaffe's 20th anniversary of Ordination celebrated.
Nov 14, 1976	Ground breaking ceremonies for new Parish religious education center.
Nov 27, 1977	Tenth Anniversary reception.
Feb, 1978	Celebration of Dedication of St. Edward Church
Aug 1, 1978	Fr. Jerry Quintal appointed Pastor
Mar, 1979	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program initiated
1979	Reconciliation Chapel built.
May, 1980	Annual Keizerfest started
Aug, 1980	Bell Tower constructed.
Summer, 1981	Chapel area with moveable wall added, enabling whole area to be used as worship area—carpeting installed in church and also Sanctuary. Purchased 100 chairs to extend seating capabilities.
Fall, 1981	All parking lot bonds retired, parking lot paved with curbing and lights.
Nov 24, 1983	Free Thanksgiving dinner for Keizer's needy/poor.
Dec, 1984	First free Christmas dinner for the needy.
Jan, 1985	New addition to the Parish Center kitchen and upgrading of all kitchen equipment.
Oct, 1985	Pole building donated and erected by parish volunteers.
Mar, 1986	Parish Renewal Journal program (RENEW) initiated, with the first session to begin the following October.
May, 1986	Final payment on the Parish Center debt.
Dec, 1986	Third annual free Christmas dinner with gifts for adults, toys for children, and a clothes closet prepared.



Mar 1987	Organ Memorial Fund revived to replace the pre sent organ. The new organ arrived in time for Easter Sunday.
1987	Happy Hearts Senior group organized by Fr. Jerry Quintal and Pat Mack
Jul, 1988	Soup kitchen began on Sunday afternoons. Parish picnic to welcome new parish members and renew friendships.

## A HISTORY OF THE JOURNEY (continued)

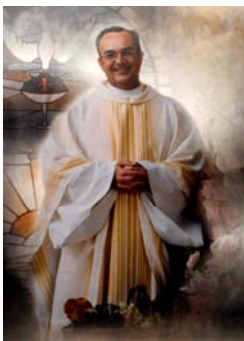
Jun, 1990	Fr. Jerry Quintal transferred to St. Philip Parish, Dallas, Oregon.
Jun, 1990	Fr. Michael Hemming appointed Pastor.
Sep, 1990	Our 22nd consecutive annual participation in Oktoberfest.
1991-1993	All parish activities increased at an accelerated rate as the number of parish families continued to grow. Both Oktoberfest and Keizerfest netted the parish record financial returns. For example, gross income of the 1993 Keizerfest netted a profit of more than \$10,000. The Knights of Columbus formed its own Parish Council.
May, 1991	First St. Edward's photo-directory published.
Sep, 1992	Renewed St. Edward Pastoral Council formed and met for the first time.
Fall, 1992	Serious consultation and planning began for a classroom/meeting room addition to the Parish Hall.
Mar, 1993	St. Edward's puts on a very successful ministers' appreciation dinner, over 100 people attended.
Jun, 1993	Begin preparations for Parish 25th Anniversary.
Aug 8, 1993	YES (Youth Group) traveling to Denver for World Youth Day to visit the Pope.
Oct 24, 1993	25th Anniversary Mass and celebration
Jul 1994	Parish hall addition completed. Leo Lawyer built cabinetry for class rooms and hall.
Jul 24, 1994	Youth Group (10 students and four adults) to Tijuana, Mexico, on a mission trip.
Jul 1998	New roof installed on St. Edward church and hall.
Aug 1, 1998	Began Habitat for Humanity project at 3492 Williams Ave.
Sept 1998	First Mid-High youth group meets.
Dec 11, 1998	New kneelers installed in the church.
Sept. 26, 1999	St Edward first week as Host of Interfaith Hospitality.
Oct 14, 1999	Grupo Nazareno meets for the first time.
Fall, 1999	Blood pressure clinics started by Parish Nurses.
Dec 12, 1999	First Spanish Mass celebrated at 1:30 pm
Dec 28, 1999	Father Mike Hemming has serious auto accident and is hospitalized.
Feb, 2000	Rectory remodeled.
Aug, 2000	After absence, Father Hemming returns to parish.
Nov, 2000	Father Michael Sprauer serves as interim Administrator/Pastor.
Dec, 2000	Committee selected to plan and implement Disciples in Mission.
Dec 25, 2000	Served 1,375 meals at Christmas.



# A HISTORY OF THE JOURNEY

(continued)

- Jan, 2001 First Communion classes started for Spanish children.  
 Feb 2001 Father Mike Hemming officially resigns.  
 Aug 12, 2001 Farewell reception for Father Mike Hemming  
 Jul 15, 2001 Father Michael Patrick, native of Sri Lanka arrives.  
 Jul 21, 2002 New St. Edward Church brochure published.  
 Mar 24, 2002 Teens and Young Adults begin a Sack Lunch Ministry for the homeless at the Marion Park.  
 Apr, 2002 Fr. Eremito from India conducted Parish Mission.  
 Apr 15, 2002 "Catholics Can Come Home Again", program for returning Catholics.  
 Jun 15, 2002 Randy and Sherrie Hinrichsen wedding.  
 Oct 20, 2002 Formation starts for a Welcoming Committee.  
 Nov 24, 2002 Visioning Day; 120+ participants—goals identified: (1) new church; (2) youth; (3) Hispanic; (4) adult faith formation.
- Jul, 2003 Fr. Phil Sopke arrived. Originally from Portland, he is a Holy Cross Priest who comes to us from Concord, California.
- Jul, 2003 Deacon Ray retired after many accomplishments at St. Edward.  
 Aug, 2003 Assisted with Habitat for Humanity, building two homes during the Oregon State Fair.
- Sep, 2003 Rob Patton hired as new Youth Coordinator.  
 Sep 27, 2003 First annual family fall festival potluck.  
 Oct 5, 2003 First Health Fair  
 2003 Pastoral Council drafts new Mission Statement. Many ministries restarted
- Jan, 2004 Plans initiated for Founders' Garden by Fr. Phil Sopke.
- Jun, 2004 Knight's of Columbus began a picnic/playground project for the park area, dedication planned for early July, 2004.
- Jun, 2004 Youth attended the REACH Youth Ministry Conference and Discipleship week.
- Jun 20, 2004 Fr. Phil hospitalized.  
 Jul 17, 2004 Reception for Archbishop John Vlazny.  
 July 21, 2004 Fr. Phil died.  
 Jul 24, 2004 Two new Administration Council members named: Glenda Anderson and Kathy Hauge. They join Mike Auman, Paul Koch, Chris Gutierrez, Richard Walsh.
- Sep 11-12, 2004 Fr. Gary Zerr, first Mass.  
 Oct, 2004 New parish directory done.  
 May 15, 2005 Soup Kitchen served meals for 18 years under direction of Mary Cheney. Mary retired this date.
- May 21, 2005 Habitat for Humanity ground blessing for sites next to Safeway.  
 Jun 17-24, 2005 REACH Conference and Discipleship Week in Yakima—Brendan Lavery and Sabrina Sherman elected as representatives.  
 Jul 3, 2005 Hispanic Community begins weekly bulletins.  
 Jul 17, 2005 Parish picnic and dedication of Fr. Phil Sopke Memorial Park.





# A HISTORY OF THE JOURNEY

(continued)

- Aug, 2005 Deacon Allen Vandecoevering appointed by Archbishop Vlazny.
- Aug 11, 2005 Volcanoes baseball game night, St. Edward's members
- Sep, 2005 First meeting of Mom's Club; activity for moms and young children.
- Sep 20, 2005 First Charismatic Prayer Group begins meeting at St. Edward's.
- Sep 27, 2005 Healing Mass officiated by Fr. Gary and Fr. Odo Recker OSB.
- Oct 19, 2005 First Adult Faith Formation 101 evening presented by Fr. Gary.
- Nov, 2005 First Christmas Bazaar.
- Mar 4, 2006 First annual St. Edward auction—netted \$12,000.
- May 8, 2006 Adoration Chapel formally began at 6:00 am with Virginia McClure as the first adorer. Virginia has been coordinating the First Friday Adorations for many years.
  
- June 2006 Many parishioners accompanied Father Gary Zerr on a pilgrimage to Eastern Europe.
- Jun 29, 2006 Theology of the Body, 8-week series began.
- Oct, 2006 Big Band evening, special dinners and dances sponsored by the Social Committee.
- Nov, 2006 Parish library reorganized.
- Nov, 2006 New Parishioner Committee begins taking information and a loaf of bread to all new parishioners.
  
- Jan 21, 2007 "Vocation Cross" sponsored by the Serra Club given to a family each week .
- Apr 9, 2007 Hosted the Keizer Community Food Bank for the first time. Continue to host on the second Monday of each month.
- Jun 25-Jul 2, 2007 Youth Mission trip to New Orleans.
- Jul 22, 2007 St. Edward's Founders' Garden dedicated.
  
- Aug, 2007 "Raise the Roof" campaign for replacement of church roof began.
- Jan 16, 2008 Installation of cross facing River Road.



# OUR FUTURE JOURNEY

What will the future years hold for St. Edward Church? two things — change and growth.

A month after he arrived, Father Gary's column had this reflection:

"There are times in our lives when we are tried quite severely, but through it all God asks us to trust him...and keep on going. We are able to do this in part because we take the long view of history. We know that there really is a new world coming where peace and justice reside. Therefore, we make every effort to strive to enter in, because heaven is the only goal that really matters. We are not home yet!"

May the Holy Spirit be our guide!

**"God is love.**

1 John 4:15

# ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

## OUR PATRON AND INSPIRATION

St. Edward (1003-1066), called the Confessor, was the grandson of St. Edward, king and martyr, and became king of England at the age of forty-seven. As king he was noted for his gentleness, humility, detachment and angelic purity. He preserved perfect chastity in his wedded life. So little was his heart set on riches that he freely dispensed his goods at the palace gate to the sick and poor. His reign was one of almost continuous peace. The people were prosperous and ruined churches were rebuilt. All spoke affectionately of the wise measures of the "good King Edward."

### More about St. Edward the Confessor

Edward passed his youth in exile with his uncle, a Norman leader. In an environment of sin he preserved innocence of life. Called to the throne of England in 1042, he sought to put into practice the Christian ideals for a ruler, with the help of God's grace. His first efforts were directed toward a renewal of religion in the hearts of his people. Priests were invited into his kingdom, churches were built. Yielding to pressure, he married, but is said to have retained virginity during his whole married life.

St. John the Evangelist was his favorite saint. One day the Beloved Disciple appeared to him in the form of a beggar and asked alms in the name of the fourth evangelist; as Edward had no ready money, he gave up the ring on his finger. Shortly thereafter St. John returned the ring with the message that his death was near. The king ordered public prayers to be said for himself and died in the Lord on the day foretold, January 5, 1066.

**Patron:** Difficult marriages; kings; separated spouses.

**Symbols:** Elderly king offering a ring or coin to Saint John who is disguised as a beggar; ring in his hand; scepter surmounted by a dove; purse; St. John's Gospel; sealed scroll; crown; ring.



### Things to Do with Your Family:

- Find out more about England and Europe during the time of St. Edward's life, particularly the Norman invasion.
- Imitating St. Edward, we need to reach out to the needy, both spiritually and physically.
- This holy king esteemed purity and innocence. His body remained wholly incorrupt. Say a Hail Mary everyday for the virtue of purity.

Learn the [Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#), and put them into practice. St. Edward lived these daily.

# GUIDES FOR OUR JOURNEY



Father John Reedy 1963-1967



Father Lowell Blackburn 1964-1970



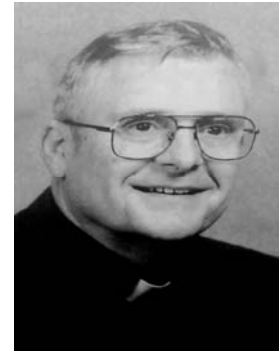
Father John Walsh-1970



Monsignor Charles Taaffe 1971-1978



Father Jerry Quintal 1978-1990



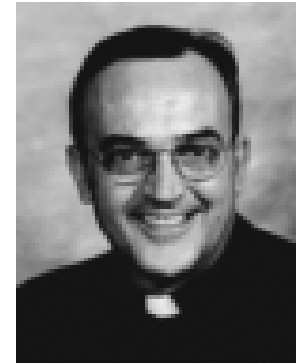
Father Mike Hemming 1991-2000



Father Michael Sprauer 2000



Father Michael Patrick 2001-2003



Father Phil Sopke 2003-2004



Father Gary Zerr 2004 — present

# **ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**5303 RIVER RD. N. KEIZER, OREGON 97303**

**PHONE: 503-393-5323**

**FAX: 503-463-5439**

grace@sainteds.com

Website: <http://www.sainteds.com/>

## **MASS TIMES**

Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday

Sunday at 8:15 am and 10:30 am

Misa en espanol at 12:30 pm

## **DAILY MASS**

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 12:05 pm

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

## **COMMUNION SERVICE**

Monday at 12:05 pm

## **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS**

Saturday: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 6:30pm to 7:00 pm