

January 2024

Dear St. Edward Parishioners,

A new year brings new goals! I hope the advent of 2024 fills your hearts with even more joy and happiness. I trust you had a blessed Christmas, and I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to the joyous Christmas celebrations in St. Edward Parish, especially those who helped with music, the Christmas play, decorations, and altar servers.

It is also a time to reflect on our accomplishments from the past year and share our plans for the future.

"St. Edward is a welcoming Catholic community centered on the Eucharist, striving to live and share the Good News and grow in discipleship with the Lord." In line with this mission statement, we have increased the time for Eucharistic Adoration over the past year, prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet at least twice a week, conducted a Novena to St. Edward in October (which included a blessing from the St. Edward relic), and organized a Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion culminating in a delightful meal.

Over the last six months, the Parish Leadership Team has been developing a five-year pastoral plan based on the Discipleship Making Survey completed by parishioners earlier. I am thrilled to be part of this initiative, with our primary focus on hospitality, creating a vibrant Sunday experience, and promoting stewardship. The Parish Council members have delved into the insights provided by the book "Rebuilt," exploring ways to enhance our weekend experience to make it more welcoming and dynamic. I will soon provide details on how the leadership team plans to implement these improvements.

Many of our church members have filled out "Time, Talent, and Treasure" forms, expressing their interest in or commitment to our various ministries. If you wish to join a church organization, please contact Adriana Haas, who will guide you through the process.

After some serious thought concerning our Tuesday evening Mass time, I am changing the time of Mass from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This new Mass time will begin on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Perhaps this will help our parishioners to safely attend Mass and return home before nightfall.

Our Right-to-Life Ministry continues to thrive, and I am immensely proud of its dynamism. I encourage all interested individuals to join the March for Life in Frankfurt on January 23rd. Additionally, we will review and study the book "Beautiful Eucharist" on January 31st, and all are welcome. Our Bible study program resumes on January 8th, and your participation is encouraged.

In 2024, three new members will be enrolled in our RCIA program. I request your prayers for their journey.

I express my gratitude to all volunteers who contributed to our fundraisers last year. Special thanks to Ms. Linda Mattmiller and Darlene Kimbrough for organizing the elegant St. Edward Gala, which significantly boosted the parish's financial strength. The ice cream social and candy sale were also notable successes.

Thanks to your generous donations and volunteer efforts, we were able to change the church's carpet and improve the school's plumbing over the past year (we spent \$52,000 on school plumbing in the last two years). We have initiated plans to blacktop the road within our cemetery grounds this spring or summer, with an estimated cost of \$40,000. If anyone wishes to contribute to this project, please let me know. St. Edward is becoming more attractive to more people through these projects.

Lastly, our esteemed school urgently needs a new Head of School for the 2024-2025 academic year. The St. Edward School Board has formed a search committee to find qualified candidates. If you know of a practicing Catholic with a teaching degree/certificate who is interested, please contact me.

Personally, I completed 18 years in my priesthood on December 29th. When I celebrated my first holy Mass in India, my primary intention for the Mass was to become a holy priest. Please pray for me so that I may be holy and can serve you well.

Let us give thanks to the Lord and work together to build a warm and welcoming parish community in the coming year.

God bless you all,

Fr. Niby Kannai Pastor, St. Edward Parish