

January 25, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Edward,

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We are thrilled to share the results of the survey conducted within our parish community last year, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated. Forty-one percent of our parishioners participated in this survey. Your insights have provided us with a deeper understanding of our collective beliefs and practices.

**Belief: Scripture is the Word of God**

The survey highlighted a strong consensus among our community on the sacred nature of scripture, with 84% strongly agreeing that "Scripture is the word of God." This reflects the unwavering commitment to our shared faith.

**Top 3 Beliefs by Highest Percentage:**

**Scripture is the word of God:**

Strongly Agree: 84%

Total Responses: 70%

**Eucharist is the body/blood of Christ:**

Strongly Agree: 74%

**Church is critical in the relationship with God:**

Percentage: 59%

**Frequency of Practices:**

Weekly Mass Attendance: 83%

Individual Prayer Time: 88%

Frequency of Catholic Devotions: 54%

These statistics underscore the dedication and devotion of our parish community to regular Mass attendance, individual prayer, and Catholic devotions. Your active engagement and commitment to our shared beliefs are truly commendable. Moving forward, let these results inspire us to continue fostering a strong and connected parish community.

Your essential involvement in achieving the following goals will contribute significantly to the growth and vibrancy of our parish community. We look forward to collaborating with you on these initiatives as we continue our journey together.

**Vision for St. Edward Parish**

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.

## **Parish Priorities:**

### **Priority #1: Hospitality**

**Definition:** We strive for a friendly and generous reception for guests, visitors, or strangers.

#### **Goals:**

Increase "my parish makes me feel welcome and accepted" score from 25% to 60% by July 2024 (Goal Leaders: Gale Smith & JoLynn Perraut)

Increase the number of parishioners actively involved in our Greeting Ministry from 1 to 5 by July 2024 (Goal Leader: Lisa Wright)

### **Priority #2: Vibrant Sunday Experience**

**Definition:** Mass is one of the most recognized methods to praise our Lord.

#### **Goals:**

Increase the net promoter score for "homily and teaching that connects faith with everyday life" from 53% to 75% by July 2025.

Increase "my parish helps me grow spiritually by offering music that deepens my desire to participate more fully in the Sunday liturgy" from 30% to 55% to achieve a positive net promoter score by July 2025 (Goal Leader: Junie Vallandingham)

### **Priority #3: Stewardship**

**Definition:** We wish to use the resources of our parish/parishioners for the good of both our church community and our broader community.

#### **Goals:**

Increase "My parish helps me connect with a local Catholic community by providing me with opportunities to serve those in need" from 22% to 35% while achieving a net score above 75% by January 2026 (Goal Leader: Nancy Zaletta)

Increase average weekly collection from \$2500 to \$3500 by January 2026 (Goal Leader: Tim Depew)

With this growth and these changes, I feel strongly that now is the time to plan for the future. Over the past 6 months, I have been working closely with a team of dedicated parishioners who represent the diversity of this community, as well as the Catholic Leadership Institute, to help discern where we hope to be in 3 years. Using the feedback and input you provided in the past two parish surveys, along with their own experience as active parishioners, the team has worked very hard to put together a plan that I am confident will both challenge us and motivate us as we intentionally look to the future with hope!

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, a people perish.” I would take this line and say, “Where there is a vision, a people PARISH.” All of us thrive on knowing where we are going. We all need clarity to stay motivated and joyful about the work that has been entrusted to us, and as a community of faith, that work is to Build the Kingdom of God! The vision for St. Edward for the next three years will take its inspiration from three simple phrases: Hospitality, Vibrant Sunday Experience, and Stewardship. In this document, you will see how we intend to accomplish this vision. Over the coming three years, we feel that it is essential for us to invest the needed resources, both human and financial, into achieving three key priorities while also maintaining all the other good things that are already happening at the parish. I have no doubt that we will invigorate faith, build community, and, in turn, make disciples after the heart of Jesus! Now is the time for implementation.

We recently had our first parish leadership implementation meeting last Wednesday, and I witnessed enthusiasm, positive energy, and genuine hope for the revival of our parish through this implementation committee. Rick Haas will help monitor the progress of this committee. Please offer all leaders your support in these parish priorities and be open to volunteering your time and talent to accomplish these goals, as together we continue to grow as one family.

Pope Francis continues to challenge us in the way he is leading the Universal Church. At the heart of his ministry is what has been coined “A Culture of Encounter.” In light of his example and challenge, our parish community must become an even stronger place of encounter for those who want to experience Christ through the sacramental life of the Church and in her members gathered. In order to do this, we must be a place of profound hospitality and a place where people can be formed in the faith.

My dear parishioners, my heart is with you at St. Edward. Being your pastor and shepherd brings me profound joy. As I have often told you, I take my role as a priest very seriously, and at the heart of that is making sure that who we are and what we offer is the very best that it can be.

May the blessings of our shared faith continue to strengthen us as a parish family.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Niby Kannai

Pastor St. Edward Parish



### **Daily Prayer for Parish Renewal**

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the community of St. Edward Parish. We thank you for the gift of fellowship and the opportunity to worship together. As we embark on a journey of renewal, we lift up our intentions for the Parish.

Lord, infuse our hearts with the spirit of hospitality. May our doors be open wide, welcoming all who seek solace and connection. Help us to create an atmosphere where every person feels valued and accepted, mirroring the love you have for each of us.

Grant us the creativity and inspiration to make our Sunday experience vibrant and uplifting. May our worship be a source of joy and inspiration, drawing people closer to you. Let the music, the word, and the fellowship on Sundays resonate with your divine presence.

Lord, instill in us a deep sense of stewardship. Guide us in using our resources wisely, recognizing that everything we have is a gift from you. May we be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures, dedicating them to the service of your Kingdom.

Bless our leaders and volunteers with wisdom and discernment as they guide the Parish through this season of renewal. May their efforts be fruitful, and may the entire community be united in purpose and vision.

We entrust St. Edward Parish to your loving care, O God. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen