

Pastor: Fr. Obi Ibekwe
Associate Pastor: Fr. Biju Antony

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary: Pat Robinson

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bulletin Announcements by noon on Thursday

email: wandawirth@telus.net

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday – Mass at 6:00 pm

Thursday - Mass at 10:00 am

followed by Adoration and Benediction

Wednesday and Friday – Mass at 10:00 am

Silent Adoration with the Rosary at

9:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 to 5:00 pm or by appointment

Wednesday, December 20th at 5:30 pm

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Noreen Dunn: 250-766-3303

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Altar Society: Constance Gregory (250) 765-2879

Benevolent Fund: Bob Sellinger, 250-766-5990

Greeters and Ushers: Maxine Joyce at

g.joyce@hotmail.com

Lectors (Readers): Sue Taylor jaytaylor@telus.net

Eucharistic Ministers: June Bot at

bot.june@icloud.com

Music Ministry: Vera Gervais, 250-766-2250

Outreach: Shelly Twerdochlib, 250-766-0202

Sacristans: Lily Oddleifson (250) 766-4390

PARISH COMMITTEES

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Chair:

Parish Finance Committee (PFC)

Chair: Joe Pereira George

Liturgy Coordinator

Constance Gregory, 250-765-2879

Grounds and Building

Clive Halston

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

CWL

Marian Podgornik, 778-480-6444

St. Edward's Men's Association

President: Michael Conyette, 250-308-4897

Email: mconyette@hotmail.com

Development & Peace

George and Karen Willoner, 250-215-5134

ST. EDWARD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
11123 Okanagan Centre Road East, Lake Country, BC V4V 1H3
Phone 250-766-3146 Fax 250-766-3191

Website <http://www.stedwardsparish.ca>

Email lakecountry@nelsondiocese.org

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11; LK 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.



Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

Catholic Stewardship Consultants

PARISHIONERS OFFERINGS

*Thank you for your generous support of
St. Edward Parish*

December 10, 2023 - \$2,928.68
Catholic Missions in Canada \$65.00

OFFERINGS FOR ST. EDWARD **NEW**

ST. EDWARD'S QR CODES ARE HERE!! We only have one on the table in the vestibule. These have been used in other parishes with GREAT success to enhance donations and ease to parish giving. Here's the general process although each device is different.

- 1) With the camera on your phone, place the QR code in the center.
- 2) A yellow "Square Link" box will appear, touch that.
- 3) It will take you to an ST EDWARD'S site where you can donate. When requested, use "Sunday Collection" as the reason for the donation. Follow the prompts (it should be relatively simple) and pay with your credit card.
- 4) When complete, you will get a text or an email to confirm your donation.
- 5) NOTE: Because you have to include your name and address during the process, you WILL get a tax receipt for your donation.
- 6) NOTE: This is an encrypted system and has been used with success AND privacy in numerous places before (including churches).

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE: Pre-Authorized debit forms are available by email or mail if you are interested in signing up for donations through the SAG program. Email or call the office 250-766-3146 for more information. Another way you can donate is to use an eTransfer from your online banking. All you have to do is create a new "payee" (eg. St. Edward Parish) and use the email etransfer.stedwardswinfield@nelsondiocese.org. In the message box indicate that you want your donation to go to Sunday Collection. Regular offering envelopes will CONTINUE to be collected at Offertory at each mass. Extra envelopes will be available in the pews if you wish to use them, and still wish to donate with cheques or cash. You can also mail your Offerings to: St. Edward's Church, 11123 Okanagan Centre Road East. Lake Country, B.C. V 4V 1H3. Please call or email our offices to register with our parish, or to arrange for Weekly Offerings Envelopes; 2024 envelopes will be available soon! We thank you for your continued charity to help us create the programs and cover the costs needed to run our parish.

NEED A PRIEST?

If you need a priest **for emergencies or end of life call**, please call the Catholic Chaplaincy phone at 250-878-1502. Regular hospital visits can be arranged by calling the church office during office hours to arrange a time for a priest to visit.

Anyone who is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please inform the office and we will arrange to have someone bring it to you.

Prayer Requests

Claire Schaff, Betty Klinger, Larry and Paula Meade, Shirley Breen, Jenna King, Laura Mercer

Mass Intentions

December 15- Kris Durr RIP
December 16- Thomas Kayani RIP
December 19- Gail & Jim Ryan INT
January 6- Helen Sadler RIP

PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH



Our Pilgrimage of Faith Appeal is now underway in our parish – We are grateful to all those who have donated. Every gift is important. Our parish goal is \$18,850.00. Remember to fill out

your pledge card and drop it along with a cheque/cash in the collection or donate via etransfer to:

etransfer.pof@nelsondiocese.org or
online via Canada Helps at Canada Helps:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/24360>.

We have already received \$20,050.00 (\$1,200.00 over our commitment). Thank you so much for your generosity!

2024 DONATION ENVELOPES

Your 2024 donation envelopes are ready to be picked up in the vestibule.

**Advent
Reconciliation**



Advent reconciliation will be held here at St. Edward's Parish next Wednesday, December 20th at 5:30 pm.



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute toward poinsettias for Christmas in honor of your loved one, there are envelopes available in the entranceway of the church and also in the pews. Your gift is appreciated, thank you.

GAUDETE (REJOICE) SUNDAY

As we approach *Gaudete* Sunday, we are pleased to inform you that **video 3** of the series titled “Journey through Advent” is now available on the CCCB website: in English: <https://www.cccb.ca/oec/journey-through-advent/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mass is the central act of worship in the life of a Catholic. It is about spending time with God, offering ourselves to Him, giving Him thanks, and receiving His graces and blessings. We are currently in need of more volunteers for the various liturgical ministries. If you are at all interested in joining any of our groups and would like more information, we would encourage you to contact the individuals below:

Greeters and Ushers: Maxine Joyce at g.joyce@hotmail.com

Altar Society: Constance Gregory (250) 765-2879

Lectors (Readers): Sue Taylor jaytaylor@telus.net

Eucharistic Ministers: June Bot bot.june@icloud.com

Sacristans: Lily Oddleifson (250) 766-4390

It is a tremendous blessing and very rewarding to serve in this way. Please prayerfully consider joining our teams.



For more information - <https://vimeo.com/260114539>
Link to online tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/made-for-more-kelowna-canada-tickets-740570645737?aff=oddttdtcreator>

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

- The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Kelowna Catholic Youth Group



If you are in grades 7-12 and want to deepen your faith with other Catholic teens, please join us!

www.kelownacatholicyouthgroup.ca

events! www.kelownacatholicyouthgroup.ca

www.kelownacatholicyouthgroup.ca

NORTH OKANAGAN DEANERY 2023 ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULES

Parish/School	Day	Date	Time
St. Joseph's School	Tuesday	December 19	10:30 – 11:45 am, 12:30 – 1:45 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	Thursday	December 21	4:00 pm
St. Pius X Parish	Monday	December 18	5:30 pm
St. Edward Parish	Wednesday	December 20	5:30 pm
St. Charles Garnier Parish	Wednesday	December 20	5:30 pm



I am bringing you good news of great Joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is the messiah, the Lord. Lk. 2:10-11

May the Lord bless you at Christmas and throughout the New Year from Father Biju, Father Obi and the community of St. Edward's Catholic Church

Reconciliation	Wednesday, December 20 th	5:30 pm
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday, December 24 th	10:00 am
Christmas Masses	Sunday, December 24 th	7:00 pm
	Christmas Eve Carols	6:30 pm
	Monday, December 25 th	10:00 am
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Sunday, December 31 st	10:00 am
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Sunday, December 31 st	7:00 pm
	Monday, January 1 st	10:00 am

Living Well Counselling Services
Laura Loewen
 Registered Clinical Counsellor
 #13395
 13375 Shoreline Drive, Lake Country, B.C.
 www.livingwellcounsellingservices.ca
 laura@livingwellcounsellingservices.ca
 778-581-HELP (4357)

Springfield
 FUNERAL HOME
 Here for You.

JOHN
 3:16

Would you like to see your business advertised in our bulletin? Cost is \$100 per year or \$10.00 per month. Please contact the office.

Pastor's Message

Parish Christmas Confessions - Monday, December 20 at 5.30pm

Rejoice Always Pray Without Ceasing

This Sunday is called *Gaudate Sunday*, that is Sunday of rejoicing. We are more than half way to Christmas and we are invited to rejoice because Jesus is near.

How is it possible to rejoice always? There's a lot that happens in life that often takes away our joy. But the liturgy gives an imperative: rejoice!

True joy is not determined by the changing circumstances of life but is a gift from the One who does not change: my Father in heaven. I can rejoice always when I place myself beneath the gaze of my Father who loves me. I don't have to do and achieve and have more than everyone else. I just have to BE, not DO. **The secret of rejoicing is to rest beneath the gaze of the Father who says to me: 'Your worth is not measured by what you do; you are worth the death of my Son.** I rejoice because the Father delights and rejoices in me and there is never a time He ceases to rejoice in me. You are made in His image and likenesses. That is our true identity, and the reason we rejoice: not because life is perfect but because we have a Father who is perfect, who is good and faithful.

Confession is a time to reclaim my identity as the beloved of the Father. A good Confession ends with great rejoicing as the Father Himself says: 'Let us celebrate because my child is home.'

I invite you to come so we can celebrate the love and mercy of our Heavenly Father. With hearts made clean, our Church will be so beautiful on Christmas Day because we have prepared the way for Him interiorly.

Something for me to rejoice about this Sunday. Fr. Biju passed his road test. Yoo-hoo! :) Thank you for praying for him.

Find below an Examination of Conscience to help us in preparing for Confession.

Happy Sunday.....Fr. Obi

**PREPARING FOR OUR PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS
EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:**

R/: Lord, we ask for forgiveness

For having spent whole days without thinking of God
For failing to speak to God in prayer, and for failing to pray with all our hearts
For taking God's goodness for granted and neglecting to thank Him for all His gifts
For bad choices that have injured us and those whom we love and who love us
For having not made Jesus the number one in our lives
For believing the enemy's lies that we are defined by our sins and wounds
For not trusting that God is able to restore and transform all things unto good
For our failure to seek our neighbour especially in those in need of help
For our lack of tolerance and charity towards those who do not share our views and opinions
For having injured others by gossip and criticism
For our failure to listen to people
For spreading negativity that does not advance God's Kingdom
For having expected too much of people without trying to understand the circumstances of their lives
For having squandered the talents and opportunities that God has given us
For having been content with a minimum of religious practice
For our not having taken part in the apostolate of the church
For these and for all the many ways we have sinned against God and neighbour.

Response: God, surprise Us Again

When we miss the beauty and the joy of earth's goodness
When we grow too accustomed to life's business
When the goodness of others gets lost in the rush
When our frailty outruns our strength
When the hope in our hearts fade away
When the call to serve others loses its flavor
When we search for the way home to you
When loneliness pursues us
When it seems the darkness will never give way to the light
When the ache of the world wears our compassion thin
When the trouble of others seems more than we can carry
When even you seem far away from us

Response: Walk Closely With Us God.

As we strive to live our lives well
As we journey into the unknown territory of a new beginning
As we hurt in the process of loving our enemies
As we learn to accept our weakness and strengths
As we discover you in those whom we serve.