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Council #14404
Andrew Coates, Grand Knight
Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

SAINT EDWARD FAMILY CENTER

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



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Saint Edward Preschool
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Play,
Learn
and
Grow...
Together!

Saint Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

January 11, 2026
Saint Edward Church
531 Jordan Lake St.
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Pastor: Father Eugene Batungbacal, C.Ss.R.
Freugene@sspcatholic.com

Website: www.stedwardslakeodessa.org

Office: 616.374.7253
stedwards@wowway.biz

Facebook: Saint Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
8 AM-2 PM
Closed on Monday & Wednesday

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil	6:00 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday	12:10 PM
Friday	9:00 AM
First Saturday only	8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday	11:00 AM-12:00 PM
Thursday	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
	With Adoration
First Friday	After 9 AM Mass

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, 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.

The Baptism of the Lord



11 Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

12 Monday: Weekday

1 Sm 1:1-8 Ps 116:12-19 Mk 1:14-20

13 Tuesday: Weekday; Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d Mk 1:12-28

14 Wednesday: Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2 ,5, 7-10 Mk 1:29-39

15 Thursday: Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45

16 Friday: Weekday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12

17 Saturday: Saint Anthony, Abbot

1Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Ps 21:2-7 Mk 2:13-17

18 Sunday: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3,5-6 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:26-34

Popes Essay

The 2,000-year history of the Papacy is a tapestry woven with the threads of theological definition, political turmoil, and profound spiritual renewal. While the Chair of the pope has been occupied by over 260 men, few have left a mark as distinctive and enduring as Pope St. Peter, Pope Pius IX, and Pope St. John Paul II. These three men, separated by centuries of history, collectively represent the critical roles the papacy plays: founding witness, courageous moral standard-bearer against tyranny, and modern evangelist. This essay argues that the legacies of St. Peter, Pius IX, and St. John Paul II stand out due to their unparalleled contributions to the Church's foundation, its commitment to social justice, and its dynamic engagement with the modern world. These popes stand out to me as spiritual guides and Christ-like men that I can look up to throughout my growth in the church.

As the first pope and initial leader of the Catholic church after Jesus' death, Pope St. Peter is a role model that demonstrates the complex reality of human leadership. He was personally called by Christ to be the "rock" upon which the Church would be built (Matthew 16:18), physically translating Jesus' mission into an enduring institution. Peter's story, however, is not one of flawless perfection; his great courage, exemplified by his willingness to defy Roman authority, is balanced by his very human moments of failure, most notably when he denies Christ three times before Jesus' eventual crucifixion. This combination of divine mandate and human fallibility makes him a strong yet relatable spiritual guide. He shows that true Christian leadership and sainthood are rooted not in being immune to sin, but in the unwavering commitment to repentance and the zeal for spreading the Gospel.

Pope Pius IX may be a lesser known pope however had one of the largest impacts on the Catholic church of any pope. He started the Vatican I council which culminated in the crucial definition of Papal Infallibility in 1870. His nearly 32-year pontificate-the longest in history-was marked by intense political upheaval, including the final collapse of the Papal States and his subsequent confinement as the "Prisoner of the Vatican." However, it is his theological steadfastness that makes him a pivotal figure. By formally declaring the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and steering Vatican I to a successful redefinition of the intrinsic Catholic values, Pius IX firmly anchored the teaching authority of the Pope at a time when the world was rapidly embracing secular nationalism and scientific materialism. For me, he represents the power that a good leader can have in a time of struggle ensuring that even as political power waned, the spiritual and moral authority of the successor of Peter was confirmed for ages to come.

Finally Pope John Paul II has been the biggest inspiration and motivation for me to become a better catholic. His pontificate defined the role of the modern evangelist, physically taking the Church's message of peace and love to the global stage as no pope before him had. Through unprecedented international travel, he transformed the papacy into a dynamic, missionary office, fostering a personal connection with millions of people, particularly the youth, through events like World Youth Day. John Paul II's moral courage was equally pronounced, serving as an outspoken voice against modern tyrannies, famously inspiring the fall of Communism in his native Poland with the repeated, Christ-centered challenge: "Be not afraid!" Furthermore, his profound theological contributions, such as the comprehensive *Theology of the Body*, provided a powerful, life-affirming response to cultural relativism and secularism. This fusion of fearless moral leadership, deep spirituality, and dynamic engagement with the modern world makes him the ultimate role model for contemporary Catholicism, demonstrating how unwavering faith can reshape global politics and inspire personal spiritual growth.

In conclusion, the defining contributions of St. Peter, Pius IX, and St. John Paul II illustrate the consistent and adaptable nature of the Papal authority. From establishing the initial framework of the Church to safeguarding its spiritual authority during political turmoil, and finally, to embracing the challenge of global evangelization in the modern era, these three popes have collectively ensured the continuous vitality and moral relevance of the Catholic Church. They serve not merely as historical figures, but as continuous sources of strength and models of faith, repentance, and courageous leadership for me and for all future generations of Catholics.

By: Lucas Halanski

Congratulation to Essay Winner- Lucas Halanski



Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest winners



The Gift of Baptism

Baptism, as one of the seven Sacraments, serves as an outward and visible sign of inward grace—a divine gift that brings spiritual renewal and sanctification to the individual being baptized. These signs, which include the use of water, sacred oils, and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, are designed to be seen and recognized by the community of believers.

The communal aspect of Baptism emphasizes the importance of shared beliefs and support within the faith community, highlighting the interconnectedness of all believers. Through this sacramental act, individuals embark on a transformative journey, and the collective rejoicing of the community underscores the significance of this milestone for the spiritual well-being of the baptized and the Church as a whole.

By the grace of our Baptism, we are nourished with the desire to be filled with everlasting Union with God. The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ is a revelation to us that just as The Father of Christ proclaims and acknowledges who Jesus Christ is, our baptism in like manner is Christ recognizing and claiming us to be His very own, member of the Kingdom of God, in the Catholic Church that is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. And to this revelation we proclaim boldly that we renounce all evil and that we believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary.

If you know of anyone who wish to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, or desire to enter fully into the Catholic faith, please contact our office.

El don del Bautismo

El Bautismo, como uno de los siete Sacramentos, es un signo externo y visible de la gracia interior: un don divino que trae renovación espiritual y santificación a la persona que es bautizada. Estos signos, que incluyen el uso del agua, los óleos sagrados y la invocación del Espíritu Santo, están destinados a ser vistos y reconocidos por la comunidad de creyentes.

El aspecto comunitario del Bautismo enfatiza la importancia de las creencias compartidas y el apoyo dentro de la comunidad de fe, destacando la interconexión de todos los creyentes. A través de este acto sacramental, las personas emprenden un camino de transformación, y la alegría colectiva de la comunidad subraya la importancia de este hito para el bienestar espiritual del bautizado y de la Iglesia en su conjunto.

Por la gracia de nuestro Bautismo, somos nutridos con el deseo de alcanzar la unión eterna con Dios. El Bautismo de nuestro Señor Jesucristo es una revelación para nosotros de que, así como el Padre de Cristo proclama y reconoce quién es Jesucristo, nuestro bautismo, de igual manera, es Cristo reconociéndonos y reclamándonos como suyos, miembros del Reino de Dios, en la Iglesia Católica que es Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica. Y ante esta revelación, proclamamos con valentía que renunciamos a todo mal y que creemos en Dios Padre y en Jesucristo, concebido por el Espíritu Santo y nacido de la Virgen María.

Si conoce a alguien que deseé recibir el Sacramento del Bautismo o que deseé ingresar plenamente en la fe católica, comuníquese con nuestra oficina.

MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTERS**Sunday, January 11, 8:00 am**

Eric Clark (George & Carole Heinze)

Tuesday, December 13, 12:10 pm

+Vernon Brown (Fr. Tom)

Friday, January 16, 9:00 am

+ Larry Williams (Nualla Williams)

Saturday, January 17, 6:00 pm

Members of the Endres Family (Mary Endres)

Lector: Pat St. A. EMHC: Carolyn M., & Yvonne M.

Sunday, January 18, 8:00 am

Saint Edward Parish

Lector: Alan B. EMHC: Alan B. & Volunteers



"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 Jack Kirkwood,
Brother of Cathy Carnegie, who passed from
death to life on January 7, 2026.

Adoration

Thursday Evenings - 6 to 8 pm in the Church
Every First Friday 9:30 am – 12 pm

January 15

Adorers January 15

Cindy & Mary Gillette/ Mary Endres (6-7)
Anfrew Coates/ Open (7-8)



Thank you to all who have signed up for adoration. If you need more information or have questions, please get in touch with Suzanne King at 269-271-6406.

Cor Men's Group

Our Cor Men's Group meets every first Saturday of the month in the Family Center Library at 9:00 am. The next meeting will be on January 3. If you're looking to grow in faith and fellowship with your fellow Catholic men, please join us. Contact Andrew Coates for more details.

A Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

You are prayerfully invited to consider this once in a lifetime opportunity to grow in our Catholic Faith. Join Father Tom Boufford for this pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. The pilgrimage will be from April 12-20. The Cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,400 per person (airfare **not** included).

For more information, please call Fr. Tom at 231-519-4348

Mass booklets to follow along with the Holy Mass, have been donated to the parish and are located at the entrances to the church. There are books for both Adults and children. Please return books to location from which you picked them up from before you leave. Thank you.

Televised Sunday Mass:

Join us each week for the live broadcast at 10 a.m. Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Watch on TV on FOX 17, or online at grdiocese.org or the diocesan Facebook page (Diocese of Grand Rapids).

Please Pray for:

Eric Clark, Robert Rasche, Randy Armstrong,
Jake Jacobson, Marlene Harkin Family,
Julie Sutton VanLiew, Angie Raymond, Ken
Brewer & 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 family member.

Grief Support Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3, at 1:00 pm in the library. All meetings will now be on the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, please call Marsha, 269-367-4403.

Saint Edward's Faith Formation 2025-2026

Classes: January 11 & 25
February 1, 15, & 22

Classes will be on Sundays from 9:15 am to 10:30 am. Faith formation is for all students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Contact Fredia at 616-374-7253 x4 or at fredia@wowway.biz.

Saint Edward Preschool

Preschool is in need of artificial Christmas trees and lights as many of our trees are in very poor condition. Please consider donation any unwanted lights or artificial trees that are in good condition to the preschool. Thank you for your support.
Fredia

OCIA schedule **January 14, 21, and 28**

The OCIA group will meet in the Family Center Library on January 14 and 21 to view The Mass series by Bishop Barron. Everyone is welcome to join us from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Anyone who needs to complete their initiation into the church is invited to attend. If you or someone you know hasn't received First Communion or Confirmation, now is the time to complete your catechesis. We meet at 6:30 p.m. at 753rd Ave., every Wednesday night. Call with questions: 616-374-8340.

**Men of the Eucharist-
Strengthened in Christ- Responding with Joy**

Pray for Seminarian:
Payton T. Russman
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest, lead our seminarians in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may become priests who are models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice. Teach them generosity and detachment from worldly good; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You, the One and Only Eternal Priest.

Amen.

Adults	\$ 3,534.00
Loose:	\$ 329.00
Total receipts:	\$ 3,863.00
Budgeted Weekly	\$ 4,000.00
Overage	\$ (137.00)

July 1, 2025 – Jan 4, 2026 Fiscal YTD Offertory Collections

Year-to-Date	\$ 118,568.00
Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$ 104,000.00
Overage Year-to-Date:	\$ 14,568.00

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.

Counters January 12: Cindy Gillette and Mike Hickey

The next Knights of Columbus meeting will be on:



Tuesday, January 13

Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest winners:

Preschool/Kindergarten
1st place - Veronica Jones

1st/2nd Grade
1st place - Grant Jones
2nd place - Vincent Wisniewski

3rd/4th Grade
1st place - Alivia Monroe
2nd place - Scarlett Jones

5th/6th Grade
1st place - Rose Jones
2nd place - Cecelia Monroe

7th/8th Grade
1st place - Evelyn Turkila
2nd place - Ellie Jones

Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest winners:

1st place - Lucas Halanski
2nd place - Kyle Rodriguez

Also, congrats to Lucas Halanski for being named the Diocesan Essay Contest winner for the 11th grade! A copy of Lucas's winning essay is included in this week's bulletin.