

Confessions:

Beginning Saturday July 4th, confessions will be provided from 4-4:45pm (before the 5pm Mass). We will continue to have confession times before the current daily Mass times and this will continue throughout the month of July.

Confession Times:	Saturday	4:00-4:45pm (beginning July 4 th)
	Tuesday	8:00-8:45am
	Wednesday	6:00-6:45pm

Adoration:

The adoration chapel is still closed at this time. Eucharistic Adoration is the most important devotion we have as Catholics and it unites us to the Source and Summit of our faith the Eucharist. Adoration helps us enter into the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with purer minds and hearts. In June, we opened the church up for prayer before the Eucharist in the tabernacle 9:30-12:30pm (Monday-Thursday) and this will continue but we will also begin to add hours of adoration before the monstrance in July. If you are interested in having an hour to adore from 9:30-12:30 please let the office know and we will begin to make a schedule of more adoration times for August.

Prayer in the Church:	Monday-Thursday	9:30-12:30pm
Adoration in the Church:	Tuesday	8:00-8:45am
	Wednesday	6:00-6:45pm

Groups/Religious Education

Groups and Religious Education have been suspended since March. For Religious Education, books were sent home to finish the year and are being returned. Large group and small groups will remain cancelled until further notice. I know that these groups are vital for personal spiritual growth and are important for our parish but we will not be able to meet until the Bishop gives approval. Let us unite in prayer and through virtual means so that we can return in joy in the future.

Outreach

Our Parish Outreach Program began serving lunches at the beginning of June. Financial aid for those in need has also begun but in a limited way until restrictions are lifted due to COVID-19. I have been told that there is a collection the first Sunday of each month for Outreach. I am very grateful for this community’s generosity of time and money. This is an important ministry and I know St. Edward’s has helped it grow in many ways in the past many years. If you would like to donate to the Outreach ministry please drop an envelope marked as Outreach in the basket as you walk into Church. If you have not returned to public Mass yet but want to provide for Outreach then you can send or drop off a donation at the office during the week.

Finances

This is a difficult time. COVID-19 has impacted how we celebrate and live out our faith. It has also made an impact economically on so many people. First, I want to thank everyone for their previous generosity. The generosity of this parish has made so many ministries and renovations possible. The recent renovations to the Church and many projects that were involved in that required the community to come together with their treasure and talents. As I have talked to the diocese, they have been impressed with the success on your restoration efforts. All of that to say, your generosity is much appreciated and it is a blessing to the future of St. Edward's parish. There are many who have been impacted financially during this time. Either hours of work have been limited or positions have been furloughed. If this is something you have gone through personally please know of our prayers for you. I know that the Lord is close to those who suffer so unite to Him and, if you need to, please make a meeting with me so that we can talk about how this experience has impacted your spiritual life.

On a parish level, we have made changes to our budget that reflect the predictions of the impact that COVID-19 may have on our finances. The end-of-the-year report and next year's budget will be sent out in July. I want to reiterate my thankfulness for your generosity. If you are not in a position to give as you have in the past we ask for your prayers because we know they are effective. If you would like to give and have not returned to public Mass you can mail or send your envelopes to the office. We also have online giving as an option which you can find on our website (the online giving link can be found at <http://www.saintedwardstexarkana.com/>)

Memorial Mass for Fr. James West

The funeral of Fr. James West was the last Mass before the suspension of public Mass in the Diocese. There was no time to be able to grieve the loss of Fr. West. There is a need to be able to grieve together in a public way and eventually we will have a Memorial Mass and banquet in his memory. I do not know when that will be but it is a necessity for this parish community. As for now, if you need to talk about that loss or any difficulties during this time of COVID-19 please call the office and make an appointment with me so that we can talk and pray together.

There is a time for everything but the truth is Jesus says "I am with you always, until the end of age (Matt 28:20)" Thank God we have such a faithful and loving God!

With Christ,
Fr. William Burmester