

St. Edward Catholic Community
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
October 13, 1969 ~ October 13, 2019
Spring, Texas



Photo by: Michelle Eisterhold

50th Anniversary Jubilee Mass
Celebrated by
His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
October 13, 2019 ~ 11:30am

Papal Blessing



St. Edward Catholic Community



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

October 13, 2019

Dear Members of St. Edward Parish,

On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Edward Church, I am filled with true joy and a spirit of heartfelt thanksgiving to Almighty God for the faithful community of your parish. As the Chief Shepherd of this local church of Galveston-Houston, I offer you my personal blessing and my sincerest congratulations.

Even though we experience realities of parish life in terms of milestones, projects, and buildings, our gaze is led beyond the physical and institutional to the true essence of the Church, which is the Mystical Body of Christ. The true measure of parish community is that you, "like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5) As long as the faithful of the Spring Area continue to worship together, to hear and proclaim the Gospel, and to care for one another in true charity, the family of St. Edward Parish will continue to flourish.

I would like to commend the members of St. Edward Church, along with your pastor, Reverend Christian Bui, for responding generously to the mission conferred upon you as members of this Catholic community. I pray that this time of celebration may be one of gratitude for fifty years of blessings and of great hope looking forward to the future. May our Lord continue to bless you and build up your community in love and communion with the Body of Christ.

St. Edward, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

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Dear Parishioners:

I am excited to be celebrating the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration of the founding of St Edward Catholic Church on October 13, 2019 with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo presiding. From its modest beginning with about 30 families, who initially met for Mass at their homes, St Edward is now a vibrant and growing community of more than 3370 families.

As is the case with all the universal church, all that we are and all that we have is only possible through the faith, efforts and sacrifices of those who preceded us. I am so impressed that our community still includes so many parishioners who were there for the founding of the church and others who have been here for thirty or forty years. And even so, the strength and vitality of the church is enriched by members of our community who have recently joined us.

Consider the beautiful campus that we have, beginning with our sanctuary and chapel where we've celebrated the Sacraments. The mission of our community was expanded to children's education to include Pre-K through 5th grade, and later adding 6th through 8th grade. Facilities include the Parish Life Center where parish-wide events are held, the beautiful Pastoral Ministry Center, and the spacious and inviting centerpiece—The Plaza.

Now with more than sixty different ministries, St. Edward Catholic Community continues to grow to meet our mission of building the kingdom of God, welcoming and loving others by worship, education, service, and evangelization. Please take an opportunity to learn more about our wonderful ministries and to consider how you and your family can be part of this mission.

I am so grateful to be part of this thriving parish. We have much to be grateful for and even more to pray for. I thank everyone for your participation in the 50 days of our Jubilee Celebration leading up to this day, October 13, 2019.

God bless everyone who has contributed to the life of our parish and God bless us all and those who will follow us.

In Christ,

Rev. Christian Bui

Rev. Christian Bui
Pastor
October 13, 2019

St. Edward Parish History

St. Edward Catholic Community started from a modest beginning in 1968. Rev. Eugene Francis of St. John the Baptist Church located in Hungerford, Texas was assigned with the task of starting a Church. At this time, the parish community consisted of approximately 30 families within a five-mile radius. Sunday Masses were held at various homes in the surrounding area until arrangements were made to hold Sunday Masses at the Spring Elementary School.

In the fall of 1969, the first Mass was held at the public-school cafeteria with only a suitcase of altar cloths, candles and vestments. Initially, few people knew of the makeshift church's whereabouts; however, over time, the ranks continued to grow. On November 2, 1969, the first bulletin was published requesting attendees to complete a parish census – approximately 74 families were counted.

In the fall of 1971, a beautiful wooded site was purchased. In 1976, St. Edward the Confessor Church was blessed and dedicated by the Most Reverend John L. Morkovsky, Bishop of Galveston-Houston and assisted by Fr. Eugene Francis. The ceremony was a memorable occasion as parishioners realized their dream of building a church. Fr. Francis was Pastor of St. Edward from 1969 to 1981. Fr. Herndel, who was Pastor from 1981 to 1983, succeeded Fr. Francis. In 1983, Msgr. Al Doga succeeded Fr. Herndel. In the early 90's, Fr. Doga purchased additional land for the purpose of constructing the junior high school, a playground, and a multipurpose sports field. He also was responsible for building a new rectory and turning the old rectory into parish offices. Msgr. Doga passed away in December 1999. His Associate Pastor, Fr. Dwight Canizares was made Temporary Administrator.

Fr. Joseph Gietl was assigned as Pastor in June 2000. When Archbishop Fiorenza assigned Fr. Gietl as Pastor, he suggested that consideration be given to building a new church; as Fr. Doga had purchased additional acreage and had spoken to the Bishop of the future need of a new church. Consulting with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, Fr. Gietl established a committee to master plan the facilities in order to efficiently meet present needs and to plan for future growth. An architect was hired. The study was made. A capital campaign was conducted, and design plans were put in place. On December 5, 2004, a groundbreaking ceremony took place. Coadjutor Archbishop Daniel DiNardo celebrated Mass in honor of the occasion and presided over the ceremony. Construction of the new church took place under Fr. Gietl's guidance, along with a volunteer "building committee" who gave countless hours of service to see the project to fruition for the parish; nearly one year later the new church was completed.

Finally, there was the announcement that the last Mass in the old church would be in the morning. In the evening, the parishioners were invited to Vespers and the procession to the new church. It was the first night of winter and the liturgy began with the "Ave Maria" and our rededication to the Blessed Mother. The little mid-week service became a crowded, yet solemn gathering of young and old eager to participate in the first Mass in the new church. Nearly eight hundred gathered for the first Mass. On Christmas Eve, nearly 2000 worshippers attended the first official Mass in the new church. It was standing room only. For Midnight Mass, everyone had a place to sit.

Within a year, renovation began to change the original church into a much needed activity center. Within another year, we began hosting dinners, assemblies, and meetings in the Parish Life Center.

After the renovation of the "old church", Fr. Joseph Gietl continued with his vision—a vision of new office space. The original rectory built in the 70's was being used as the church offices and the building was in disrepair. In 2011, under the direction of Fr. Gietl, a committee of parish volunteers was established and planning began for the new office space. The needs of the parish were assessed, questionnaires were sent out and the feasibility study began. Construction of the Pastoral Ministry Center began December 2012 and was completed in October 2013. In addition, the church and the center were united with a plaza containing covered walkways and a fountain.

Unfortunately, Fr. Gietl did not see his vision come to fruition. He passed away in August 2013 before the completion of the building. The building was named, Rev. Joseph A. Gietl Pastoral Ministry Center. Rev. Christian Hoang Bui was assigned to St. Edward Catholic Community in October 2013 in time to dedicate the new building.

Pastoral Staff History

Over the past 50 years, numerous men of God have provided spiritual nourishment and leadership to our “flock”. May the Holy Spirit bless them for their vocation and guidance provided to St. Edward Catholic Community and may those who have gone before us, enjoy the presence of our Heavenly Father face to face.

Pastors

Dates of Service

Msgr. Eugene Francis	1969-1981
Fr. Anthony Herndel (Deceased)	1981-1983
Msgr. Al R. Doga (Deceased 1999)	1983-1999
Fr. Dwight Canizares	1999-2000
Fr. Joseph Gietl (Deceased 2013)	2000-2013
Fr. Christian Bui	2013-Present

Parochial Vicars

Fr. Lawrence Lee (Deceased 2009)	1972-1974
Fr. David Crawford	1975-1977
Fr. Everst Farnand, OFM (Deceased 1995)	1974-1974
Fr. Vincent Sedita	1977-1978
Fr. Ronald Fishbeck	1978-1979
Fr. Joseph Kalladan	1981-1983
Fr. Walter Sheffield (Deceased 2005)	1983-1987
Fr. Paul Procella (Deceased 2015)	1987-1990
Fr. Thomas Rafferty	1990-1991
Fr. Peter Ferguson	1991-1994
Fr. Stephen Cooley, O Carm	1994-1995
Fr. Paul Felix	1995-1997
Fr. Dwight Canizares	1997-2000
Fr. J.B. Huynh Ngo Tran (Deceased)	2000-2000
Fr. Joseph Thanh Vu	2000-2004
Fr. Mathew Thomman, O.S.H.	2001-2006
Fr. Daokim Nguyen	2004-2005
Fr. Francis Kizhakkethazhe, M.S.F.S.	2006-2007
Fr. Arnel Barrameda	2006-2009
Fr. Patrick Garrett	2009-2012
Fr. Marek Czarnecki	2009-2010
Fr. Mario Baldeo, D.S. (Deceased 2017)	2012-2016
Fr. Thomas Joseph, O.S.H.	2016-Present

Deacons

Deacon Joe Mignogna	1990-1996
Deacon Kenneth Martin	1994-Present
Deacon Nicholas Thompson	2001-Present
Deacon Richard Clough (Deceased)	2005-2006
Deacon Dominic Romaguera	2007-Present
Deacon William Pitocco	2015-Present
Deacon Stuart Neck	2019-Present

Sources:

St. Edward Parish Directory, 1976 Edition
Archives Department, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

The Life of St. Edward the Confessor

St. Edward the Confessor was born in Islip in Oxfordshire between 1002 and 1005. He was the son of Ethelred II. At age ten, he was sent with his brother Alfred to Normandy to be brought up at the court of the Duke, his uncle, when the Danes gained influence and control of England. He spent the best years of his life in exile. Early misfortune taught Edward the imprudence of ambition – he grew up in innocence, delighting in assisting at Mass and in the church office, rather than partaking in the typical pleasures and rights reserved for royalty.

Edward was called to the throne at about age forty and was welcomed by all due to his gentle, saintly character. His reign was one of almost unbroken peace. He undertook no wars except to repel a Welsh uprising. Although, Edward was not a particularly successful King, his personal character and piety endeared him to his people. He was devoid of personal ambition – his main concern being the welfare of his people. He demonstrated this by giving alms to the poor and not imposing taxes typical of royalty at that time.

King Edward wanted to make a pilgrimage to St. Peter's tomb; however, since he could not leave his kingdom without injury to his people, the Pope therefore commuted him into the rebuilding of St. Peter's Abbey at Westminster. The dedication and consecration of the Abbey took place on Holy Innocent's Day, December 28, 1065. King Edward was ill that day and unable to be present at the service. He died one week later on January 5, 1066.

Pope Alexander III canonized King Edward in 1161. His body was placed in a Shrine at Westminster Abbey on October 13, 1163. His feast is celebrated on October 13th; his incorrupt body having been solemnly translated on that day by St. Thomas of Canterbury in the presence of King Henry II. St. Edward the Confessor's coffin still lies in a cavity in the top of the marble structure of the Shrine that is regarded as the center of the Abbey. On the western side of the Chapel is a stone screen with fourteen scenes of events, real and legendary, depicting the life of the Confessor. The title "Confessor" was given to Edward for his just deeds. This title refers to a particular type of saint – one whose status is between that of a common man and saint who suffered for their faith in a manner short of martyrdom and demonstrated their faith in the face of worldly temptations.

Sources:

Catholic Online Saints www.catholic.org, Catholic Encyclopedia www.newadvent.org
Westminster Abbey Official Guide, Edward the Confessor by Frank Barlow, London 1970



50th Anniversary Jubilee Mass

St Edward Catholic Community

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2019

Gathering Hymn: #611 All Creatures of Our God and King

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Gloria: #207 *Mass of Joy and Peace*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman returned to the man of God and acknowledged the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving pow'r,
his saving pow'r.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

If we persevere, we shall also reign with Christ.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

None but this foreigner has returned to give thanks to God.

Homily

Profession of Faith

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar

and Presentation of the Gifts: #631 We Give You Thanks

Holy, Holy, Holy: #263 *Glendalough Mass*

Memorial Acclamation: #266

Amen: #267

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God: #269

Communion Hymn: #930 Taste and See

#944 In Remembrance of You

Prayer After Communion

Concluding Rite

Closing Remarks

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Sending Forth: #881 Lift High the Cross



Prayer to St. Edward the Confessor

God our Father, source of grace and blessings to all of us at St. Edward, we thank you for the gift of the Holy Family, our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph. Through them, you gave us a model of obedience, love, protection and work for the benefit of others.

For 50 years, you have blessed us with the help of our pastors, priests, and deacons. Please continue to bless our family of St. Edward, whether single, young or families blessed with the gift of children; all unique, made in your image and united in Christ.

May we all respond to your love as St. Edward the Confessor did, who was known for his piety and strong belief in You.

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on our Jubilee celebration, and may our actions and prayers be pleasing to you, warm to your embrace, moving our hearts and souls closer to you...in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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