1. About a week before Christmas, I received a letter from Bishop Fisher’s office regarding our celebration of the Mass *ad orientem* (where the priest faces the Lord with the people). I began the practice of saying the Mass *ad orientem* Advent 2017. Cardinal Robert Sarah, the prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments (i.e., the Vatican’s liturgy chief), asked priests to begin celebrating Mass *ad orientem* saying among other things that “the Sacred Liturgy has become too anthropocentric; man not Almighty God has often become its focus...we must take care to form our people that God, not ourselves, is the focus of our worship.”

At a conference on the liturgy a couple of years ago, Cardinal Sarah (who was appointed by Pope Francis in 2014) said, “I ask you to implement this practice [of *ad orientem* worship] wherever possible,” and told pastors to have “confidence that this is something good for the Church, something good for our people”. He had suggested Advent as a good time to begin because it is the time when we wait eagerly for the Lord who will come without delay.

So, it’s been over a year since this has been our practice here at St. Edward. I like to think that it has had a positive impact on us as a parish. I know for myself as a priest offering the Mass, I find it so edifying and prayerful. It’s amazing how different it is when I turn back the other way. Mass *ad orientem* is like having an intimate conversation with the Lord. Turning to Him and opening myself to Him, I am better able to make an interior effort to unite myself to the sacred action that is taking place on the altar (which is what we should all be striving to do at every Mass). I’ve also heard from so many of you about how it has enriched you. As a pastor, there’s nothing better to hear than that! Especially since it is God Himself who has enriched you. I received a couple dozen copies of letters written by you to the Archbishop stating your appreciation of the *ad orientem* worship. Thank you for your support.

There was one complaint, and upon receiving that complaint, the bishop told me to stop, rather, that I could only do it once a month. I met with the Archbishop to appeal to him, and he said to make him a proposal (an *ad orientem* schedule, if you will) which I sent to him toward the end of October. I proposed that I would say the Mass at all weddings and funerals facing the people, and that any visiting priests (as well as Fr. Fritz) would always have the option to face whichever direction they preferred, but this proposal was rejected. Which brings me to Bishop Fisher’s letter.

The letter states that beginning February 1, Mass can only be celebrated *ad orientem* one weekend a month and two days a week. This decision (actually, the letter refers to it as an “opinion”) was made in consultation with “experts in canon law and liturgy”. I’ve had many priest friends suggest to me how I should handle this. What I’ve decided is that Masses on Tuesdays and Fridays will be celebrated *ad orientem* as well as the first weekend of every month (with some adjustments as needed here and there). I don’t know if I’m handling this the right way, but I do this out of respect and obedience to my bishop—a promise that I made at my ordination. I have written a letter of appeal to Cardinal Sarah’s office as well as to the office of Cardinal Raymond Burke who said to me when our pilgrimage group met him in Wisconsin this past summer, “Listen to your bishop...but don’t give up on this”. I will also say that there are experts in canon law and liturgy who would argue in favor of *ad orientem* worship. Please pray for me for prudence, wisdom, courage, and patience (as well as any other virtues that you think I might need).

I know that some of you might be wondering what the big deal is or might be frustrated by all the politics (I am too). But my task as a pastor is to glorify God in all things and to lead souls to Him, and the Sacred Liturgy is the primary means by which this happens. I can tell you that other priests are offering Mass *ad orientem*, especially younger priests like myself (forty-four is still “young”, yes?). Even priests whom I never have thought would offer Mass *ad orientem* are doing so at least occasionally.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...
PARISH OFFICE
6945 Lakeshore Rd.
Lakeport, MI 48059
For Emergencies only: 810-294-0050
Phone: 810-385-4340
Emergencies only: 810-294-0050
Fax: 810-385-6972
Office Hours: M-F, 9am - 4pm
Website: http://stedwardonthelake.org
Email: stedwardparish@hotmail.com
Rev. Lee Acervo, Pastor
Email: stedwardpastor@hotmail.com
Sara Hunter, Office Manager/Secretary
Kathy Cowles, Bookkeeper
Paula McCarthy, Director of Religious Education

Mass Schedule: M, T, W, F: 8am
Th: 7pm
Sat.: 8am, 5pm
Sun.: 9:30am, 11:30am
Tridentine Mass: 8am

Confessions:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:
7:30-7:50am
Thursday: 6-6:50pm
First Fridays of the Month: 6-6:50pm
Saturday: 8:30am & 4-4:45pm
Sunday: 7:30am

PARISH HALL RENTAL
Mary Rumley, Coordinator
810-385-3938

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #8274
Grand Knight: Pat Scheuer
810-434-6106

ALTAR SOCIETY
Looking for volunteers to help ‘Gods Housekeepers’ to clean church on Tuesday mornings!
President: Paula McCarthy 810-385-5428

MUSIC MINISTRY
Organist/Music Director/Choir:
Lauren VanEnoo

BULLETINS
Article Deadlines—Monday 12 noon
Available at weekend Masses & during the week in the church.

ST. EDWARD’S SCHOOL/ PRESCHOOL
6995 Lakeshore Rd.
Phone: 810-385-4461
Fax: 810-385-6070
Office Hours: M-F 7:30am – 3pm
Website: http://stedwardonthelakeschool.org
Nancy Appel, Principal
Diana Decker, Assistant Principal
Susan Svacha, School Secretary

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION
Roger Schaller (Council Member)

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION
Dennis Rylander (Funeral Luncheons)

~Find a typographical error in the bulletin & win a prize!~

(FR. ACERVO’S CORNER CON’T…)

More and more seminarians, as younger people are learning about the beauty of our Catholic heritage and wondering why so much of our tradition was abandoned after Vatican II, are drawn towards ad orientem worship and are speaking about it openly when my generation of seminarians would have never dared to talk about it openly for fear of “correction". So while disappointed, I am also edified by the spark of hope that exists in some of our future priests. I am also reminded that we (all of us) must be willing to suffer patiently for what is good – especially for what is eternally good. And isn’t that what we are reminded of every time we look at the Cross?

1. On to other things…we are in need of ushers to assist at the weekend Masses. Ushers are needed to greet people as they arrive, hand out bulletins, help receive the collections, welcome and assist visitors, help clean up the church after Masses (among other things). We are at times scrambling to find help with all of these tasks, and so we could use some more volunteers. Please see Tim McGraw or Paul Kane who will fill you in on everything you need to know. Thanks as always!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Acervo

Holy Land Pilgrimage
Fr. Joe Esper will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land on October 12-24, 2019, with visits to Bethlehem, Cana the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, the dead Sea, Qumran, Jericho, Jerusalem, and other sites. The cost is $3990 per person, which includes all airfare, hotel (double occupancy), and air-conditioned bus, two meals a day, and the services of a Christian tour guide.

A no-obligation information meeting will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall (M-29 and Church Rd in Ira Twp. On Tuesday, January 29 at 7:15pm (following the 6:30pm Mass). Further information can also be obtained at www.gooshepherdtravel.com (toll-free: 1-844-659-5263).

This is your chance for memories and blessings that will last a lifetime!

PRAY FOR PRIESTS
January 19th/January 20th
~MARY RUMLEY
January 26th/January 27th
~ANNE TILLOTSON

For more information about this important program, call Bob Furtado at 385-5357.
To sign-up, please call the parish office at 385-4340.
Several dates are available!

MOTHER ANGELICA COMES TO RRB!

With wit, wisdom and a healing helping of common sense, a nun from Iron-
dale Alabama launched what would become the largest and most successful Catholic Television Network in the world (from the Bible Belt of the United States!). EWTN featuring "MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE" was started in a garage at Our Lady of the Angles Mon-
astery & has delighted and inspired audiences for over 30 years. Four classic programs are included in this parishioner donated set that are as timeless in their truth today as they were when first broadcast. Who said religion can't be entertaining? "Mother Angelica Live" awaits you at your Religious Redbox; sign out is required and limited to one week please.

The League of Catholic Women will present a storytelling concert for the entire family. Award-winning Michigan storyteller, Patrick Foley, will perform stories and traditional songs for one and all. The concert will be on Sunday, February 10th from 2-3pm at St. Joseph Church, 1331 7th St., Port Huron.
Don't miss this afternoon of stories and songs. Free-will offering with proceeds going to the League of Catholic Women tuition fund. Call 810-982-9408 with any questions.
COUNCIL CORNER:
God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~Attend Mass

SUNDAY JANUARY 20th
8:00 A.M. DIANE OEBEE (RIP)
9:30 A.M. SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR MARISSA BHENSANIA
   Requested by Mrs. McCarthy
11:30 A.M. MICHAEL KAVANAUGH (RIP)
   Requested by Laura Petty

MONDAY JANUARY 21st
8:00 A.M. PATRICK LARDNER (RIP)
   Requested by Theodore & Virginia Harvey

TUESDAY JANUARY 22nd
8:00 A.M. ELAINE KELLY (RIP)
   Requested by Mary Lynn Fletcher

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23rd
8:00 A.M. PATRICK LARDNER (RIP)
   Requested by Ida & Judy Bunney

THURSDAY JANUARY 24th
7:00 P.M. PATRICK LARDNER (RIP)
   Requested by Bill & Doris

FRIDAY JANUARY 25th
8:00 A.M. PATRICK LARDNER (RIP)
   Requested by Mary Sue DeMars

SATURDAY JANUARY 26th
8:00 A.M. JACK PEACOCK (RIP), 11YR ANN.
   Requested by The Cowles Family
4:00 P.M. ST. MONICA SODALITY
5:00 P.M. RICHARD A. ELSNER (RIP)

SUNDAY JANUARY 27th
8:00 A.M. SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR JOHN NOBLE
   Requested by Dolores Noble
9:30 A.M. SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR BENJAMIN CENCI
   Requested by Mrs. McCarthy
11:30 A.M. PAULINE PEACOCK (RIP)
   Requested by The Cowles Family

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SUNDAY (1/13) COLLECTION..............................................$7,523.00
FAITH DIRECT.................................................................$1,650.00
ONLINE GIVING..............................................................$1,885.00
BUDGETED SUNDAY COLLECTION.................................$9,577.00
ACTUAL OVER (UNDER)......................................................$1,481.00
ENVELOPES USED/SENT....................................................132/435

OTHER COLLECTIONS
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION..................................................$500.00

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
Please patronize our sponsors. This week we feature:
Karrer Simpson Funeral Home, Inc.
810-985-9605
To view their full ad, see the back page of the bulletin.

From the Principal’s Desk
~Catholic Schools’ Week begins on Sunday, January 29th. The 11:30am Mass that day will be the Children’s Mass with the students doing all the jobs during the Mass...ushering, readings & gifts. The Children’s Choir will also be singing. Following the Mass, there will be an Open House at the school. All during Catholic Schools’ Week there will be special, fun dress up days.
~Thank you always for the support you give to our wonderful school.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Appel, Principal

Religious Education
To all 7th/8th grade Religious Education students:
~Please read the parent letter that went home with students last Wednesday.
~Our students will be participating in collecting through the end of February for items for the St Aloysius Ministry in downtown Detroit.
~Please continue to help your child with his/her prayers & help your child with service hour participation.

2019 Lucky Stars Raffle Tickets are on Sale
at the Scrip Table & in the School Office—$10/Ticket!
Daily Weekday Drawing during the month of February
based on the State Lottery’s Daily 3
$50 Winner per DAY!

St. Edward-on-the-Lake Parish is a proud supporter of Blue Water Catholic Schools. www.bwcatholicschools.org

~PLEASE NOTE!~
Contribution statements will only be mailed out to those requesting a statement of their donations for the year. There are several ways to request a statement:
• Fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail the form to the church office.
• You may also e-mail your request to stedwardparish@hotmail.com, or
• Call the parish at 385-4340.

Name__________________________
Envelope Number________________
Address________________________
City & Zip______________________

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com