

Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Godparents of St. Edward Parish and School,

Over the past year, I hope you have heard about **stewardship**; our call to follow Christ and give thanks to God for all His blessings. *“God gives it all- then calls us to share.”* In answering His call to become Christian stewards, we must undergo a conversion of heart leading to a new way of life. We frequently use the words **time, talent, and treasure** to explain ways we can respond to God’s many gifts, but they are only the beginning. True stewardship is so much more!

God invites us to make time for Him every day, just as we make time for our friends and family. The liturgy is our celebration of faith: a chance to gather as one Catholic family as we give thanks to God. We will continue with our Family Masses this year, celebrating them on the **third Sunday of the month** in each parish, however this month St. Edward will celebrate it on September 23rd with a special thank you to Sr. Katherine Theresa Fife and Sr. Delores Shaw for their dedication and service to St. Edward School.

I invite all of the children and young adults in our parish and school to take an active role in our Family Masses. Our school and Religious Education program will work together to make sure every child is able to participate. If your child does not attend our school or Religious Education program, I hope you will consider enrolling them, but be assured our Family Masses are open to everyone, including visitors and families of other faith traditions.

As parents, grandparents, and godparents, I invite you to lead by example. If you are a lector, usher, EMC, musician, or choir member, the Family Mass is an opportunity to share your ministry and talents with the children of our parish. If you do not regularly attend Mass in our parish or are not actively involved in a liturgy ministry, I invite you to do so. Your presence and participation in our Family Masses and on other Sundays sends a message that God is a priority in our lives. If your children, grandchildren, or godchildren do not regularly attend Mass, I hope you will invite them to join you.

This year we will again provide envelopes to children in our parish, distributed through the school and Religious Education program. Please help your children fill out their envelopes before Mass so they can make a conscious decision about ways they share their gifts with God. Children are invited to place their envelope in the collection basket on Sunday. If your family attends church outside of our tri-parish cluster, your children can give their envelopes to that church. If your family did not attend Mass on Sunday, children can bring envelopes to school on Monday morning and place them in the basket during morning prayer or assembly.

Please let your children decide how they want to share their gifts with God. I discourage you from giving them money to put in the envelope or telling them what to write. God asks each of us to use His blessings in our own way. If your children do not attend our parish school or religious education program and they would like envelopes, please contact the parish office. Adults who want their own envelopes should also contact the parish office.

As parents, grandparents and godparents, you answered a special call from God. I pray for each of you every day and hope you will be stewards in your families, places of employment, communities and, of course, in our parish and school. Please keep our church, school and staff in your prayers as we build the Kingdom of God together.

Blessings,

Handwritten signature of Father Felino Paulino

Father Felino Paulino, Pastor
St. Edward Parish