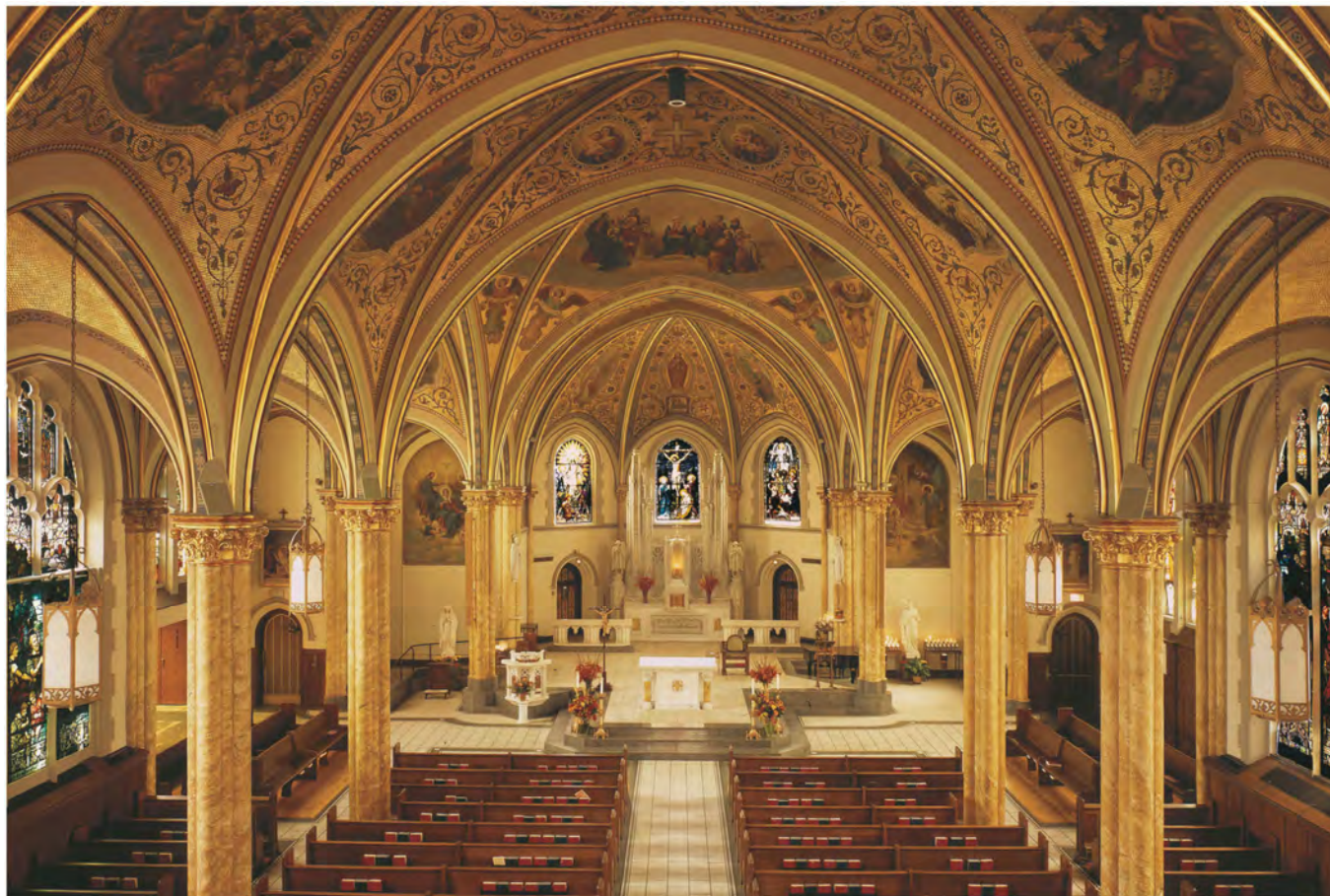


# Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

*Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park*

**December 2, 2018**




## **Parish Office**

188 S. Oak Park Avenue Oak Park, Illinois 60302; Telephone: 708-848-4417; Fax Line: 708-848-0049

Parish Center Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 8:00pm, Friday, 9am - 4pm

Saturday 9am - 3pm; Sunday 9:00am - 1pm

Visit the parish web-site at [stedmund.org](http://stedmund.org). You may also e-mail us from the web-site.

 Follow us on Twitter at: St. Edmunds-Oak Park or @edmunds\_oakpark

## **Parish Administration and Staff**

Rev. John McGivern, Pastor  
Ms. Peggy Leddy, Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Maria Allori, Development Director  
Deacon Thomas Dwyer, Parish Business Manager  
Mr. Donald Giannetti, Parish Assistant  
Mrs. Kathleen Halfpenny, Director of Music

Mrs. Christine A. Rousakis, Manager, Parish Office  
Mr. Al Vargas, Facilities Manager

Rev. John Lucas, *Weekend Presider*  
Rev. Gene Gratkowski, *Weekend Presider*  
Rev. John O'Callaghan, S.J., *Weekend Presider*

## **School of Religious Education**

200 S. Oak Park Avenue Oak Park, Illinois 60302

School of Religious Education Telephone: 708-848-7220 · RE/Fax Line: 708-386-5616

Visit the parish web-site at [stedmund.org](http://stedmund.org). You may also e-mail us from the web-site.

## **Religious Education Program Administration and Staff**

Mrs. Janet Bennick, Coordinator of Religious Education · Ms. Kaydee Sproat, Program Secretary



All are welcome. An entrance ramp and push-bar automatic door is located at the eastern entrance of the church.

## Staff Notes

Today marks the onset of Advent. The Church liturgical year now embarks on a new beginning. Beginnings, (and endings, too) are never experienced, however, apart from what preceded them and what follows them. They are moments and opportunities, that give us a panoramic perspective of our lives, and as such, it is an opportunity for self-understanding and spiritual growth.

In today's Gospel reading, our Lord admonishes us to "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Should we allow the Lord's words to penetrate our hearts and mind, we would begin to understand that the appointed time is now. In fact, the appointed time is *every now*.

Will you join me in accepting this opportunity that Advent offers? Perhaps we start by opening the eyes of our hearts, if you will, and take an honest look deep within. What would we see? Perhaps we will find some old or unfinished business of our own. Perhaps we will become reacquainted with unresolved hurt, anger or resentment. We might even rediscover the desire to seek or offer forgiveness. Whatever that inward observation might show us, it is only in finding the courage to look, that opens up for us the possibility of living with a renewed sense of hope, which is precisely what lies at the heart of the season and gift that is Advent.

The season of Advent also compels us to look forward--with the knowledge that the gift of the one true Light is a gift which has already been given to us; and that He, is a gift who is with us still. Finally, Advent is also a time of striving and of waiting, but it is an *active* striving and waiting as we seek to re-illumine within us this wonderful Light who is Jesus and God.

To that end, there may be a parish activity which may help you to appreciate this season of Advent and new beginnings. Perhaps there are those among us who have not yet volunteered to help with our parish Giving Tree. Or you may wish to consider attending daily mass (8:30am Monday-Friday.) Our Advent Reconciliation will take place Monday, December 17, this year at St. Giles Parish Church. Have you taken home a copy of our Advent/Christmas daily prayer book? Here's another simple yet effective way to prepare for the season. Or maybe you have a relative or friend who would love your company. The opportunities are all around us! Let this season of new beginnings challenge us to strive actively once again, and reacquaint ourselves with the gift that is hope. In other words, now is the only time to rekindle the Light—actively awaiting the One who has come, who is with us now, and who shall return. Now is the time for the advent of our God.

*Fr. John McGivern*

Fr. John McGivern

## William Ferris Chorale Returns! Saturday, December 15 at 8pm



St. Edmund Parish welcomes the return of the nationally acclaimed William Ferris Chorale, conducted by acclaimed musical director, Mr. Paul French on Saturday, December 15 at 8pm for an encore performance with an evening of exceptional choral music of the season. There is no cost for this event. This is a gift to the parish and we welcome you to bring all of your family and friends who are of any age to quietly enjoy this splendid chorale music.

Please join us for the concert and at the reception of holiday fare which will immediately follow in Murphy Hall.

### It's the Time of the Year for the *Giving Tree!*



The annual parish *Giving Tree* was placed in the North Transept last weekend and will remain there this weekend too! Please pick up one or more gift tag(s) this weekend of December 1-2. So together we can provide Christmas gifts for members of our

sharing parish St. Simeon, Housing Forw>rd)formerly PADS), St. Edmund parishioners and Sarah's Inn. We appreciate everyone's generosity. Kindly return the unwrapped gifts, with the gift tag securely attached to the package, to the North Transept before or after the masses on December 8-9. Thanks for sharing your blessings with others!

*Help St. Edmund's at the Same Time: Give twice...at the same price! Purchase MANNA (gift) cards from St. Edmund's. Give the cards as gifts or shop for your gift using the MANNA cards!*

Volunteers are needed by December 8-9 for the gift drop off in the North Transept and/or delivery to St. Simeon. For more information, please contact Mary Prudence at: [mprudence@comcast.net](mailto:mprudence@comcast.net).

# First Sunday of Advent

## Advent Begins This Weekend



The Season of Advent has begun. For many of us, it is a hectic time of year. Our calendars are filled with holiday events, Christmas shopping and gift-wrapping. All of these are good things, but they lose their meaning and value if they become an end unto themselves and are not understood as a joyful response to the

truth and faith that the Season of Advent offers us.

Advent is a season of remembering, a season of hope and of patient expectation. We enter seamlessly into this new liturgical year, as the readings from today's liturgy and next weekend's masses too, mirror the visual experience of endings we see all around us. Yes, Advent is about endings, as it calls us to prepare for that unknowable future time when Christ our King will return in his glory.

## MANNA Gift Cards

### are Perfect for Christmas Shopping and Gifting

Do you shop at Target, Macy's, Old Navy, the Gap for Christmas? Do you ever stop to fill up your gas tank? Have you ever shopped at Jewel or other local grocery stores? If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then MANNA is for you!

MANNA is a simple fundraising program, allowing St. Edmund's to raise additional funds at no additional cost to you!

Along with the list above, we also have MANNA card for all types of restaurants, for Fannie May (25% total of your purchase comes back to us!), and so much more! In purchasing the MANNA gift cards after mass, you will receive the full value (100 percent) of your purchase, and St. Edmund's will receive a rebate back from your purchase. It's that simple! Each vendor card has a different rebate percent offered back to the parish. The percentages range from 1.5% - 25%.

MANNA ordering forms are available on the tables in the Murphy Hall corridor. Feel free to take one home with you to browse through for your shopping needs. Contact Deacon Tom at [tdwyer@stedmund.org](mailto:tdwyer@stedmund.org) or Denise Walsh at [drwalsh34@gmail.com](mailto:drwalsh34@gmail.com) for ordering and more information about the bank account option.

## Daily Reflection Advent Books Available

Daily Reflection Advent books are still available! This is a wonderful way to aid you in prayer during the Advent and Christmas seasons. We kindly ask that only 1 book per household is taken.



## Oak Park Catholic Parishes

### Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Giles Parish Monday, December 17 at 7pm

I invite all St. Edmund parishioners, along with parishioners of other Oak Park Catholic parishes, to a combined Reconciliation Service of the Catholic Parishes of Oak Park on Monday, December 17 at 7:00pm at St. Giles Parish,

Amid the busy-ness that stakes too much claim to our lives during the season of Advent, we encourage you to reclaim this season of reflection, anticipation and hope. Yes, there is Christmas shopping to do and holiday parties to attend, but our holiday plans need also include our spiritual readiness for the Lord whom we seek.

Besides myself, several other priests will be available for the reception of individual confession and absolution. Please join us for this important opportunity of reconciliation. Hope to see you there!

*Fr. John McGowan*

### Save the Date! December 8/9 Holiday Bake Sale - Murphy Hall

Stop by Murphy Hall next weekend and purchase some delicious holiday baked goods! Whether you keep them for yourself or use them as a hostess/host gift when visiting loved ones this Christmas, you can't go wrong with this tasty treat!



### Next Saturday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mary, the mother of God is known by many honorific titles. She is Queen of Heaven and Queen of the Universe. We call her Mother most Holy. She is known as our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and in so many other ways.

Mary, as the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. As such, this day is celebrated as a holy day of obligation. Rather than think of it as something a Catholic must do, think of why it is important, in this season of Advent that we take this brief amount of time to ponder how, in God's great wisdom, Mary was conceived without sin and therefore, the perfect vessel through which God's son could enter the world.

**The mass begins at 8:30am. Please mark your calendars and let us gather on this special occasion.**

**Parish Shopping Event - Ten Thousand Villages  
Sunday, December 2 - Friday, December 7**

Earn dollars for St. Edmund Parish! Support Fair Trade and artisans at Ten Thousand Villages, 121 N. Marion Street, Oak Park from Sunday, December 2 - Friday, December 7 from 10am - 9pm.



Please join your fellow parishioners and bring family and friends for fun and shopping. 15% of the proceeds of *anyone* shopping on these days will be donated back to St. Edmund.

Important reminder: *Prior to the ringing up of your purchases, mention that you are shopping to support St. Edmund Parish*, otherwise your purchase will not count for our percentage of the sales on that day.

**Offertory for Weekend of November 17/18**

Budgeted..... \$14,350.00  
Weekend collection..... \$14,994.00  
Deficit-to-date.....- 54,191.13

**Offertory for Weekend of November 24/25**

Budgeted..... \$14,350.00  
Weekend collection..... \$10,245.05  
Deficit-to-date.....- 58,276.07

**2019 Church Calendars Available**

Complimentary 2019 church calendars are available for you to pick up at the church exits. We kindly ask that only one calendar is taken per household. Thank you for your understanding.



**We're on Twitter! Follow us:**  
St. Edmunds-Oak Park *or*  
[@edmunds\\_oakpark](https://twitter.com/edmunds_oakpark)

***The First Part of Advent***

**Part 1: until December 16**

During the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. These foretell the coming of the Messiah. Rather than a continuous Gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a variety of Gospel readings that support the First Reading of the day.

After two weeks of Isaiah readings, we hear the foretelling of a Messiah from other prophets—in Sirach, Numbers, Zephaniah and returning to Isaiah. With each passing week, the prophets speak more clearly of the coming of a Savior. For the first part of Advent, we listen to anticipation, expectation, hope and promise in the First Reading. In listening to the Second Reading, we learn for the fulfillment or connection with the Gospel.

**School of Religious Education News**

First Reconciliation will be celebrated today, Sunday, December 2 at 1:00pm in the Church. Youngsters from the Religious Education program will participate and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A small reception for children and their families will follow in Murphy Hall. Please remember these youngsters in your prayers.

**Anniversary Sunday Today**

On the first Sunday of every month, the parish will offer a special blessing upon all couples who will celebrate their wedding anniversary in that month. If you were married in the month of December, plan to receive this special blessing after all of the masses this weekend.



**Our Jewish Friends Celebrate Hanukkah**



The Talmud explains that this eight-day celebration begins the 25th of Kislev from the Jewish calendar. Hanukkah begins this year, then on Monday, December 3 and continues for eight days. (The celebration of the Jewish holy days begins at sundown of the preceding day, and ends at sundown on the final day).

**Week at a Glance**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 2</b>	
9:00am	Giving Tree Tag	N. Transept
	Pick-up	
10:30am	Religious Education	School
1:00pm	First Reconciliation	Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 3</b>	
3:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Human Concerns	Murphy Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 4</b>	
1:30pm	Faith Sharing	Off-site
7:00pm	Racism Discussion	Murphy Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 5</b>	
7:00pm	Bridge Club	Murphy Hall
7:00pm	Cantors/Choir	Church
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 8</b>	
9:00am	Holiday Bake Sale	Murphy Hall
9:30am	Centering Prayer	Church
11:00am	Knitters/Crocheters	Murphy Hall
5:30pm	Giving Tree Gift	N. Transept
	Drop-off	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 9</b>	
9:00am	Holiday Bake Sale	Murphy Hall
9:00am	Giving Tree Gift	N. Transept
	Drop-off	
10:30am	Religious Education	School
12:30pm	Baptisms	Church

## Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

### We Pray for our Sick

Theresa Allori	Donald Hackett	Rachael Schopp
Clara Ballard	Clint Hight	Mike Scully
Susan Becker	Carolyn James	Tenna Simpson
Carol Bonus	Olivia Leonard	Peggie Smith
Susan Chicola	Terry Mannion	Ethel Thomas
Edward Curzon	Sandra Morley	Sadie Thomson
Dorothy Dumelle	Nancy Norton	Orfelinda Vera
Annyce Dunbar	Hannah Paist	Michele Wirtz
Mary Evans	Kathleen Puccetti	
Bill Garcia	Vera Schenone	

### One in Prayer with Loved Ones in the Military

Ian Adams, US Navy  
 Staff Sgt. Jason L. Anderson, US Army  
 Capt. John Paul Andree, Pilot US Air Force  
 Sgt. Ramiro D. Banda, US Marine Corps  
 Gunnery Sgt. Boatman, US Marine Corps  
 Specialist Brown, US Army  
 Specialist Christopher Buscher, US Army, SPC  
 Cpt. Jason Caboot  
 Sgt. Thomas J. Dutton, 10th Mountain Division  
 William Edwards, US Army Reservist  
 Private Kristopher Ellis, US Marine Corps  
 First Sgt. Daniel S. Greider US Army  
 Sgt. Michael Hoover, Army Reserve Afghanistan  
 Major Roselita Labbe, US Air Force  
 Jonathan McLean, US Marine Corps  
 Kristen Meyer, US Navy  
 Lance Cpl. Robert Miller, US Marine Corps  
 Cpt. Steven Nelson  
 Lt. Col. Edward Nevera, US Air Force  
 Jose Ortiz US Marine Corps Lance Corporal  
 Dave Porter, US Army  
 Col. Gregory P. Puccetti, US Army  
 Gian Franco Solari, US Air Force  
 Brian Walsh, First Lieutenant US Army  
 Kimyatta Wellington, US Navy



### Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

**Fr. Matthew E. Creighton, S.J.**  
 brother-in-law of Mary Ellen Creighton  
**John Shanahan**

### Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

<b>Monday</b> 8:30am	<b>December 3 (Francis Xavier)</b> † Nevin Rinaman
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30am	<b>December 4 (John Damascene)</b> Barbara Boril ( <i>living intention</i> )
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30am	<b>December 5</b> † Deceased parishioners † Elizabeth Boril
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30am	<b>December 6 (Nicholas)</b> † Festus Murwayi Luchinga
<b>Friday</b> 8:30am	<b>December 7 (Ambrose)</b> † Nancy Gans
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30am 5:30pm	<b>December 8 (Immaculate Conception)</b> † Deceased parishioners † Faye Menzies
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00am 11:00am 5:30pm	<b>December 9 (2nd Sunday of Advent)</b> † Felipa Gonzalez and Felix Soto † Harriet Walloch, † Henrietta Zuramek † Manny Gonzalez

“To every thing there is a season,  
 and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

*- Ecclesiastes*

### Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Is 2: 1-5, Mt 8: 5-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 11: 1-10, Lk 10: 21-24
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 25: 6-10a, Mt 15: 29-37
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 26: 1-6, Mt 7: 21, 24-27
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 29: 17-24, Mt 9: 27-31
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gn 3: 9-15m 20, Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12 Lk 1: 26-38
<b>Sunday:</b>	Bar 5: 1-9, Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11 Lk 3: 1-6 (6)

## God Bless Our Military

### Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of December 8/9

	Altar Servers	Lectors	Commentator	Cantors	Extraordinary Ministers
<b>(Saturday) 5:30pm</b>	L. McNulty R. McNulty	M. Hans tba	B. McNulty	T. McCoy	M. Aportadera, M. Bielawa, L. Hakes, M. A. Marks, D. Marks, J. Reese, M. J. Reese
<b>9:00am</b>	D. Foster	M. Fedota M. Bellmar	D. Celeschi	P. Pruitt	T. Cullinane, Ch. Putz
<b>11:00am</b>	J. Angone	tba C. Verdun	M. Smith	M. McCoy	G. Johnson, A. Koors, D. Walsh
<b>5:30pm</b>	E. Wilson-Yu	tba tba	tba		M. Lee, M. Wheeler