

Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

February 11, 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. 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. 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

We stand on an important liturgical threshold today as we celebrate the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In a few days, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, February 14, and begin our 40-day practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Today's second reading from St. Paul helps us transition from Ordinary Time and prepare for the holy season of Lent. Paul encourages us to "do everything for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). His sage advice not only serves us well today, but also offers us guidance to grow in faith during Lent.

We may be very open or resistant to this solemn season that calls us to consciously free ourselves from the distractions that separate each of us from God and one another. Our individual distractions, as well as those within our homes, workplaces, parish, community and world may be difficult for us to recognize. Often our distractions are well-intentioned, and we fail to see what is at the heart of them. So, our Lenten task is layered. We must examine much more than what we intend and do. With a commitment to integrity, we must probe deeper to unmask our hidden motives. This exercise is for neither the faint-hearted nor the hard-hearted. It is risky, radical work; it is grounded in the divine. Love is the lens through which we must look. Compassion for and service to others for God's glory must be our response. If we must resist something during this process, let it be the temptation to deceive ourselves by simply paying lip service to God and others and/or to perform acts that appear generous and kind, but actually serve our own interests.

Lent requires us to first consider who God calls us to be, and then asks us to constantly strive to live our calling more fully. We initially received our calling through the sacrament of Baptism. For many of us, our parents chose to have us baptized when we were infants, and we were welcomed into the community of believers. That was only the start of our faith journey. As we have matured physically, we have been continually invited to develop ourselves spiritually and to accept more deeply our personal responsibility to serve God and each other. Baptism begins our lifelong process of exploring the meaning and purpose of our lives and our response to being called children of God.

Here at St. Edmund's we have a group of folks participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For months, they have been gathering weekly and preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They are committed to a process of faith discernment and conversion. Like us, they consider how God is calling them, for what purpose, and what it means to be Catholic. During the season of Lent, they will participate in two rites: the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election on Sunday, February 25. The Rite of Sending will take place here at the 11:00am mass; then that afternoon they will attend the Rite of Election at Holy Name Cathedral. Both these rites help strengthen them as they reflect more deeply on their relationship with God, their sponsor, the RCIA leadership team and other participants, as well as the parish family.

Since I was baptized as an infant, I always feel energized to accompany those folks involved in the RCIA. Their commitment to exploring Catholicism both inspires and challenges me to recognize the mystery of the Holy Spirit working within our world and manifested in those willing to trust God by opening themselves to follow their calling with faith, hope and love. Whenever I facilitate the RCIA, I experience wonder and surprise and learn so much about the mystery of God from the participants. Their witness to God's presence in their lives models for me how to strengthen my own faith life and reminds me to recommit myself to become more of who God calls me to be.

My hope and prayer for you this Lent are that you look at your faith life with fresh eyes. It is easy for us to take our faith for granted or to ease up on further developing our relationships with God and one another. As members of Christ's body, each of us is encouraged to be, to learn, to grow in faith, and to give witness to the God in whom we profess to believe. Being for and with each other helps us to fulfill our Baptismal promise and build a stronger, faith community committed to do all for the glory of God.

Peggy Leddy
Pastoral Associate

Damien - A One Man Play by: Aldyth Morris

Starring Wayne Messmer, as Saint Damien, "The Leper Priest of Molokai"
A touching account of a modern day saint that is told with truth and passion!

Friday, February 23 at 7:00pm
St. Edmund Parish

Tickets may be purchased in *advance* for \$10.00 in the Murphy Hall corridor after masses. Tickets at the door are \$15.00.

Sponsored by the Catholic Churches of Oak Park



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ash Wednesday is Just Around the Corner

Parish staffs throughout the world are already busy developing plans for the Lenten season.

This year, Ash Wednesday is **Wednesday, February 14**. *Per the Archdiocese of Chicago, this day is deemed a fast day.*

Ash Wednesday services at St. Edmund are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 8:30am | Mass |
| 12:00pm noon | Word Service |
| 4:00pm | Word Service |
| 7:00pm | Mass |



Easter Sunday is **Sunday, April 1**.

Lenten Regulations for this Year

By the threefold discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful and catechumens should undertake serious practice of these traditions. Failure to observe penitential days totally or a substantial number of such days must be considered serious.



Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for holy Saturday. The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Lenten Prayer Books Available This Weekend, February 10/11

The Daily Reflections for Lent, *Not by Bread Alone* will be available at the church doors this weekend, February 10/11.

There is a limited supply available. We kindly ask that only one booklet per household is taken. Thank you.

Bring Your Blessed Palms to Church

Please bring your blessed palms from previous years to the parish through Sunday, February 11 to the baskets opposite the baptismal font at the entrance of the church.

The palms will be burned and the ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

St. Edmund Parish Morning Bible Study Friday, February 16 at 9am

Bible study this past Fall studied St. Paul's Letters From Prison. We studied the First Letter to the Thessalonians and his letter to the Philippians, and applied them to our lives today.

Please join us on Friday, February 16 (the Friday after Ash Wednesday) to study St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians, and his letters to Colossians and Ephesians.



The group meets in Murphy Hall from 9am - 10:30am on consecutive Fridays, unless otherwise announced. All are welcome.

Is Centering Prayer for You?

We meet regularly during the year every Saturday in the North Transept area of the church from 9:30am - 10:00am. Each gathering consists of 30 minutes of meditative prayer and a shared closing prayer. Beginners are most welcome!

**"Do not extinguish
the hope in their hearts."**

- Pope Francis, calling on world leaders to do more to help refugees in his New Year's address. *Time Magazine*, January 15, 2018

Archdiocese Lenten Events for Young Adults
Service Mondays: March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Archbishop Quigley Center, 835 N. Rush Street, Chicago.

Discerning Where God Leads You, Lessons on How to Listen and Follow God: February 26 & 27 with Father Peter Wojcik, at the Archbishop Quigley Center.

Theology on Tap Reception following Jesuit Father James Martin's presentation at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State Street, Chicago, March 22. Space is limited.

Lenten Journal Workshop - Tuesday, February 27

Join us on Tuesday, February 27 in Murphy Hall from 7:00pm - 9:00pm to make a Lenten Journal; recording your journey through Lent 2018. Parishioner Michele Wheeler will lead the workshop in the ancient art of hand bookmaking using a needle and thread. The soft bound book is perfect for journaling, prayer collecting sketching and many other uses. There is not a fee for the workshop, but advance registration is needed so we may purchase materials. Please call the parish office at 708-848-4417, extension 201 to register with your name and telephone number.



For more information, contact Michele Wheeler at: michelemwheeler@gmail.com.

St. Patrick's Celebration

sponsored by the St. Edmund Parish Life Commission

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH ~ MURPHY HALL
COME FOR THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN!

\$25.00 PER PERSON: TICKET PRICE INCLUDES
ONE COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE
DINNER, REFRESHMENTS & LIVE IRISH MUSIC BY:
"TUNES OF ERIN"; IRISH DANCERS
CASH BAR!

TICKETS ON SALE IN THE MURPHY HALL CORRIDOR

MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE WILL PREPARE
 THE DINNER FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT.

WE KINDLY REQUEST DONATIONS OF:

CORNED BEEF BRISKET, POTATOES, CARROTS, CABBAGE
 AND DESSERTS. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE,
 PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS TO MURPHY HALL ON
 FRIDAY, MARCH 9 FROM 12PM NOON - 2:00PM.

NEED MORE INFORMATION FOR DONATIONS OF ITEMS?
 CALL JOANNE LEWANDOWSKI AT 708-386-1681.



*Food, entertainment,
 & plenty o' blarney!*



American Heart Awareness Month Black History Month

**Please Make Your Gift to the 2018 Annual
 Catholic Appeal This Weekend**
"Come, Follow Me"

This weekend, our parish will be conducting it's follow-up for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

The theme, "**Come Follow Me**", was selected to remind us to continue to answer Jesus' call to follow Him in thought, word and deed by providing the necessary contribution to fund ministries and services to share God's love with many others in our Parish and our Archdiocese. Each pledge makes a difference because all Parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

When our parish reaches its goal of **\$41,222.00** in paid pledges, 100% of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our Parish. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish Offers Spring Series for Women

In the spirit of *Renew My Church*, St. Catherine--St. Lucy parish will host a Spring series for women. We wish to extend a special invitation to all female parishioners and female neighbors within our *Renew My Church* grouping to join us.

Conflict is everywhere in our world. Verbal abuse, gun violence and political antagonism color our world, and we wonder how to speak with friends or family members who think differently than we do. What do we do with our anger? Can we create lives, relationships and a world in harmony with our values?

We will focus on a different topic each week. Shelby Boblick and Carol Spiegel, BVM, a student of conflict resolution for over twenty years, will facilitate the meetings.

Duplicate sessions will be offered on Mondays, March 5, 12, 26, April 9, 16 and 23; one at 1:00pm and another at 7:30pm. Please join us at whichever time suits you and your life. Come to one session or all! We will meet in the gathering space of St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish, 38 N. Austin Boulevard, Oak Park.

Monday, March 5

Excavating the Anger Volcano

Monday, March 12

Quality World to the Rescue

Monday, March 26

What if There are Two Anger Volcanoes Close to Each Other?

Monday, April 9

Nonviolent Communication: The Language of Life

Monday, April 16

The Magic of Conflict

Monday, April 23

A Tool in Harmony with Nonviolent Communication and Case Studies

Contact Shelby Boblick at 630-240-2765 for further information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 5
an Elegant Evening

End Gun Violence Vigil

Saturday, February 24 6:30 to 7pm

Join us on the rectory lawn for our monthly vigil. It is our way of standing against the culture of violence in our country. We also urge legislators to understand the urgency of this issue. Please join us and bring friends on Saturday, February 24.



On Bowing and Raising Our Heads

At the end of every Roman Catholic liturgy, there is an invitation given to the people to receive a blessing. That invitation is worded this way: *Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.* The idea behind that, obviously, is that a blessing can truly be received in reverence, in humility, with head bowed, with pride and arrogance subjugated and silent.

A bowed head is a sign of humility and is understood, almost universally, as our proper spiritual posture. Spiritual writers have rarely questioned or felt the need to nuance the notion that spiritual health means a head bowed in humility. But is it really that simple?

Admittedly there is a lot of wisdom in that. A head bowed in reverence is a sign of humility. Moreover pride heads the list of deadly sins. Human pride is congenital, deep, and impossible to uproot. It can be redeemed and it can be crushed, but it always remains in us, necessarily so. There is no health without pride, but pride can also derail health. There is something inside of human nature, inherent in our very individuality and freedom, which does not like to bend the knee before what is higher and superior. We guard our pride fiercely and it is no accident that the archetypal image of resistance to God is expressed in Lucifer's inflexible, pride-anchored statement: *I will not serve!*

Moreover we do not like to admit weakness, finitude, dependence and interdependence. Thus all of us have to grow and mature to a place where we are no longer naïve and arrogant enough to believe that we do not need God's blessing. All spirituality is predicated on humility. Maturity, human and spiritual, is most evident in someone whom you see on his or her knees praying.

But, while pride can be bad, sometimes pride and arrogance are not the problem. Rather our struggle is with a wounded and broken spirit that no longer knows how to stand upright. It is one thing to be young, healthy, strong, arrogant, and unaware of how fragile and finite we are (and that illusion can survive and stay with us into old age); but it is quite another thing to have one's heart broken, one's spirit crushed, and one's pride taken away. When that happens, and it happens to all of us if we are half-sensitive and live long enough, wounded pride does some very negative things in us, it cripples us so that we can no longer truly get off our knees, stand upright, raise our heads, and receive love and blessing.

I remember as a child, growing up on a farm, watching something that was then called "breaking a horse". The men would catch a young colt which had until then run completely free and they would, through a rather brutal

process, force the young colt to submit to halter, saddle and human commands. But the process of breaking the horse's freedom and spirit was far from gentle, and thus yielded a mixed result. The horse was now compliant, but part of its spirit was broken.

That's an apt image for the journey, both human and spiritual. Life, in ways that are far from gentle, eventually breaks our spirit, for good and for bad, and we end up humble, but we also end up somewhat wounded and unable to (metaphorically) stand upright. Conscripted humility has a double effect: On the one hand, we find that we more-naturally genuflect before what is higher; but, on the other hand, because the pain of our brokenness, as is so often the case with pain, we focus more upon ourselves than on others and we end up handicapped. Bruised and fragile, we are unable to properly give and receive and are stuttering and reticent in sharing the goodness and depth of our own persons.

Spirituality and religion have, for the most part, been too one-sided on this. They have perennially been vigilant about pride and arrogance (and, admittedly, these are real and are forever the deadly sins). But spirituality and religion have been too slow to lift up the fallen. We all know the dictum that the task of spirituality is to afflict the comforted and comfort the afflicted. Historically, religion and spirituality, while not always being very successful with the former, have been too-negligent of the latter.

Pride and arrogance are the deadliest of all vices. However wounded pride and a broken spirit can equally derail us.

So, perhaps when the church blesses its congregation at the end of a liturgy, it might, instead of saying: *Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing,* say instead: *Those of you who think you are not in need of this blessing: Please bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. Meanwhile those of you who feel beaten, broken, and unworthy of this blessing: Raise your heads to receive a love and gift that you have long despaired of ever again receiving.*

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
www.rolheiser.com

A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

May the Lenten fast quicken your pace
And your spirit find wings to burst the sky
As you seek for the love in God's gentle face
Against the day when sadly you must die

May you not forget that you come from dust
And someday back to dust you must revert
Tho the day after that, without any fuss,
You'll have new life again, death being birth

May the Lord of Easter guide your Lenten pilgrimage
And, when it's time, bring you safely home
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Fr. John Paul Andree | Annyce Dunbar | Rachael Schopp |
| Clara Ballard | Mary Evans | Mike Scully |
| Geraldine Bandera | Donald Hackett | Ethel Thomas |
| Susan Becker | George LaGessee | Sadie Thomson |
| Dolores Benedict | George Nedved | Genaro Vera |
| Susan Benedict | Mary Ellen Nedved | |
| Susan Chicola | Hannah Paist | |
| Robert Dugal | baby Grace Platt | |

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
 Col. Matt Mangan, 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
 Gian Franco Solari, US Air Force
 Brian Walsh, First Lieutenant US Army
 Kimyatta Wellington, US Navy



Our Parish Remains One in Prayer

Do you have a loved one who is currently serving in the military? Is your relative or friend stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan or at one of our military bases in the United States? Let us know and we will add your loved one's name to our prayer list. In addition, please let us know if your loved one has returned safely.

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Elinor Gusinde,
 sister of Sister Kathleen Donohoe, OSF
John Mahoney, actor, Oak Park native
Sergio Quiano, long-time parishioner

Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Monday | February 12 |
| 8:30am | † Marge Serauskas |
| Tuesday | February 13 |
| 8:30am | † Carolina Cruz <i>(living intention)</i> |
| Wednesday | February 14 (Ash Wednesday) |
| 8:30am, 12pm | † Deceased parishioners |
| 4:00pm, 7pm | |
| Thursday | February 15 |
| 8:30am | † Timothy J. Rogers |
| Friday | February 16 |
| 8:30am | † Deceased Parishioners |
| Saturday | February 17 |
| 5:30pm | † Harold Bonus, † Michael Robbins † Larry Belmonte |
| Sunday | February 18 (First Sunday of Lent) |
| 9:00am | People of St. Edmund |
| 11:00am | † Don Patterson <i>(first anniversary)</i> |
| 5:30pm | † Sergio Quiano |

Readings for the Week

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|-------------------|---|
| Monday: | JAS 1:1-11; PS 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; JN 14:6; MK 8:11-13 |
| Tuesday: | JAS 1:12-18; PS 94:12-13A, 14-15, 18-19; JN 14:23; MK 8:14-21 |
| Wednesday: | JL 2:12-18; PS 51:3-6AB, 12-14 AND 17; 2 COR 5:20—6:2; SEE PS 95:8; MT 6:1-6, 16-18 |
| Thursday: | DT 30:15-20; PS 1:1-4 AND 6; MT 4:17; LK 9:22-25 |
| Friday: | IS 58:1-9A; PS 51:3-6AB, 18-19; SEE AM 5:14; MT 9:14-15 |
| Saturday: | IS 58:9B-14; PS 86:1-6; EZ 33:11; LK 5:27 - 32 |
| Sunday: | GN 9:8-15; PS 25:4-9; 1 PT 3:18-22; MT 4:4B; MK 1:12-15 |

Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of February 17/18

| Mass Time | Altar Servers | Lectors | Commentator | Cantors | Extraordinary Ministers |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| (Saturday) 5:30pm | M. Gonzalez R. Porter | D. Kane L. Christensen | B. Nelson | M. Foster | K. Ballard, M.E. Creighton, D. Giannetti, L. Hakes, M. Lee, J. McCoy, C. Niznik |
| 9:00am | N. Cosgrove | K. Vander Meulen C. Verdun | M. Fedota | D. Gregoire | J. Barrett, J. Biek, D. Dubowski, D. Foster, T. Villafranca |
| 11:00am | G. Allori D. Silva | M. Smith G. Stepanek | W. Carlton | D. Gregoire | M. Allori, R. Allori, A. Dwyer, L. Jans, G. Johnson, L. Patterson, M. Smith |
| 5:30pm | T. Nelson | T. Wheeler | | | Christina Putz, Craig Putz, M. Wheeler |