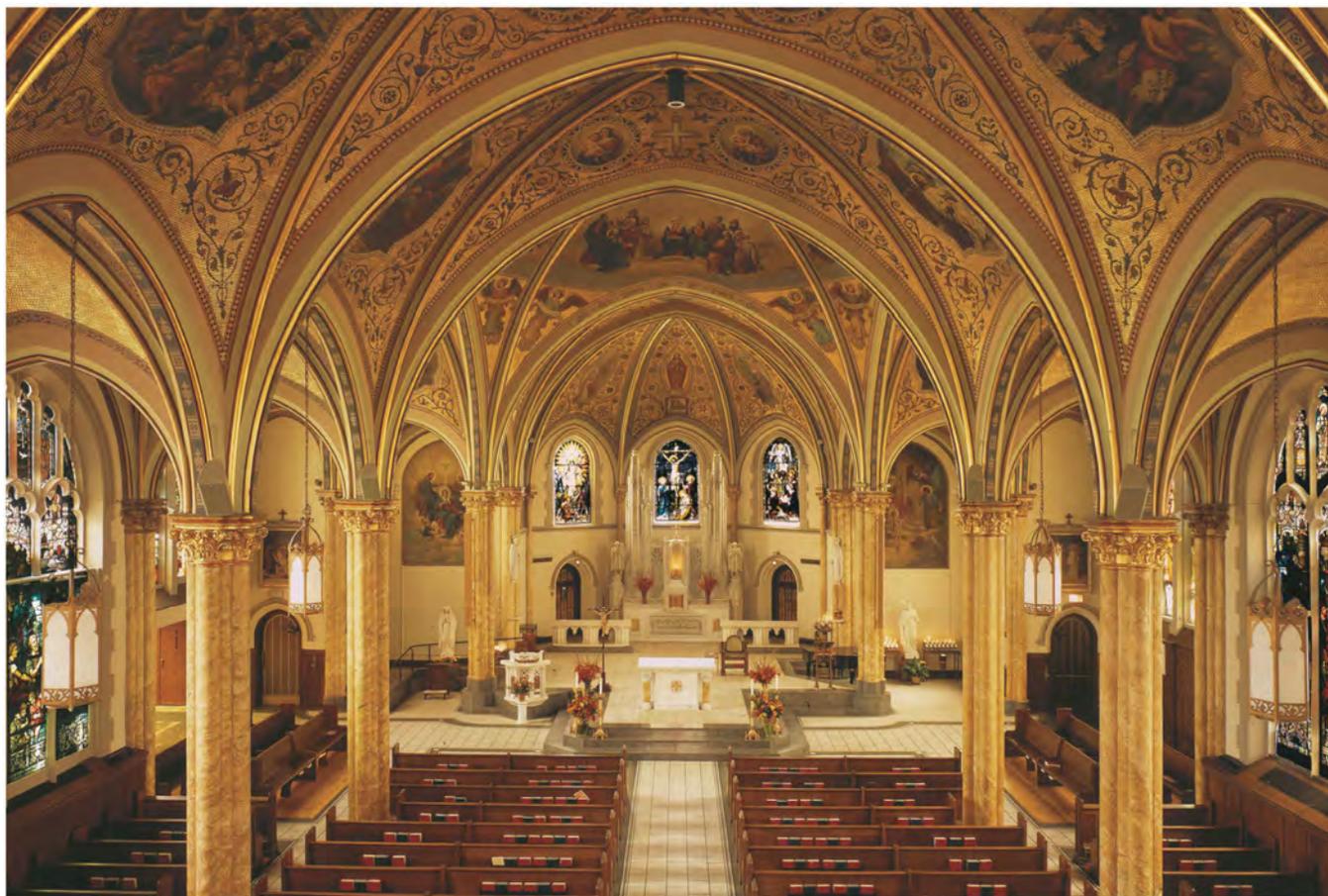


Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

January 13, 2019



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

Why was Jesus baptized? This question comes to mind as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus today on the third Sunday after Christmas. We have an understanding that Baptism releases us from original sin and we are reborn as children of God. Just as Jesus is the Son, we too become sons and daughters of God, members in the Body of Christ and sharers in the mission of the Church (CCC#1213)

But Jesus we know was born without sin, so how can we comprehend the reason He chose to be baptized by John? From the Gospel narratives we have learned that the Baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of His public ministry, an acknowledgement of His solidarity with humanity in all things—except sin, so the question remains and puzzles us— Why did Jesus have to be baptized? An explanation by retired Pope Benedict the XVI might help us to understand Jesus' baptism as His complete submission to the will of God the Father and His completely identifying with sinners:

“Jesus shows His solidarity with us, with our efforts to convert and to be rid of our selfishness, to break away from our sins in order to tell us that if we accept Him in our life He can uplift us and lead us to the heights of God the Father.

And Jesus' solidarity is not, as it were, a mere exercise of mind and will. Jesus truly immersed himself in our human condition, lived it to the end, in all things save sin, and was able to understand our weakness and frailty. For this reason he was moved to compassion, He chose to “suffer with” men and women, to become a penitent with us. This is God's work which Jesus wanted to carry out: the divine mission to heal those who are wounded and give medicine to the sick, to take upon himself the sin of the world”

- (From Homily of Pope benedict XVI on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 2013)

With these words, Pope Benedict shows us that Jesus has completely identified with us, assumed human flesh and given us a legacy. We understand that the consequence of sin is death; Jesus without ever having sinned fully embraced humanities sin, accepted a death on the cross in order to claim victory over sin and death. He ate with tax collectors, forgave sinners, ministered to the sick and dying, welcomed the stranger and gave refuge to those who were outcasts of society. He has shown us how to live (and die) in order to overcome sin and reach an everlasting life in union with God-Father, Son and Spirit.

Today as we acknowledge and celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, it might be a good day to remember our own Baptism and ask ourselves if we have lived up to the legacy. Have we eaten with tax collectors, forgiven those who sin against us, ministered to the sick and dying, welcomed the stranger, given refuge to outcasts of society...?

Janet Bennick
Coordinator of Religious Education

Important Words from our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

If you attended one of the liturgies this weekend, then you heard me speak about our upcoming parish capital campaign.

As you know, it has been a long and arduous road getting us to this point in the process of making our parish rectory a safe and healthy environment for parish priests to live, for parish staffs to work, and for parishioners to utilize for parish business. In fact, the problem came to light in the spring of 2005 when I, and other staff members began to have breathing problems. Oh, the rectory had seen better days, and it certainly looked run down, but it wasn't until we had the air quality tested that we learned that we were also dealing with the problems of toxic mold and airborne asbestos.

Over the past 13 years, St. Edmund's has faced many challenges—many costing thousands and thousands of dollars. We had immediate needs to address prior to tackling the rectory. To name only a few, we had a \$1.2 million debt to the Archdiocese of Chicago. We had a school with a plummeting enrollment. We continue to face significant expenses from all of our aging buildings.

Although we eventually eliminated our debt to the Archdiocese, the challenges continued to arise as we incurred additional debt until the decision was made that it was time, after 99 years, to close our school. Today, our Religious Education program continues to use the school building for its offices and weekend instructions, and we have a new tenant, The Children's School, which is accruing rental income for the parish.

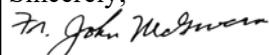
In addition to what I've listed above, the Archdiocese also had its own capital campaign (*To Teach Who Christ Is*) and, like all parishes, St. Edmund's involvement was mandatory. The campaign gave 60% of the funds raised to the parish and 40% to the Archdiocese. In total, we collected \$867,651, and the parish's share was \$520,000. This \$520,000 was specifically earmarked for the restoration of the parish rectory.

Including this \$520,000, we have managed to raise a total of slightly more than \$1 million for the rectory project, although the total funds necessary for the rectory is approximately \$1.6—1.7 million.

As you know, the Archdiocese of Chicago is making strategic changes to its parishes and structures. We do not know what the future will hold, but what we do know now is that we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our buildings and to ensure that they are in good working order. It is my hope and expectation that in taking on the task at hand, we will be supporting not only our parish but the future of the Church in Chicago.

In the next few weeks, you will have ample opportunity to learn more about the upcoming capital campaign. It is my hope and prayer that you will generously support it.

Sincerely,



Fr. John McGivern

St. Edmund Parish Leadership Invited to Evangelization Day January 18



EVANGELIZATION DAY

Vicariate IV | RMC Summit Next Steps

Please join us for a half-day gathering focused on how to create a culture of evangelization in your parish. Through prayer, conversation, and shared learning, participants will leave with practical first steps for fostering a culture of evangelization in their parish.

All parishes are invited to send representatives who want to go deeper into evangelization efforts – **clergy, religious, staff and/or volunteers.**

All are welcome at either session. Presentations will be offered in English and Spanish at the afternoon session and in the evening, sessions will be in English, Spanish and Polish. When you register, please indicate which language session you will attend. A meal will be served at each session.

To register, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/next-steps by January 16.

Friday, January 18
St Frances of Rome Catholic Church
 1401 South Austin Blvd., Cicero, IL 60804

Afternoon Session (1–4:30 p.m.) Spanish and English Sessions

1 – 1:30 p.m. Gather and lunch

1:30 p.m.	Prayer and reflection
1:45 p.m.	Renew My Church context – <i>Building our new reality</i>
2:45 p.m.	Fostering a culture of evangelization
3:45 p.m.	Building an evangelization team
4:15 p.m.	Next steps and closing prayer

Evening Session (5:30–9 p.m.) Polish, Spanish, and English Sessions

5:30 – 6 p.m. Gather and dinner

6 p.m.	Prayer and reflection
6:15 p.m.	Renew My Church context – <i>Building our new reality</i>
7:15 p.m.	Fostering a culture of evangelization
8:15 p.m.	Building an evangelization team
8:45 p.m.	Next steps and closing prayer

Parish Green Team *initiates* Brown Paper Bag Composting for All Parishioners



We, the St. Edmund Green Team, are asking you to join us in an experiment called Brown Paper Bag Composting. We are asking you to bring some of your food scraps to church on weekends for composting. ★ *The objective is to reduce the amount of methane released from landfills. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and is a significant cause of global warming.* ★

Food scraps and wasted food account for most of the methane released from landfills. Methane gas is produced and released when food and other organic materials are buried in landfills and decays without oxygen. This is called anaerobic composting.

The production of methane in landfills can be reduced by *not* putting food scraps in landfills, and instead, allowing the material to decay in the presence of oxygen and carbon rich materials. This is called aerobic composting.

For more than two years our Green Team has been collecting food scraps produced at our social events and having it sent to a commercial facility for aerobic composting. *To date, St. Edmund has diverted more than 800 pounds of compostable material away from landfills.* Our average is about 6 pounds per week.



To increase our collective impact, we ask that you collect a few cups of food scraps a week, wrap it in newspaper or paper towels, place it in a brown paper bag (freeze it if you wish), bring it to church and before Mass place it in the compost bin in the Murphy Hall corridor. The bins will be weighed and emptied after each Mass. For your convenience, we provide #12 recycled brown paper bags (which are a little larger than a lunch bag).



The Brown Paper Bag Composting experiment will begin on the weekend of February 2/3, 2019. On that weekend, a Green Team member will be in the Murphy Hall corridor after each mass

★ *The St. Edmund Brown Paper Bag Composting will set an example for others. Please plan to join us in this most important initiative!* ★

St. Edmund Young Adults Bowling Event ~ Saturday, January 26 at 7pm

Come join the St. Edmund Young Adults (SEYA) group for a church-wide bowling event at Circle Lanes, 7244 Circle Avenue, Forest Park at 7:00pm on Saturday, January 26. We have reserved a few lanes for this event. Participants are responsible for the cost of their bowling shoes and the games. For more information, please contact Andrew Swiontoniowski at: Andrew_Swiontoniowski@yahoo.com.



The Baptism of the Lord

School of Religious Education News

The children in Religious Education in all grades, PreK through 8th, participated in the program “*What Child is This*”, a reading of the Birth story of Jesus from the Gospel of St. Luke accompanied by Christmas carols. A presentation that was well done by the children and enjoyed by parents and guests. Congratulations to all who participated and we hope that this performance enhanced the joyful season of Christmas for all involved.



Children in grades 3 through 5 will have a *Safe Touch* session on January 13th, as required by the Archdiocese. The Religious Education program is committed to keeping children safe at all times, and is diligent in presenting programs each year for all grade levels to keep the information available to the children. It takes a village to raise and protect the children. The program is labeled ‘*Safe Touch*’; however, the program addresses all areas where children need to be safe. The current session will be on Internet safety; which often presents situations that clearly would not be safe for young people. The diligence we put behind preparing the children to be safe and protected from harm is taken very seriously by the Archdiocese of Chicago and by those of us who work and/or volunteer with children.

St. Edmund Wednesday Night Bridge Class offers Free “Slam Bidding” Lecture, Wednesday, 1/16

Dr. Gustavo Saravia, Bridge Lifetime Master, will present “Slam Bidding!” For beginners and seasoned players, Gus will review analyzing your hand, the Blackwood Convention and the Gerber Convention. Learn how to bid to the top when that rare hand presents itself! Join us on Wednesday, January 16 in Murphy Hall. We will play bridge from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The lecture will be from 8:00pm to 9:00pm. Reservations are not needed.



Annual March for Life Chicago Today, Sunday, January 13, 2019

Join the parish Respect Life Committee for the 2019 March for Life, *Round Our Midwest with Love, Life and Faith*, Sunday, January 13 at 2:00pm. A group will travel downtown from St. Edmund by car after the 11am mass today, Sunday January 13. Be part of the Pro-life Movement in 2019! People from varied ethnic, social and religious backgrounds will gather at Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams, to proclaim the sanctity of human life and call for an end to abortion as they march through the Loop. For details, visit MarchForLifeChicago.com or email: march-forlifechicago@gmail.com.

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual pro-life novena, *9 Days for Life*, from Monday, January 14 - Tuesday, January 22. Pray for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections and more. Download a free mobile app, or sign up to receive the novena through daily emails or text message. (a printable version is also available online). You may sign up at: www.9daysforlife.com.



Week at a Glance

Sunday	January 13	
10:00am	Coffee and...	Murphy Hall
10:30am	Religious Education	School
Monday	January 14	
3:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Peace and Justice	Murphy Hall
Tuesday	January 15	
7:00pm	Respect Life	Murphy Hall
Wednesday	January 16	
7:00pm	Bridge Club	Murphy Hall
Saturday	January 19	
9:30am	Centering Prayer	Church
Sunday	January 20	
10:30am	Religious Education	School
4:00pm	Green Team	Murphy Hall

St. Edmund Book Club Monday, January 21



The St. Edmund Book Club will meet on Monday, January 21 this month to coincide with the Lou Malnati fundraiser.

Join us for pizza at 6:30pm in Murphy Hall followed by the discussion of the book, *Tattoos On the Heart* by Fr. Gregory Boyle at 7pm.

Don't Cook! Lou Malnati Parish Fundraiser Monday, January 21

Don't cook on Monday, January 21! You may dine in, carry out or have your dinner delivered from 11:00am - 11:00pm from *Lou Malnati's*, 1038 Lake Street, Oak Park. *Lou Malnati's* will donate 20% of the total sales (excluding alcohol) for St. Edmund back to us. **You must mention to the person taking your order that it is a fundraiser for St. Edmund.** You may also pick up a *Lou-Malnati's* flyer available in the Murphy Hall corridor if you are dining in. Excludes on-line ordering. *Mangia, mangia! Eat, eat!*



Struggling for Sustenance

We all struggle to not give in to coldness and hatred. This was even a struggle for Jesus. Like the rest of us he had to struggle, mightily at times, to remain warm and loving.

It's interesting to trace this out in the Gospel of Luke. This is the gospel of prayer. Luke shows Jesus praying more than all the other gospels combined. Moreover, in Luke's gospel, Jesus' disciples were intrigued by his prayer. They sensed something extraordinary about Jesus, not because he could walk on water and do miracles, but because, unlike the rest of us, he could in fact turn the cheek. He was strong enough not to give into coldness in the face of hatred so strong that it threatened his very life. In every situation, no matter how bitter, he could be understanding and forgiving and never doubt that love and grace are what's most real.

His disciples sensed that he drew this strength from a hidden source, some deep well of sustenance which he called his Father and which he accessed through prayer. For this reason, in Luke's gospel, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. They too want draw sustenance from this source.

But we see too in Luke's gospel that this doesn't always come without struggle. Sometimes things seem easy for Jesus, he meets love and understanding and his ministry is joyous and easy. But when things begins to collapse, when the forces of hatred begin to encircle him, when majority of his followers abandon and betray him, and when his own death becomes imminent, then like the rest of us, fear and paranoia threaten to overwhelm him. This is in fact the essence of his struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, his so-called agony.

Simply put, it's easy enough to be understanding, loving, and forgiving when you are bathed in them. It's quite another thing when your very adherence to them is making you the object of misunderstanding, hatred, and murder. And so, in Gethsemane, we see Jesus prostrate, humanly devastated, on the ground, struggling mightily to cling to a cord of sustenance that had always sustained him in trust, love, and forgiveness and had kept paranoia, hatred, and despair at bay.

And the answer doesn't come easy for him. He has to pray repeatedly and, in Luke's words, "sweat blood" before he can regain his balance and root himself again in that grace that sustained him throughout his ministry. Love and forgiveness are not easy. Not giving into to anger, bitterness, self-pity, hatred, and the desire for vengeance didn't come easy for Jesus either.

And that's our ultimate moral struggle, to not give into to our natural reaction whenever we are not respected,

slighted, ignored, misunderstood, hated, or in small or large ways victimized. In the face of these, paranoia automatically takes over and most everything inside us conspires to create an obsessive pressure towards giving back in kind, slight for slight, disrespect for disrespect, ugliness for ugliness, hatred for hatred, violence for violence.

But there's another possibility: Like Jesus, who himself had to struggle mightily to not give in to coldness and hatred; we too can draw strength through the same umbilical cord that nurtured him. His Father, God's grace and strength, can nurture us too.

In his famous movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, Mel Gibson focuses on the physical suffering Jesus had to endure during his passion and death. Partly this has some merit since Jesus' sufferings were in fact pretty horrific. But mostly this misses the point, as we see from the gospels. They make it a point to minimize any focus on the physical sufferings of Jesus. For the gospels, Jesus' passion is not a physical drama but a moral one, indeed the ultimate moral drama. The real struggle for Jesus as he sweated blood in Gethsemane was not whether he would allow himself to die or invoke divine power and escape. The question was only about how he was going to die: In bitterness or love? In hatred or forgiveness?

That's also our ultimate moral struggle, one which won't just confront us at the moment of death but one which confronts us daily, hourly. In every situation in our lives, small or large, where we are unfairly ignored, slighted, insulted, hated, or victimized in any way, we face a choice of how to respond: Bitterness or understanding? Hatred or love? Vengeance or forgiveness?

And, like Jesus struggling in Gethsemane, we will have to struggle to continue to cling onto something beyond our natural instincts, beyond common sense, beyond our cultural dictates. Doing what comes naturally will not serve us well. Something beyond our DNA needs to be accessed.

The first word out of Jesus' mouth in the Synoptic gospels is the word metanoia. Among its other meanings, it's the opposite of paranoia. It means to trust even in the face of distrust. Paranoia is natural to us, metanoia isn't; it requires struggling to draw sustenance from a deeper source.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser
San Antonio, Texas
January 6, 2019

Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

Theresa Allori	Donald Hackett	Rachael Schopp
Sheila Angone	John Hakes	Mike Scully
Clara Ballard	Clint Hight	Tengga Simpson
Susan Becker	Carolyn James	Arturo Thedrel
Carol Bonus	George LaGessee	Ethel Thomas
Susan Chicola	Olivia Leonard	Sadie Thomson
Dorothy Dumelle	Mary McEnroe	Orfelinda Vera
Annyce Dunbar	Hannah Paist	
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
 Technical Sergeant, Luke Goody, US Air National Guard
 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

Frances "Della" Orellana

Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

Monday	January 14
8:30am	† Timothy J. Rogers
Tuesday	January 15
8:30am	† Festus Murwayi Luchinga † Maria Armstrong and Francoise Matgrin
Wednesday	January 16
8:30am	† Nevin Rinaman
Thursday	January 17 (Anthony)
8:30am	† Deceased parishioners
Friday	January 18
8:30am	† Martin Stewart DeLeon
Saturday	January 19 (Blessed Virgin Mary)
5:30pm	† Paul Sassone
Sunday	January 20 (Second Sunday in O.T.)
9:00am	† Ida Raimondi
11:00am	† Donald Patterson, † Edward Curzon
5:30pm	People of St. Edmund

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!

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Heb 1: 1-6, Mk 1: 14-20
Tuesday:	Heb 2: 5-12, Mk 1: 21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2: 14-18, Mk 1: 29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3: 7-14, Mk 1: 40-45
Friday:	Heb 4: 1-5, 11, Mk 2: 1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4: 12-16, Mk 2: 13-17
Sunday:	Is 62: 1-5, 1 Cor 12: 4-11, Jn 2: 1-11

Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of January 19/20

Mass Time	Altar Servers	Lectors	Commentator	Cantors	Extraordinary Ministers
(Saturday) 5:30pm	L. McNulty R. McNulty	B. McNulty S. Guerin	M. Guerin	P. Pruitt	G. Gervais, L. Hakes, J. McCoy, A. Mellios, C. Niznik
9:00am	S. Patston	J. Bennick Christina Putz	K. Vander Meulen	K. Corcos	
11:00am	M. Hans	tba A. Caison	J. Leonard	D. Gregoire	L. Patterson, M. Smith
5:30pm	M. Wheeler	tba D. Kane			