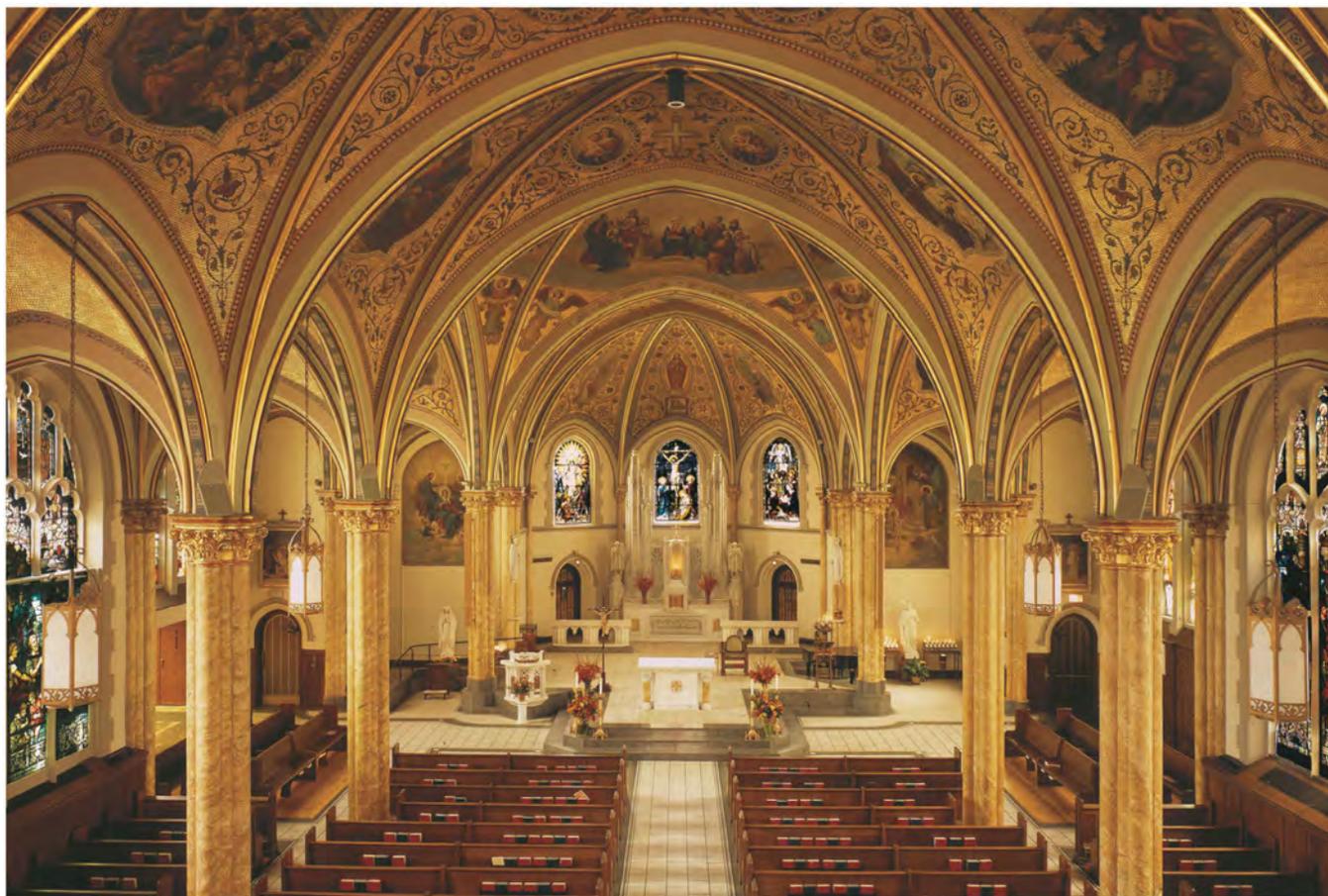


Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

July 18, 2021



Parish Office

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

New Parish Center Office Hours during COVID-19: Monday - Saturday: 10am - 3pm

Sunday: closed

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. Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, Director of Music

Mrs. Christine A. Rousakis, Manager, Parish Office

Rev. Gene Gratkowski, *Weekend Presider*

Rev. John Lucas, *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

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.

Why Stay in the Church?

Several weeks ago after giving a lecture at a religious conference, the first question from the audience was this one: “How can you continue to stay in a church that played such a pivotal part in setting up and maintaining residential schools for the indigenous people of Canada? How can you stay in a church that did that?”

The question is legitimate and important. Both in its history and in its present, the church has enough sin to legitimize the question. The list of sins done in the name of the church is long: the Inquisition, its support for slavery, its role in colonialism, its link to racism, its role in thwarting women’s rights, and its endless historical and present compromises with white supremacy, big money, and political power. Its critics are sometimes excessive and unbalanced, but, for the most part, the church is guilty as charged.

However, this guilt isn’t unique to the church. The same charges might be leveled against any of the countries in which we live. How can we stay in a country that has a history of racism, slavery, colonialism, genocide of some of its indigenous peoples, radical inequality between its rich and its poor, one that is callous to desperate refugees on its borders, and one within which millions of people hate each other? Isn’t it being rather selective morally to say that I am ashamed to be a Catholic (or a Christian) when the nations we live in share the same history and the same sins?

Still, since the church is supposed to be leaven for a society and not just a mirror of it, the question is valid. Why stay in the church? There are good apologetic answers on this, but, at the end of the day, for each of us, the answer has to be a personal one. Why do I stay in the church?

First, because the church is my mother tongue. It gave me the faith, taught me about God, gave me God’s word, taught me to pray, gave me the sacraments, showed me what virtue looks like, and put me in contact with some living saints. Moreover, despite all its shortcomings, it was for me authentic enough, altruistic enough, and pure enough to have the moral authority to ask me to entrust my soul to it, a trust I’ve not given any other communal entity. I’m very comfortable worshipping with other religions and sharing soul with non-believers, but in the church in which I was raised, I recognize home, my mother tongue.

Second, the church’s history is not univocal. I recognize its sins and openly acknowledge them, but that’s

far from its full reality. The church is also the church of martyrs, of saints, of infinite generosity, and of millions of women and men with big, noble hearts who are my moral exemplars. I stand in the darkness of its sins; but I also stand in the light of its grace, of all the good things it has done in history.

Finally, and most important, I stay in the church because the church is all we’ve got! There’s no other place to go. I identify with the ambivalent feeling that rushed through Peter when, just after hearing Jesus say something which had everyone else walk away from him, Peter was asked, “do you want to walk away too?” and he (speaking for all the disciples) replied: “We’d like to, but we have no place else to go. Besides we recognize that, despite everything, you still have the words of everlasting life.”

In essence, Peter is saying, “Jesus, we don’t get you, and what we get we often don’t like. But we know we’re better off not getting it with you than going any place else. Dark moments notwithstanding, you’re all we’ve got!”

The church is all we’ve got! Where else can we go? Behind the expression, I am spiritual, but not religious (however sincerely uttered) lies either an invincible failure or a culpable reluctance to deal with the necessity of religious community, to deal with what Dorothy Day called “the asceticism of church life.” To say, I cannot or will not deal with an impure religious community is an escape, a self-serving exit, which at the end of the day is not very helpful, not least for the person saying it. Why? Because for compassion to be effective it needs to be collective, given the truth that what we dream alone remains a dream but what we dream with others can become a reality. I cannot see anything outside the church that can save this world.

There is no pure church anywhere for us to join, just as there is no pure country anywhere for us in which to live. This church, for all its checkered history and compromised present, is all we have. We need to own its faults since they are our faults. Its history is our history; its sin, our sin; and its family, our family – the only lasting family we’ve got.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser
San Antonio, Texas
July 11, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Renew My Church Update

The Renew My Church parish grouping process has begun. An important initial step is a discovery process as members of each of the 4 Oak Park parishes (Ascension, St. Catherine/St. Lucy, St. Edmund, and St. Giles) make formal visits to the other parishes to learn more about each worshipping community. St. Edmund will be hosting two visits – one after the 11am mass on Sunday, July 25 and another on the evening of July 27.

Parishioners are invited to prayerfully consider what our particular parish strengths are in order that we may share them with the grouping “teams” from the other parishes during these meetings. Feel free to discuss your thoughts with any member of the parish grouping team (Don Giannetti, Thomas Mackey, John Martin, Denise Walsh, and Tom Wheeler). You may also share any suggestions with John Martin via email at jmartin@sfg.com. Thank you.

Backyard Theology 2021 July 20 at 7:30 pm Ascension Green, 801 S. East Avenue

Backyard Theology concludes Tues., July 20 with a presentation: *Finding God: Many Journeys to the Same Source*. Presented by the Lifelong Learning and Adult Faith Formation Committee at Ascension Parish, this is offered for all of the Oak Park Catholic parishes.

Father Carl Morello, pastor of St. Giles Parish, and administrator at Ascension Parish, will speak on *Fulfilling the Promise “I Am With You Always.”*

Bring a portable chair and the beverage of your choice and join others from the Oak Park parishes for some spiritual enrichment, interactive discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

Week at a Glance

Sunday	July 18	
11am	Mass	Church
1:30pm	Baptisms	Church
Monday	July 19	
8:30am	Mass	Church
Wednesday	July 20	
7:30pm	Choir	Church
Friday	July 23	
8:30am	Mass	Church
Saturday	July 24	
5:30pm	Mass	Church
Sunday	July 25	
11am	Mass	Church

Summer Diaper Drive to Support *Beyond Hunger*
Details will follow soon.

School of Religious Education

Registration for 2021-22 is now being taken for the Religious Education program. Registration is open for children in grades PreK through Eighth Grade. Forms may be obtained by contacting Janet Bennick in the Religious Education office at: jbennickstedmund@gmail.com or on the parish website www.stedmund.org, and click on the Religious Education link. Please register early and secure a place in the program for your child(ren). Questions? Contact Janet.



Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

Pope Francis,	Irv Schmidt,
Sr. Mary Ruth Broz,	Kelly Scott,
Dudley Cuj,	Alice Sokolowski,
Moira Dunn,	Greg Stepanek,
Phil Kolovitz,	Paula Stumpe,
Maureen O'Bryan,	Greg White

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

*We remember all the deceased of St. Edmund Parish.
May God welcome them into his heavenly home.*

*“Those we love don’t go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard but always near,
still loved, still missed and very dear.”*

- Catholic Cemeteries

Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

Monday	July 19
8:30am	† Esther Breen Senicka
Friday	July 23
8:30am	† Thomas and Bradley Trifone
Saturday	July 24
5:30pm	† Carol Bonus, † Gloria Onischuk
Sunday	July 25 (17th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
11:00am	† Evelyn Clarence

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Ex 14: 5-18, Mt 12: 38-42
Tuesday:	Ex 14: 21-15: 1, Mt 12: 46-50
Wednesday:	Ex 16: 1-5, 9-15, Mt 13: 1-9
Thursday:	Sg 3: 1-4b, Jn 20: 1-2, 11-18
Friday:	Ex 20: 1-17, Mt 13: 18-23
Saturday:	Ex 24: 3-8, Mt 13: 24-30
Sunday:	2 Kgs 4: 42-44, Eph 4: 1-6, Jn 6: 1-15

Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place at 4:30pm on Saturdays in Church Reconciliation Room.