

Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

July 8, 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

Statistical analysis estimates that there are currently 7.6 billion people inhabiting our planet earth. 2.2 billion people or 30% of people the world over identify themselves as Christians. 1.28 billion of those Christians are members of the Roman Catholic Church. (Interestingly, 56% of the world's Catholics all live in 10 countries.)

69% of the people in the United States identify themselves as Christian and 23.9% of us are Roman Catholic. In the metropolitan area of Chicago, however, nearly 40% of the population is Roman Catholic.

In the state of Illinois, 71% of the population identifies as Christian.: Catholic-28%; Mainline Protestant-20%. 6% of Illinois' population is non-Christian (2%-Jewish; 1%-Muslim). 3% claim to be Atheist. 15% of the Illinois population simply claims no religious affiliation.

In the Chicago area, roughly 35% of the population is Roman Catholic. In Chicago alone, 58% of the people are Catholic. To put it another way, we live in an easy place to be Catholic.

By contrast, southern U.S. cities such as Mobile, AL and Oklahoma City, OK are respectively, only 3 and 4% Catholic.

Wherever we live, a Catholic identity is evident in many ways among us. We have a great similarity in our values and ideals. We experience a shared, unifying faith in the Lord Jesus and a rich sacramental life which reveals the Lord Jesus to us, just to name a few.

Nonetheless, you can be sure that Catholics in many southern states have a very different experience of their religious identity. They are a minority. They are misunderstood and in some instances, still today they experience religious bigotry.

For those of us who live with the comfort and ease of Catholic life in a northern urban area, I think it is important to ask the questions: Are we really compelled to share Jesus' message of peace? Does our especially large Catholic presence breed renewed desire to share the faith or has it lulled us into a type of Catholic complacency?

St. Paul is often called the *Apostle to the Gentiles*. We are all familiar with his travels far from Jerusalem and his epistles to the people of Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Galatia, Philippi and Rome. St. Paul's ultimate mission was to let the Gentile people know that Jesus had come to save not only the Jewish people but them too.

It is important to remember that when our Lord Jesus walked this earth, Jerusalem was an occupied territory of Rome. Jesus encountered both Jews and Gentiles

and he spoke his message of peace to all who would listen. In the unlikely person of St. Paul, Jesus continued to share his message of peace. St. Paul was faced with a similar challenge as our Lord. Jewish culture was very different than the cultures of the Gentile world. Each did not easily understand or appreciate the others' customs and ways of life. Nevertheless, St. Paul accepted the challenge to bring the peace of Christ to people who were very different from himself, and to populations of people who hadn't ever heard of Jesus.

Whether we look on a global scale or scrutinize life right here in our own backyard, we see that our Lord's message of peace yet needs to be preached. The unrest in Syria and throughout the Middle East abounds. Palestinians and Jews have made no real progress toward acceptance and peace. Civil wars in Central America and Africa continue. Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland still struggle to eke out a lasting peace. This list could go on.

Here at home, Caucasian Americans, Latin Americans, African Americans, Native Americans and often Asian Americans continue to live segregated lives. City violence is out of control. Poverty is rampant.

There will always be some who are resigned to believe that our cultural, racial, credal and socioeconomic divides are too great. They even lament that "there's nothing we can do." In reality, such resignation is not unlike Pilate's washing his hands of Jesus' fate. Of course, like Pilate, our culpability remains.

St. Paul was a persecutor of Christians until he was blinded and ultimately, transformed by his encounter with Jesus. Though nothing so dramatic is likely to happen to any of us, we, too, have encountered the Lord and are invited to a similar transformation. We, too, are the unlikely ones called to be the prophetic voice of Christ in our time, here at home and abroad, to those similar and dissimilar.

Living in the largely Catholic culture of Chicago can make us too comfortable. Like St. Paul, we must continue to speak Jesus' message of peace to everyone we encounter. Even if we're seemingly preaching to the choir, let the message be heard. Perhaps sometimes, it is precisely to the comfortable and the complacent that our message must be directed. Of course, at all times, let them know that we are Christian, and Catholic, by our love.

Fr. John McGowan

Summer Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:30am;

Saturday: 5:30pm (Sunday Anticipatory)

Sunday: 9am, 11:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:15pm (located in west end of north transept)

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Marriage

One must be a participating parish members for at least one year prior to setting the date.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants

Register 2 months in advance to attend preparation class. Baptism date not confirmed until completion of the class.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Call the Parish Office.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Registration Now Open

The RCIA comprises sacramental preparation and faith formation for any adult who is either:

- not baptized and considering becoming Catholic,
- baptized in another denomination and considering becoming Catholic,
- baptized Catholic, but has not received Eucharist and Confirmation.

If you or an adult you know is interested in the RCIA, please contact Peggy Leddy, Pastoral Associate at: pleddy@stedmund.org or 708-848-4417, x202.

Save the Date! Saturday, July 28 St. Edmund Summer Barbecue 6:30pm

Join us for a family BBQ

\$15 donation per/person,
\$30 donation per/family

St. Edmund Parish
Murphy Hall



Want to help or need more information?
Contact: JoAnn Lewandowski at: 708-386-1681 or Linda Leonard 224-651-5200.

www.stedmund.org

Offertory for Weekend of June 30/July 1

Budgeted.....\$14,350.00
Weekend collection.....\$tba
Deficit-to-date.....- tba

Please note that the new fiscal year began on July 1.

Week at a Glance

Sunday	July 8	
9:00am	Coffee And...	Murphy Hall
Wednesday	July 11	
7:00pm	Bridge	Murphy Hall
Friday	July 13	
9:00am	Bible Study	Murphy Hall
Saturday	July 14	
9:30am	Centering Prayer	N. Transept
11:00am	Knitters/Crocheters	Murphy Hall
Sunday	July 15	
4:00pm	Green Team	Murphy Hall

Care of God's Creation Did You Know?

“Rain barrels are a cornerstone of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District’s regional storm water mitigation strategy, as they divert many hundreds of gallons of rainwater that would otherwise end up in the sewer system. Barrels allow backyard gardeners and eco-conscious homeowners to capture and store the fresh, abundant rainwater that falls on Oak Park each year. The barrels are made of recycled material and provided free of charge to qualifying households.



For more information on the program, call 708-358-5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us” www.oak-park.us/news/new-program-offers-free-rain-barrels.

Saint Edmund Parish The Baby and Toddler-Friendly Parish

You can't be a parishioner of St. Edmund Parish without realizing that a large part of our community is made up of beautiful infants and toddlers. They bring special joy to our worship services. Their joyful noises are welcome as they are a part of our community and we want our children to worship with us!



We know, however, that sometimes it can be a struggle to worship on and give full attention to your children too. Sometimes you just have to get up and move around. Maybe we can help.

◆ The North Transept may be a useful spot.

We want our parents to feel welcome to get up at any point during the mass when their children may need a little extra attention. At times, a parent and child may only need to take a short walk-about. Taking a quick stroll into the north transept of the church may be just what is needed. You'll be able to see everything, hear everything and at the same time give your child a bit more unrestricted space to move a bout.

◆ Did you know that there are speakers in the Murphy Hall corridor?

On those occasions when the children need a bit more distance from the worship area, please give consideration to using the Murphy Hall corridor. The speakers allow our parents to walk about with their children and not miss hearing any of the mass, and it gives the children a time to let out the occasional spirited shout without fear of interrupting the service.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can make our Sunday worship even more baby and toddler-friendly, we'd love to hear from you. Just call the parish office at 708-848-4417.

On Being Perpetually Distracted

There's a story in the Hindu tradition that runs something like this: God and a man are walking down a road. The man asks God: "What is the world like?" God answers: "I'd like to tell you, but my throat is parched. I need a cup of cold water. If you can go and get me a cup of cold water, I'll tell you what the world is like." The man heads off to the nearest house to ask for a cup of cold water. He knocks on the door and it is opened by a beautiful young woman. He asks for a cup of cold water. She answers: "I will gladly get it for you, but it's just time for the noon meal, why don't you come in first and eat." He does.

Thirty years later, they've had five children, he's a respected merchant, she's a respected member of the community, they're in their house one evening when a hurricane comes and uproots their house. The man cries out: "Help me, God!" And a voice comes from the center of the hurricane says: "Where's my cup of cold water?"

This story is not so much a spiritual criticism as it is a fundamental lesson in anthropology and spirituality: To be a human being is to be perpetually distracted. We aren't persons who live in habitual spiritual awareness who occasionally get distracted. We're persons who live in habitual distraction who occasionally become spiritually aware. We tend to be so preoccupied with the ordinary business of living that it takes a hurricane of some sort for God to break through.

C. S. Lewis commenting on why we tend to turn to God only during a hurricane, one put it this way: God is always speaking to us, but normally we aren't aware, aren't listening. Accordingly pain is God's microphone to a deaf world.

However none of us want that kind of pain; none of us want some disaster, some health break-down, or some hurricane to shake us up. We prefer a powerful positive event, a miracle or mini-miracle, to happen to us to awaken God's presence in us because we nurse the false day-dream that, if God broke into our lives in some miraculous way, we would then move beyond our distracted spiritual state and get more serious about our spiritual lives. But that's the exact delusion inside the biblical character in the parable of Lazarus and Dives, where the rich man asks Abraham to send him back from the dead to warn his brothers that they must change their way of living or risk the fiery flames. His plea expresses exactly that false assumption: "If someone comes back from the dead, they will listen to him!" Abraham doesn't buy the logic. He answers: "They have Moses and the Prophets. If they don't listen to them, they won't be convinced either, even if someone came back from the dead." What lies

unspoken but critically important in that reply, something easily missed by us, the reader, is that Jesus has already come back from the dead and we aren't listening to him. Why should we suppose that we would listen to anyone else who comes back from the dead? Our preoccupation with the ordinary business of our lives is so strong that we are not attentive to the one who has already come back from the dead.

Given this truth, the Hindu tale just recounted is, in a way, more consoling than chiding. To be human is to be habitually distracted from spiritual things. Such is human nature. Such is our nature. But knowing that our endless proclivity for distraction is normal doesn't give us permission to be comfortable with that fact. Great spiritual mentors, not least Jesus, strongly urge us to wake up, to move beyond our over-preoccupation with the affairs of everyday life. Jesus challenges us to not be anxious about how we are to provide for ourselves. He also challenges us to read the signs of the times, namely to see the finger of God, the spiritual dimension of things, in the everyday events of our lives. All great spiritual literature does the same. Today there is rich literature in most spiritual traditions challenging us to mindfulness, to not be mindless absorbed in the everyday affairs of our lives.

But great spiritual literature also assures us that God understands us, that grace respects nature, that God didn't make a mistake in designing human nature, and that God didn't make us in such a way that we find ourselves congenitally distracted and then facing God's anger because we are following our nature. Human nature naturally finds itself absorbed in the affairs of everyday life, and God designed human nature in just this way.

And so, I think, God must be akin to a loving parent or grandparent, looking at his or her children at the family gathering, happy that they have interesting lives which so absorb them, content not to be always the center of their conscious attention.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
San Antonio, Texas
www.ronrolheiser.com

Save the Dates! Saturday, 7/21 & Sunday, 7/22

St. Edmund Parish will conduct our 5th annual summer food collection for the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry.

Details to be announced soon!



Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

Frank Absher	Annyce Dunbar	Jim Plimmer
Fr. John Paul Andree	Mary Evans	Paul Sassone
Clara Ballard	Bill Garcia	Vera Schenone
Susan Becker	Donald Hackett	Rachael Schopp
Dolores Benedict	Clint Hight	Mike Scully
Susan Benedict	Pat Michalski	Sue Splinter
Carol Bonus	George Nedved	Ethel Thomas
Susan Chicola	Mary Ellen Nedved	Sadie Thomson
Shawn Cornell	Edith Ogden	Orfelinda Vera
Florence Dalessandro	Lorraine Oliver	

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
 Lt. Col. Ken Schlorf, Army Reserve Iraq
 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? 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. returned. *God Bless our troops!*

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Please pray for all of those whom we have in mind.

Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

Monday 8:30am	July 9 (Augustine Zhao Rong) Barbara Gustafson <i>(living intention)</i>
Tuesday 8:30am	July 10 † Fr. Joe Ruiz
Wednesday	July 11 (Benedict) † Deceased parishioners
Thursday 8:30am	July 12 † Timothy J. Rogers, † Josie Hester
Friday 8:30am	July 13 (Henry) † Lia Di Pietro
Saturday 5:30pm	July 14 (Kateri Tekakwitha) † George Regan
Sunday 9:00am 11:00am	July 15 (15th Sunday in O.T.) People of St. Edmund † Donald Patterson

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday:	Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday:	Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday:	Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday:	Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33
Sunday:	Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [3-10]; Mk 6:7-13

We are always looking for those willing to serve as liturgical ministers for the ministries listed on the chart below.

Contact Mary Lynn Dietsche at: dietscheml@gmail.com for more information.

Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of July 14/15

Mass Time	Altar Servers	Lectors	Commentator	Cantors	Extraordinary Ministers
(Saturday) 5:30pm	E. Wilson-Yu	M. Bielawa W. Carlton	J. Martin	P. Pruitt	M. Aportadera, D. Marks, M.A. Marks, J. Reese, M.J. Reese, S. Shimon, D. Taylor
9:00am	I. Ochoa T. Simpson	M. Fedota M. Bellmar	M. Perez-Zuleta	D. Gregoire	D. Foster, D. Giannetti, M. Lee
11:00am	T. Cullinane	G. Johnson M.L. Dietsche	M. Smith	M. McCoy	J. Berggren, A. Dwyer, L. Jans, L. Patterson, M. Smith