

Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

March 10, 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

Dear Parishioners,

On this first Sunday of Lent, the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy reminds us that God brought the Israelites..

“out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing [them] into this country, he gave [them] this land flowing with milk and honey.”

We, too, begin again our annual Lenten journey, trusting that God is with us with each step we take though sometimes, or even often-times, we may doubt whether God is present at all, let alone, close at hand.

Lent is that time of year when we scrutinize our lives more closely than usual. Are we the people that we want to be? Are we the people God has called us to be? Let's face it: we are always in a state of becoming, are we not? If we place God as the central figure in our lives and live from that truth, then we are becoming more God-like. If, however, we allow any number of other things to take that central place that is reserved for God alone, then we are becoming less God-like.

What are those possible interlopers for central spot? For some of us, it may be vanity. For others, it may be our desire for riches or power. Even our American culture tends to applaud the self-driven individual, often mistaking the healthy and important value of self-caring for the narcissistic tendencies of self-centeredness.

Other times, we may be so consumed with concerns, even legitimate concerns, that even then, God is pushed aside, as opposed to allowing God to be with us in our concern or worry.

For some others, we may attempt to “do” the Lenten disciplines with such perfection that we lose sight of their purpose. The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are designed to help us uncover our need for God, to help us discover our desire for God, and to help us become aware of our sinfulness before God.

During these next 6 weeks, I hope that you will avail yourselves to spiritual reading, to attending at least 1 or 2 of the various Stations of the Cross that are scheduled, to gathering on April 1st for our Lenten Evening of Reflection, to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to setting aside even just a few minutes every day to thank God for the gift of your life and to seek God's help in becoming the individual *God* wants you to be.

Remember that God loves and accepts us just as we are. In response to so great a love, let us simply make the attempts to return that love by choosing the path of becoming that will help us be more like our loving,

forgiving and compassionate God. With Jesus as our model and guide, and trusting that even if we stumble and fall, God will be there to help us up, we may begin to realize that we, too, are already living in that land “flowing with milk and honey,” and will, with sincere hearts simply choose to share with others these divine blessings we will have come to recognize ever more.

Update on our Rectory Project



The photo above shows the northern side of the rectory. If you were walking from the parking lot and turned left toward the rectory, this is your view. The outlined area will become the location for the new elevator. This lift will allow people with disabilities, or anyone who find stairs challenging, to enter onto the main level of the rectory, where all the parish business will take place, with great ease.

Upon entering the main rectory level after exiting the elevator, parishioners will find a new restroom that will be ADA accessible.

In preparing the rectory to become a safe and well-utilized space, ensuring that all parishioners will have access to their parish center is a top priority.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to highlight various aspects of the project.

Fr. John McManis

First Sunday of Lent

Lenten Opportunities for Parishioners



Pray the Stations of the Cross

On several Friday afternoons and evenings in Lent, we're offering the Stations of the Cross—a powerful way to contemplate the final journey of our Lord. All parishioners and visitors are welcome to attend both the afternoon and evening opportunities.

Friday, March 15

6:30pm: Soup & Stations of the Cross, MH/Church
Come for a meal of soup and bread at 6:30pm with Stations following at 7:00pm.

Friday, March 22

3pm: Stations of the Cross, Church

Friday, March 29

6:30pm: Soup & Stations of the Cross, MH/Church
Come for a meal of soup and bread at 6:30pm with Stations following at 7:00pm.

Friday, April 5

3pm: Stations of the Cross, Church

Friday, April 12

7pm: Living Stations with R.E. classes from St. Edmund and Sts. Catherine/Lucy Parishes.

Let's Start with the Basics

Make the extra effort to attend an additional mass during the week. Join us Monday-Friday at 8:30am.

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday at 4:15pm in the Reconciliation Room. Oak Park Parishes Lenten Service on Monday, 4/8 at 7pm at Ascension Parish, 801 S. East Avenue, Oak Park.

Is Centering Prayer for You?

We meet every Saturday in the north transept, 9:15-10am with 30 minutes of meditative prayer. Beginners welcome!

Read the Gospels—15 Minutes each Day

Read the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Cover 2 chapters per day. Download the Truth and Life App on your smart phone or tablet. Find the Play List. Go to Four Gospels During Lent.

Pray from your Computer at Work or Home!

The Irish Jesuits offer a wonderful and brief daily prayer opportunity. Go to: <http://www.sacredspace.ie/daily-prayer>, or google "Irish Jesuits."

Lenten Evening of Reflection—Monday, April 1st 7-9pm

Priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, spiritual director, former pastor highly sought after speaker, Fr. Tom Hickey, will join us for an Evening of Reflection. Join us for this entertaining, soul-stirring and educational opportunity.

Lenten Almsgiving Supports Rohingya Refugees

The plight of refugees is a core concern. Providing critical resettlement support and assistance are key elements to successfully integrating refugees into their new and safe locations. This year, St. Edmund Parish will raise funds to support Rohingya Refugees from Myanmar. These individuals, who have been denied citizenship in the country they have lived for centuries, are being denied basic human rights. They need our help. Please see the flyer in this bulletin which shares detailed information on the plight of the Rohingya refugees.

Using our Lenten almsgiving banks, along with a second collection on the weekend of April 6/7, we hope to help these forgotten and suffering people.

Afternoon Lenten Faith-Sharing Opportunity

This is not a Bible study program, but a sharing of your reflections on the scripture of the weekends and how it affects your life, your thoughts and the world around you. Meets Tuesday afternoons, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, off site. Call 708-386-1832 for more information.

Pray the Lenten Daily Reflections

If you haven't picked up your *Lenten Daily Reflections* book, do so right away. They don't take too much time and are great for giving your Lenten journey a daily focus! Try it!

Here's another source: loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm.

Tuesday Evening Lenten Bible Study: Journey Through Scripture *Genesis to Jesus*

We invite you to deepen your Lenten journey by joining our *Genesis to Jesus* video series. Created by Scott Hahn, noted Scripture scholar and speaker, we will engage in a panoramic view of the Old and New testament. In twelve short videos, he will explain why and how to read Scripture from a Catholic perspective, survey the covenants that God made with Adam, Noah, Moses and David, and see how they are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. We will learn how every Mass, like the meal at Emmaeus, helps our hearts burn when we hear Scripture opened up to us.

We will meet on six Tuesday evenings beginning March 12 from 7:00pm - 9:00 in the North Transept of the church. Please prayerfully considering joining our group. So we can plan appropriately, please call Tim Cullinane at 630-202-6960 to let him know if you plan to attend. Drop-ins, or course, are welcome for any of the sessions. For more information and to get the workbooks to fully benefit from the videos series, please visit: JourneyThroughScripture.com.

School of Religious Education News

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered to the children in fifth and sixth grade this Sunday. As part of the Religious Education program Father McGivern sets aside time to hear the confessions of all the children in grades three through eighth grades each year.

Spending time at liturgy on Sunday Morning is very important for your child to develop a life grounded in Faith; children learn by example.



Children are always welcome at Mass and encouraged to gather to hear the Sunday Gospel during Children's Liturgy of the Word. This special time for the children to learn about Jesus' life is offered every Sunday during the 9:00am Mass. We ask if your children will be attending Children's Liturgy of the Word that they arrive in Church by 8:55 at the latest.

The children are dismissed from Mass before the Liturgy of the Word and it is best if all children proceed to the sacristy together.

Need more information about Religious Education for children at St. Edmund? Email Janet Bennick at: jbennickstedmund@gmail.com or call the Religious Education office at 708-848-7220.

Week at a Glance

Sunday	March 10	
10:30am	Religious Education	School
10:30am	RE Reconciliation	Gym
Monday	March 11	
3:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Peace and Justice	Murphy Hall
Tuesday	March 12	
1:30pm	Faith Sharing	Off Site
5:00pm	Oak Park Chamber/ Parish Life Commission	Murphy Hall
7:00pm	<i>Genesis to Jesus</i>	N. Transept
Wednesday	March 13	
7:00pm	Cantors/Choir	Church
7:00pm	Bridge Club	Murphy Hall
Friday	March 15	
9:00am	Bible Study	Murphy Hall
6:30pm	Soup/Stations of the Cross	Murphy Hall/ Church
Saturday	March 16	
9:30am	Centering Prayer	North Transept
1:00pm	R.E. Stations Practice	Church
Sunday	March 17	
9:00am	<i>Coffee and...</i>	Murphy Hall
10:30am	Religious Education	School
4:00pm	Green Team	Murphy Hall

The Catholics for Nonviolence Pledge

Faithful to the transforming vision of Jesus Christ and no longer willing to accept violence in our homes, on our streets, or in our global community,

I pledge to practice Gospel Nonviolence to heal the violence and conflict in our lives, our families, our parishes, our communities, and throughout all of God's creation;

I pledge to cultivate peace by proclaiming the Christian message of healing and hope, of renewal and reconciliation, of life and love to all people;

I pledge to address the root causes of violence that continues to affect people throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago so that we can end the cycle of violence and create a more just and peaceful city and world.

Aid for Church in Central and Eastern Europe This Weekend March 9-10

There will be a special collection this weekend March 9-10 to aid the church in Central and Eastern Europe. The churches in those locations are strengthened by the generosity of Catholics from our Archdiocese as well as others throughout the United States. Extra envelopes may be found in the pews.

Offertory for Weekend of March 3/4

Budgeted.....\$14,350.00
Weekend collection..... \$11,065.50
Weekly shortfall.....- 3,284.50

Offertory for Weekend of February 23/24

Budgeted.....\$14,350.00
Weekend collection..... \$ 8,211.52
Weekly shortfall.....- 6, 138.48

Still time to turn in your Annual Catholic Appeal.

Purchase MANNA Certificates for Spring Travel

If you are planning on traveling this Spring, consider purchasing MANNA gift card/certificates for your travel expenses. Dining, gas, groceries and retail store certificates are available for purchase. Delta airline tickets, Disney, Hilton, and Hyatt Hotels are just a few of the certificates that are offered. Order forms are available in the Murphy Hall corridor.



Contact Deacon Tom at tdwyer@stedmund.org or Denise Walsh at drwalsh34@gmail.com for ordering information. Proceeds benefit St. Edmund Parish. We thank you for your support!

**Office of the Archbishop**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for keeping me in your prayers during the recent Meeting on the Protection of Minors in the Church, convened by the Holy Father in Rome. Your support gave me great hope and encouragement, and I would like to provide you with an update on what was accomplished and our next critical steps.

This meeting set the direction of the entire global Church on the question of child safety. Our firm resolve and the actions we will take are a direct result of hearing the testimony of victims/survivors throughout the meeting. Their unflinching witness moved the hearts of the participants and the world and led us to recommit to a common mission of making the Church a safe place for all, achieved by taking personal responsibility, holding bishops accountable, and practicing transparency.

The nine talks over three days were given by presenters approved by the Holy Father. Each of the speakers pointed out the failures of bishops to act responsibly and described the damage done by their lack of accountability and transparency. Pope Francis built on what was said in the various talks by making it clear at the end of the Mass on Sunday that the Church's agenda in protecting children must be proactive not reactive or defensive. He insisted that the Church will spare no effort to hold abusers accountable and will not tolerate cover-ups. The all-out effort for which the pope has called will continue to build over time and will be marked by a commitment to ongoing learning and improving, particularly by listening to victims/survivors of abuse.

Four concrete steps were announced at the end of the meeting.

1. The imminent publication of a *motu proprio* by the pope, providing rules and regulations to safeguard minors and vulnerable adults within the Vatican City State;
2. The distribution of a "*vademecum*" (or rulebook) to bishops around the world, standardizing guidelines so church leaders everywhere take on this task in a united way and explaining their juridical and pastoral duties and responsibilities regarding protecting children;
3. Recognizing that the global Church is marked by great culture diversity and unique regional challenges, task forces of competent experts that are culturally sensitive and regionally representative will be organized to assist bishops' conferences that may lack the necessary resources or expertise to fully address the issue of safeguarding minors and dealing with abuse;
4. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is responsible for approving the norms of each bishops' conference.

With this letter, I invite you to view the major talks, prayer services with testimonies of victims/survivors, the penitential ceremony and Mass, all of which were streamed live so the entire world could follow this event. The videos and talks are posted on the Vatican's dedicated website at pbc2019.org.

You can be sure of a place in my prayers, and I ask that you keep victims/survivors, our Church, and our community in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blase Cardinal Cupich".

Blase Cardinal Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

The Spirit of Lent and the Gospels

In the cycle of weekday readings (and in the Divine Office), Lent falls into two parts. The first part, including the “pre-Lent” of Ash Wednesday and the rest of that week, runs through to Saturday of Week Three. In these three and one-half weeks, the Gospel texts are taken from the Synoptics [Matthew, Mark and Luke] and the Old Testament readings are chosen accordingly. The message running throughout is a call to a life of Gospel conversion. The [passages] speak of beginning anew, of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; of conversion; of mutual forgiveness; of hardness of heart; of love of enemies; of absolute claims of justice and love over ritual and cult; of the call to holiness, and so forth.

The readings for the second half of Lent are taken from the Gospel of John, beginning on the Monday of the fourth week of Lent. These readings from John...[are] a presentation of the mystery of Jesus Christ...of whom John says that all who believe in him will have an eternal life. Christ is presented as the healer and the life-giver, as the one who gives life through his confrontation with death and gathers into one the scattered children of God.

This shift from the “ethical” to the “Christological” is no accident. The purpose of the first part of Lent is to bring us to compunction. “Compunction” is etymologically related to the verb “to puncture” and suggests the deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to any self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus. These Gospel passages are meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves. From this perspective, Lenten penance is not to confirm us in our sense of virtue but to bring home to us our radical need of salvation.

It is in answer to this profound awareness of need that the lectionary shifts from the Synoptics to John from the demands of discipleship to the person of Jesus. John presents Jesus as the Savior, but Jesus can only save those who know their need for Salvation.

Excerpted from “The Spirit of Lent,” Mark Searle, in *Assembly*, Volume 8:3. ©Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:30am;
5:30pm (Sunday Anticipatory)
Sunday: 9am, 11:00am, 5:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office. A Minister of Care is also available to bring Holy Communion to our parish sick and homebound.

New Parishioners

We welcome new parishioners at all times. Please stop in the Parish Office during business hours to register.

True Lenten Practices

Lent is traditionally a time of sober realism. We turn the spotlight of honesty inward on ourselves and attempt to align ourselves with the passion and death of Jesus. This is one reason that the Way of the Cross is such a popular devotion during Lent. It helps us to walk with Jesus in his suffering. It is true that in the present culture, which emphasizes self-preoccupation with looks and possessions, there is a difficulty in accepting the lenten penitential practices of our Catholic tradition.

The core message of Jesus’ entering his time of suffering is one of service: “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10.45). How can we continue to live this call of Jesus? We Catholics model this servant attitude of Jesus through practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This is the tried and true Catholic method of combining great sacrifice and generosity with a penitential spirit.

The corporal works of mercy are:

Feeding the hungry	Visiting the imprisoned
Clothing the naked	Sheltering the homeless
Burying the dead	Visiting the sick
Giving drink to the thirsty	

The spiritual works of mercy are:

Admonishing sinners	Comforting the sorrowful
Instructing the ignorant	Bearing wrongs patiently
Counseling the doubtful	Forgiving injuries
Praying for the living and the dead	

Hopefully, these traditional Catholic practices will lead [us] to become closely linked with Jesus, the suffering servant.

Rev. Paul J. Coury, S.Ss.R

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Sacrament of Marriage

In order to schedule a wedding, you or your parents must be registered, participating parish members for at least one year prior to setting the date.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants

Parents are asked to register at least 2 months in advance to attend the preparation class. Please note that the date of Baptism is not confirmed until parents complete the class.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adults seeking to complete initiation or inquiring about becoming Catholic may call the Parish Office for information.

Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

Sheila Angone	Bernard Eilers	Mary Richardson
Ray Anzelmo	Mary Evans	Vera Schenone
Clara Ballard	Yadira Franco	Alan Schmitt
John Barrett	Bill Garcia	Rachael Schopp
Susan Becker	Donald Hackett	Mike Scully
Bokholdt Family	Joanne Hartman	Kaydee Sproat
Carol Bonus	Clint Hight	Ethel Thomas
Susan Chicola	Olivia Leonard	Jack White
Faith DuBois	Marcia Newman	
Dorothy Dumelle	Edith Ogden	
Annyce Dunbar	Hannah Paist	

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	March 11 † Kathryn Klein
Tuesday 8:30am	March 12 † Frank J. Senicka
Wednesday 8:30am	March 13 † Deceased parishioners
Thursday 8:30am	March 14 † Esther Breen Senicka
Friday 8:30am	March 15 † Margo Pizzo † John McShane, † A. Kolovitz
Saturday 5:30pm	March 16 † Paul Sassone
Sunday 9:00am 11:00am 5:30pm	March 17 (Second Sunday of Lent) † Josephine Blaber † Donald Patterson, † Patrick Ahern People of St. Edmund

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 Goodey, US Air National Guard
 First Sgt. Daniel S. Greider US Army
 Sgt. Michael Hoover, Army Reserve Afghanistan
 Major Roselita Labbe, US Air Force
 Jeremy Madsen, US Coast Guard
 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, Jr. Firefighter, Parris Island, SC Marine Base
 Gian Franco Solari, US Air Force
 Brian Walsh, First Lieutenant US Army
 Kimyatta Wellington, US Navy



We are always seeking individuals who are willing to serve as lector/commentator, extraordinary minister, altar server, usher/greeter.

If interested, contact Mary Lynn Dietsche at: dietscheml@gmail.com.

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Lv 19, 1-2, 11-18, Mt 25: 31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55: 10-11, Mt 6: 7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3: 1-10, Lk 11: 29-32
Thursday:	Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25, Mt 7: 7-12
Friday:	Ez 18: 21-28, Mt 5: 20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26: 16-19, Mt 5: 43-48
Sunday:	Gn 15: 5-12, 17-18, Phil 3: 17-4 1 Lk 2 28b-36 (27)

GOD BLESS OUR MILITARY

Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of March 16/17

Mass Time	Altar Servers	Lectors	Commentator	Cantors	Extraordinary Ministers
(Saturday) 5:30pm	G. LeBlanc I. Ochoa	W. Carlton A. Glanton	M. Bielawa	W. Senger	M. Bielawa, M.S. Egan, J. Lewandowski
9:00am	M. Armbruster N. Cosgrove	D. Foster D. Kane	M. Bellmar	D. Gregoire	D. Dubowski, M. Lee, M. Lorenzi
11:00am	M. Stroth	G. Stepanek J. Angone	M. Smith	T. McCoy	T. Cullinane, A. Dwyer, L. Jans, G. Johnson, A. Koors, L. Patterson, M. Smith
5:30pm	M. Wheeler	E. Wilson-Yu			