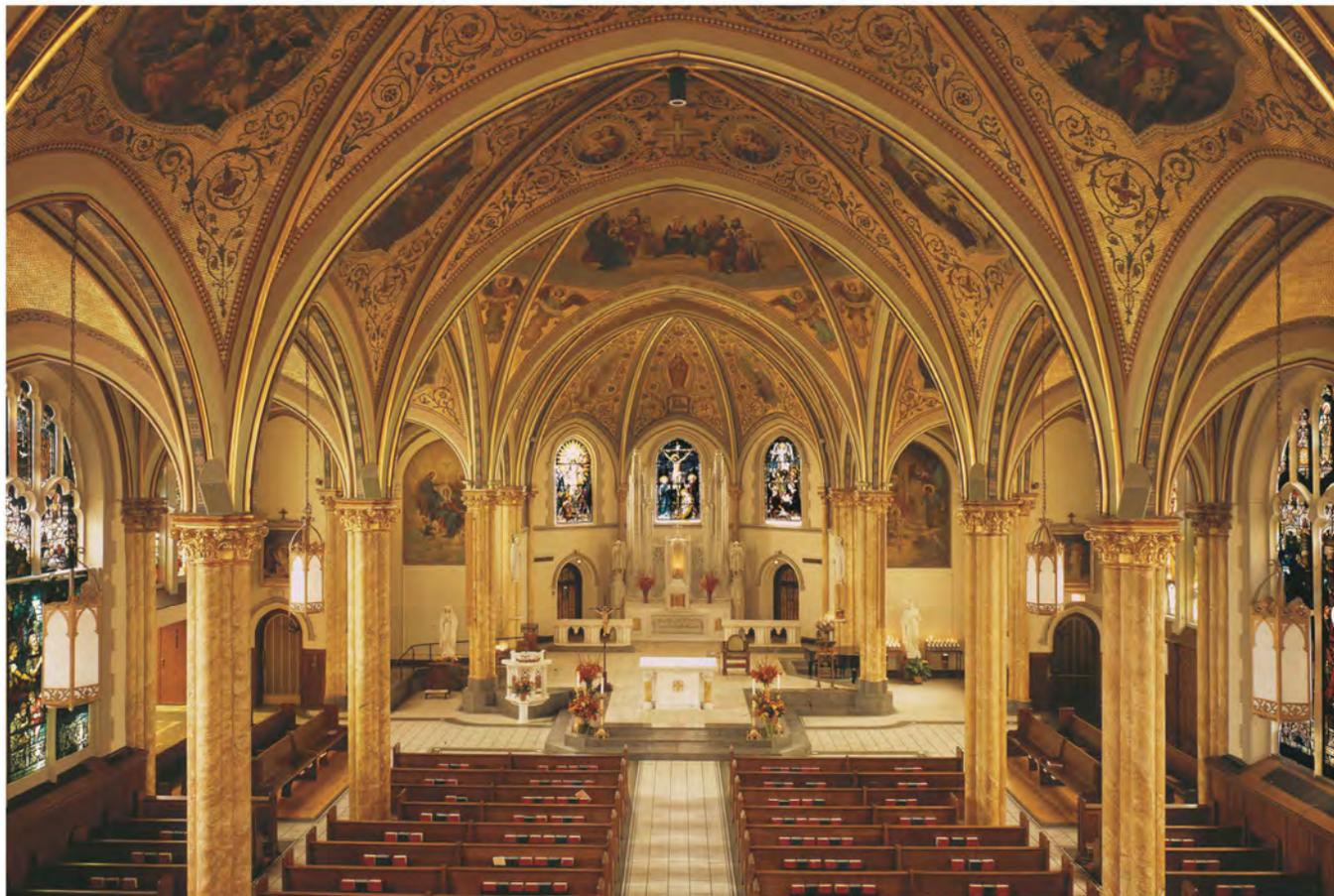


Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park

May 15, 2022



Parish Office

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

**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
Mr. Michael Silhavy, 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.

Dear Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parishes,

We wish to update you regarding various conversations and activities that have transpired over the past several weeks.

As you can imagine, the uniting of 2 parishes, even in the best of circumstances, is a very large and challenging task. Both parishes have been in existence for 115 years. You can imagine, then, that the process of uniting shall take many months, and perhaps even years. We share this with you not as discouragement, but as a necessary piece of reality. Though our parishes will become united on July 1, 2022, the work of uniting our communities, our ministries, our worshipping experiences shall take patience, a spirit of openness and welcome, likely many meetings, as well as the slow process of acculturation for all of us. Time is our friend in this process, and we shall use it to ensure that we do this right.

Though the process will be ongoing, we can certainly share with you what has thus far transpired.

Our Staffs are Becoming Acquainted

In mid-April, our 2 parish staffs gathered for a meeting. It was an opportunity to meet one another and to learn about the areas of responsibility that each Staff member oversees. This is a first step in determining how the footprint of the new united Staff will look. Though both of us may be involved in these discussions, this will be a decision that Fr. Rex Pillai will be making.

Our Parish Councils are Already Meeting Together

We can also share with you the fact that our Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) have already begun to meet monthly. A spirit of collegiality has begun to build and there is a commitment from everyone on the 2 councils to remain in their positions for at least the next year (ending June 2023).

Unification Team is Being Formed

We are in the process of developing a Unification Team, made up of 4 parishioners from St. Edmund's and 4 from Ascension. These 8 individuals will work with Fr. Rex and the new Parish Pastoral Council to facilitate the coming together of various ministries and organizations from both parishes. In doing this work, remember that the goal is not simply to combine lists of people into 1, but to help individuals to become comfortable and feel appreciated and welcomed as these new realities begin to form.

Weekend and Weekday Mass Schedules may Change

Discussions have begun about developing both a new weekend and weekday mass schedule. There are many factors in such decisions. For example, how do we respect the routines of people that are already in place, and yet develop a schedule that will allow for us to be certain to have presiders available? This entails being careful not to overlap mass times whenever possible. This also entails taking into account that a mass time corresponds well to the traditional Religious Education program (Sunday classes), which will take place at Ascension Parish. If we want our children to receive their religious instruction and attend Sunday mass, we have to be especially considerate of making sure that we can accommodate our children and their parents.

Ascension/St. Edmund Parish may become new Name

Among some of the other more pressing issues to discuss is the new name of our united parish. Sometimes this can be a long, drawn-out process as parishioners often have many ideas on this topic. We, however, are in a unique position. In that there is only 1 Ascension Parish in the Archdiocese and only 1 St. Edmund Parish as well, we are in the fortunate position to request that our new parish name become "Ascension/St. Edmund Parish." What this name may lack in creativity, makes up a hundred-fold in the obvious name recognition and the ease with which we can immediately identify ourselves.

Baptismal Preparation and RCIA

Very soon, there will need to be discussions about the important work of Baptismal preparation as well as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Such discussions will, of course, happen with Mary Catherine Meek and Peggy Leddy (the pastoral associates from each parish), as these 2 components of parish life currently fall under both of their professional purviews.

What about Weddings?

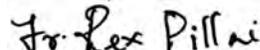
Another area that we're actively working on is with parish weddings. As you can imagine, there are several weddings already scheduled in both parishes in the upcoming months. We must ensure that a priest (or deacon) is available for every currently scheduled wedding. We will also need to create new ways to minister to young couples in order to prepare them fully for married life. Of course, we shall also need to develop a system of scheduling that will ensure that we can accommodate weddings in both churches, being careful not to double-book and guarantee that we are prepared in all circumstances.

Other Things to Consider

There are so many other things to consider. We will need to combine our parish web-sites. We will need to combine our parish bulletins. We will need to consider what the long-term plan is for office space? Will we maintain 2 offices or will we utilize 1? How and when will we develop new email addresses? When will the parish banking accounts be merged? This list goes on and on. These are the kinds of discussions that are needed, and we shall rely upon the Parish Council, the Unification Team, our Pastoral Staff and other involved parishioners to make these decisions.

We've shared a great deal with you in this brief letter. Though there is much to do, we remain excited at the prospect of combining our worshipping communities and together, building the Kingdom of God here on earth. In the story of the tortoise and the hare, the tortoise wins. Slow and steady shall be our approach, along with regular updates and transparency with you, our dear parishioners.

Sincerely,


Fr. Rex Pillai
Ascension Parish


Fr. John McGivern
St. Edmund Parish



Spring Bundle Weekend
June 4 - 5
Housewares & Clothing Drive



Support the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Donate clean, gently-used items, such as:

Small Appliances: Coffee makers, toasters and blenders;

Clothing: Skirts, shirts, shorts, shoes, sandals, purses;

Housewares: Dishes, glasses, utensils, pots and pans;

Books and Decorations: Vases and picture frames.
 Please pack delicate items safely and mark, FRAGILE.

Drop off items at the St. Vincent de Paul Society trailer in the parking lot before/after weekend masses.

Thank you for your generous support!

May Reading for St. Edmund Book Club



The St. Edmund Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 17 at Belmont Village from 1pm—3pm. All participants must be fully vaccinated and must show proof of vaccination. We will be discussing the book *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Read the book and join us! Contact parishioner Mari Hans at: marithans@comcast.net for more information.

Upcoming Changes to Church Building

Now that the leaks in the church roof have been repaired, we have budgeted for the restoration of the water damaged by the ceilings in the church. In addition, because of some very generous donations, the handicapped ramp in the back of the church will also be repaired. The North Transept will be modified to blend in with the rest of the church. The evergreen bushes in the front of the church and on the south side of the church will be removed and new landscaping will be installed. These improvements are all at the wishes of the donors. We are most appreciative and grateful!



When we unite with Ascension Parish on July 1st, the grounds and facilities of our existing parish will continue to be a beautiful and practical worship space for all who gather here to enjoy.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

As we are now in the month of May, this means that Mental Health Awareness Month is upon us. 2022 has been difficult as workers have returned to the workplace, and children have returned to school; and still the stresses of the pandemic linger.

Please pray for all who suffer from mental illness and for all of those who care for these individuals.



Join us for a special appreciation liturgy
 to honor our beloved pastor

Fr. John McGivern

as we celebrate his 18 years of faithfulness,
 service and unwavering commitment to St. Edmund Parish.

Sunday, June 26, 2022

11am Mass

Reception on the lawn to follow

R.S.V.P. by June 19 for the reception only.

Either log on to the parish website (stedmund.org)
 & click on the SignUp Genius link,

or call the parish office at 708-848-4417, Ext. 2011.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Opportunities at Ascension Parish Meeting Christ in Prayer

Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Enrich your prayer life, learn new ways of praying, meet Christ anew through Scripture and reflection, experience a prayer model based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises, feel supported in the Christian life in a new way, become more aware of God's presence in your daily life.

Donna Ioppolo, a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition, will facilitate this 8-week seminar at Ascension's Parish Center Dining Room from 7:30-9pm on the following **Tuesdays: May 24, May 31, June 7, June 14, and June 21. No Meeting on May 17.**

Registration is required. There will be a \$25 fee to cover the cost of program materials. There is an understanding of commitment to attend all 8 sessions.

To register, please email llaaffc@ascensionoakpark.com and put "Meeting Christ in Prayer" in Subject line. This event is open to all Oak Park parishes.

The Books of Pope Francis, Tuesday, May 17

The Lifelong Learning and Adult Faith Formation Committee at Ascension Catholic Church in Oak Park invites you to join the final discussion in a Zoom series on The Books of Pope Francis. The book for Tuesday, May 17 is *Our Mother Earth: The Challenge of the Environment*. Pope Francis sets forth a Christian vision of ecology in *Our Mother Earth: The Challenge of the Environment*. Responding to our global ecological crisis, Pope Francis urges us to unite to protect our common home. In these writings, Pope Francis develops a theology of ecology in a profoundly spiritual discourse. He encourages an environmental conversion, writing: "Now, a global crisis demands a global vision and a global approach, which first of all requires a spiritual rebirth in the noblest sense of the word."

Registration is required. To participate, just send an email to llaaffc@ascensionoakpark.com with the name of the book in the subject line. You'll receive a return email before the discussion with a link for the Zoom meeting. For more information and links to obtain the book, visit: www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/athome. Reading the book is not required in order to join the discussions – feel free to just come and learn about Pope Francis's concerns and reflections on the church and the world.

Ascension's Men's Spirituality Group Invites

St. Edmund Men to Join Us on Saturday, May 21

All men of St. Edmund parish are cordially invited to gather with Ascension's Men's Spirituality group. We generally meet once a month on the third Saturday. We socialize, pray and read the upcoming Sunday scripture and reflect on it. Join us for our next meeting on Saturday, May 21 from 8:30am - 9:30am. Email Paul Terronez at: pauagt@att.net for more information. We hope to see you!

The Popular Coffee and... Returns Sunday, May 15 Our New Pastor, Fr. Rex Pillai will be there!

We are looking forward to the return of the popular *Coffee and...* gathering! Our new pastor, Fr. Rex Pillai will also be joining us for the 11am mass and for the hospitality that follows. Are you new to the parish? Please join us and meet fellow parishioners!



Of course, an event such as this requires volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up refreshments. Please contact JoAnn Lewandowski at 708-386-1681 if you are interested in assisting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

If Divorce Affects Your Family...

- it is upsetting to everyone—parents, children, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors.
- it is hard to know what to say or do for the hurting couple.
- it is an awkward time.

You can...

- be a good listener to the family.
- offer to watch the children and give the custodial parent time off.
- provide dinner for the working parent.
- refrain from lectures or criticisms.
- allow the family to express feelings and fears openly.
- find comfort in prayer.
- focus on the family needs, not your embarrassment.
- offer encouragement. It takes a long time to recover and rebuild a new life.

For additional help for families of divorce, contact the Archdiocesan Divorce and Annulment Support Ministries Office at 312-751-8353 or log on to www.familyministries.org.

We're on Twitter!

Follow us:

St. Edmunds-Oak Park *or*
[@edmunds_oakpark](https://twitter.com/edmunds_oakpark)



Care of God's Creation

Did You Know?

"Use a fan. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting [on your air conditioner] about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.



"Replacing a dirty, clogged air filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent."

www.energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-cooling



School of Religious Education

Religious Education instruction has ended for 2021-22. Stay tuned for registration and further details for 2022-2023!

Offertory for Weekend of April 30/May 1

Budgeted.....\$10,000.00
Weekend collection.....\$ tba
Deficit.....- tba

Offertory for Weekend of May 7/8

Budgeted.....\$10,000.00
Weekend collection.....\$ tba
Deficit.....- tba

Week at a Glance

Sunday	May 15	
11am	Mass	Church
12pm	Coffee and...	Murphy Hall
	Welcome Fr. Rex!	
Monday	May 16	
8:30am	Mass	Church
Friday	May 20	
8:30am	Mass	Church
Saturday	May 21	
5:30pm	Mass	Church
Sunday	May 22	
11am	Mass	Church
12pm	Garden Planting	Church garden

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, ad 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.

Planting Potatoes and Posies in the Garden

Next Sunday, May 22 at 12pm noon

Please join us next Sunday, May 22 after the 11am mass. We will be planting potatoes and impatiens in the St. Edmund Third Day Garden. The garden is located in back of the Murphy Hall entrance from the parking lot.



All children and parents are welcome to come and join in a special activity. Everyone is welcome to come to the garden to join the fun of planting?

Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

We Pray for our Sick

Susan Becker,	Dave Gregoire,
Maggie Bielawa,	Elsa Leon,
Mary Bowman,	Kelly Scott,
Sr. Mary Ruth Broz,	Suzanne Sloma,
Fr. James Creighton,	Paula Stumpe,
Kayla Dwyer,	Ally Sutherland
Fr. Jack Farley,	

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

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

PRAY for PEACE.

Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

Monday	May 16
8:30am	† Joan Creedon
Friday	May 20
8:30am	† Frank J. Senicka
Saturday	May 21
5:30pm	† Athena "Ethel" Rousakis
Sunday	May 22 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)
11:00am	† Joe Norton, † Charlene Lord

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 14: 5-18, Jn 14: 21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14: 19-28, Jn 14: 27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15: 1-6, Jn 15: 1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15: 7-21, Jn 15: 9-11
Friday:	Acts 15: 22-31, Jn 15: 12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16: 1-10, Jn 15: 18-21
Sunday:	Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29, Rv 21: 10-14, 22-23 Jn 14: 23-29