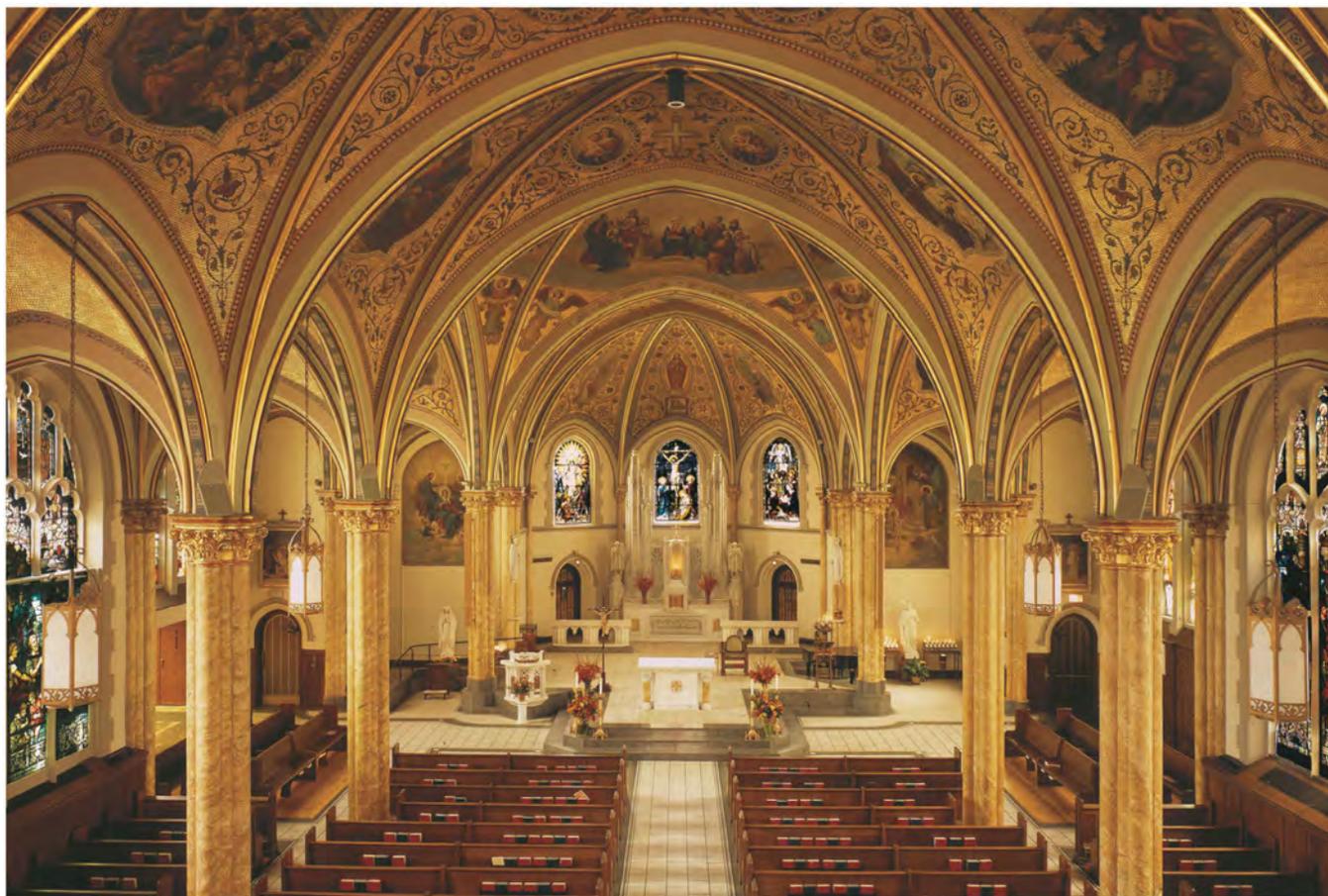


# Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

*Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park*

**November 21, 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](http://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](http://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.

### Christ the King/Advent: Now and Not Yet

Today we celebrate the culmination of the Church year with the solemnity of Christ the King.

The solemnity of Christ the King brings to mind many things: the end of the Church year, white vestments, incense, the singing of the Gloria, triumphant music. Advent brings to mind the beginning of the new liturgical year, purple vestments, Advent wreath, no Gloria, more subdued music of anticipation. This may seem like a clear break in focus, but the readings of Christ the King and the first Sunday of Advent share much in common: all center on the *parousia*, the end time when Christ shall return in glory. The glorious triumph of Christ the King and the joyful expectation of Advent both celebrate the “Now” and “Not Yet” of Christ’s kingdom, the dynamic tension of “Christ has died/Christ is risen/Christ will

come again.” We are necessary agents of that transformation as we seek to bring about the fulfillment of Christ’s kingdom on earth.

Amid the busy-ness that increasingly creeps into our lives in these days ahead, it is important for us to take the opportunity to attune our senses to the subtle, yet important changes of the liturgical cycle. As a community who places the Eucharist at the center of our lives, let us consider taking our lead this holiday season, not from the clamor and expectation of Madison (or Michigan) Avenue, but from the message of the humble servant whom today we celebrate as King.



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### Renew My Church Update

Dear Parishioners,

For the past several months, Renew My Church group members from all 4 of the Oak Park parishes have been meeting regularly. Our task has been to engage in lively, prayerful, honest and open-minded discussions about what the footprint for the local Catholic Faithful may look like in the near future. Everyone is agreed that change is needed and that whatever changes that are made must serve to make the local Church more vibrant and engaging.

Discussions have included the financial health and well-being of all of the parishes. Is a particular parish’s current fiscal state sustainable, or would a community be better served by combining with another community, thereby making one or both of the parishes more financially stable?

Also included among the discussions have been the relative size of the worshipping community. The benchmark given from the Archdiocese is that a viable parish (using 2019 or pre-COVID numbers) must have a minimum of 800 weekly worshippers. (Truthfully, I doubt one could even find a parish right now where there are 800 weekly worshippers.)

Other conversations have centered around the different types of communities which make up the 4 parishes. St. Catherine/St. Lucy Parish has the largest African American population. What are the implications for the Black Catholic community should St. Catherine/St. Lucy Parish be asked to combine with another, and what is the impact of St. Catherine/St. Lucy’s location, bridging, as it does, their Oak Park and Austin neighborhoods?

St. Edmund’s is the most centrally located and most visible location of all the parishes. Our community, though significantly Caucasian, has a sizeable number of Afri-

can American, Latin American, Asian American, as well as African, Asian, Central American and European immigrants—all of whom makes our community a beautiful diaspora of world-wide Catholics. How will combining with another parish affect the unique and beautiful parish experience here?

Ascension Parish and St. Giles Parish are the largest of the 4 parishes, both of which meet the financial benchmark of an operational budget of at least \$750,000 as well as a weekly worshipping community of over 800. Both of their schools are healthy and serving a community with large numbers of families. There are fewer families at St. Catherine/St. Lucy and at St. Edmund’s, although both SCSL and St. Edmund’s have a larger contingent of single family parishioners.

Our final meeting of the 4 groups took place this past Tuesday. Of the scenarios we shared with you weeks ago, they are now narrowed down to the possibility of 1 large parish being formed from the 4, or a variety of combinations being considered for having only 2 parishes in the future. Now, the hard-earned wisdom of these combined groups will be shared with the Renew My Church administration, with the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago and ultimately, with Cardinal Blase Cupich, who will make the final decision.

Change is coming to all 4 of our worshipping communities. Let us continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide everyone who is involved in these important decisions, and that everyone among our worshipping communities may continue to find a home in our parishes, however they may be newly configured in the very near future.



# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## Helpful Holiday Hints for Grieving Individuals

### 1. Recognize and acknowledge that you are grieving.

- Be gentle with yourself.
- Understand that your energies are naturally directed toward your loss and your healing. So you may not have the energy you're accustomed to having this year.
- Avoid caustic people; you don't need the aggravation.
- Let people know it's okay to talk about the deceased if it really is. Otherwise direct them away from the topic by telling them you want to catch up on what is going on in their lives.

### 2. Anticipate the day.

- If it's too soon or too painful, don't participate. Send your regrets; people who care about you will understand.
- Remember that sometimes the anticipation is far worse than the actual day.
- How have you observed this day in the past? Recall this day from the past when you shared it with your loved one and acknowledge the ways in which it will be different this year.
- Identify the people, traditions, and activities that are important to you regarding to this day.
- Consider creating some new traditions.

### 3. Make a plan you can be comfortable with.

- Eliminate the unnecessary and the too painful.
- Find a way to honor your relationship and your memories, a way to include your loved one in the spirit of this day. If doing this will involve others, it's best to talk it over with them beforehand so they are not taken by surprise; if necessary, compromise to come to a comfortable conclusion.

### 4. Provide a cushion or buffer for yourself on this day.

- Tell your best friend or confidante how you are feeling about this day, as well as how you are going to get through it. Ask him/her to stay close for support throughout the day.
- Build in some alone-time, quiet-time or time when the expectations you or others have for you can be suspended in order to give you time to tend solely to your emotional needs.

### 5. Keep your options open.

- Sit in the back or near a door.
- Have an escape route planned along with a get away car (ride home) and driver in case things get to be more than you can handle.
- Make it known that you will leave if you need to; give yourself permission to do this without recrimination if you find it necessary.

### 6. Remember that it won't be this hard next year.



## Thanksgiving Day Mass, Thursday, Nov. 25 10am at St. Catherine/St. Lucy Church

We're gathering with our friends and neighbors from St. Catherine/St. Lucy Parish on Thanksgiving morning, in order to start the day with offering praise and thanksgiving to God.

SCSL church is located at the corner of Austin and Washington Blvds. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

### Important to Note!

Every Thanksgiving, we take up a collection to support our own parishioners with financial challenges. You may drop off your envelope in the Thanksgiving mass collection, even though the mass will be held at St. Catherine/St. Lucy Parish, or you may drop it in advance in any Sunday collection or at the rectory mail slot. Or simply go online to the parish website: [stedmund.org](http://stedmund.org), and click on the "Give" button. You'll be taken to Give Central where you can click on the Thanksgiving Donation link and make an electronic donation.

## Holiday Shopping Opportunity *this Weekend*

Come to our holiday shopping extravaganza in Murphy Hall! What a great opportunity for your one-stop holiday shopping!



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

For the past 50 years, CCHD has continued to work on the margins of the Archdiocese of Chicago to...

- Encounter Christ in the poor
- Challenge root causes of poverty and injustice
- Amplify voices with vision
- Break down walls of indifference
- Transform hearts and communities
- Support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Please support the second collection in your parish on November 20 – 21.

For more information on CCHD's mission and partner organizations or donate, please visit [CCHDchicago.org](http://CCHDchicago.org).

Scan here to donate





# 2021 Giving Tree

## Monetary Only Donation Process

### Early Donations Encouraged; Deadline: 11/29/21



St. Edmund's is again sponsoring our annual Giving Tree. Like last year, the collection will not use the traditional gift tag system. Due to the prolonged pandemic, we will only accept monetary donations. All 2021 Giving Tree funds will be used to buy gift cards through the Manna program. The Manna cards will be distributed to about 200 recipients comprised of individuals—seniors, veterans, and/or those with disabilities, as well as families, including those headed by single parents with infants, children, and/or teens. Some recipients are domestic violence survivors; others live in interim housing. These folks, who are in need of your support, are clients of: A House in Austin, Housing Forward (PADS), and Sarah's Inn, as well as St. Edmund parishioners. At this time of Thanksgiving, let us consider our many blessings and share with those struggling to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, medicine, and clothing, and whose challenges are exacerbated by the pandemic.

**Early** donations are encouraged and appreciated; donations in any amount need to be received by Monday, 11/29/21. Your support and cooperation with the donation procedures listed below are critical to the success of this outreach.

Please keep your 2021 Giving Tree donation **separate** from other parish donations. Doing so, not only clarifies your donation intention, but also simplifies our processing of it. To ensure that your 2021 Giving Tree donation is properly channeled, kindly choose from the funding options listed below and carefully follow the related directions:

- ◇ **Cash:** Place funds in a **separate** envelope marked: *2021 Giving Tree*. Drop it in the rectory mail slot (left side of the double doors) at 188 S. Oak Park Ave. or into the Offertory basket at mass.
- ◇ **Check:** Make payable to ***St. Edmund MANNA; in the memo section, write 2021 Giving Tree***. Place your check in a **separate** envelope marked: *2021 Giving Tree*. You may either mail it to 188 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302, or drop it in the rectory mail slot (left side of the double doors) or in the Offertory box at mass.
- ◇ **Online:** Access the parish website at [www.stedmund.org](http://www.stedmund.org), and click the purple "GIVE" button. You will be directed to GiveCentral where you can make a secure donation to the 2021 Giving Tree from either a credit card or your bank account.
- ◇ **Text:** Text GivingTree to 708-258-5095, and click on the link to make your donation.

For more information, contact Peggy Leddy, Pastoral Associate, at [pleddy@stedmund.org](mailto:pleddy@stedmund.org).

### **November Book Discussions: *Gazing on His Face***

Pope Francis reminds us that contemplation of the face of Jesus restores our humanity and asks us whether there are moments when we place ourselves quietly in the Lord's presence, calmly spend time with him, and bask in his gaze. Have you asked this question? Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Ascension Catholic Church in Oak Park invites you to join a three-week series on Robin Ryan's new book, *Gazing on His Face: A Christ-Centered Spirituality* to discuss these questions.

**The final discussion will be held online over Zoom on Tuesdays, November 23 at 7:30pm.** Robin Ryan, CP is an associate professor of systematic theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Sign up by sending an email to: [llaffc@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:llaffc@ascensionoakpark.com) with "Gazing on His Face" in the subject line. For more information, including links to purchase the book, go to [www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/athome](http://www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/athome). Registration is required.

### **Community of Congregations Annual Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 21 at 7pm**

From diverse religious traditions, we come together to celebrate and give thanks.

This year, the service takes place at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street, Oak Park. This is an annual event that is hosted by one of the congregations belonging to the Oak Park-River Forest Community of Congregations and is open to everyone.



Please join us as we welcome Dr. David Ansell as our keynote speaker. Dr. Ansell is an author and health care advocate who will share the work of West Side United.

Masks are required for in-person attendance. Zoom attendance also available: <https://zoom.us/j/6360891531>.

**Thankful      Grateful      Blessed**

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## School of Religious Education

St. Edmund Religious Education program will not meet on Sunday, November 28 in order for us to extend and enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday. We wish all a very Happy Thanksgiving and as we celebrate Mass this year at St. Catherine/St. Lucy, in our prayers we include thanks to God for all the blessings God has given us throughout our lives. Please also remember in your Thanksgiving Day prayers, those who will begin celebrating the Feast of Lights- Hanukkah on Sunday, November 28. Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and the rebuilding and rededication of the Second Temple in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The celebration remembers the Miracle of Hanukkah; there was only one vial of oil found to light the Temple lamp for one day, and yet that one vial of oil lasted for eight full days. God loves God's people and God's love is never ending. Amen!



### End Gun Violence Vigil Saturday, November 27



Join us on the rectory lawn for our monthly vigil after the 5:30pm mass.

It is our way of standing against the culture of violence in our country.

### CCHD Collection Today at All Masses

Please support this week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the U.S., 1 in 8 people lives in poverty. This collection supports programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling. Additionally, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese for local anti-poverty projects. Please consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

### Parish Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Please note that the Parish office will be closed Wednesday, November 24 through Friday, November 26. Abundant blessings to you and all of those whom you love.

### Week at a Glance

<b>Monday</b> 8:30am	<b>November 22</b> Mass	Church
<b>Thursday</b> 10am	<b>November 25</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day Mass</b> <i>St. Catherine/St. Lucy</i>	
<b>Friday</b> 8:30am	<b>November 26</b> Mass	Church
<b>Saturday</b> 5:30pm	<b>November 27</b> Mass	Church
<b>Sunday</b> 11am	<b>November 28</b> Mass	Church

## Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

### We Pray for our Sick

Susan Becker,	Joseph A. Norton,
Mike Bielawa,	Shelley Sandow,
Mary Bowman,	Kelly Scott,
Sr. Mary Ruth Broz,	Suzanne Sloma,
Dudley Cuj,	Paula Stumpe
Elinor Eaton,	
Fr. Jack Farley,	
Kevin Galvin,	
Rex Hight,	

### Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

*Dionisios "Saki" Konstantos*

### PRAYER

*The world's greatest wireless connection.*

### Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

<b>Monday</b> 8:30am	<b>November 21</b> † Thomas Bradley Trifone
<b>Friday</b> 8:30am	<b>November 26</b> † Dionisios "Saki" Konstantos
<b>Saturday</b> 5:30pm	<b>November 27</b> † Peter McDonnell, † Ossy Ginigeme
<b>Sunday</b> 11:00am	<b>November 28 (First Sunday of Advent)</b> † Margaret Fitzgerald, † Dennis Konstantos

### Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Dn 1: 1-6, 8-20, Lk 21: 1-4
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Dn 2: 31-45, Lk 21: 5-11
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Dn 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Lk 21: 12-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Dn 6: 12-28, Lk 21: 20-28
<b>Friday:</b>	Dn 7: 2-14, Lk 21: 29-33
<b>Saturday:</b>	Dn 7: 15-27, Lk 21: 34-36
<b>Sunday:</b>	Jer 33: 14-16, 1 Thes 3: 12-4:2 Lk 21: 25-28, 34-36