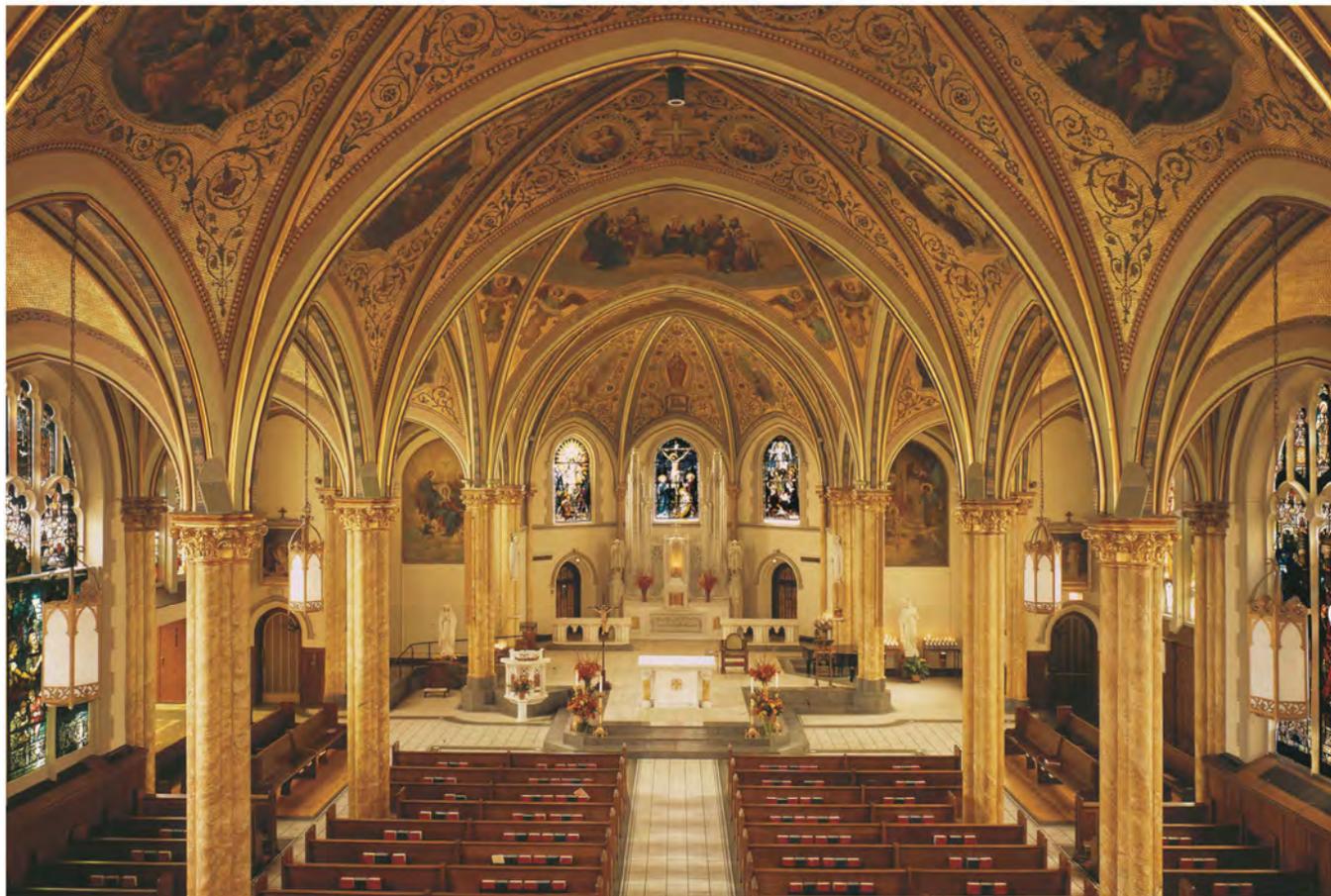


# Saint Edmund Parish *Echoes*

*Reaching out from the heart of Oak Park*

September 8, 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](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

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

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.

### Where is God's Voice?

Last week I registered for my annual weekend silent retreat. I have been attending these retreats for about fourteen years now and I look forward to it every year. Although there are various types of retreats that are offered, I have attended silent retreats at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington for the last ten years.

Retreat, as the word is defined, provides us time to pull back and examine our current relationship with God. Where is the voice of God in our life? We are challenged to pray about the life we are leading and encouraged through prayer, and examination of conscience to not only recognize the good deeds of our past, but to identify and adjust those things in our life that drive us away from God.

Quite honestly, I did not know what to expect when I attended my first silent retreat, and I was a little uncertain whether my mind would go to where I felt I needed it to go in order to classify the weekend as successful. I worried that God might not say anything to me, or even worse I might not like what He had to say. But that was my first mistake and misconception about what a silent retreat is all about. It is not about where I wanted to go, it is about where God was leading me, and the only effort I must put into the time away was to not fight it. I learned that early on when the retreat master explained what we should anticipate for the weekend. I can't go with an agenda!

Upon my arrival at the retreat house I need to recognize that the winding down period can take some time. To step out of the noise and distractions can take a few hours to a day for some depending on your state of mind. Remember, God is always with us, just let Him take over.

The format of the retreat weekend I attend is silence from Friday evening after dinner until Sunday noon after the morning mass. Although we eat in community, we do so in silence. During the retreat we are offered several short talks by the retreat master, a group rosary and the stations of the cross. All these sessions are optional. The weekend also provides an opportunity for Reconciliation and Spiritual Direction.

So why attend a silent retreat? Many people ask that question of me when they learn I am going or have gone on one. I explain that every person has their own reason for attending, and each attendee takes away something different and unique to themselves when the retreat is over. Some find the weekend to be very moving, where they feel a

true connection with God, while others take away the sense of relaxation of both mind and body.

I find this time away from the everyday hustle and bustle of life to be refreshing, reflective and inspiring. This is an important time for me to attempt to sort out all the different voices that try and control my life, and search for the one voice that I am called to follow-God! Through this silence I try and pull away from my secular life and enter into a deep reflection period where God is speaking to me. He may speak to me through prayer, or a lecture, a session in spiritual direction, maybe I capture a glimpse of God in adoration, or in my journaling. This is a time to break through all the voices we hear all day that beckon our attention and draw us to sin, greed, power and pride. "Silence strengthens our weakness. Silence arms us with patience. Silence in God restores our courage."<sup>1</sup> Let us never forget that silent prayer is the strongest and surest act in the struggle against evil."<sup>2</sup>

During this time there are no phones, newspapers or television. I am away from the day to day events, thus strengthening my efforts to focus solely on the voice of God.

I don't come away from every retreat with the same result. Some years are more impactful than others. However, as grace-filled the weekend might have been, I am always grateful that I took the time to go.

Silent retreats are just one example of the spiritual enrichment you can take away from time away. Whether that time is a day, a weekend or a week, I believe you can't help but benefit in some way from hearing the voice of God.

Jesus makes it clear in today's gospel that our number one loyalty is to Him, even above our families. This message can often be lost or misinterpreted as we travel through every day life amidst the chaos and distractions we face.

As we approach the Advent season, in just a few short months, I would like to encourage you to take some time to discern and research whether a retreat of some sort (many types are available) might enrich your spiritual life and relationship with God, who is the ultimate being we will all answer to and whose voice we will hear!

Blessings,  
Deacon Tom



<sup>1</sup> The Power of Silence, Robert Cardinal Sarah (page-158)

<sup>2</sup> The Power of Silence, Robert Cardinal Sarah (page-152)

# Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## School of Religious Education News

Religious Education Sessions for 2019-20 begin today



Sunday, September 8. Sessions begin at 10:30am and end at 12:00 pm noon. Parents are asked to accompany their child (ren) into the building. Prayer is conducted in the gymnasium after every session.

Parents are asked to attend the prayer session with their child(ren). Jesus said, "Where two or three of you are gathered, there I am in your midst." Mt. 18:20. *For the safety of the children, we ask all Parents to come into the building at dismissal to pick up their child(ren).* Registration is still open and available in all grade levels. Please come to the school Pleasant Street entrance. Office staff is available after the 9:00am Mass to help with registration.

## 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](http://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-cooling).

Wish to learn more about St. Edmund's Green Team?  
We usually meet on the third Sunday of the month.



**We're on Twitter!**  
Follow us:  
St. Edmunds-Oak Park *or*  
[@edmunds\\_oakpark](https://twitter.com/edmunds_oakpark)



## Thoughts from Pope Francis

*"In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures." "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home" / Paragraph 213*

Professor Holly Taylor Coolman from Providence College suggests that families can live what Pope Francis is teaching by offering a prayer of thanksgiving before meals, by passing foods to others before taking one's own share, by focusing more on togetherness instead of expensive gifts at family celebrations, by careful use of electricity in the home and gasoline for the family car, by expressing in trust in God's care in the midst of family trials and by looking for ways to serve the needy together.

<http://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/ways-to-adapt-Pope-Francis>

## Continue Your Faith Education!

### Beginning Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00pm

Why do Catholics believe? Have you ever been asked this question and struggled to think of an answer? Research shows that most Catholics stop learning about their faith after Confirmation. Would you go to a mechanic that hadn't studied how to repair the electronics in newer cars?



Continue learning about your faith on Tuesday evenings beginning September 10 at 7:00pm through *Symbolon* an 8 week video course. The series will be led by St. Edmund parishioner, Dr. Tim Cullinane. We will meet either in Murphy Hall or the North Transept. You do not need to attend each session. The first topic will be about the Journey of Faith and Divine Revelation. Hope to see you there!

## Offertory for Weekend of August 31/September 1

Budgeted.....	\$12,500.00
Weekend collection.....	\$ 8,130.35
Weekly shortfall.....	- 4,369.65

*"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."*

- Prov. 3: 9-10

## MANNA Gift Cards Available for Purchase

The MANNA fundraising method is very popular with many non-for-profit organizations. Our hope is that through this simple fundraising program, we will raise additional funds to support the important ministries that we administer to, not only to you our parishioners, but also to those in need outside of our faith community.



Planning on traveling this Fall? Consider purchasing MANNA gift cards/certificates for your travel expenses. Delta airline tickets, Disney, Hilton, and Hyatt Hotels are just a few of the certificates offered.

In addition, a wide-variety of vendor cards, such as Jewel, Home Depot, gas, restaurant offerings, and many, many more. You will receive the full value (100 percent) of your purchase card and St. Edmund will receive a rebate back from your purchase. Each vendor card has a different rebate percent offered back to the parish. The percentages range from 1.5% - 13%. We view this fundraising tool as a win-win for everyone inside and outside of our parish!

MANNA ordering forms are available on the tables in the Murphy Hall corridor. Feel free to take one home with you to browse through for your shopping needs. Contact Deacon Tom at [tdwyer@stedmund.org](mailto:tdwyer@stedmund.org) for ordering and more information about the bank account option.

## Gathering on the Green

September 7-8

The annual *Gathering on the Green* will be held on the parish lawn this weekend September 7-8 after the masses.

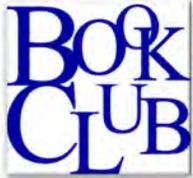


All parishioners and visitors worshipping with us are invited to gather for fellowship, camaraderie and treats!

If you wish to contribute to the refreshments, items needed are finger-food, appetizers, such as cheese and crackers, fruit, baked goods (or any purchased desserts), beverages and/or wine. Please bring your goodies to Murphy Hall by noon on the Saturday of the scheduled weekends.

### St. Edmund Book Club to Meet Tuesday, 9/17

The St. Edmund parish Book Club will discuss the book, *A Grateful American*, by Gary Senise on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00pm in Murphy Hall.



We generally meet September through May on the third Tuesday of the month.

Haven't come to Book Club before? All are welcome!

### SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, 9/30/19, 7:00pm, St. Edmund Church

Silent Witness Exhibit & Presentation

*Remember My Story; Remember My Name*

Sponsored by local parishes'

Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry Teams

### OUR RECTORY / PARISH CENTER PRAYER

O GOD of all Goodness and Love,

We thank you for the people and places that offer us welcome and belonging.

As we embark upon our rectory and parish center reconstruction, we ask your blessing, not only that we may bring this project to completion, but that it, too, may become a place of welcome and belonging.

Please bless and keep safe the laborers who will rebuild our parish home, and may we always remember that in keeping Jesus Christ as our surest foundation, we remain safe and secure in your loving care.

We ask this through Christ who is our foundation and our support. **AMEN.**

### Chicago Catholic Publication Available

The newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, *Chicago Catholic* is available for you at the entrances of the church. Pick up a copy and take one home for you and a friend. The newspaper copies are complimentary.

### Intimate Partner/Dating Abuse

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Domestic Violence Help Line: 877-TO END DV (877-863-6338)
- Sarah's Inn (Oak Park) [www.sarahsinn.org](http://www.sarahsinn.org)  
24-hr Crisis Line: 708-386-4225  
Office: 708-386-3305

### Week at a Glance September 8

<b>Sunday</b>		
10:00am,	<i>Gathering on the Green</i>	Parish Lawn
6:00pm		
10:30am	Religious Education	School
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 9</b>	
7:00pm	Peace and Justice	Murphy Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 10</b>	
7:00pm	Parish Life	Murphy Hall
7:00pm	<i>Symbolon</i> Series	Murphy Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 11</b>	
7:00pm	Bridge	Murphy Hall
7:00pm	Cantors/Choir	Church
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 14</b>	
9:30am	Centering Prayer	N. Transept
11:00am	Knitters/Crocheters	Murphy Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 15</b>	
10:30am	Religious Education	School
4:00pm	Green Team	Murphy Hall

### National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children Saturday, 9/14 at 2pm Queen of Heaven Cemetery 1400 S. Wolf Road, Hillside, IL

Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Priests for Life and the Pro-Life Action League are co-sponsoring the 7th annual *National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children*, calling on pro-life Americans to honor the gravesites of our aborted brothers and sisters. Solemn prayer vigils will be conducted at these gravesites, of which there are 52 across the United States, as well as at dozens of other sites dedicated in memory of aborted children.

Special Guests will be Bishop Robert Kurtz, Fr. Herman Kincaid, and Nancy Kreuzer. Parking is available near section 108. Additionally, the gravesite is also located in section 108, at the far western edge of the cemetery, about 500 feet south of Roosevelt Road. If you need to reach the national team by phone, please call the Pro-Life Action League at 773-777-2900 during regular business hours.

## Spiritual Week at St. Edmund Parish

### We Pray for our Sick

Ray Anzelmo	Yadira Franco	Chuck Planek
Kathleen Baer	Bill Garcia	Joseph Riggio
John Barrett	Josh Haberkorn	Fr. Ed Salmon
Susan Becker	Steven Haberkorn	Ann Sarpy
the Bokholdt family	Bobby Hakes	Vera Schenone
Carol Bonus	Gerald Hardebeck	Rachael Schopp
Cathy Callahan	Clint Hight	Mike Scully
Violet Chisholm	Caleb Lofton	Ethel Thomas
Allison Coonley	Pat Michalski	Genaro Vera
Annyce Dunbar	Marcia Newman	John Williams
Anthony Ermayos	Noel Ogden	Vernon Zimmerman
Mary Evans	Gloria Onischuk	

### Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

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

### Special Remembrances at Daily Eucharist

<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 9 (Peter Claver)</b>
8:30am	† Alice Caron, † Mary Jo Kuenster
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 10</b>
8:30am	† Barrett Fellows
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 11</b>
	† Gino and Argene Giannetti
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>September 12 (The Most Holy Name of Mary)</b>
8:30am	† Deceased parishioners
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 13 (John Chrystostom)</b>
8:30am	Barbara Boril ( <i>living intention</i> )
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 14 (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)</b>
5:30pm	† Sylvester Kuenster
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 15 (24th Sunday in O.T.)</b>
9:00am	† Frank J. Senicka
11:00am	† Donald Patterson
5:00pm	People of St. Edmund and Ascension

### 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, Firefighter, Parris Island, SC Marine Base  
 Gian Franco Solari, US Air Force  
 Brian Walsh, First Lieutenant US Army  
 Kimyatta Wellington, US Navy



### 9/11 Memorial Museum ~ New York City

**“NO DAY SHALL ERASE YOU  
FROM THE MEMORY OF TIME”** - Virgil  
9/11/01

### Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Col 1: 24-2:3, Lk 6: 6-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Col 2: 6-15, Lk 6: 12-19
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Col 3: 1-11, Lk 6: 20-26
<b>Thursday:</b>	Col 3: 12-17, Lk 6: 27-38
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Tm 1: 1-2, 12:14, Lk 6: 39-42
<b>Saturday:</b>	Nm 21: 4b-9, Phil 2: 6-11, Jn 3: 13-17
<b>Sunday:</b>	Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14, 1Tm 1: 12-17, Lk 15: 1-32

### Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of September 14/15

	Altar Servers	Lectors	Commentator	Cantors	Extraordinary Ministers
<b>(Saturday) 5:30pm</b>	R. McNulty	M. Bielawa D. Brown	T. Mackey	P. Pruitt	M. Aportadera, K. Ballard, J. Lewandowski, J. McCoy, J. Reese, D. Walsh
<b>9:00am</b>	S. Koch	M. Trifone M. Fedota	K. Vander Muelen	tba	D. Dubowski, D. Giannetti, Christina Putz, Craig Putz,
<b>11:00am</b>	G. Angone J. Patston	J. Angone tba	J. Leonard	tba	T. Cullinane, A. Dwyer, L. Jans, L. Patterson
<b>5:00pm</b>	M. Wheeler	E. Wilson-Yu Tba	D. Kane		