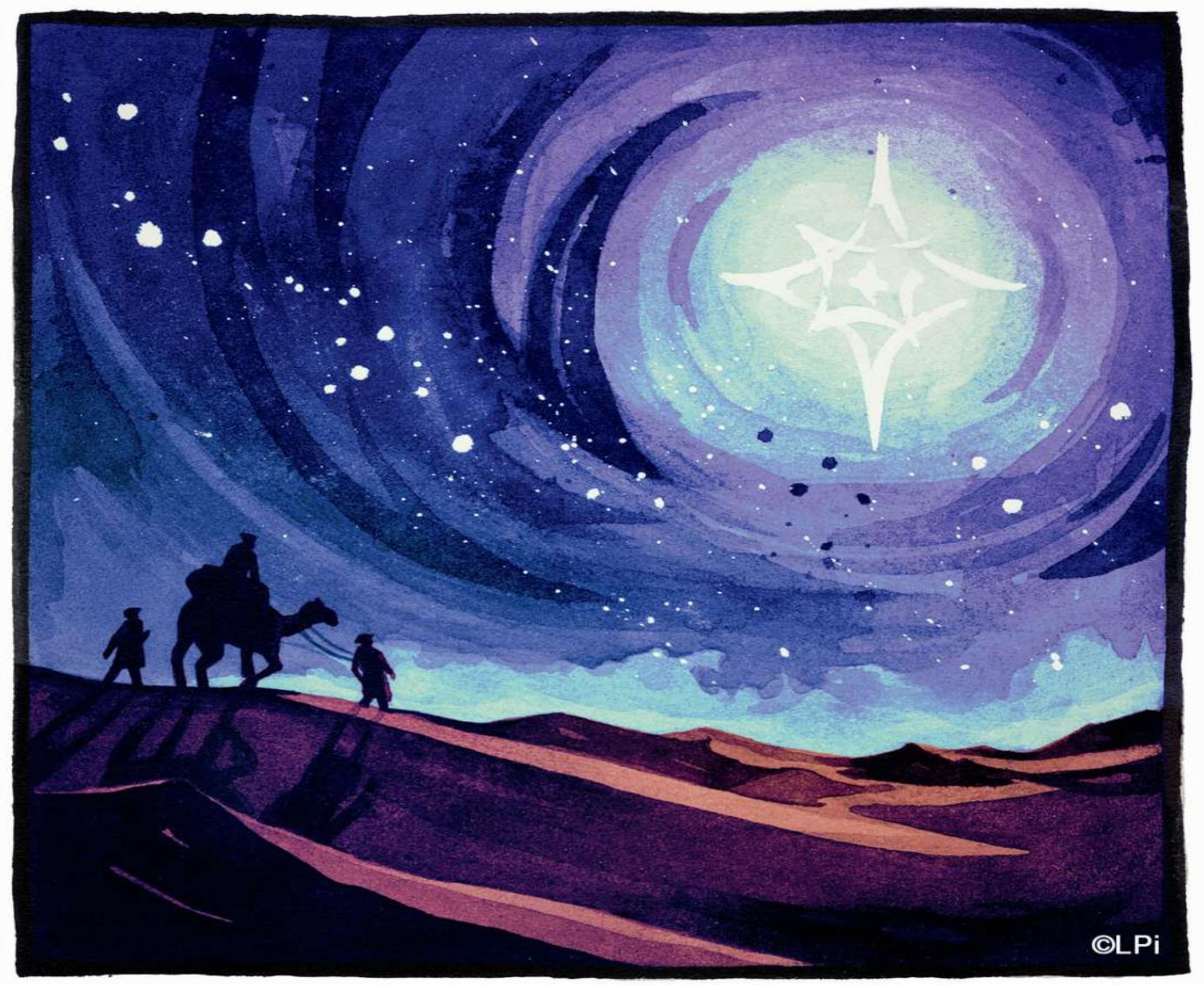


# Ascension and St. Edmund Parish

## The Epiphany of the Lord

### January 4, 2026



©LPI

Ascension Church  
808 S. East Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60304  
[www.ascensionoakpark.com](http://www.ascensionoakpark.com)  
(708) 848-2703

Mass Times  
Tuesday, Wednesday &  
Thursday: 8:30am  
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

St. Edmund Church  
188 S. Oak Park Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
[www.ascensionoakpark.com](http://www.ascensionoakpark.com)  
(708) 848-4417

Mass Times  
Monday and Friday: 8:30am  
Saturday: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 9:15am & 5:00pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45pm

#### Weekend Livestream

We livestream one Ascension site Mass each weekend. View livestream schedule online by visiting: [catholiccommunitysofoakpark.org](http://catholiccommunitysofoakpark.org) and click on Mass Times.

## Father Carl's Corner

As we begin a new year and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, many individuals and families do so carrying uncertainty rather than clarity. Loss, financial strain, rising food costs, and fears around immigration, deportation, and national stability remain very real. The turning of the calendar does not magically remove these burdens. Yet the Epiphany reminds us that God does not wait for life to become easier before revealing Himself. Just as the Magi set out into the darkness, unsure of the road ahead, we too are invited to begin this new year trusting that God's light is already present, even when the path forward feels uncertain.



The Magi followed a star - not a detailed map. Their journey was marked by questions, risk, and perseverance. In the same way, hope for the new year is not found in having all the answers, but in continuing to move toward God. Prayer becomes our guiding star; a place where we bring our fears honestly before the Lord and allow His presence to steady our hearts. Through prayer we learn to look for God's light in small but real ways - in moments of kindness, resilience, and unexpected grace.

At the heart of that light is the Eucharist. In every Mass, Christ reveals Himself to us just as truly as He did to the Magi, offering not explanations but His very presence. Gathered as a parish community, we discover we do not walk into the new year alone. Together, strengthened by the Eucharist and by one another, we become bearers of Christ's light for our families and our world. As the Epiphany teaches us, hope is born when we recognize that God is already with us, leading us forward - one faithful step at a time.

On behalf of Fr. Rex, Fr. Bob, Fr. Vittorio, Fr. Tom, Fr. Larry, Fr. Ed and Fr. David, Happy Epiphany and Happy New Year to all. Thank you to everyone who helped plan our beautiful liturgies and the church environment during this sacred season. To our liturgy planners, choir members, directors and musicians, lectors, ushers, greeters, ministers, and altar servers - your time, preparations and service help our parishioners and visitors encounter the presence of God. I hope you know how deeply your service is appreciated.

With you a Christian. For you, a priest.

*Rev. Carl Morello*

Fr. Carl Morello, Pastor

### Mass Intentions for 2026

Those wishing to schedule a Mass for the intention of someone who has died or for special intentions may come to the Parish Centers to do so. Masses will be scheduled on a first come basis. There are three intentions open for each Mass (except where the intention of the parish "All Parishioners and Benefactors" appears). All Holy Days and all holidays are designated for the intentions of the parish; no individual intentions may be added to those days.

Suggested donation is \$10 per intention.

## Baptism Preparation Class

Baptizing your infant and/or young child (zero to six years of age) – begins simply with an email or phone call to Diane Lawrence, Coordinator of Parish Ministries, to learn about the process and to signup for a Baptism Preparation Class. I look forward to hearing from you!



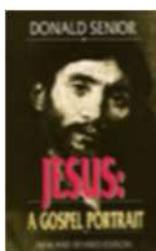
The next session is on **Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 2:30pm** at the St. Edmund McGivern Center.

To register, please email Diane Lawrence: [d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com) (708) 406-2709

Diane Lawrence  
Director of Parish Ministries  
Ascension and St. Edmund Parish

## Women's Spirituality Group

Women of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish are invited to our gathering on **Thursday, January 8** in the Ascension Parish Center Dining Room. Please join us for social time from 7 to 7:30 pm, followed by prayer and discussion from 7:30 – 9 pm. To enter, please ring the bell at the side door off the parking lot and someone will let you in. We will be discussing chapter Chapter 5, pages 100 - 116 of *Jesus: A Gospel Portrait* by Donald Senior. We hope you join us even if you haven't done the reading.



## Sunday, January 11 for Coffee and ...



Join us Sunday, January 11 following the 9:15am Mass in Murphy Hall for hospitality. Homemade pastries, breakfast meats, egg casseroles, coffee and more will be served. Please stop by after Mass.

## This weekend January 3 and January 4 Diaper Collection

The St. Edmund collection requests baby/children's diapers, baby wipes, adult diapers, adult undergarments and feminine pads to be donated to Beyond Hunger. Please deliver donations at St. Edmund Church to the corridor between the church and Murphy Hall.



Diapers and wipes collected at Ascension Church will be donated to the Neighborhood Bridge. Please deliver donations at Ascension Church to the southeast corner of the church (please do not leave diaper donations in the vestibule).

## Ascension and St. Edmund Parish Calendars Are Now Available

2026 Parish Calendars are now available to be picked up at our churches or at the parish centers. Thanks to Peterson-Bassi Chapels and Bob Gamboney and Sons Funeral Directors for sponsoring this year's calendar.



## JOIN US FOR LITTLE LAMBS - January 10

We meet monthly on Saturday mornings from **9:00 AM to 9:45 AM** at St. Edmund in the specially designed Toddler Atrium room adjacent to Murphy Hall. Enter through the ramp off Oak Park Avenue just to the north of the Church building at 188 S. Oak Park Avenue.

For more information, contact **Mary Ellen Lesniak** at (708) 565-9401 or **Laura Kelley** at [lkellev@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:lkellev@spiritandlightcenter.org).



## BLESSING YOUR HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR



The blessing of homes, on whose lentils  
are inscribed the Cross, the year,  
and the traditional initials of the Magi (C+M+B),  
expresses the blessing of Christ  
through the intercession of the holy men and women  
who journeyed to Bethlehem to adore the baby Jesus!

C M B also stands for the Latin phrase  
*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*,  
(May Christ bless this house)

**ASCENSION AND ST. EDMUND PARISH, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS**

**Blessed chalk is available at all doors and at the parish center offices  
for those who wish to chalk their doors.**

### EPIPHANY CHALKING OF THE DOORS

Families may ask God's blessing on their dwelling and all who visit them with a simple ritual. Use the outline below or create your own blessing. (You don't have to stop at the front door. ... mark every door in the house if you want!)

*Take chalk and mark above the entrance of the door:  
20 + C + M + B + 26*

*While doing the marking, say the following :*

**The magi of old, known as**

**Caspar (mark the C +),**

**Melchior (mark the M +),**

**and Balthasar (mark the B)**

**followed the star of God's Son who came  
to dwell among us two-thousand (mark the 20)  
and twenty-six years ago. (mark the 26)**

**May Christ bless our home (mark the + after the 20)  
and remain with us throughout this coming year.  
(mark the + before the 26)**

#### PRAYER OF BLESSING

Holy God, you revealed your beloved Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.  
Bless this house and all who inhabit it.  
Make it a place of welcome and peace to all who enter.  
Fill us with the light of Christ,  
so that our concern for others will reflect your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***May 2026 be a year of peace and love in your homes,  
in your community, and in your hearts!***

*~ Pastoral staff of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish*

# YOUR BLOOD IS A *Lifeline*



## NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Sunday  
**January  
11**

8:30AM – 1:30PM

**Helpful tip:**  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. Please bring your id.



1-800-7TO-GIVE

### Ascension and St Edmund Parish Blood Drive

824 CLARENCE OAK PARK, IL 60304 @ASCENSION CHURCH GYM

To make an appointment, call (800) 7TO-GIVE, scan the QR code below or go to the following link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yd4xd8ws>

**Donate blood and be someone's hero. One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.**

As a thank you, all attempting donors with a valid email and code SPARK in their appointment notes will receive a \$25 e-gift card\*



 **versiti**  
Blood Center of Illinois

# Parish and Community News



## "ARE YOU READY TO DO THE HARD THINGS?" – SEASON 3

All are invited! Please join Faith and Film Ministry at St. Edmund's Murphy Hall after the 5:00 Mass on the following Saturdays to WATCH – LEARN – DISCUSS – Season 3 of The CHOSEN.

**Final Episode of Season 3**  
**January 12 Sustenance**

**Season 4 Begins January 17**

Admission is Free  
For Purchase: Sandwiches and Movie Snack

Questions? Email Faith and Film Ministry Co-Leaders, Mari Hans  
[marithans@comcast.net](mailto:marithans@comcast.net) or Joann Lewandowski  
[lewjoann@hotmail.com](mailto:lewjoann@hotmail.com)



### *What Is Spiritual Direction?*

*A facilitated conversation with Spiritual directors*

**Sunday, January 11**

3:30 pm

Murphy Hall

St. Edmund Campus

As we try to navigate life's twists and turns, it is often helpful to talk to someone who is skilled at listening. That person may be a Spiritual Director. But what does that mean? What happens during a spiritual direction session? How do I even find such a person? Those questions and more will be explored with a panel of Spiritual Directors who practice in the Oak Park area.

For more information, contact Marci Madary  
[mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org)

## Resource Document for Caregivers Available from Knights of Columbus

Our local council of the Knights of Columbus has completed its resource document for those caring for ailing or elderly loved ones. The document includes information on individual caregivers as well as agencies and offers insights from those who have provided or arranged for care for an elderly or ailing loved one.



The Ascension Council of the Knights of Columbus invites anyone who would like to receive the document, or offer additional insights to it, to send an email to [KnightsCaregiverProject@gmail.com](mailto:KnightsCaregiverProject@gmail.com). We hope to collect additional names of caregivers or agencies used and recommendations by fellow parishioners so that we can regularly update the document. Please help us do so. And thank you to those who have already provided input!

### *Living the Word*

*LIVING THE WORD* Scripture reflections books are available for the new liturgical year that began with the first Sunday of Advent. Living the Word is a weekly scripture/reflection resource. It contains all of the Sunday and Holy Day readings for the year. This annual resource is a great way to come to know and pray God's Word and grow deeper in your experience of the Mass. As a parish, we encourage every parishioner to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Sunday scriptures before coming to Mass.

Books are available at the main entrance to church. The cost is \$10. Simply take a book home today and return the enclosed payment envelope in the coming week.

# ASCENSION SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

*A place to learn, grow, and  
be inspired!*

**Sun., Jan. 25,  
2026**

**11:30 AM- 1 pm**

Meet in the GYM.  
Enter Through the Courtyard or Clarence Ave

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions



# SAVE THE DATE

for Ascension School's

## BLUE TIE GALA



**FEB 7 2026**

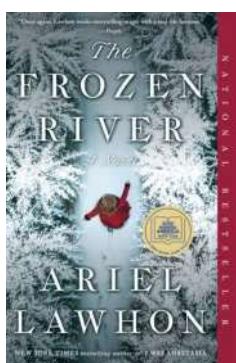
Oak Park Country Club

**Honoring Beth White**

Beth taught third grade at Ascension for 10 years before becoming a certified Learning Behavior Specialist and Ascension's first Director of Student Services. Beth was a staunch advocate for students, a great resource and support to teachers, and an ally and comfort to families.

### Ascension and St. Edmund Book Club

The December Book Club will be held on **Tuesday, January 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** in St. Edmund Murphy Hall. Dinner will be served! The selection this month is **The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon.



Upcoming Books:  
February: *How To Read A Book* by Monica Wood  
March: *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at [marithans@comcast.net](mailto:marithans@comcast.net).

### Mass Intentions for 2026

Those wishing to schedule a Mass for the intention of someone who has died or for special intentions may come to the Parish Centers to do so. Masses will be scheduled on a first come basis. There are three intentions open for each Mass (except where the intention of the parish "All Parishioners and Benefactors" appears). All Holy days and all holidays are designated for the intentions of the parish; no individual intentions may be added to those days.

Suggested donation is \$10 per intention.

**Experiencing Domestic Violence:** Call 911, National Domestic Violence 24-hour Helpline: 800-799-7233, Sarah's Inn: 708-386-4225, [www.sarahsinn.org](http://www.sarahsinn.org). National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline: 866-331-9474.

# Community News

## MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: NEW YEAR!!! NEW LOCATION!!!

Indeed the Holy Spirit works in amazing ways!

When we learned back in June that we would have to leave St Edmund, our first thought was on the availability of the former St.

Bernardine School in Forest Park which had been closed for a number of years. We were told that it was not available, as the rooms were being used for Archdiocesan offices and storage. Almost six months later, at the brink of signing a lease to rent space at Boulevard Presbyterian Church, **we received notice that St. Bernardine's School was now available**, as a number of formerly-occupied rooms were no longer being used.



Wow! Six large classrooms, a parking lot, and close to the Blue Line el. A side entrance off the parking lot offers access less noticeable to federal agents. And, we receive the blessings of Fr. Carl who graduated from St. Bernardine!

After moving our shelves, tables, and supplies, **our plan is to start receiving donations and organizing the rooms ("free stores") on Monday Jan 12 and Monday Jan 19.** We will open once again to migrants and immigrants on Tuesday, Jan 20th.

**In the meantime, we continue to distribute coats, blankets, and winter gear from St. Edmund.** Thank you to everyone who has donated to this very acute need!

To donate online, go to <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/580/event/38694>

Please make checks payable to Ascension and St. Edmund Parish, 808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304. Include a note that the donation is for the "Migrant Ministry". Thank you!

## Housing Forward Needs Volunteers



For 33 years, Housing Forward has provided vital, year-round support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the near-west suburbs. On November 1, services expanded to a new emergency overnight shelter featuring 40 beds at 112 S. Humphrey Avenue in Oak Park.

Ascension and St. Edmund is looking to create volunteer teams of individuals, teens, and families to prepare dinner, breakfast, or lunch. Volunteers are also needed to connect with guests as dinner or breakfast hosts, or as overnight attendants. No prior experience is necessary; training will be provided.

Whether you wish to volunteer one time or make a regular monthly commitment, your participation is deeply valued. If you're interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Jane Houle at [janehoule@hotmail.com](mailto:janehoule@hotmail.com).

the Neighborhood



Become an Advocate  
for The Neighborhood  
Bridge

We are recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates—trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection.

Learn more at [theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer](http://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer) or contact Jeanne Gallo at [jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org](mailto:jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org)

The Neighborhood Bridge, born out of the Renew My Church initiative, is dedicated to connecting Austin families with the services they need to thrive. Learn more about our organization at [www.catholiccommunitiesfoakpark.org/the-neighborhood-bridge](http://www.catholiccommunitiesfoakpark.org/the-neighborhood-bridge).



**GriefShare**  
**Grief Support Group**  
*Help and encouragement  
after the death of a loved one*  
At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!  
Wednesdays, 10 AM-12 PM, 1/28-4/22/2026  
St. Giles Campus, McDonough Hall  
1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park  
708/223-4912  
griefshare@stgilesparish.org  
[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

### JOIN US- ONE IN LOVE LGBTQ+ Ministry

**Saturday, January 10, 2026  
from 1 to 3pm  
at St. Giles Parish Center  
1025 Columbian Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60302**



### ONE IN LOVE LGBTQ+ Ministry meets the second Saturday of each month.

Please join us for a safe and respectful conversation. You are free to share your story, resources or whatever is in your heart that day, or just listen to others with an open heart.

We offer a friendly and safe place for The Catholic Communities of Oak Park and our Neighbors, where we welcome LGBTQ+ individuals, their partners, families and Allies to share through deep listening circles.

If you have questions, please contact:  
Kathie Nash [kathienash1023@att.net](mailto:kathienash1023@att.net)

### PEACE, POWER, AND PASSION AFTER YOUR DIVORCE

*Surviving Divorce* was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. It includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families. As they witness to their pain and the healing power of Christ in their lives, participants will laugh, cry, and identify with their journeys from heartache to healing.



*Surviving Divorce* will help them:

- Work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.
- Find personal healing and hope.
- Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experiences.
- Navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances.

**Meeting Twice Monthly on  
Thursdays at 7:30 PM**

**January 8 and 22**

**Saint Giles Parish**

**Dore Parish Center Living Room  
1025 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park**

Join us on this powerful journey to hope and healing! Registration is not required, but appreciated.

For more information, please contact:  
Chris Malagoli, [cymalagoli@yahoo.com](mailto:cymalagoli@yahoo.com)  
708-912-4378 or Tobin Counts,  
[atlantacounts@att.net](mailto:atlantacounts@att.net)  
678-571-5220

# Parish Meetings and Staff Directory

| <b>Sunday, January 4</b>       |                     |                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Diaper Collection              | ASC + STE           | Before Masses            |
| Extending the Word             | ASC Dining Room     | 9:00-11:00am             |
| ASP Teen Leader Meeting        | ASC Dining Room     | 7:00-8:30pm              |
| <b>Monday, January 5</b>       |                     |                          |
| Parish Pastoral Council        | McGivern Center     | 7:00-9:00pm              |
| <b>Tuesday, January 6</b>      |                     |                          |
| Faith Sharing                  | STE McGivern Center | 1:30-3:00pm              |
| Centering Prayer               | STE North transept  | 4:00-4:45pm              |
| Tuesdays with Paul             | Ursuline Center     | 6:45-8:00pm              |
| <b>Wednesday, January 7</b>    |                     |                          |
| 8th Grade Confirmation         | ASC Pine Room       | 7:00-8:30pm              |
| <b>Thursday, January 8</b>     |                     |                          |
| Overcoming Racism              | Murphy Hall         | 6:30-8:00pm              |
| Women's Spirituality           | ASC Dining Room     | 6:30-9:00pm              |
| OCIA                           | McGivern Center     | 7:00-8:30pm              |
| Spirit & Light Board           | Murphy Hall Annex   | 7:00-8:30pm              |
| Knights of Columbus            | Pine Room           | 7:30-9:00pm              |
| <b>Saturday, January 10</b>    |                     |                          |
| Contemplative Prayer           | ZOOM                | 8:30-9:15am              |
| Little Lambs                   | Murphy Hall Annex   | 9:00-9:45am              |
| Creative Crafters              | Murphy Hall         | 11am-12:30pm             |
| Baptism Prep Class             | McGivern Center     | 2:00pm                   |
| Faith and Film:<br>The Chosen  | Murphy Hall         | Following<br>5:00pm Mass |
| <b>Sunday, January 11</b>      |                     |                          |
| Extending the Word             | ASC Dining Room     | 9:00-11:00am             |
| CGS                            | ASC Parish Center   | 9:00-10:15am             |
| TRE                            | ASC School          | 9:00-10:15am             |
| Coffee and ...                 | Murphy Hall         | 10:15am                  |
| Children's Liturgy of the Word | ASC                 | 10:30am                  |
| Baptism                        | ASC                 | 11:30am                  |
| What is Spirituality?          | Murphy Hall         | 3:00-5:00pm              |
| ASP Formation Meeting          | ASC Dining Room     | 7:00-8:30pm              |

**Ascension Campus**  
808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304  
(708) 848-2703  
<https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/>

**Ascension Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday - 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM  
Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Thursday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Sunday - 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**St. Edmund Campus**  
188 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 848-4417  
<https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/>

**McGivern Center Hours:**  
Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM thru 1:00 PM

**Pastor:** Rev. Carl Morello 708-383-3430 ext. 422  
[frcarl@stgilesparish.org](mailto:frcarl@stgilesparish.org)  
**Moderator of Pastoral Care:** Rev. Rex Pillai 708-848-2703  
[r.pillai@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:r.pillai@ascensionoakpark.com)  
**Pastoral Care:** Fr. Vittorio Bruscella, CMF [vittoriocmf@libero.it](mailto:vittoriocmf@libero.it)  
**Weekend Assistant:** Rev. Bob Hutmacher, ofm 312-372-5111  
**Deacon:** Thomas Dwyer

**Director of Operations:** Carlos Guerrero 708-406-2385  
**Director of Pastoral Music and Liturgy:** Dr. David Anderson 708-434-1535  
**Director of St. Edmund Choir:** Robert Valle [r.valle@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:r.valle@ascensionoakpark.com)  
**Associate Organist and String Ensemble Director:** Becky Coffman [b.coffman@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:b.coffman@ascensionoakpark.com)  
**Liturgy Coordinator:** JaneAnne Campbell 708-434-1533  
**Development Director:** Maria Allori 708-848-4417 ext. 2121  
**Coordinator of Ministries:** Diane Lawrence 708-406-2709  
**Business Manager:** Rob Lamont, [r.lamont@archchicago.org](mailto:r.lamont@archchicago.org)  
**Bookkeeper:** Brian Pineda, [bpineda@archchicago.org](mailto:bpineda@archchicago.org)  
**Sacramental Records:** Cathi Knickrehm 708-434-1534  
**Communications:** Marybeth Granholm 708-434-1541  
**Head of Maintenance:** Rey Dominguez 708-434-1539  
**Parish Assistant:** Donald Giannetti 708-848-4417 ext. 2051  
**Office Assistants:** (ASC) Sr. Terri Grasso, Donna Zych, and Sr. Regina Gallo 708-848-2703 ext. 231  
**Kaydee Sproat (STE)** 708-848-4417 ext. 2011  
**Finance Council:** [ASEFinanceCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ASEFinanceCouncil@gmail.com)

**Spirit & Light (RE)** 708-434-1554 [sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Director of Spirit & Light:** Dr. Marci Madary 708-383-3430  
**Coordinator of Traditional Religious Education & Sacramental Coordinator:** Terri Monaco [tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:tmonaco@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Family RE Coordinator:** Tim Smyth [tsmyth@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:tsmyth@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator:** Laura Kelley [lkelly@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:lkelly@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Director of Youth Ministry:** Cooky Perez-Eraci, [mperezraci@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mperezraci@spiritandlightcenter.org) or 708-370-3674  
**Operations Associate:** Catherine Chojnacki [cchojnacki@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:cchojnacki@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Faith and Fellowship Program Director:** Tim Smyth [faith\\_fellowship@hotmail.com](mailto:faith_fellowship@hotmail.com)  
**Evangelization Lead:** Alex Ryan, [alexryan@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:alexryan@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
**Ascension School - 601 Van Buren Street** [school.ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:school.ascensionoakpark.com)  
708-386-7282  
**School Principal:** Maureen O'Neill Nielsen 708-386-7282  
**Assistant Principal:** Deb Rodde 708-386-7282  
**Director of Advancement:** Kelly Tybor 708-434-1558

# Stewardship of Treasure Report

## Thank You For Your Stewardship Support



The mission and ministries of our parish are made possible through your faithful generosity. From the lights that brighten our worship spaces and the heat that keeps us warm, to snow removal and the salaries of our dedicated staff, everything is sustained by your support of the Sunday offertory. Thank you.

You may have noticed that our weekly stewardship information has not been published in the bulletin recently. This is due to a transition in the Business Manager position. We are pleased to share that a new Business Manager has joined our staff and is becoming familiar with parish operations. We appreciate your understanding during this time.

Within this bulletin, you will find a brief stewardship update. We look forward to resuming our regular reporting after the new year. Additionally, we plan to publish a mid-year financial report in early February to help keep you informed.

Please know that your support at this time of year is a real blessing to our parish and helps us continue God's work in our community.

*Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions:*

Carlos Guerrero, Operations Director  
caguerrero@archchicago.org

Rob Lamont, Business Manager  
rlamont@archchicago.org

Maria Allori, Stewardship & Development Director  
mallori@archchicago.org

We were blessed to welcome 948 in individuals to our liturgies last weekend! Whether you joined us in person or via live-stream, your presence strengthens our faith community. We're grateful for you, and invite you to come and share in the good things God is doing in our parish.

## The Ascension and St. Edmund Finance Council Would Like Your Feedback

We want to hear from you! The Finance Council is committed to communicating how our parish is doing financially.

Contact the Finance Council by emailing us at [ASEFinanceCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ASEFinanceCouncil@gmail.com) or by clicking on "Contact the Finance Council" on the "Our Leadership Councils" on the website.

| Week of          |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Sunday, Nov 16th |           |
| Sunday Offering  |           |
| Actual           | \$ 42,321 |
| Budget           | 22,880    |
| Variance         | \$ 19,441 |



| Christmas Offering Goal Through Dec 21st |           |
|--|-----------|
| Actual                                   | \$ 23,445 |
| Budget                                   | 112,000   |

Our Christmas Offering Goal is budgeted at \$112,000 this year. We ask that you please be generous to help us reach this amount. Many thanks and may God bless our parish during this holy season and in the new year.

## WAYS TO GIVE

To donate online and set up automatic monthly church donations from your checking or credit card, [www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/giving](http://www.ascensionoakpark.com/apps/pages/giving)

To give by mail, send to Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave., Oak Park, IL, 60304 or to St. Edmund Church, 188 S. Oak Park Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302

Text to Give: Text the Word "Donate" to (708) 400-7396

Scan QR code with cell phone camera to access Ascension and St. Edmund Parish Give Central Giving Page.



At Mass, during the collection of gifts.

**Thank you for supporting your parish community!**

## Prayers

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN MIND, BODY OR SPIRIT

As we continue to pray for our sick and those most in need, please note that names on our prayer list will remain for four weeks, after which time they will be removed. To remain on the list, we invite family members, friends and other care-givers, to resubmit names for prayer. Feel free to share an update on your loved one so that we can inform our intercessory prayer team. Contact David Anderson at [d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com). You may also call the Ascension Parish Office to submit a name for prayer 708-848-2703.

**Apollo Bertufo  
Maggie Biewala  
Mike Clarke  
Sandra Dominick  
Turida Dudley  
Angie Earle  
Maria Perez-Eraci  
Bob Fitzmaurice  
Olivia Navarro de Galeno  
Mike Gallo  
Phil Gazda  
Dale Glanzman  
Cathy Hastings  
Maureen Kamali**

**Khris Koelsch  
Ann LaGuardia  
Clare Leavitt  
Sheila Lally  
Joseph Mayerhofer  
Nancy Prendergast  
Kelly Rizzo  
Joe Schejbal  
Jennifer Schottler  
Ellen Skipper  
Alex Stevic  
Catie Sullivan  
Tom Walsh  
Carole Woods**

*Please pray for all of our deceased brothers and sisters*

**John Carmody  
Claire Leavitt**

**“COME TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST”**

### Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30  
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

## Masses for the Week

| <b>SATURDAY - January 3</b>  |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 5:00 STE                     | †Jack Egan   |
| <b>SUNDAY - January 4</b>    |  |
| 8:00 ASC                     | All Parishioners & Benefactors of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish            |
| 9:15 STE                     | †For the Deceased Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish            |
| 10:30 ASC                    | †Gene McCormack<br>†Mark McKenna<br>†Jennie McClellan                        |
| 5:00 STE                     | Catholic Communities of Oak Park and Neighbors                               |
| <b>MONDAY - January 5</b>    |  |
| 8:30 STE                     | †Tom Carraher  |
| <b>TUESDAY - January 6</b>   |  |
| 8:30 ASC                     | †Robert Hill<br>†Jim Costello<br>†Michael Kunkel<br>†Dr. Rajan Raj           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY - January 7</b> |  |
| 5:00 PM STE                  | †Maria del Jesus Guerrero<br>†Joan Pacer                                     |
| <b>THURSDAY - January 8</b>  |  |
| 9:00 ASC                     | †Rosalinda Rodriguez   |
| <b>FRIDAY - January 9</b>    |  |
| 8:30 STE                     | †Jim Costello<br>Delia Nieblas (Living Intention)                            |
| <b>SATURDAY - January 10</b> |  |
| 5:00 STE                     | †Catherine Payne Paprocki<br>†Tom Vondrasek<br>†Benjamin Kocolowski          |
| <b>SUNDAY - January 11</b>   |  |
| 8:00 ASC                     | All Parishioners & Benefactors of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish            |
| 9:15 STE                     | †Jack Egan   |
| 10:30 ASC                    | †Mike Kunkel<br>†Virginia Meyers<br>†Alice Dunn<br>†Maria del Jesus Guerrero |
| 5:00 STE                     | Catholic Communities of Oak Park and Neighbors                               |

**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

**ADT** Authorized Provider **SafeStreets** **833-287-3502**

Where Breakfast Meets Heritage!

**Chicago Waffles**

726 LAKE STREET  
**847-921-4003**

CHICAGOWAFFLES.COM/OAK PARK

**20% OFF  
WITH THIS AD**

Must present coupon.  
Limit one per visit.  
Cannot be combined with  
other promotions.

**Place Your Ad Here and  
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and  
purchase an ad with

**AD CREATOR STUDIO**



[4lpi.com/adcreator](http://4lpi.com/adcreator)

**Bob  
Gamboney  
& Sons**

**Funeral Directors**

Associated with  
Peterson-Bassi Chapels

Traditional Funerals  
& Cremations  
Services Available

**773.637.4441**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Place Your Ad Here  
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME  
Alicia White**

**awhite@4LPI.com  
(800) 950-9952 x9783**

**H** HORWITZ  
HORWITZ & ASSOCIATES **100**  
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Trial Lawyers

**COMMITTED  
TO JUSTICE**

Chicago's Premier Personal Injury and  
Worker's compensation attorneys

25 E Washington St, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 372-8822 [horwitzlaw.com](http://horwitzlaw.com)



# NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

**SUBSCRIBE**

Have our bulletin  
emailed to you  
every week.



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

Ascension-St. Edmund, Oak Park, IL

B 4C 01-4030

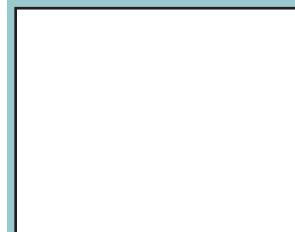
Rental Tools & Equipment for Work & Play!

We Rent Most Everything!  
For All Your Equipment & Party Rental Needs  
Serving the Community Since 1968  
See Our Product Listing Online

info@aarentalcenter.net  
www.aarentalcenter.net  
30 N. 9th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160  
(708) 343-8110

**NUZZO SEWER & PLUMBING INC.**  
708-456-7300 Power Rodding 773-625-6280  
All Sewer & Plumbing Repairs & Installation  
Specializing in Flood Control • Correcting Low Water Pressure  
Video Sewer & Locating Service  
[www.nuzzoplumbing.com](http://www.nuzzoplumbing.com)

**JM HOME SERVICE**  
Carpentry • Remodeling • Repairs  
**Big or Small – We do it all!**  
Joe Mayerhofer, Owner  
**708-601-8185** [www.fixitjoe.com](http://www.fixitjoe.com)



**HOUSE of HEAT**  
■ HEATING ■ COOLING  
708 848-3291  
336 Harrison St., Oak Park  
[www.HouseofHeat.com](http://www.HouseofHeat.com)

**PONZIO DENTAL**  
Ponzie Dental  
7053 W North Avenue Suite 2  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
**(708) 452-8100**  
[wwwewelcomecowards.com](http://wwwewelcomecowards.com)

**SHORT STAFFED?**  
Place an ad here to find  
new local talent for  
your business.  
  
**CALL**  
**800-950-9952**

**WESTGATE FLOWER AND PLANT SHOP**  
Sensitivity to the Ascension Tradition . . . Wedding Specialists  
  
841 S. Oak Park Ave.  
**708-386-0072**  
[westgateflowers.com](http://westgateflowers.com)

**Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!** 

**\$99**  
Installation\*

\*Does not include cost of material. Expires 10/31/22.

**Receive a \$100 Visa gift card with  
your FREE in-home estimate**

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$100 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$100. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one offer per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for new customers. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be accompanied by a life partner, both contributing persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies, their immediate family members, and persons who have purchased from Company or in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the participation form. No cash value, no cash back, no expiration date or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 10/31/22.

**• LeafGuard®  
is guaranteed never to  
clog or we'll clean it for  
FREE\***

• Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves,  
pine needles, and debris

**• Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean  
clogged gutters**

**• Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy  
attachment**

**Call today  
for your  
FREE  
estimate  
and in-home  
demonstration**

**CALL NOW**  
**708-462-6373**



**Anthony's**  
**HEATING & COOLING INC.**

**Winter Special -  
\$79.95**

**Furnace or Central Air**

16 pt. Clean & Tune

**NEW CENTRAL AIR  
Starting at \$2,895!**

**Senior/Veteran Discounts**

24 Hour Service

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS  
ACCEPTED



**773-237-5724**

**Ed the Plumber  
Ed the Carpenter**  
**630.663.1444**  
Best Work • Best Rates  
**PARISHIONER DISCOUNT**



- Beautifully Appointed Guest Rooms & Suites
- Meeting/Banquet Facilities
- Group Discounts

**(708) 848-5000**

1110 Pleasant St. • Oak Park, IL 60302

 **beyond  
properties**

*Your Local REALTOR®  
and Parishioner*



**Karen Baldwin**  
Broker Associate

708-288-1995 [www.beyondpropertiesrealty.com](http://www.beyondpropertiesrealty.com)

**IF YOU LIVE ALONE**

**MDMedAlert!™** STARTING AT **\$19.95** mo.

- ✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire
- ✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert

**CALL NOW! 800.809.3570**

[md-medalert.com](http://md-medalert.com)



  
**FREE  
AD  
DESIGN**  
with  
purchase  
of this  
space

**CALL**  
**800-950-9952**

**catholicmatch®  
Illinois**



[CatholicMatch.com/IL](http://CatholicMatch.com/IL)

**ZIMMERMAN-HARNETT  
FUNERAL HOME**  
EST. 1905

Serving the Ascension &  
St. Edmund Community  
**Since 1905**

*Traditional Funeral,  
Cremation, Pre-Need  
& Memorial Services*

**708.366.2200**

7319 Madison Street  
Forest Park, IL 60130  
[zimmermanharnett@att.com](mailto:zimmermanharnett@att.com)

Family Owned and Operated  
Kevin Harnett | Owner & Director



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • [www.4ipi.com](http://www.4ipi.com)

Ascension-St. Edmund, Oak Park, IL

A 4C 01-4030