

# Ascension and St. Edmund Parish

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025

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:  
[catholiccommunitiesof oakpark.org](http://catholiccommunitiesof oakpark.org)  
and click on Mass Times.



## Father Carl's Corner

With the return of our school children on three of our campus sites and the sounds of their chatter and excitement in the air all around, I could not help but think of these words of Jesus, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to these." Matthew 19:14

In this passage, however, the disciples wanted to push the children aside, thinking that Jesus must have more important things to do. But Jesus turns their thinking upside down. He tells them, and us, that the kingdom belongs to those with the openness, trust, and simplicity of children. My belief is that this is an important message for us all to consider as we see more children in and around the parish.

In 2025, that message is urgent as childhood today is often hurried, and kids today face pressure from technology, violence, and fear that can rob them of innocence too soon. Jesus' words remind us that protecting, valuing, and learning from children is not optional – it is central to the Gospel.

It is also about us; Jesus calls us to recover a childlike spirit within ourselves – faith that trusts, hope that looks forward, and love that is freely given.

Here is a step that we can take this week; choose one moment to really listen to a child or young person – at home, in school, in our parish. Ask about their hopes, worries, or dreams, and let their voices teach you. We all know that children can often try our patience but let us remember, especially as we welcome families at Mass, in welcoming them, we welcome Christ Himself.

Speaking of school ... learning ... Tom McGrath, a veteran Catholic publisher and author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids*, I recently read something he wrote on life lessons. A guy in his men's group meets any new challenge in his life by asking, "where is the lesson to be learned here?" He will say this when things go poorly at work, when he struggles with members of his family, or even when something tragic happens. There are times he has said, "I just don't want any more life lessons," but they continue to come. The question is, what will we make of them? For example, if someone slanders you, the lesson may be that it is more important to be convinced on the inside that you are worthy than rely on the opinions of others.

So, when life's trials, difficulties, and disappointments come your way, ask yourself, "Where's the lesson?"

Have a blessed week ahead.

With you a Christian, For you a priest.

*Rev. Carl Morello*

Fr. Carl Morello  
Pastor



### ***Give Us This Day resource for daily prayer***

***Give Us This Day*** is a monthly publication centered on the Word of God. Drawing inspiration from a multitude of voices, it provides a relevant and trustworthy understanding of Scripture. This daily resource provides the readings for Mass for each weekday and Sunday for the month. Whether you have five minutes or a half hour, ***Give Us This Day*** supports your desire to pray with:

- Daily inspiration from the lives of saintly witnesses
- Insightful, relevant reflections on Scripture
- Simplified daily prayer for morning and evening

For a number of years, we have been ordering a group

parish subscription which allows for parishioners to receive of a group subscription discount.

The annual subscription cost for a year is \$29. We currently have over fifty parishioners who subscribe! A **large print edition** is also available at \$60 for the year (we do not receive a group discount.)

Now is the time to subscribe. If you are interested in this resource, subscription information sheets are available at the ***Give Us This Day*** box on the table near the entrance to the sacristy (southwest courtyard side door entrance to church.)

## Parish News

**Traditional Religious Education Parent Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 24th**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Ascension School Pine Room**  
**(Lower Level of School)**

Please come to hear all about "Finding God, Our Response to God's Gifts" curriculum, meet other families and your children's catechist. Books and the children's folders will be available with class room assignments. There should be time for questions and open discussions.

### 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 sign-up for a Baptism Preparation Class. I

look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming sessions: **Saturday, September 13, 2025 and Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 2:30pm** at St. Edmund McGivern Center.

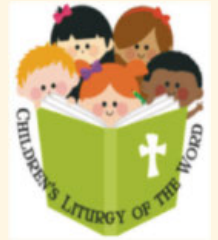
To register, please email Diane Lawrence:  
[d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com)  
(708) 406-2709  
Diane Lawrence  
Coordinator of Parish Ministries

**50+ Parish Social Club**  
**Next meeting:**  
**Wednesday, August 27,**  
**2:00PM**  
**St. Edmund Murphy Hall**



We'll meet on Wednesday, August 27, at 2:00 PM in St. Edmund's Murphy Hall. Join us for social time and to discuss future events. For more information on the 50+ Social Club, email us at [ase50plus.social.club@gmail.com](mailto:ase50plus.social.club@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

**Join Us on Sunday, August 24, 2025**  
**Listening to God's Word with Children**  
**Ascension Church**  
**10:30am Mass**



Some parents read the weekend scriptures to their children throughout the week. You can find simple versions of the readings from the Children's Lectionary at <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/> If you want to talk to your child about the readings, try starting a discussion by asking a question like the one below. You might be surprised by the answers.

"The words of Jesus in this Gospel are very difficult. It says Jesus wants us to follow him even when it is hard for us. We shouldn't just take the easy way. When we are at Mass or learning about Jesus we have to remember to put our faith into action. How can you do that this week, even if it is hard?"

For additional information contact:  
Laura Kelley: [lkelley@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:lkelley@spiritandlightcenter.org)  
or JaneAnne Campbell:  
[ja.campbell@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:ja.campbell@ascensionoakpark.com)

### Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist: A Ministry of Presence

Consider serving as a liturgical minister at Sunday Mass. We are currently very much in need of new ministers to serve as lectors and Minister of Holy Communion.

We have two scheduled fall dates and look forward to hearing from you! Formation and training for NEW Lectors and Eucharistic ministers will be held **Saturday, September 27 at 10:00 AM** at Ascension.

We need your response in advance to prepare training materials. The session will be held if 6-10 people register. Another session will be held Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 PM at St. Edmund. All CURRENT and experienced Lectors and Eucharistic ministers should plan to attend our Fall Ongoing Formation Ministry Night on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 PM at Ascension.

Contact JaneAnne Campbell at 708-434-1533.  
Questions? Feel free to contact David Anderson at [d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com).



## Parish News

### Volunteers needed to sustain our monthly Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé

Praying ecumenically is about joining in prayer with baptized Christians from every tradition.

Ecumenical prayer is about praying, and singing for unity, communion, and healing for all that is broken and for all that divides our world. Our monthly prayer service is modeled after the daily prayer of the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé in France.



Our monthly first Friday *Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé* will be entering its 34<sup>th</sup> year in October. While in-person attendance is lower than our pre-Covid numbers, we are seeing more people return each month with typically close to 300 in person and 100–200 praying via live-stream.

Volunteers are always welcome to assist with this monthly ecumenical outreach.

#### Set-up team

We are currently looking for folks of all ages to volunteer to assist with our monthly prayer. The set-up team gathers at 6:15 PM to set up the prayer area around the altar. Volunteers can help each month or every other month, depending upon your availability.

#### Welcome and Hospitality team

The welcome team gathers shortly before 7:00 PM and greet all who come to the prayer and distribute song sheets and candles.

#### Various ministers

Additionally, we are always looking for lectors of all ages to proclaim the readings in English and other languages, other leaders of prayer, and for additional singers and instrumentalists to join the music team.

If you haven't experienced the monthly prayer as it is celebrated at Ascension Church, I encourage you to give it a try! If you have been away for a while, please come back and pray with us! Our next first Friday prayer is on **September 5, at 7:30 PM.**

If you have time to occasionally assist with some aspect of the monthly prayer, email me at [d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com).

David Anderson  
Director of Pastoral Music and Liturgy

### *Ascension and St. Edmund Music Ministry News 2025-2026*

#### *SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD!*

Consider sharing your musical gifts with the music ministry of our parish! All adult choirs are open to singers, high school age and older. We have three adult choirs and one children's choir in the parish. All new potential adult members are asked to contact **David Anderson** at the Music office, 708-434-1535, or email him at [d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.anderson@ascensionoakpark.com). **Robert Valle** is the new director of the St. Edmund Choir. Contact Robert at [r.valle@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:r.valle@ascensionoakpark.com).

**The Ascension Schola** rehearses two Tuesdays each month and sings at the 8:00am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Our first rehearsal is Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 - 8:30pm. New members in all voice parts are welcome!

**The Ascension Choir** rehearses three–four Wednesday evenings each month. We sing at the 10:30am Mass on all but the first Sunday of each month. Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 10, from 7:00 - 8:45pm. New members in all voice parts are welcome!

**The St. Edmund Choir** rehearses three Wednesday evenings in Murphy Hall at St. Edmund and sings at the Saturday 5:00pm Mass three times each month. Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 10, from 7:00 - 8:30pm. New members in all voice parts are welcome!

**The Choristers** (our parish choir for children and youth) are for young people in grades 3-8. Choristers rehearse once each week on Tuesdays or Wednesdays depending on grade level. Young people in grades 6-8 will practice on Tuesdays from 3:05 - 4:00pm. Young people in grades 3 - 5 will practice on Wednesdays 3:05 - 4:00pm. Our first practices of the year are Tuesday, Sept. 9, (grades 6 - 8) and Wednesday, September 10, (grades 3 - 5) from 3:05 - 4:00pm in church. A snack is served at 3:05pm. Contact Mr. Anderson if you have any questions. Permission slips will be available through both the School and Religious Ed programs. Choristers normally (with several exceptions) sing once a month at the 10:30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

For additional information on our choirs and for information on becoming a cantor or instrumentalist, please see our website <https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/asc-se-music-ministry>

## Parish News

### Faith and Film Ministry Presents *SIGHT*

Please come and join the Faith and Film Ministry on **September 13 at 6:15 in Murphy Hall** to view a biographical drama film named "Sight". We will follow the journey of Ming Wang, a Chinese immigrant who became a renowned eye surgeon in the United States. He meets an orphan girl named Kajal, from India, who is in the care of nuns who travel with her to the United States in hopes of restoring her vision after surviving devastating abuse.

This story is true and based on real lives. It is an American immigrant story that acknowledges the trauma of fleeing to a new country and how that may follow a person throughout their life. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the movies.



### Ascension and St. Edmund Book Club

Join us on **Tuesday, September 16** as we discuss *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa

The book club always meets on the **3rd Tuesday of the month in Murphy Hall. We start at 6:00pm with dinner and end by 8:00.**



Come join us...we have a great group of people. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Mari: [marithans@comcast.net](mailto:marithans@comcast.net).

**BEER TENT**

**LIVE MUSIC 6:30-10PM**

**ASCENSION OKTOBER FEST**

**LIVE GERMAN MUSIC ALPINE THUNDER**

**FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES**  
MAGICIANS  
BALLOON ARTISTS  
LEGACY SPORTS  
FACE PAINTING

**GERMAN FOOD**

**5PM MASS**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
ASCENSION &  
ST. EDMUND PARISH

**SEPTEMBER 13TH | 2-10PM**

**ASCENSION CATHOLIC CHURCH | 808 S EAST AVE, OAK PARK**

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS



## Parish & Community News

### Community Gardens

The Susan Fleming Gardeners gather on **Tuesday around 5:30 PM** to harvest, weed, water and accept donations of produce for St. Simon of Cyrene (formerly St. Martin's) Food Pantry. Please consider



stopping by to help with these tasks and if possible bring some produce to donate.

All the heat and rain of the past week literally bore fruit Tuesday evening with the largest total of the year: 292 pounds (garden harvest 117 and donations 175)! It's our best of the year so far. Year to date we are at 1,411 pounds.



eggplant, cucumbers and the beginning of a cantaloupe. New plantings of salad greens are in the sprouting stage.

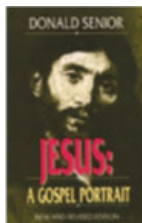
At the Third Day Garden, Wednesday's harvest brought the garden an abundance of tomatoes, some



### Women's Spirituality Group September 11 at 7:00pm Ascension Parish Center

The Women's Spirituality Group gathers women in all stages of life, to strengthen our connection to our God by connecting with each other through reading, prayer and reflection. Last year, we read *Seven Thousand Ways to Listen: Staying Close to What is Sacred* by Mark Nepo.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month from September through May to discuss part of the book, socialize, and pray. We will be reading 2 books this year. For most of the year, we'll be reading *Jesus: A Gospel Portrait* by Donald Senior. During Lent, we'll be reading *The Women of the Passion* by Kathleen Murphy.



### Oak Park-River Forest Gangster Tour September 28 - 11:00 am



Take a 2.5 hour bus tour, leaving from FitzGerald's (6615 Roosevelt Rd, Berwyn), to learn about gangster history in Oak Park and River Forest. John Binder, organized crime historian and author of *The Chicago Outfit* and *Al Capone's Beer Wars*, is the guide. This exterior tour visits 13 houses which were once owned by major Chicago hoodlums, including Tony Accardo, Paul Ricca, Sam Giancana, "Tough Tony" Capezio, and "Machine Gun" Jack McGurn. John will discuss the former owners' careers, the family's time there, the interesting features of each home (10 of which he has been in), including secret tunnels and hidden rooms, and answer questions.

**Tickets are \$38.16 for Seniors. You may purchase your ticket at <https://fareharbor.com/chitowngangstertours/items/118029/>.**

Click on **Book Now**, then choose the 11 am tour on September 28.

Please email:

[ase50plus.social.club@gmail.com](mailto:ase50plus.social.club@gmail.com) to let us know you're participating.

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!

Tuesday, 6-8 PM, 9/16/2025 to 12/6/2025  
St. Giles Campus, McDonough Hall  
1101 Columbian Ave., Oak Park  
708/223-4912  
[griefshare@stgilesparish.org](mailto:griefshare@stgilesparish.org)

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

## Parish News



**SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER  
4, 7:30 P.M.  
CONCERT FOR  
CREATION**

**Commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the Canticle  
of Creatures by Francis of  
Assisi and the 150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Franciscan**

**Presence at St. Peter's Church**

**Chorus and Orchestra perform works to honor  
God's creation, including the U.S. Premiere of  
the new Canticle of Creatures by Fr. Robert M.  
Hutmacher, o.f.m.**

**THIS BIN IS  
LEAVING 8/31!**

We have collected 1000 pounds and will  
get a bench soon! We will continue  
collecting at St. Giles to help other  
Interfaith Green Network members get a  
bench.



**YOU CAN TAKE YOUR  
BAGS TO ST. GILES TO  
HELP.**

They can always be recycled at  
**JEWEL or FRESH THYME**  
but won't count toward a bench.

**TRANSCEND WHAT YOU THINK IS POSSIBLE**



### **LATE: a Love Story**

**Saturday, September 13**

9am-12pm • Doors open @8:30am

St. Edmund Church • 188 S Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302

Performed by Rachelle Zola a year after her 825-mile Pilgrimage from Chicago to Montgomery.  
*LATE: A Love Story* is not just a performance – it's a raw and honest exploration of truths discovered  
late in life, weaving together narratives of love, loss and healing.

Rachelle's powerful performance will leave you captivated, while her journey towards understanding  
and reconciliation will prompt you to reconsider the world around you. Join us in creating a world where  
'equity for all' is honored, lived by and celebrated. **Connect with the community at [late.love](http://late.love).**



Featured In



**REGISTER WITH QR CODE OR GO TO [LATE.LOVE](http://late.love)**



## Community News

### MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: Resettling of Migrant Families Update

We have been slowing the resettling of families for a few weeks primarily because the future is so unknown.



Questions include:

- How will new families and our current families respond to the changes in our immigration system?
- How do we handle a lease if the family is deported or decides to self-deport?
- How do we continue to maintain a good relationship with our landlords?
- Several of our families are coming to the end of their 1-year lease, although our financial support is ending, how can we continue to support them?

Also, our fundraising has slowed and our mentors have grown weary.

For the families coming to the end of the 1-year lease, many are looking for less expensive apartments. That often means farther from Oak Park, unfamiliar neighborhoods, and changes of schools for the children. **We could use your help in finding apartments.** Many of them have work permits and could apply for an apartment on their own. If you have any suggestions on local available apartments, please contact us at the email address listed below.

The need for job skills, mastery of the English language and mental health services are services that are needed. And of course the support of the Legal Defense Fund is needed as they are going to court to defend their asylum applications.

Pivoting has been our hallmark in the Migrant Ministry. Services in the St. Edmund school building will end on Oct 8 and will move to another space. The last day for donations will be Monday, Sept 15.

You can also help by paying for all or part of the rent for a year, or by mentoring a family To donate online through GiveCentral use the link:

<https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/580/event/38694>

OR send donations to Ascension and St. Edmund Parish, 808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304. Include a note that the

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025  
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)

### WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

[www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org](http://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org)

The new website launched on July 1 and replaces the two previous websites. Each legacy website has a landing page that will notify visitors of the change.

The new website is a work-in-progress as we continue to add content and updates.

As you begin to explore the new website, please share your feedback with us. We hope the website reflects the vibrant, welcoming spirit of our Catholic community.



## Spirit and Light News

### Spirit and Light - Religious Education

We're excited to announce that registration is now open! Sessions begin the week of September 7! For more information about our programs and calendars, please visit our website.

<https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/religious-education>

### How to receive an Electronic Registration Form

For families who had a child registered in our program during the 2025-2026 school year - On **August 6, 2025**, we sent via email an electronic registration form to all families through our Flocknote platform from our "Spirit and Light" Religious Education Office. If you did not receive an email on August 6, please contact us at [sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org).

New families to the program- please click on the link and follow the prompts -

<https://re.stgilesparish.org/PasswordCreationNewFamily.php>

We're excited to see familiar faces and new ones this Fall!

Thank you,

The Faith Formation Team

Email - [sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligious@spiritandlightcenter.org)



### OCIA Companion Sponsor

A Companion Sponsor for OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a parishioner who would like to accompany a person who is preparing to receive sacraments. While the individual will have a formal sponsor that they choose, a Companion Sponsor plays a vital role in helping the person understand what it means to live as a Catholic and integrating the individual into the life of the Catholic community.

A Companion Sponsor is expected to connect with the person 1-2 times monthly. Activities may include (but aren't limited to) the following:

- Attend mass together
- Sharing a meal
- Go to speakers or other events in the Oak Park Catholic parishes
- Go to a Catholic baptism, funeral, or wedding
- Take a walk
- Talk about faith
- Participate in volunteer service

Companion Sponsors will receive training prior to being paired with an individual and will continue to be supported while they work with a person.

For more information on becoming a Companion Sponsor contact either Diane Lawrence- [d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:d.lawrence@ascensionoakpark.com) or Marci Madary - [mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mmadary@spiritandlightcenter.org)



## Community News



### Join The Neighborhood Bridge

#### Pantry Volunteers Needed

We are launching a volunteer-staffed Essentials Pantry in the former rectory at St. Catherine-St. Lucy in mid-August. Families from our 5 partner schools in Austin will be able to receive household necessities, such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, and baby products. Volunteers are needed to receive, stock, and deliver items to the schools. The commitment is fewer than 4 hours per week. To volunteer, contact Pantry Coordinator Christine Wedekind at [christine.wedekind@aol.com](mailto:christine.wedekind@aol.com).

#### Become an Advocate

We are also 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. To learn more, we invite you to attend our Bridge Breakfast on September 6 or contact Jeanne Gallo at [jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org](mailto:jeanne.gallo@theneighborhoodbridge.org)

#### You're Invited: Bridge Breakfast on September 6

Join us at our next Bridge Breakfast on Saturday, September 6 at 8:30 am in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall. There you'll learn more about our programs and how you can get involved. Sign up at [theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer](http://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer)

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 at [www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/the-neighborhood-bridge](http://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/the-neighborhood-bridge).



Holy Spirit  
**ACTIVATE**

High School Confirmation  
Registration is Open!



Scan me!

For high school confirmation information, contact Cooky Perez-Eraci, [mperezeraci@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:mperezeraci@spiritandlightcenter.org) or 708-370-3674

#### Congratulations to Couples Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled to be held Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. The Mass will be celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral, [735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654](http://735NorthStateStreetChicagoIL60654).

Please register by September 8, 2025. For information and to register:

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/es/events/golden-wedding>



# BACK TO SCHOOL



## 2025 Fun Facts

- ★ 4 New Faculty Members
- ★ 22 New Families
- ★ 490 combined years of service among our Ascension Faculty!



**Welcome to Our New Ascension Teachers!**



## Parish Meetings and Staff Directory

<b>Sunday, August 24</b>		
Extending the Word	ASC Dining Room	9:00-11:00am
Parent TRE (Traditional Religious Education) Meeting	Pine Room	9:30am
Fr. Carl on St. Edmund School Building	Murphy Hall	10:15am
Children's Liturgy of the Word	ASC	10:30am
<b>Monday, August 25</b>		
H+O+M+E	Murphy Hall	7:00-8:30pm
<b>Tuesday, August 26</b>		
Centering Prayer	STE North transept	4:00-4:45pm
<b>Wednesday, August 27</b>		
Wedding Consultation Meeting	Murphy Hall	6:00-7:00pm
<b>Thursday, August 28</b>		
Lifelong Learning	ASC Dining Room	7:00-8:30pm
<b>Saturday, August 30</b>		
Baptism	STE	6:00pm
End Gun Violence Vigil	STE north transept	6:00-6:30pm
<b>Sunday, August 31</b>		
Extending the Word	ASC Dining Room	9:00-11:00am
Baptism	ASC	11:30am



**MISERICORDIA**  
**HEART OF MERCY**

**43rd Annual Misericordia Family Fest**  
**Sunday, September 7, 2025**  
**11:00am-6:00pm**  
**6300 N. Ridge**  
**Chicago, IL**

The annual family fest offers food & drink, live entertainment, children's games, shopping and more for the whole family! Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.misericordia.org](http://www.misericordia.org) or call 773-273-2768.

## Ascension and St. Edmund Parish

### Ascension Campus

808 S. East Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304  
(708) 848-2703

<https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/>

### Parish Center Summer Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
9am-5pm  
Friday 9am-12pm

### St. Edmund Campus

188 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 848-4417

<https://www.catholiccommunitiesofoakpark.org/>

### McGivern Center Summer Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm  
Wednesday 1pm-5pm

**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

**Business Manager,** Christine O'Connor 708-434-1546

**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

**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 [sreligiously@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligiously@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 Smythe

[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](http://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

	Week of Sunday, August 17th	Year To Date 7/1/25-8/17/2025
Actual	\$ 14,373	\$ 148,157
Budget	20,776	142,848
Variance	\$ (6,403)	\$ 5,309

### Parish Budget vs. Actual through June 30, 2025

	Actual	Budget	O/(U) Budget
Income	\$ 1,807,089 *	\$ 1,766,450 *	\$ 40,639
Expenses	1,957,421 *	1,881,310 *	76,111
Net Income	\$ (150,332) *	\$ (114,860) *	\$ (35,472)

\* Amounts include Spirit and Light programs.

### Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/  
Lk 13:22-30  
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt  
23:13-22  
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26  
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27  
-32  
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51  
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk  
6:17-29  
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/  
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

## Wedding Banns

II Shannon Kearns & Nicholas Pugsek  
II Marilyn Meza & Henry Barrera  
III Gabriella Valentini & Salvatore Romano

### Mass Attendance for the weekend of August 16 and 17 - 1160

### 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. Each week there is a summary of collections vs. budget in the bulletin.

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

Please consider remembering your parish in your will and estate plan: "the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a Corporation Sole, for the use and good of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish, Oak Park, Illinois."

### Thank you for supporting your parish community!

### 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.

## 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 caregivers, 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.

**Joseph Battisto**  
**Apollo Bertufo**  
**Maggie Biewala**  
**Mike Clarke**  
**Sandra Dominick**  
**Turida Dudley**  
**Angie Earle**  
**Bob Fitzmaurice**  
**Olivia Navarro de Galeno**  
**Sr. Regina Gallo**  
**Phil Gazda**  
**Dale Glanzman**

**Cathy Hastings**  
**Catherine Jacobs**  
**Maureen Kamali**  
**Ann LaGuardia**  
**Fred Pacer**  
**Kelly Rizzo**  
**Jennifer Schottler**  
**Ellen Skipper**  
**Alex Stevic**  
**Catie Sullivan**  
**Tom Walsh**  
**Carole Woods**

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

**Eugene McCormack**  
**Jerome Ratliff**

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

## Presider Schedule

August 23,	5:00pm (STE)	Fr. Neil Fackler
August 24,	8:00am (ASC)	Fr. Rex Pillai
August 24,	9:15am (STE)	Fr. Larry Dowling
August 24,	10:30am (ASC)	Fr. Bob Hutmacher, ofm
August 24,	5:00pm (STE)	Fr. Richard Peddicord
August 30,	5:00pm (STE)	Fr. Carl Morello
August 31,	8:00am (ASC)	Fr. Bob Hutmacher, ofm
August 31,	9:15am (STE)	Fr. Neil Fackler
August 31,	10:30am (ASC)	Fr. Rex Pillai
August 31,	5:00pm (STE)	Fr. Carl Morello

## Masses for the Week

	<b>SATURDAY - August 23</b>
5:00 STE	✠Carol Loomis ✠David F. Loomis Nancy and Dan Schmidt (35th Wedding Anniversary)
	<b>SUNDAY - August 24</b>
8:00 ASC	All Parishioners & Benefactors of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
9:15 STE	✠John “Jack” Fisher ✠Mary and Gino DiVito ✠Isagani Joya
10:30 ASC	✠Zak/Moran Families ✠Eddie Sitzman ✠Mark Fleishman
5:00 STE	Catholic Communities of Oak Park and Neighbors
	<b>MONDAY - August 25</b>
8:30 STE	✠Izabella Youngmayer ✠Cora Tan
	<b>TUESDAY - August 26</b>
8:30 ASC	✠Tom Carraher ✠Dominic Rinaudo, Mary T. Waadt - Living Intention 100th Birthday
	<b>WEDNESDAY - August 27</b>
8:30 ASC	✠Deceased Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
	<b>THURSDAY - August 28</b>
8:30 ASC	✠Maria and Levan Nguyen
	<b>FRIDAY - August 29</b>
8:30 ASC*	✠Clinton Sanders
	<b>SATURDAY - August 30</b>
3:00 STE	<i>Nup: Gabriella Valentini &amp; Salvatore Romano</i>
5:00 STE	✠Dorothy Honek ✠Maria Ibarra
	<b>SUNDAY - August 31</b>
8:00 ASC	All Parishioners & Benefactors of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
9:15 STE	✠Deceased Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
10:30 ASC	✠Edward Ozga ✠Zak/Moran Families ✠Eddie Sitzman
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
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

833-287-3502



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

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

**AD CREATOR STUDIO**



4lpi.com/adcreator



**Bob Gamboney & Sons**  
**Funeral Directors**

Associated with  
Peterson-Bassi Chapels

Traditional Funerals  
& Cremations  
Services Available

**773.637.4441**

**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.

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Place Your Ad Here  
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME**  
**Alicia White**

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

**SUPPORT  
OUR  
ADVERTISERS!**

**DOES YOUR NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION NEED  
A NEWSLETTER?**

Engaging, ad-supported  
print and digital  
newsletters to reach  
your community.

Visit [lpicomunities.com](http://lpicomunities.com)

**OUR COMMUNITY  
NEWSLET**  
OCTOBER EDITION



Scan to  
contact us!

# 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**



**Summer 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

# JM HOME SERVICE

Carpentry • Remodeling • Repairs

*Big or Small - We do it all!*

Joe Mayerhofer, Owner

**708-601-8185 www.fixitjoe.com**

# GUITAR, PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

Reasonable Rates - \$25 per hour

**CALL TODAY!**

**312 241-9606**

Juan Lopez

Bilingual Instructor



SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

Breaking New Ground in Senior Living™

703 Madison St.  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
**708-665-3775**  
**americanhouse.com**

**EXPERIENCED WOMAN CAREGIVER**  
**Looking for work**  
Seeking Live-in, Come & Go,  
or Weekend Position. Ref. & Car  
**CALL 224-415-4628**

**HOUSE of HEAT**  
**HEATING & COOLING**  
**708 848-3291**  
336 Harrison St., Oak Park  
**www.HouseofHeat.com**



**Ponzio Dental**

7053 W North Avenue Suite 2  
Oak Park, IL 60302

**(708) 452-8100**

**wewelcometowards.com**

# SHORT STAFFED?

Place an ad here to find  
new local talent for  
your business.



**CALL 800-950-9952**

# State Farm

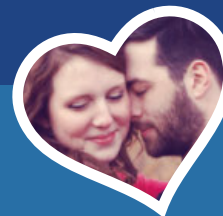


Adam Doe, Agent  
177 S. Oak Park Ave  
708-665-3921

**adam.doe.evys@statefarm.com**

There when things go wrong.  
Here to help life go right.

# catholicmatch® Illinois



**CatholicMatch.com/IL**

# WESTGATE FLOWER AND PLANT SHOP

Sensitivity to the Ascension Tradition . . . Wedding Specialists



**841 S. Oak Park Ave.**

**708-386-0072**

**westgateflowers.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**



# Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!



**\$99 Installation\***

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

\*Does not include cost of material. 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

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



**CALL NOW 708-462-6373**

**LeafGuard**  
Get it. And forget it.™

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

# WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • **www.4lpi.com**

Ascension-St. Edmund, Oak Park, IL A 4C 01-4030