

# Ascension and St. Edmund Parish

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31, 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.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame,  
the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.  
For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

- Lk 14:13-14

## Father Carl's Corner

As we begin a new season of school, choir, Religious Education, and many of our other church activities that bring us together to build community and unity in our parishes, let us remember WORDS can BUILD - or BREAK - BRIDGES.

“The way we communicate is of fundamental importance.” These are the words of Pope Leo who makes this point, that our words can build up or tear down, open hearts or shut them tight. In a noisy world, choosing how we speak is one of the most important choices we can make. Manners matter. Real communication does not bulldoze others. It does not chase agreement at all costs. It doesn't feed off competition. A healthy conversation makes space for different viewpoints while still seeking the truth. Winning an argument might feel good, but it rarely changes hearts. And changing hearts is the point.



Speak the truth - with love. Truth isn't always popular. Sometimes it is hard. But truth, spoken in love, loses its offensive power. As Pope Leo put it, we must never separate “the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it.” This is especially vital when carrying out spiritual works of mercy like counseling the doubtful, instructing one in faith or admonishing one who has hurt or offended us. The goal isn't just to be right, it to bring people closer to God, the ultimate Truth we live by.

Ditch the stereotypes. People don't fit neatly into boxes. When we lean on lazy labels, we lose the chance to see each other clearly - and only deepen divisions. As Pope Leo said, “Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment ... let us disarm word, and we will help disarm the world. When we try to put some of these guidelines into practice in our community and parish life, we bring about a better sense of unity and peace. If we cannot find that here, how can we have hope for this to be a reality in the world?”

Let's keep this in mind as life ramps up in the parish.

Something to remember is why we bless ourselves with Holy Water often coming in and out of Church. A curious adult asking about our Catholic faith and rituals recently asked me this question after Mass one morning. The practice of blessing oneself with holy water harkens back to the washing rituals of the Old Testament Jews, who had to bathe before entering the temple. Today when we bless ourselves with Holy Water coming in and out of Church, it recalls our own Baptism. It was at our Baptism that our souls were washed clean of original sin, and we were officially made members of the Church. Having received the gift of faith we have become temples of the Holy Spirit, places where God dwells. In blessing ourselves we renew our baptismal promise. If you are not in the habit of doing so, bless yourself with holy water and be reminded of this beautiful ritual and tradition.

There are many things happening in our parishes and within the community. Please be sure to check our new website for details as well as the bulletin and e-News. Have a great week ahead and a blessed and safe Labor Day weekend to all.

With you a Christian. For you, a Priest.

*Rev. Carl Morello*

Fr. Carl Morello, Pastor

**Office hours at the Ascension Parish Center are adjusting to support religious education on campus. The hours shown below will begin on Sunday, September 7th.**

### **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**

## Parish News

### 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.

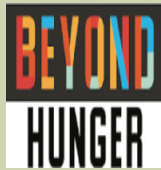
To register, please email Diane Lawrence:

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

### Diaper Collection Next Weekend September 6 and 7

The St. Edmund collection requests baby/children's diapers, baby wipes, adult diapers, adult undergarments and feminine pads. 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 Migrant Ministry and Beyond Hunger. Please deliver donations at Ascension Church to the southeast corner of the church (please do not leave diaper donations in the vestibule).



### 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.

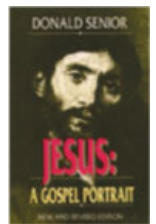
Sign up at: <https://www.catholiccommunitiesofaokpark.org/asc-se-liturgical-ministries>

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

### 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.

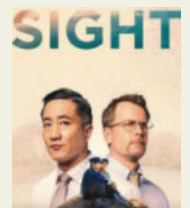
We meet on the second Thursday of the month from September through May to discuss part of the book, socialize, and pray. We will be reading 2 books this year. For most of the year, we'll be reading *Jesus: A Gospel Portrait* by Donald Senior. During Lent, we'll be reading *The Women of the Passion* by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



### Faith and Film Ministry Presents *SIGHT*

Please come and join the Faith and Film Ministry on **September 13 at 6:15 PM 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.





## Parish News

### Ascension and St. Edmund Parish Council Update

Two members of our PPC completed their terms of service on June 30, Graciela Maldonado and Josh Risley. We thank them for their thoughtful contributions to our group and their guidance in helping to make our parish even more vibrant and welcoming.

#### Contact Us

Please share any questions, concerns, or suggestions for our council by emailing us at [ASEPastoralCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ASEPastoralCouncil@gmail.com).

### 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

### 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>

**Cantors** assist with leading and animating the sung prayer of our community. Some musical reading ability is helpful along with a pleasant voice! Cantors rehearse individually and in small groups as needed. We are always looking for additional cantors. Contact David Anderson to set-up an audition/listening session. While many cantors sing in one of the parish choirs, this is not a requirement.



**BEER TENT**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**HOLY SMOKES!**  
7:00-10PM

**LIVE GERMAN MUSIC**  
**ALPINE THUNDER**  
3:30-4:30

**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**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



### Ascension Co-Ed Bowling League

The league begins on September 17 at Circle Lanes at 7:30pm. It runs through May 20th on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The cost is \$90 per

person. Please contact Matt Hammer for information and to register

[mhammer@wintrust.com](mailto:mhammer@wintrust.com) or 708-214-6002

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).



## Parish News

### Community Gardens

The Susan Fleming Gardeners gather on **Tuesday at 5:00 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.



Even as cooler temperatures seemed to indicate the approaching end of summer, gardeners and donors produced another huge harvest: 230 pounds (garden harvest 93.5 and donations 135.5)! Year to date we are at 1,641 pounds.

Ascension's Community Garden began in a parishioner's backyard over a decade ago and has grown to 14 raised beds. Over 34,000 pounds of harvested and donated produce has been provided to the food pantry of our sharing parish, St. Simon of Cyrene on Chicago's West Side. Contact John Owens, [owens708@comcast.net](mailto:owens708@comcast.net) to get involved.

The Third Day Garden at St. Edmund is two raised beds and pots of vegetables in the midst of native plants. It's tucked behind the church and during all seasons provides a restful meditation spot for the neighborhood. All of the produce goes to Beyond Hunger Food Pantry. For information about volunteering contact Michele Wheeler, [michelemwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:michelemwheeler@gmail.com).



# Open Gardens

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025  
11:00am - 1:00pm

Come visit us at our community congregational gardens where we grow fresh produce to help support our local food pantries. Ask us about our volunteer opportunities for supporting food pantries. Talk to our gardeners about growing vegetables and native plants.

Light Refreshments Served

## Garden Locations



Oak Park Temple  
B'nai Abraham Zion  
1235 N. Harlem, Oak Park, IL

Temple  
Har Zion  
1040 N. Harlem, River Forest, IL

Ascension and St. Edmund Parish  
Third Day Garden  
188 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL

Susan Fleming Garden  
815 S. East, Oak Park, IL

St. Catherine-St. Lucy, St. Giles Parish  
St. Giles Community Garden  
1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL

### 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.



## Parish & Community News

### MIGRANT MINISTRY UPDATE: BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

There's nothing like the smell of newly sharpened pencils, the perfect points of new crayons, and stiffness of new notebooks as children collect supplies for a new school year. And so it was for the migrant children who came to Centro San Edmundo recently for a Back-to-School Carnival organized by the North Berwyn Girl Scouts and the distribution of school supplies made possible by generous donors including Old St Pats and the First Congregational Church of LaGrange.



Children picked a backpack in their favorite color, and then augmented the basic school supplies already in the backpack with their specific needs according to their grade level. Then onto the carnival where the Girl Scouts had organized various floor games and distributed lots and lots of prizes. The children were very happy and the Scouts pleased with the immense success of the carnival, an activity they created and carried out as part of their Silver Award requirements, the highest award in Girl Scouts. Thank you, donors and Girl Scouts!

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. Until further notice, we will pause donations on Monday, Sept 15. Immigration and ESL will move across the street to Murphy Hall, and we are still seeking a location for the "free stores."

Our work would not be possible without the volunteers and your generous donations. Here is our updated [AMAZON WISH LIST](#) and QR code. **WE ARE NOW COLLECTING WINTER CLOTHING.** For more information, email [immigrantministry@gmail.com](mailto:immigrantministry@gmail.com).



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 donation is for the "Migrant Ministry". Thank you!

### 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.](#)



Featured In



REGISTER WITH QR CODE OR GO TO [LATELOVE](http://LATELOVE)

### 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)





# CONCERT FOR CREATION

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 4, 2025**

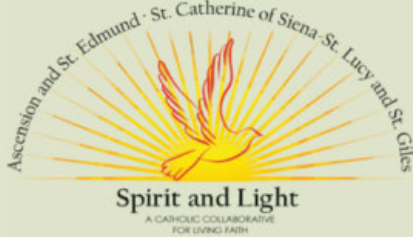
**ST. PETER'S CHURCH 7:30 P.M.**  
**110 WEST MADISON, CHICAGO, IL. 60602**

Chorus and orchestra including the U.S. premiere of  
*Il Cantico delle Creature* by Robert M. Hutmacher, OFM.

Tickets \$35 available at church office and the door October 4.



## 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 [sreligioused@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligioused@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 - [sreligioused@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligioused@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)



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

## Parish & 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)



Sunday  
September

14

8:30AM – 1:30PM



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

Any questions call  
1-800-7TO-GIVE

#### Ascension Church 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/4xe8a84e>

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



#### 43rd Annual Misericordia Family Fest

Sunday, September 7, 2025

11:00am-6:00pm

6300 N. Ridge  
Chicago, IL



MISERICORDIA  
HEART OF MERCY

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.



# LET'S RAISE THE DOUGH!



## EAT GOOD. GIVE BACK.

Billy Bricks will donate  
**20%** of each order (dine  
in, takeout, catering  
and delivery) to  
**Ascension School**



**ASCENSION**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**BILLY BRICKS OAK PARK**  
**128 N OAK PARK AVE**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**  
**11:00 AM – 9:00 PM**



### **BEFORE YOU GO:**

To have your order donated back to the organization, mention the fundraiser at the register, show this flyer, or write **"Ascension School Fundraiser"** in the Order Notes section before checking out your online order.



**@BILLYBRICKSHQ**



**OAKPARK@BILLYBRICKSHQ.COM**

## Parish Meetings and Staff Directory

<b>Sunday, August 31</b>		
Extending the Word	ASC Dining Room	9:00-11:00am
Baptism	STE	11:30am
<b>Monday, September 1</b>		
Labor Day	Parish Offices	CLOSED
<b>Tuesday, September 2</b>		
Faith Sharing	McGivern Center	1:30-3:00pm
Centering Prayer	STE North transept	4:00-4:45pm
New Marriage Mentors	ASC Rm. 315	6:30-7:45pm
CGS Catechist Training	Ascension Parish Center	7:-00-8:30pm
<b>Thursday, September 4</b>		
Spirit and Light Board Meeting	Murphy Hall Annex	7:00-9:00pm
Overcoming Racism	ASC Dining Room	7:00-8:30pm
<b>Friday, September 5</b>		
Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé	ASC	7:30-8:30pm
<b>Saturday, September 6</b>		
Contemplative Prayer	ZOOM	8:30-9:15am
CGS Parent Meeting	ASC Parish Center	10:00-11:30am
Diaper Collection	STE	Before Mass
<b>Sunday, September 7</b>		
Diaper Collection	ASC + STE	Before Masses
Extending the Word	ASC Dining Room	9:00-11:00am
Baptism	STE	10:30am
Baptism	ASC	11:30am

**Sick Calls:** If anyone at home would like a visit by a Minister of Care, contact the Parish Office or one of the Ministers of Care Coordinators: Susie Cahill, 708-925-1512 or Linda Dunne, 708-204-5578.

**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.

## 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

[fricarl@stgilesparish.org](mailto:fricarl@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 [sreligioused@spiritandlightcenter.org](mailto:sreligioused@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 24th	Year To Date 7/1/25-8/24/2025
Actual	\$ 25,072	\$ 173,314
Budget	20,776	163,624
Variance	\$ 4,296	\$ 9,690

### 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 31, 2025

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  
Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk  
4:16-30  
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37  
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44  
Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11  
Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39  
Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17  
(1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

## Wedding Banns

**I Faith Moreno & Daniel Castro**  
**III Shannon Kearns & Nicholas Pugsek**  
**III Marilyn Meza & Henry Barrera**

### Mass Attendance for the weekend of August 23 and 24 - 862

### 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  
Ginger Crisp  
Sandra Dominick  
Turida Dudley  
Angie Earle  
Bob Fitzmaurice  
Olivia Navarro de Galeno  
Sr. Regina Gallo  
Phil Gazda  
Dale Glanzman

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

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

*Roger Leonard  
Robert Schlacks  
Grace Tobin*

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

## Presider Schedule

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 30</b>
5:00 STE	†Deceased Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
	<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
	<b>MONDAY - September 1</b>
8:30 STE	Catholic Communities of Oak Park and Neighbors
	<b>TUESDAY - September 2</b>
8:30 ASC	†Janice R. Sewell †Valerie Sewell
	<b>WEDNESDAY - September 3</b>
8:30 ASC	†Deceased Parishioners of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
	<b>THURSDAY - September 4</b>
8:30 ASC	†Edward Waadt †Maria and Levan Nguyen
	<b>FRIDAY - September 5</b>
8:30 STE	Delia Nieblas (Living Intention) †Amanda Johannes
2:00 STE	<i>Nup: Marilyn Meza &amp; Henry Barrera</i>
	<b>SATURDAY - September 6</b>
1:30 STE	<i>Nup: Shannon Kearns &amp; Nicholas Pugese</i>
5:00 STE	†Bill Marshall †Manus Keane
	<b>SUNDAY - September 7</b>
8:00 ASC	All Parishioners & Benefactors of Ascension and St. Edmund Parish
9:15 STE	†Homi Patel
10:30 ASC	† Virginia Meyers †Jerome Daniel Harrison, Sr.
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

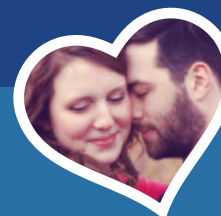
177 S. Oak Park Ave

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.

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



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

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



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

# 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