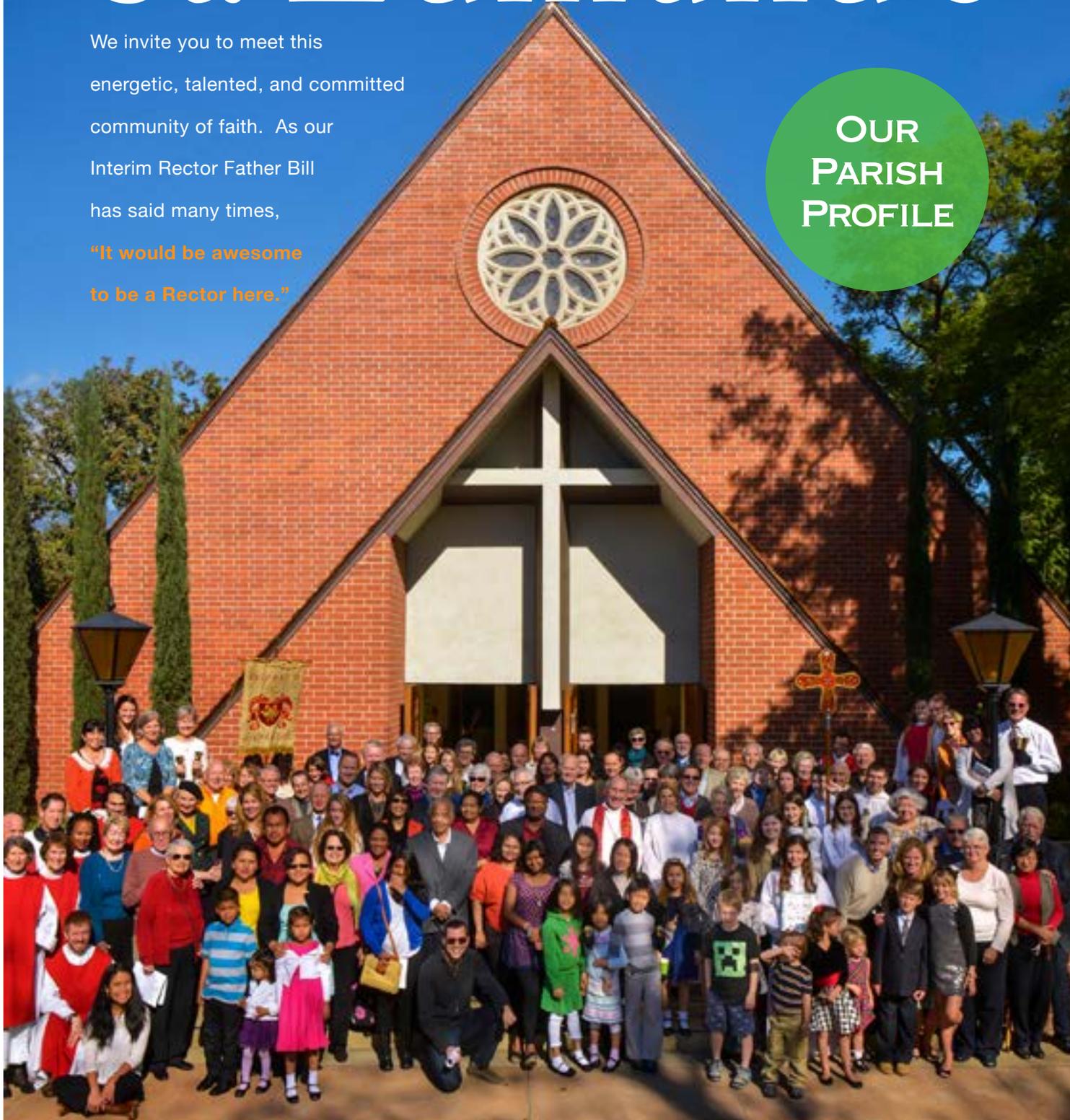


# MEET St. Edmund's

We invite you to meet this energetic, talented, and committed community of faith. As our Interim Rector Father Bill has said many times, "It would be awesome to be a Rector here."

OUR  
PARISH  
PROFILE



# Imagine

YOURSELF IN THIS EMAIL EXCHANGE WITH YOUR NEW BISHOP SOON AFTER BECOMING ST. EDMUND'S RECTOR...

**The Rt. Rev. John Taylor <Jtaylor@ladiocese.org>**

To: Rector  
Jan 7 at 10:00AM

Eighth Rector –

I want to thank you for allowing me to join you for your first Christmas Eve service at St. Edmund's. It was a simply beautiful celebration that touched us in so many ways. I'm always impressed with the beauty of Jan de Rosen's high altar mosaic and stained glass windows. We especially loved the simply exquisite music program – the St. Edmund's choir with LA Opera soloists, the 18 bell choir, the brass trumpets and the resounding sounds of the rare Aeolian-Skinner organ. Your collection of 100 nativity sets at the reception was a wonderful sign that your parish has really embraced you and your interests. I trust it's been everything you expected.

Hope you had a restful vacation with your parents after Christmas and they were happy to be at the Rose Bowl parade and football game in the California sun on New Years Day! Sure beats last winter's polar vortex! Let me know if I can be of support in any way. Thanks again for a really special evening.

Best, + John

**Rector <Rector@SaintEdmunds.org>**

To: Rt. Rev. John Taylor  
Jan 7 at 12:30PM

John –

It was my great pleasure to host you and your wife. St. Edmund's was truly honored that you joined us and both the parish and I have felt your great support through all these months. Thank YOU for all you have done for us in making my move go so smoothly.

I love the Rectory, it's in a lovely quiet neighborhood and a short walk to Trader Joe's and the office. It's a huge relief that the property was move-in ready. I have seen thoughtful planning and care reflected in my home and many other areas at church.

Obviously, December is a demanding season and I admit I was a bit anxious since it was my first here. However, I was very lucky to have an extremely capable Altar Guild with four seasoned teams that maintain the vestments meticulously and a dedicated Verger, who grew up in the parish, to manage our youth and adult acolytes, so all I had to do was write the four sermons, lead two Sunday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services all within four days! LOL Seriously, I find it a joy that I am supported by a Youth Director, a Deacon, an assisting priest and a pleasant and able office staff.

My arrival at St. Edmund's has actually not been everything I expected. Rather, I should say, given the challenges we all face from declining religiosity, aging demographics, competition for time and philanthropy, I did not expect to find a parish that has stepped up to increase their annual donations by 10%, established a \$1.6 MM endowment in a couple of years, a vestry that has balanced the budget for the first time in years and still is such a collegial, and emotionally healthy community. It is quite remarkable. The solid foundation and lack of crisis have really allowed me to focus on the reasons I became a priest.

I don't know if I should give credit entirely to Father George for leaving me with such dedicated lay leadership, but I hope I leave as much goodwill as he did, and they send me off with the same loving fanfare! ☺

By the way, I noticed you were a bit startled when the camel entered the church near you, but hope you will return for some goat yoga (it's LA after all) or the Feast of St. Edmund's Day for a Howl of the Wolf!

Happy New Year and thank you again for your support.  
Blessings, Rector +

**The Rt. Rev. John Taylor <Jtaylor@ladiocese.org>**

To: Rector  
Jan 7 at 5:07 PM

Eighth Rector –

Looks like I'm going to have to designate St. Edmund's as "The Animal Parish"! LOL. It warms my heart to know that St. Edmund's has weathered the transition and changes with the strength and loyalty of its congregation. It may be a small-ish parish, but it is mighty strong at its core, nimble enough to change and is blessed to have you there to guide it spiritually. I am excited to see the initiatives you have proposed come to fruition in the coming year. Under your leadership, I know St. Edmund's will find new paths to thrive and all will be well in God's Hands.

Peace be with you, + John

**Note:** This imaginary e-mail was fully endorsed by the very real Bishop John Taylor

# Called TOGETHER



“Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

— *Collect: Of the Holy Spirit, The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*



**St. Edmund's hopes** that a call to be Rector will fill our new pastor with the joy described in the email messages just imagined.

**The process of calling our new Rector** recognizes the need for us to meet each other where we are and discern that the Holy Spirit is bringing us together. In this sense, the call is not discerned by one, but by all. The calling is mutual.

**Over the 78 years since our founding in 1941**, the world has changed near and far. Our region, once homogeneous, is very diverse and largely Asian. We've changed too and looking forward we now seek one of vision and leadership with whom we can partner in God's call to create new praise and ministries.

**Each of us have been called to do God's work in this community.** We all have come for different reasons and bring different gifts. Together, while we are many members, we are also one body serving Christ's ministry in this place.

**We look forward to meeting you, and your meeting us, St. Edmund's.**

# Who we are

## BEYOND THE NUMBERS

“St. Edmund's is a place where all people can come together with a common desire to better each other and the world through prayer and hope, where all can meet and speak freely, where all are welcome to share their talents and gifts. It has truly enriched my life and therefore, the lives of those I love.”

— *Laureen Chang, former Senior Warden, 2019 Vestry member*

**We are an active, congenial and open-minded congregation** with strong leadership and varied talents that are generously shared. We are young and old, gay and straight, conservative and liberal, lower and upper socio-economic income levels, with parishioners from Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, Mexico and elsewhere. We are, however, primarily an older, married/partnered Caucasian congregation with a high socio-economic and education profile with slightly more women. Over 70% are long-term members who regularly attend and are engaged and dedicated to church ministries. The majority live nearby, although some parishioners who have moved still return to their church home when they can. *(Additional parish demographic information is found in the Parish Survey Summary section of the Appendices at the end of the Profile.)*

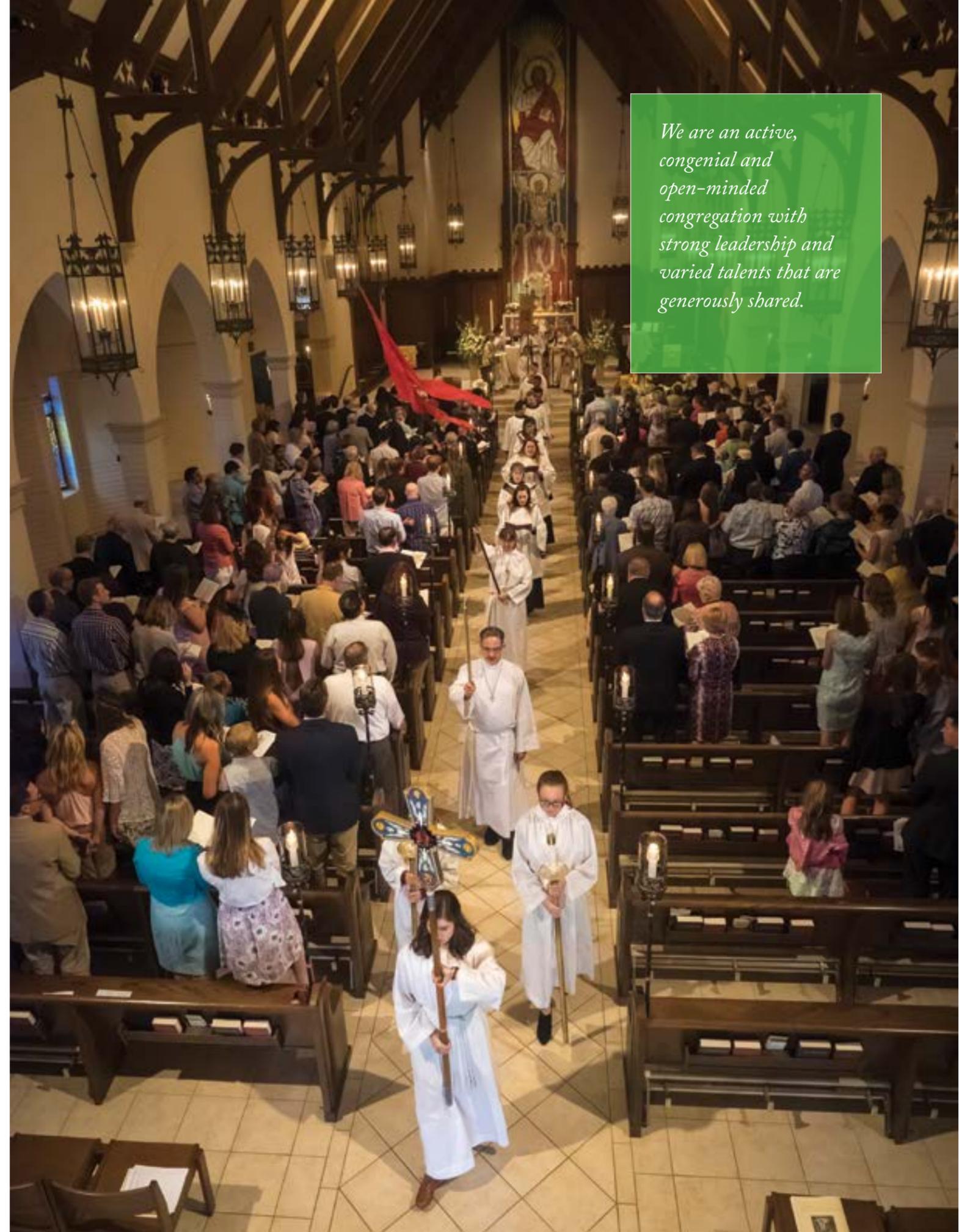


*The Rev. Mark Dawson*

**We are friends who have worked hard to support each other** and to build, sustain and enhance this community we love. We are a Parish that looks after one another very well. The truth is, that once St. Edmund's has touched your life, it will remain in your heart forever.

**The surrounding San Gabriel Valley community is ethnically more diverse** than our parish. While San Marino is its physical address, St. Edmund's is perhaps more aptly described as serving the greater Pasadena area and the west San Gabriel Valley, including neighboring cities of Arcadia, San Gabriel, Alhambra, and Temple City. The population within a three mile radius of the parish is 200,000, with 42% Asian (mostly Mandarin speaking Chinese), 33% white, non-Hispanic, and 22% Hispanic/Latino. This is obviously much more diverse than our congregation and we hope that a visionary leader will bring St. Edmund's to these communities and these communities to St. Edmund's as well.

*We are an active, congenial and open-minded congregation with strong leadership and varied talents that are generously shared.*



# This place WE CALL HOME



*San Marino has all the benefits of living in a small town while enjoying the access to a large city.*



“San Marino is the most beautiful town inside and out that I know. It is inhabited by so many well educated and conscientious people. St. Edmund’s parishioners are extraordinarily well-represented in San Marino’s civic, artistic and educational life, a blessing to both our church and our special hometown. We moved here from the East Coast almost two decades ago for these reasons and they still remain true to this day.”

—*Tori Mordecai, Lay Eucharist Minister*

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD—

**San Marino is a picturesque, suburban community** with 13,300 residents. Preferring to maintain a generally quiet and low profile, the city is best recognized as the home of the renowned Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. The city is also well-known for its excellent public school district, San Marino Unified (SMUSD), which has been ranked the highest performing unified school district in California for 19 straight years. Two elementary schools (600 students each), one middle school (700 students) and one high school (1,100 students) all have immensely engaged and financially supportive parents, as evidenced by the State of California’s rare approval to include the annual funds raised by the San Marino Schools Foundation in SMUSD’s annual budget.

**San Marino has all the benefits of living in a small town** while enjoying access to a large city. San Marino is adjacent to Pasadena and 11 miles from DTLA (the new Downtown Los Angeles moniker). Both Pasadena and DTLA provide a wide and eclectic variety of restaurants, cultural, shopping, and entertainment activities.

**Pasadena is home to many popular destinations including:** Caltech, Carnegie Observatories, JPL, the Norton Simon Museum, and the famous Rose Bowl stadium. San Gabriel, which borders San Marino to the south, is home to one of the original California Missions and, along with neighboring Alhambra and Monterey Park, offers some of the best Asian dining anywhere in the country. Southern California is an outdoor lovers dream with the beaches, mountains and hiking trails all within easy reach for a Saturday convening with nature before returning home.

## OUR DIOCESE—

**The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles** is organized into ten deaneries which stretch across six southern California counties from Santa Barbara in the northwest to Riverside in the southeast. The Diocese, one of the most diverse in the country, is home to 65,000 Episcopalians in some 135 congregations and ministry centers. St. Edmund’s is one of 15 parishes in Deanery 5, West San Gabriel Valley.

**The Diocese is led by Bishop Diocesan, the Right Reverend John H. Taylor**, who became the seventh Bishop Diocesan in December 2017. The Diocese has long been a national leader in outreach and ministry to the LGBTQ community, immigrant communities, the aging, youth, the economically disadvantaged and the socially marginalized. Bishop Taylor has said “the Diocese of Los Angeles groans with the potential for growth through mission and ministry to those in our communities who do not know our church but whom our God in Christ commands us to reach, embrace, empower and serve.”

**The Bishop’s Residence is close to St. Edmund’s** and Bishop Taylor has joined us as a congregant for Christmas Eve and Easter services for the past two years.



# A Joyful NOISE

“Our first Sunday at St. Edmund’s had all the elements of worship for which we were longing, the pulpit, the music and the welcoming community. Wow! We were done church shopping.”

— Patricia Laybourn, 2019 Vestry member

**Worship at St. Edmund’s is centered around the communion table**, but anchored in sermons that provide the foundation of our spiritual formation. Our number one Parish Survey request was for strong preaching.

**We seek a homilist who can inspire the congregation** by sharing the good news of Christ as revealed in scripture and help parishioners connect it to their daily lives. Placing an intelligent voice in the pulpit, who can reach each member of this multi-generational congregation through insight, energy, humor and the common touch of the storyteller, is essential. While we appreciate a Gospel understanding of contemporary issues, we wish to avoid the language of partisan politics in the pulpit.

**Our worship experience is framed by a beautiful sanctuary**, which is surrounded by commissioned murals and stained glass, celebrated in glorious, treasured vestments and proclaimed through beautiful music. Liturgy at St. Edmund’s has a traditional dignity and could be described as slightly to the formal side of middle national Episcopal practice. Prayers of the People are written each week by our Deacon. High Holy Days are celebrated with incense and sanctus bells. We recognize and collectively pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, as well as asking God’s blessing on those who come forward with special concerns. The congregation enthusiastically circulates the nave to greet each other at the passing of the peace.

**The Music Program at St. Edmund’s is extraordinary** in quality of both choral performers and instrumentation. It is a vital part of our worship life. The majestic Aeolian-Skinner/Rosales pipe organ, restored and expanded within the last decade, is one of the finest in the area. Our well-designed interior with high ceilings provides superb acoustics. The choir is often accompanied by our Steinway piano or vintage Spherhake harpsichord. Our majestic choir includes outstanding section leaders, several of whom also sing with the Los Angeles Opera and the Master Chorale. Our Organist/Choir Director also sang with the Los Angeles Opera and the Master Chorale, as well as other opera companies, and performs frequently as a guest organist at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Cathedral. Additionally, our Bell Choir, played by ringers ranging in age from 15 to 85, adds to the richness of our special services. We envision increased diversity in our musical offerings in the future to further enrich our worship life.



*We seek a homilist who can inspire the congregation by sharing the good news of Christ as revealed in scripture*



## THERE ARE TWO REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES—

### 8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist

This smaller, simpler service is accompanied by organ without a choir. It is celebrated in our original chapel.

### 10:00 AM Rite II Eucharist

Features organ and choral music with joyful congregational participation.

## POTENTIAL NEW SERVICE—

### Contemporary Worship

A contemporary service is in the works. Our goal, to bring this to fruition and nurture its growth.

## OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES DURING THE YEAR—

**Lessons and Carols** - a tradition, the St. Edmund’s choir is joined by members of the LA Master Chorale

**Palm Sunday** - we process around campus with a donkey, palm leaves and noise makers before entering the church

**Easter Vigil** - an evening starting with a bonfire and Bible readings, and ending in a joyous champagne Eucharist

**Mass on the Grass** - annual outdoor summer mass followed by picnic, pool and play

**Feast of St. Francis** - a special outdoor service with the blessing of the animals

**Feast of St. Edmund’s** - we celebrate our patron saint and the blessings of this congregation

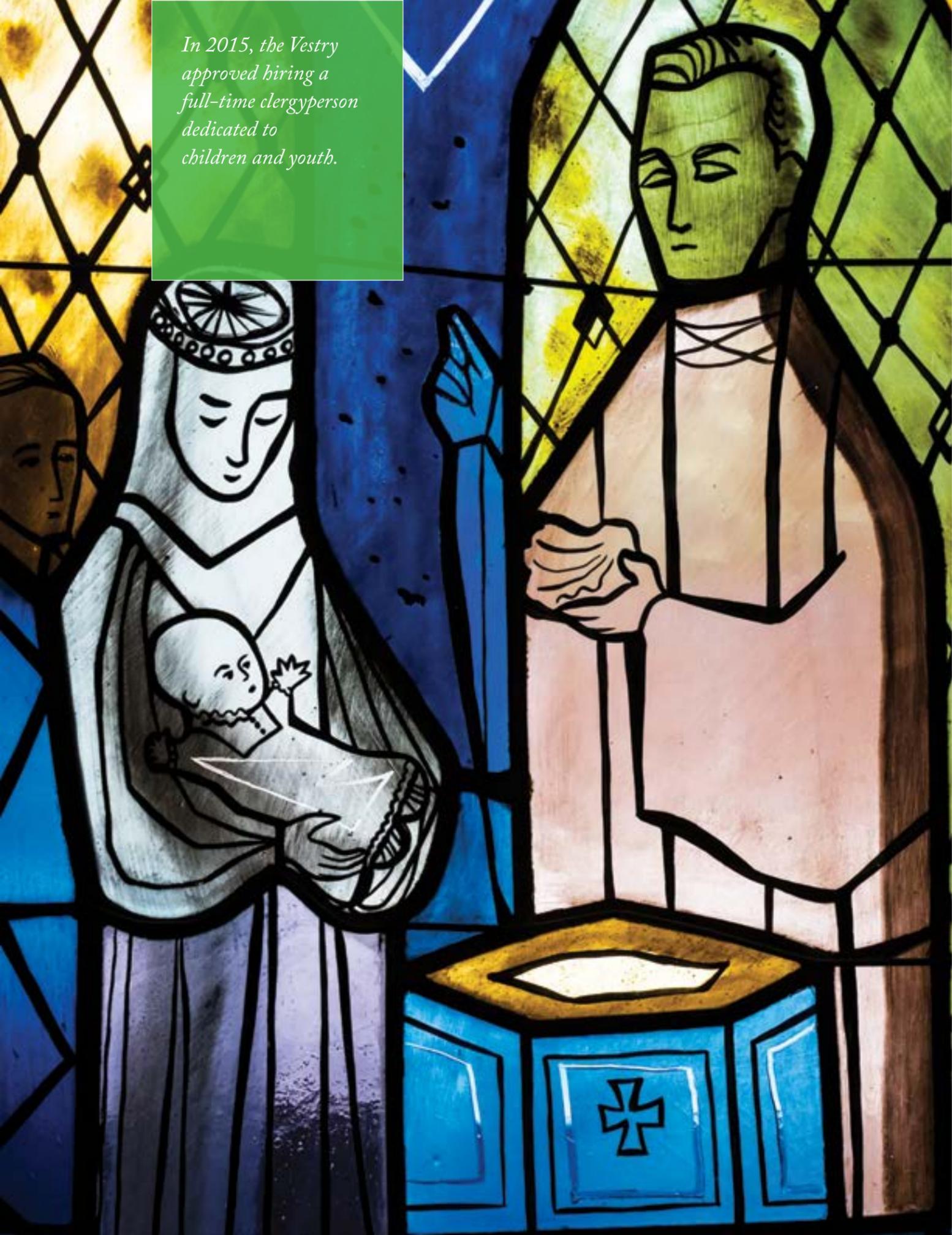
## SUPPORTING THE RECTOR AND CLERGY—

**Altar Guild** - experienced, with four amiable and well-managed weekly teams, as well as a “fifth Sunday” team

**Youth Acolytes** - well-trained by our Verger who also recruits adults as needed

**LEM & Lectors** - reliable team of seventeen Lay Eucharistic Ministers and fourteen lectors

*In 2015, the Vestry approved hiring a full-time clergyperson dedicated to children and youth.*



# Our youth

## OUR FUTURE



“St. Edmund’s works to create a safe place where children and youth can engage with God, scripture and society while learning to embrace who God is creating them to be.”

— *The Rev. Heather Blackstone, Director of Youth Ministry*



**St. Edmund’s is committed to preparing our youth** for their futures and believes in equipping them spiritually, which will also support them temporally. Recognizing that what is good for children and youth is good for the whole parish, in 2015 the Vestry approved hiring a full-time clergyperson dedicated to children and youth. Even though doing so stretched resources, it was seen as an important investment in our future.

**As a result of this action**, the Reverend Heather Blackstone, a United Church of Christ minister, was hired as Director of Youth Ministry. Her family has been a gift to us as well— her husband is now our Sunday School Director. The year that her son was enrolled in St. Edmund’s Nursery School helped Rev. Heather forge relationships with the School, where she provides chapel services monthly, prayers, pastoral care and baptismal services. Through these activities, she continues to nourish the good working relationship between church and school. Her son is now attending a San Marino elementary school, and her parental involvement there has elevated St. Edmund’s visibility in the community.



*The Rev. Heather Blackstone*

**Family worship in the small chapel** mirrors the liturgy of the 10 AM main service and is followed by Sunday School. Children are encouraged to be curious and joyful about their worship participation. Youth Group Sunday gatherings are supplemented with fun monthly activities, volunteer opportunities, acolyte participation and confirmation classes.

**Since our young people are growing up** in an era in which the church and its teaching are often dismissed as irrelevant, we feel called to balance the secular with an engaging expression of the sacred. Therefore, we open our arms to a Rector who will support the growth of our youth program.

# We get along TOGETHER



“As time goes by, the St. Edmund’s community has always been there to provide us with faith and friendships. It is vibrant, social and busy! We celebrate, we mourn, we enjoy one another’s company. I have come to feel that it is truly our family as well.”

— Amy Hulick, Hospitality Chair

**The St. Edmund’s community has a strong sense of fellowship** based on mutual respect, trust and inclusion. Many friendships extend beyond church, often nurtured over the summer with Summer Social gatherings. There are no cliques or hidden grudges that hold people apart, and genuine warmth is felt by strangers who enter our midst on Sundays and stay. Even our Deacon, The Reverend Mark Dawson, visited as a stranger and decided to stay.

**When a bright idea arises, parishioners take the ball and run.** At a fall “fun-raiser” (pun intended), our avid book readers brought up the idea of a book club. Today monthly attendance at Novel Pack ranges from 8-15. The monthly breakfasts, Verger’s Brunch and Summer Socials gatherings all came about from parishioners’ ideas.

## WEEKLY—

**Sunday Fellowship** – Coffee and treats on the Close after services, with the occasional mimosa for a special celebration.

## MONTHLY—

**9 AM Breakfasts** – Delicious breakfasts are prepared on second Sundays by a parishioner so attendees from both services can meet for fellowship.

**Verger’s Brunch** – Post-church gatherings to explore different San Gabriel Valley restaurants and share fellowship.

**Novel Pack, Women’s Book Club** – Second Tuesday book discussions in retirement homes, living rooms and patios with refreshments and chatter with parishioners and their friends.

## ANNUALLY—

**Summer Socials** – This will be the fourteenth year that parishioners have hosted each other for small gatherings in their homes. These occasions mix newcomers and old timers, young and old, singles, couples and families for fun fellowship. It’s very popular and always overbooked!

**Mass on the Grass** – This annual summer worship expands to a fried chicken picnic accompanied by swimming and volleyball in a parishioner’s beautiful garden.

**Fall Fun Raisers** – October brings a time for getting back together for events that may feature our own “Frank Sinatra”, Mexican folk dancing or an Olde Street Faire.

## AS NEEDED—

**Goat Yoga** – Yes, goat yoga. Hey, it’s LA!



# This caring COMMUNITY



“Replacing aging knees kept me off my feet for several months. But the blessing in the suffering was receiving delicious meals every night from the Comfort Food Ministry. It was a life saver and the small touches of flowers, wine or mints, made us feel that each meal was prepared with love by caring friends.”

— Nancy Dini, Summer Socials Chair



**St. Edmund’s is a nurturing and caring community.** This is reflected in the thoughtfulness and initiative we take to offer a kind welcome, prepare and deliver a home cooked meal in times of need, or organize a lasting lay ministry. We didn’t realize we were extraordinary, but Interim Rector Father Bill says, “You take care of one another exceptionally well!”

## HOW WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER—

**Lay Pastoral Care** – Visits to the home-bound by a team of eight parish volunteers. This is a new ministry initiated during the Transition.

**Comfort Food Ministry** – Meals prepared for fellow parishioners experiencing difficult times.

**Office Support Ministry** – Clerical support provided weekly by a team of ten volunteers. This is a new ministry initiated during the Transition.

**Bible Study** — Seasonal classes offered focusing on specific topics.

**Lenten Talks and Supper** – Lenten observation and prayerful study followed by a potluck supper held weekly during the Lenten season.

**Newcomers Ministry** – Extending a warm welcome to newcomers.

# Neighborhood ENGAGEMENT

“None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something.”

—Denise Wadsworth, 2019 Vestry Member

**We are a capable and proactive congregation.** When there is a need, we serve, each in our own way and ability. We are active in the community both within and outside of church. As individuals, we participate in and lead organizations supporting public and private education, health, sports, music, scouting, gardening, culture, libraries, animals, homelessness and many more. Individual parishioners support different outreach opportunities aligned with the parish. Yet, we are challenged to sustain a signature outreach with broad parishioner participation. This is an opportunity for our new Rector to bring our light to shine before others.

## IN THE COMMUNITY—

**St. Edmund's Nursery School** – Founded in 1957, our accredited, highly regarded nursery school has a current enrollment of 108 three to five-year olds. The church has a healthy relationship with Head of School Liz Westphal. She and her capable staff are excellent educators who provide a caring, Christian environment for the educational formation and nurture of young children. As one of the most valuable assets of St. Edmund's in the surrounding community, we would like to better engage the 100 school families, none of whom are current parishioners of St. Edmund's.

**Scouts BSA**– St. Edmund's has sponsored Troop 359, currently with 65 boy scouts, for 10 years. Beginning in 2019, we are also sponsoring Troop 360, an all-girl troop, the first in the San Gabriel Valley. Eagle Scout and Gold Award Projects have improved our gardens, the Close, the Nursery School and places in the community. We are proud of the many youth in our parish who have earned these awards!

**Men's AA** – Weekly Monday meetings.

## THROUGH THE COMMUNITY—

**In recent years, St. Edmund's has hosted local school choir concerts** and organized and hosted a San Marino Centennial music program by local resident and Los Angeles Philharmonic Concertmaster Martin Chalifour. Our Music Director has annually offered a series of American Guild of Organists' recitals open to the community, guild members, and parishioners.

## BEYOND THE COMMUNITY—

**Healing Hearts Across Borders** – food, clothing, and healthcare, Tijuana, Mexico

**Imagine LA** – accompanying a family transitioning from homelessness

**Foundation Cristosal** – advancing human rights in Central America

**Food Forward** – picking neighborhood fruit trees for distribution to those in need

**Second Sundays** – monthly cereal, soap, and shampoo collection for the underprivileged

**Hillsides Annual Christmas Toy Drive** – fulfilling holiday gift wishes

**Electronic Waste Recycling** – helping to keep the planet green and healthy



# Our parish TEAM

“We have been blessed to have the constancy of support from clergy and staff during our Transition. They have made significant personal sacrifices to support us.”

—Ron Harrington, Senior Warden 2019



**The St. Edmund's clergy team complements and supports one another** well in worship, pastoral care, education and administrative and parish social engagement.

## OUR TEAM PLAYERS—

**Interim Rector William Doggett** is supported by full-time Director of Youth, **Reverend Heather Blackstone**, a UCC minister. Our Deacon, the **Reverend Mark Dawson**, participates in every service, as well as supporting pastoral care and leading the Newcomer Welcome Ministry. The **Reverend Canon Judith Heffron**, a part-time, non-stipendiary assisting priest who shares responsibilities of leading services and pastoral care, is retired after 18 years of experience as Rector in the diocese.

**Rev. Blackstone, The Director of Youth**, and her husband **Antonio Bartolome, the Sunday School Director**, oversee all aspects of programming for children, youth and their families.

**Robert Hovencamp is our Organist and Choirmaster** with classical piano, organ, opera and liturgical music training. As Music Director he is responsible for the superb music provided at all St. Edmund's services.

**Liz Westphal, St. Edmund's Nursery School Head** joined the teaching staff in 2007 after a successful career in business management. She was selected as the fourth Head of School in 2016 after a nationwide search.

**Isabel Roa, Communications Secretary** for nineteen years, is supported by a team of office support volunteers who stepped up last year to help her cover the office and process clerical duties when the workload increased.

**The Verger, Tony Faught**, is dedicated, enthusiastic and involved in everything St. Edmund's.

**Felipe Malagon, our part-time Sexton**, has been reliably caring for the campus and setting up for events for thirty-six years.

**Wendy Kohno, CPA** our part-time accountant, works with our volunteer Treasurer.

# A walk around OUR CAMPUS

“The St. Edmund’s community is blessed with a mix of wonderful buildings set within some of the most valuable property in the City. We are challenged with maintaining this legacy while discerning its best use. Fortunately, we have an experienced team and broad parish support.”

— Frank Arnall, Chair, Buildings & Grounds Committee



**In 2018 during our Transition**, Vestry announced that a Buildings & Grounds Committee was needed to support facilities maintenance and to help Vestry establish priorities for expenditures. Fourteen willing and able parishioners immediately answered God’s call, discussed needs and volunteered for specific responsibilities.

**We have a two acre, well-located campus** at the corner of two main thoroughfare streets on the edges of San Marino, Pasadena and San Gabriel. Each Rector left their mark over the decades to provide for Parish needs. All facilities have been well maintained and no major repairs are currently required. In addition, for the first time in many years, Vestry established a Capital Expenditures Fund as part of the 2019 Parish budget. We do acknowledge that our facilities are not completely handicapped accessible, and that this needs to be addressed to provide a more welcoming environment.

## OUR CAMPUS COMPRISES—

**The Original Chapel** — used for Sunday services and nursery school chapel services. Capacity: 110

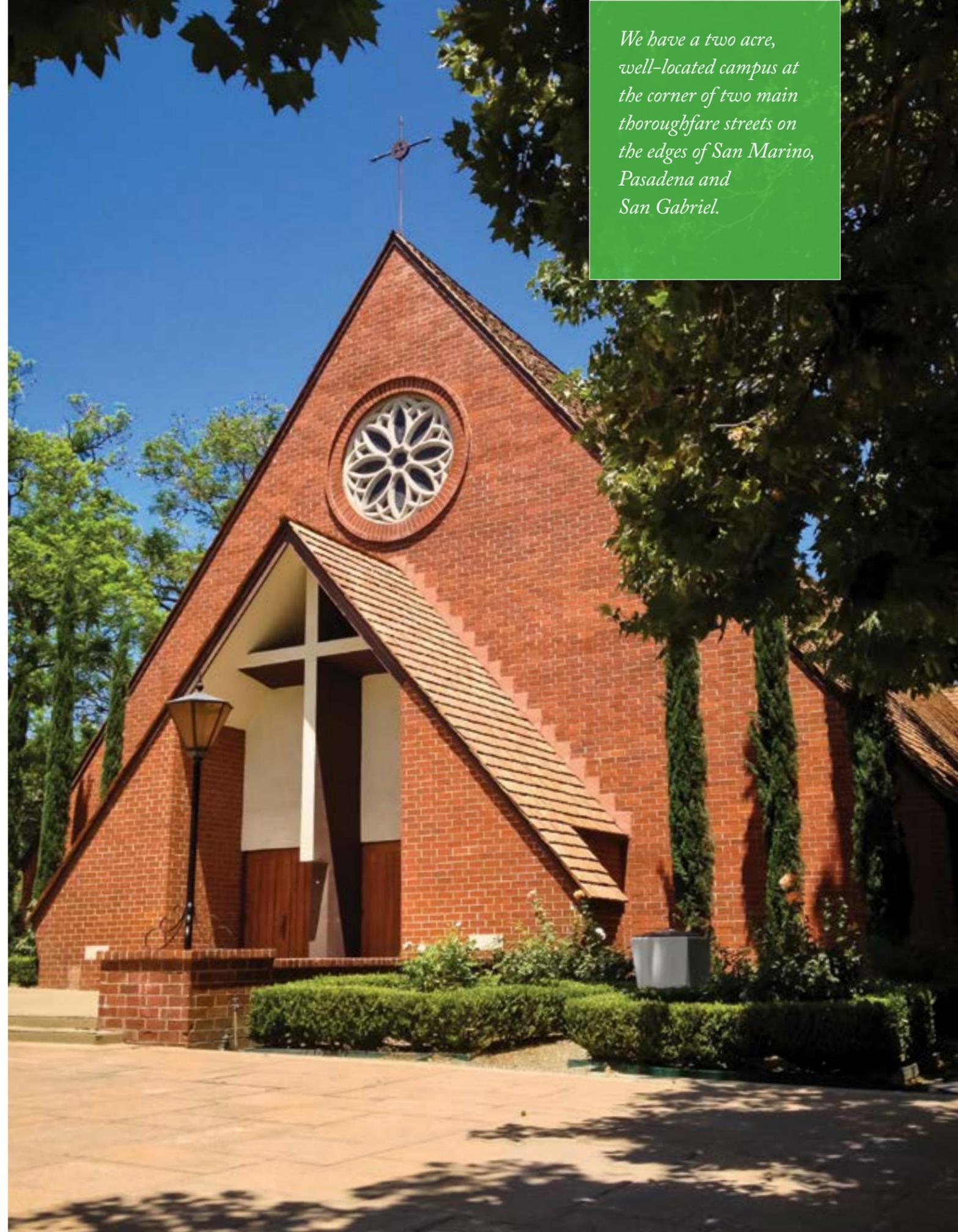
**The DeKruif Building and Fellows Hall** — contains the church and nursery school offices, separate Sunday School and Nursery School classrooms, meeting rooms, and a large parish hall with full kitchen.

**The Main Church** — the sanctuary features an impressive floor to ceiling mosaic reredos above the main altar and a baptismal mural, both by noted artist Jan Henryk de Rosen. Ten mid-century design stained glass windows depicting the migration of Christianity and Episcopal faith to St. Edmund’s flank the nave. Noted for its excellent acoustics, the sanctuary is complemented by its Aeolian-Skinner three manual pipe organ. Capacity: 300

**The Rectory** — is a quick walk just around the corner from the church. The spacious 2,600 s.f., four bedroom, two bath, single-story family home was remodeled in 2016 to give the interior a clean, contemporary aesthetic.

**The St. Edmund’s Professional Building** — Adjacent to the church campus, the two-story building is comprised of six fully leased office spaces. Property management is outsourced and the building generates positive cash flow.

*We have a two acre, well-located campus at the corner of two main thoroughfare streets on the edges of San Marino, Pasadena and San Gabriel.*



# Dollars

## AND SENSE

“In two years, we went from a 2017 projected annual deficit of \$265,000 to 2019’s annual budget projection of a surplus \$40,000. It is a dramatic improvement illustrating what we can achieve with the generosity, hard work, patience and commitment of many capable parishioners.”

—Gail Rolfe, Treasurer



### In 2016, Vestry focused on a long-term solution

to close the growing budget gap. With the guidance of a consultant, *The Next 75 Initiative* (referencing the 75th anniversary of our 1941 dedication) called for the establishment of an endowment. The parish, 110 pledging units strong, listened to the call, dug deep into their pockets and within six months had responded by pledging \$1.6MM. Today the endowment is almost fully funded at \$1.4MM and continues to grow.

**Significant progress was made** in 2018 to reduce parish expenses and increase rent income. Vestry, the Finance Committee and our dedicated volunteer Treasurer worked tirelessly to plan and implement a series of organizational and operational changes that significantly reduced a multi-year budget deficit while maintaining funding for key staff and ministries. This progress set the stage for our successful “Together in Transition” stewardship campaign in fall 2018, which asked for continued support for St. Edmund’s in several ways, including a 10% increase in pledges, in order for Vestry to propose a balanced budget for 2019. The traditional generosity of the St. Edmund’s community resulted in an increase of over 11%, and in January Vestry approved a 2019 budget which restored and increased staff salaries and projects a surplus of approximately \$40,000.

**We are proud to have done the hard work** together, in a transition year no less, and to be of one mind and thought, for the health and good of St. Edmund’s.

**A Howl of the Wolf for St. Edmund’s!**

# Warts

## AND ALL

“The search process has allowed the whole parish to reflect, share and discover who St. Edmund’s is today. Along the way, we have recognized strengths, as well as challenges, yet we also know that we have both gifts and opportunities that are waiting to be revealed.”

—Michael Harrigian, twice Vestry Member

### OUR STRENGTHS—

- **Paid, full-time youth minister** ordained in United Church of Christ
- **Two non-stipendiary assisting clergy:** one Deacon and one retired Rector
- **Strong Lay Leadership** able to fill all volunteer needs
- **Attractive, well-maintained parish facilities** including adjacent Rectory
- **Outstanding music program**
- **Collegial community willing** to share talents, treasures and time
- **Accredited Nursery School** with which the parish has a smooth working relationship
- **Safe, family-oriented city of San Marino**, and the ethnically diverse San Gabriel Valley
- **In Greater Los Angeles** with unlimited offerings for culture, dining and recreation



### OUR CHALLENGES—

- **Aging and shrinking congregation**
- **A Parish that does not reflect the diversity** of our surrounding communities
- **Need for greater engagement** with the larger San Gabriel Valley community
- **Outreach has not led to more sustained ministries** with broad parish participation
- **Resources and focus given to children and youth ministries** have not translated to growth in our young family membership
- **The specific mission of St. Edmund’s**, our “why”, is currently not well-defined
- **The desire for contemporary elements in services and music** which may appeal to a younger segment
- **Funding a fully accessible campus**

### OUR UNKNOWN—

**Given our many long-tenured parishioners**, and after being led by a beloved Rector for 23 years, we recognize that our listed strengths and challenges are likely incomplete. Additionally, some of the survey questions describing aspects of a parish life that have not been present at St. Edmund’s may not have generated fully informed responses. However, we hope that our next Rector will help us find them all and lead us in addressing each one with vision, creativity and patience. Our transition period has initiated a healthy process of discovery, led by lay people and guided by our Interim Rector, which we look forward to continuing with our new Rector’s leadership.

Adopting the  
lore of our namesake,  
the parish created  
“the howl of the wolf”,  
a congenial  
recognition of service  
to the parish.



The Rev. William Cowans



The Rev. Charles Shreeves

Children's Choir, 1948



The Rev. Aaron Driver



Bishop Stevens,  
Chaplain Lash, and  
British Counsel with stone  
from Bury St. Edmunds Abbey

The Rev. Gary Adams



The Revs. Don Lewis and Marni Schneider  
with 1991 confirmation class



The Rev. Canon George Woodward



The Rev. Jerre Parks with the cast of "David"



The Rev. Canon George Woodward

STONE TAKEN FROM  
BURY ST. EDMUND'S ABBEY  
ENGLAND  
NEAR WHERE THE BARONS MET  
IN 1215 TO ENFORCE MAGNA CARTA

# Our journey TO NOW



“St. Edmund’s is a bright and steady light for a great many people. I hope that we are a light for you, unto your feet and about your path. As importantly, I hope that this year you will pledge yourself to be a responsible keeper of this flame so that its light may continue to burn, ever brighter.”

— The Rev. Jerre Parks, Rector 1969–84, September 1978



**St. Edmund's was dedicated** by The Rev. William Cowans on June 22, 1941. Named for the King of East Anglia, and one-time patron saint of England, the parish adopted some of the lore of our namesake, one of which, “the howl of the wolf”, is a congenial recognition of those who have served St. Edmund's in ways large and small.

**The founders' mission was clear: build a family church** emphasizing Sunday School for the children. A small chapel came first, followed a few years later by a much larger Sunday School building. Finally, in the 1950s, a main church rose. Located at the east edge of town, across the street from farmland which stretched to the next city, Arcadia, and near the corner of San Gabriel Blvd. and Huntington Drive, which now are major thoroughfares, today the parish finds itself at the nexus of several different cities.

**Through its first three decades**, the parish enjoyed robust growth in attendance, activities and campus spaces, as well as the conventional institutional patterns that marked church life for most mainline denominations in the post-war era. Three Rectors led this prosperous season: Fathers Shreeves, Driver and Adams.

**In 1969, in the midst of the decade's cultural tumult**, St. Edmund's called Father Jerre Parks. Responding to the times, he engaged the community, first by initiating and directing a major mental health chaplaincy at nearby Las Encinas Hospital where parishioners were trained to assist the mentally ill. He also welcomed an after school youth center to the campus. A poet, composer and a lyricist, Parks wrote and produced more than a half-dozen musical plays which attracted parishioners and community members alike.

**In January 1985, the Rev. Don Lewis**, the Parish's sixth Rector, began his tenure. In mid-1986, Lewis, a former real estate developer, invited the Rev. Marni Schneider, a former award-winning television news producer, to become associate Rector - the first woman priest in parish history. Working as a collegial “Rector team”, Lewis and Schneider both brought their prior life experiences to energize dynamic new growth and programmatic activity.

**The seventh Rector of St. Edmund's**, The Rev. Canon George Woodward III, arrived in 1995. Beloved for his extensive pastoral care, Woodward was also known for his engaging sermons, which started with the lectionary, often utilized humor to elucidate the historical context, made references to literature and science, and intertwined personal stories. This engaged worshipers and helped connect the scripture meaningfully to their lives and times. A long-time board member of Pasadena's Hillside Home for Children, his primary passion for St. Edmund's was augmented by his diocesan work leading the Program Group on Global Partnership, and the advancement of human rights in Central America through Cristosal. Extensive work in renovating the campus was accomplished during his tenure, and he was instrumental in establishing an endowment before his departure. In April 2018, he was named Rector Emeritus.

**Father George's jammed farewell service** was a joyful celebration attended by parishioners and friends, as well as representatives of his new parish in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. While the mood was one of passage, the spirit of the congregation was also to move forward.

# Shall we TALK FURTHER?

“O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

— *Proper 10: Pentecost, The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

## OUR GOAL—

We hope to retain the best of St. Edmund's character and values while we renew this Christian community. We wish to grow, thrive and transform.

## OUR NEW RECTOR—

We are excited to welcome a new Rector. We seek leadership to help us make St. Edmund's vital for future generations and one who will collaborate with us in developing a new vision of our place in the world.

### We seek a Rector who will be:

- An inspiring preacher and intelligent voice in the pulpit, able to make the Gospel clear and relevant
- A warm pastor with strength in crisis care to guide parishioners through life's challenging passages
- A rector young at heart and able to connect with and incorporate our youth and new young families
- An innovative teacher who can lead us in developing a sustainable Christian Education program
- An engaged administrator who understands parish operations, staffing and finance
- A creative, visionary leader for church growth
- An active representative of St. Edmund's to our surrounding communities

### Qualifications:

- Experience developing a vision and leading others to it
- An innovative liturgist able to plan worship
- Executive leadership experience
- Successful and comfortable with stewardship programs

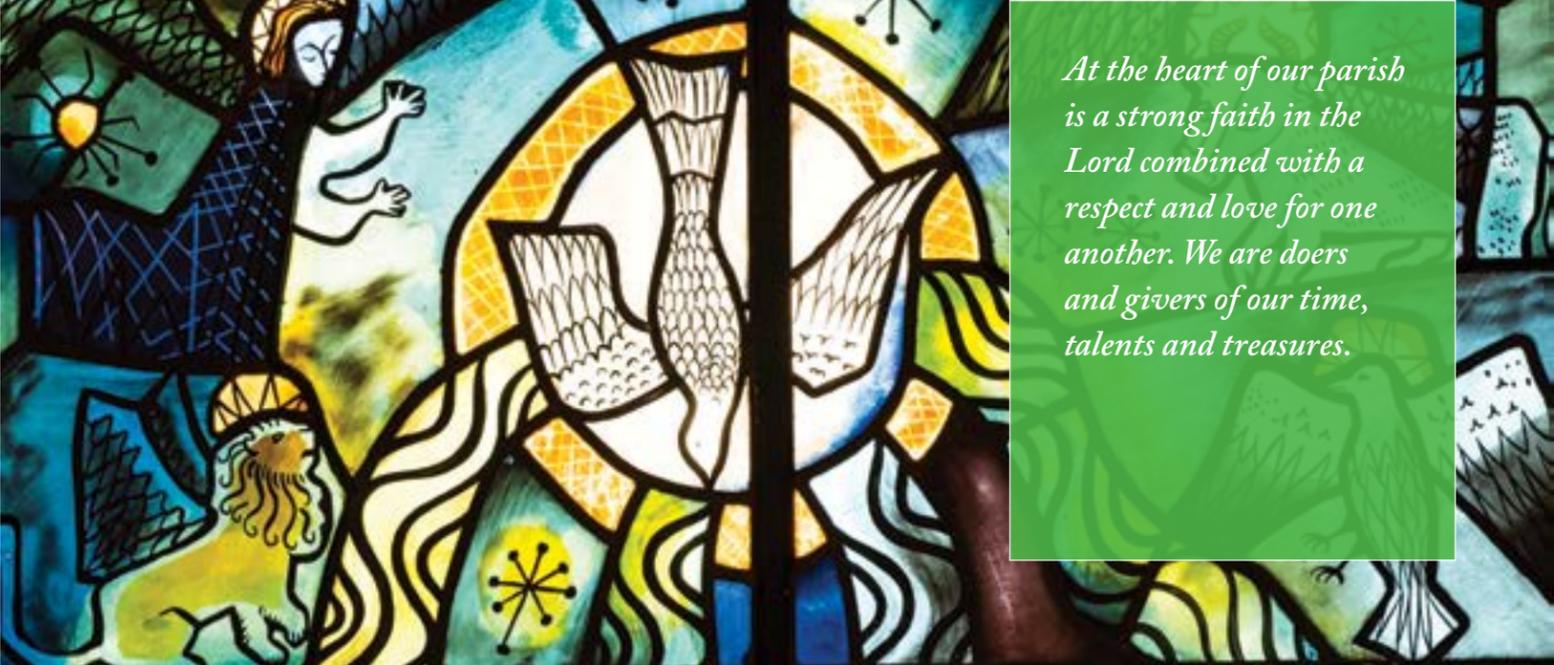
## FOR MORE DETAILS—

We welcome you to visit our newly updated website and links so that you can learn more about us. We invite you to follow the You Tube links so you might feel the warmth of St. Edmund's worship, including our exceptional music and meaningful sermons set in our beautiful space of worship. Please refer to the Appendices for financial statements and Parish Survey results.

If what you have learned here about God's ministry in this place beckons you to know more, we invite you to apply and to pray with us about how the Spirit might be guiding all of us toward a new ministry initiating St. Edmund's next 75 years.

## IF INTERESTED IN THE ST. EDMUND'S RECTOR POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Canon Joanna Satorius at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul  
E-mail at joannasatorius@ladiocese.org  
Phone (office) 213-482-2040 x263, or (cell) 951-675-7966.



*At the heart of our parish is a strong faith in the Lord combined with a respect and love for one another. We are doers and givers of our time, talents and treasures.*



# Appendices

## SOME FACTS & FIGURES

### Our Financials

St. Edmund's has made significant progress in stabilizing our finances and, for the first time in a number of years, we have a balanced budget for the 2019 fiscal year. We look forward to working with our new rector to ensure our long-term financial health, and our ability to sustain and grow our ministries, as we increase our presence in the community and grow our congregation. While we have increased our 2019 Diocesan pledge by 33% over 2018, we are still below the level that we and the Diocese would like to see. We are, however, proud of a) how our current members responded to the call for increased stewardship for 2019 and that we had several new pledging members during a transition year; b) how the endowment funded during our Next 75 campaign is beginning to support operations; and, c) the leadership shown by lay volunteers and staff who identified and implemented ways to both increase investment income and also reduce operating expenses.

	Years Ended (in thousands) - unaudited		
	<i>(2017 and 2018 actual, 2019 as budgeted)</i>		
	2017	2018	2019
<b>Revenue</b>			
Pledges	\$ 455	\$ 324	\$ 403
Unpledged Offerings	10	7	12
Special Gifts	110	50	41
Contributions from Investments	49	56	103
Rents and Facility Fees	78	77	79
Contributions from Designated and Restricted Funds	—	35	61
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 702</b>	<b>\$ 549</b>	<b>\$ 699</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Compensation	\$ 479	\$ 366	\$ 333
<b>Non-compensation Expense:</b>			
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 122	\$ 147	\$ 140
Administration and Communications	65	54	68
Worship and Music	42	47	51
Family, Children, Adult Formation	13	12	8
Outreach and Diocesan Pledge	88	42	60
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>661</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(107)</b>	<b>\$(120)</b>	<b>\$ 38</b>

At the close of 2018, the value of our investments totaled \$1.4 million. These investments and the St. Edmund's Professional Building will generate \$103,000 in income for 2019. Our only long-term liability at the end of 2018 is a \$370,000 loan taken out to fund renovations to the rectory. The loan was financed through the St. Edmund's Endowment and has a market rate of approximately 5%.

The St. Edmund's Nursery School consistently operates on a conservative budget which does not require Parish funds for operations and which allows the school to contribute toward shared expenses and capital improvements. Also, school families have consistently been generous donors, and the school has built up significant reserve funds. We believe that these reserves are adequate to cover unexpected capital costs, or occasional operating deficits.



## Parish Survey Summary

*(Complete results, including comments, can be found on our parish website)*

Our 2018 parish survey was completed by 103 parishioners, with many doing so during a series of 16 small group meetings held over a two month period. Responses were also submitted via mail and e-mail, and our lay pastoral team reached out to our homebound to obtain input. We made great effort to reach everyone, and believe that the results are representative (especially of the core of our membership, which is comprised of many long-term, involved parishioners.) In addition to demographics, parishioners were asked to rate various aspects of the ministries of St. Edmund's on both importance and achievement. They also were asked to indicate the top six attributes (out of 20 total) they believe are most important for our next rector. In addition to numerical results, we asked for and received comments regarding general areas of ministry and mission as well as clarifications and expansions on numerical responses to specific questions.

St. Edmund's is blessed with a congenial, active congregation of generally affluent, capable, well-educated people, but one that we see is aging and shrinking, and which does not reflect the diversity of our surrounding communities. Over 75% of our parishioners hail from Pasadena, San Marino and San Gabriel. Over 70% are age 55 or older, and over 65% of parishioners have attended St. Edmund's for 11 or more years. More than 95% of the congregation have college or graduate school education, and more than 50% have household income greater than \$150,000. Over 80% participate in the parish beyond attending services, and over 50% attend services every Sunday. We are over 80% Caucasian/white. 5% of us identify as gay or lesbian, and almost 80% of us are married. We had 15 households with children 17 or younger living at home.

We found that the aspects of St. Edmund's ministries receiving the highest rankings on importance were highly correlated to the top seven pastoral specialties we are seeking in our next rector. Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was significant overlap also to what we saw as the pastoral specialty strengths (things we liked) and/or weaknesses (things we'd like to see improved) of our long-time former rector.

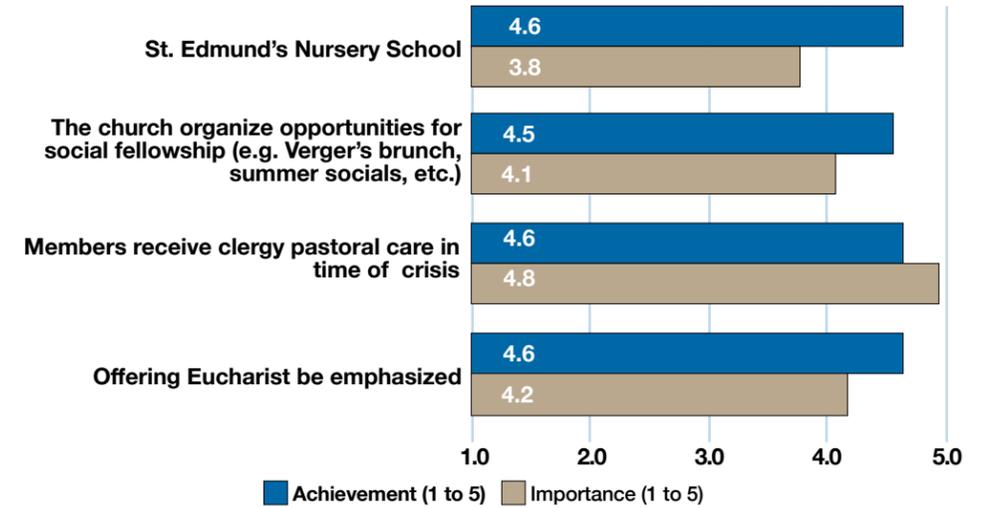
### The top seven pastoral specialties desired in our next rector were:

*(Number indicates responses out of 103 survey participants):*

- Preaching** (92) – Ability to preach with clarity and to make the Gospel relevant in people's lives.
- Youth Work** (45) – Ability to inspire youth and incorporate them in the full life and ministry of the church.
- Teaching** (45) – Ability to help persons of all ages to understand and live the Christian Faith.
- Administration** (44) – Ability to manage the affairs of the congregation, diocese, or other institution, including programs, organizations, finances, etc.
- Spiritual Guidance** (44) – Ability to lead and encourage others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- Crisis Ministry** (42) – Ability to provide pastoral care by responding to people at significant points in their lives, e.g., death, dying, sickness, birth, trauma, success.
- Church Growth** (42) – Ability to reshape or restart existing congregations or to plant new congregations.

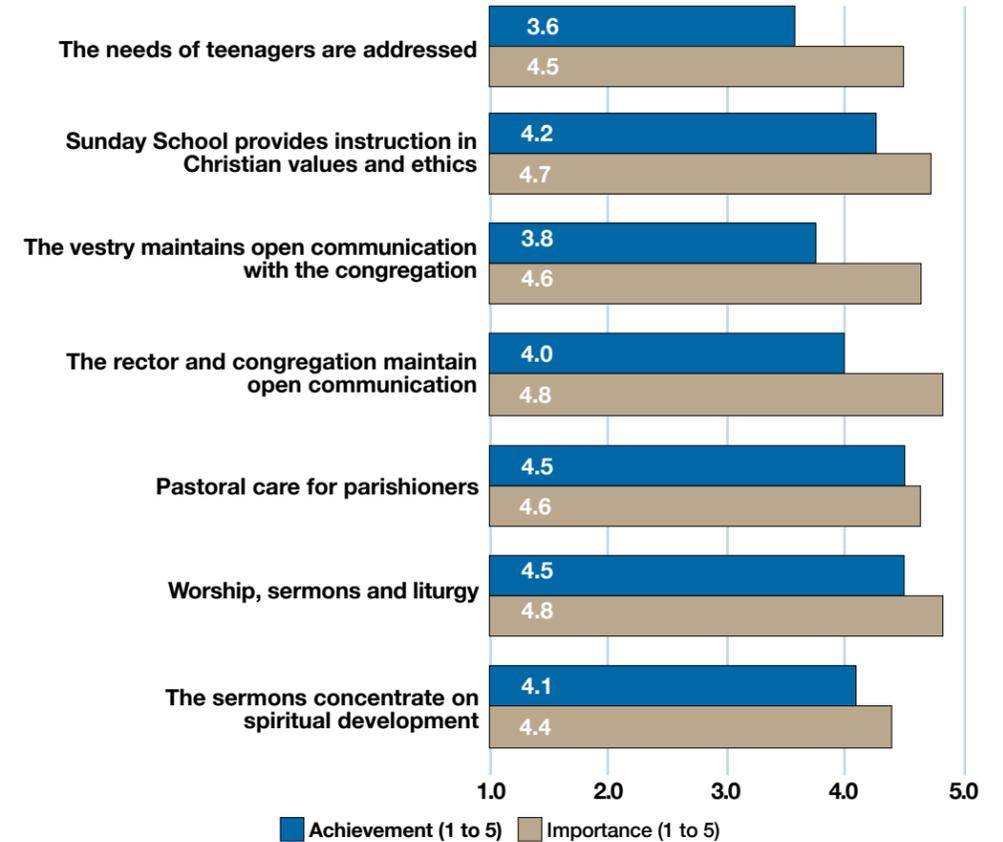


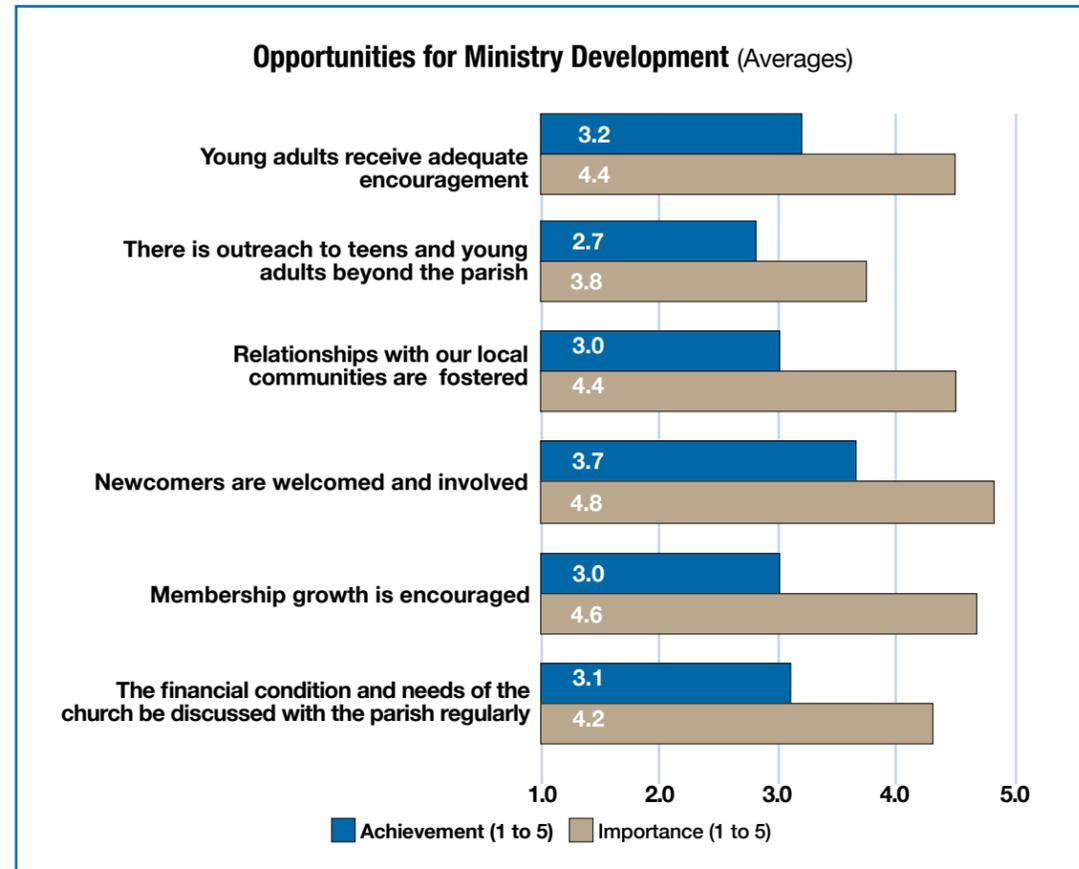
### Highest Levels of Achievement (Averages)



### Most Important Aspects of Ministry (Averages)

*(Rated 3.0 or above among all respondents)*





There were four areas of ministry where we saw a need for further discernment (now or under the leadership of our new rector) based on the content or quantity of written comments when compared to the numerical data:

- **“Contemporary” worship and music, both the meaning of the term and, if so desired, how it might be implemented**
- **Broader engagement in the community, including outreach**
- **New ways in which our children and youth programs might serve additional needs of young families**
- **The path that sermons should take when dealing with the intersection of “contemporary issues,” politics and applying scripture in our daily lives**

The survey helps us to be mindful of the many strengths of St. Edmund’s that appeal to existing parishioners. Given long-term attendance for many of us, our main point of reference is what St. Edmund’s is today, or what it had been in the past – which leaves us with unknowns as to what St. Edmund’s can be in the future. There is an expressed desire for growth, and the vibrancy that comes with youth and families. We see acknowledgment that we have not done a good job of sharing our assets with the community beyond our walls and adapting to the societal and demographic changes around us, but also uncertainty as to how we can best do this in the future while retaining that which continues to draw us to St. Edmund’s now.

In closing, one survey participant stated it this way:

**“I am happy with my experience at St. Edmund’s, but I am open and looking forward to changes that may encourage new members.”**

Helpful links:

- St. Edmund’s Church – [SaintEdmunds.org](http://SaintEdmunds.org); [Facebook](#); [YouTube](#)
- St. Edmund’s Church Parish Survey Results – [Click Here](#)
- St. Edmund’s Nursery School – [StEdmundsNurserySchool.org](http://StEdmundsNurserySchool.org)
- Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles – [DioceseLA.org](http://DioceseLA.org)
- City of San Marino – [CityofSanMarino.org](http://CityofSanMarino.org); [Wikipedia](#); [SanMarinoHistoricalSociety.org](http://SanMarinoHistoricalSociety.org)
- San Marino Unified School District – [SMUSD.us](http://SMUSD.us)
- Local Publications – [SanMarinoTribune.com](http://SanMarinoTribune.com); [OutlookNewsPapers.com](http://OutlookNewsPapers.com); [PasadenaStarNews.com](http://PasadenaStarNews.com)
- Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens – [Huntington.org](http://Huntington.org)
- City of Pasadena – [CityofPasadena.net](http://CityofPasadena.net); [Wikipedia](#)
- City of San Gabriel – [SanGabrielCity.com](http://SanGabrielCity.com); [Wikipedia](#)
- City of Arcadia – [ArcadiaCA.gov](http://ArcadiaCA.gov); [Wikipedia](#)

**This parish profile is made possible entirely through the creativity, talents and energies of our generous parish volunteers.**



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