ST. DAMIAN PARISH

Parish Offices:

5250 W. 155th St.
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452
Phone: (708) 687-1370
Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM - 2:00PM
SUNDAY CLOSED
www.stdamianchurch.org
Email: info@stdamianchurch.org
bulletin@stdamianchurch.org

Religious Education

(708) 687-7778

School Office

(708) 687-4230

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor

Fr. Joe Noonan

Associate Pastor

Fr. Michael Olson

Resident

Fr. Jerry Scanlan

Deacons

Bill Stearns

Tom Hipelius

Tom Ruzevich

Richard Korepanow

Sacristan

Lavergne Innocenti 687-1370

Director of Healing Ministries

Frieda Bertello 342-8529

Principal

Jennifer Miller 687-4230

Religious Education Coordinator

Cheryl Plesha 687-7778

Family Ministry/Bulletin

Connie Swidergal 342-8527

Music Ministry

Tony Berardi 687-9532

Office Manager

Christine Yaeger 687-1370

Director of Maintenance

Joe Beemsterboer 710-1510

Director of Finance

Donna Kay 687-1370

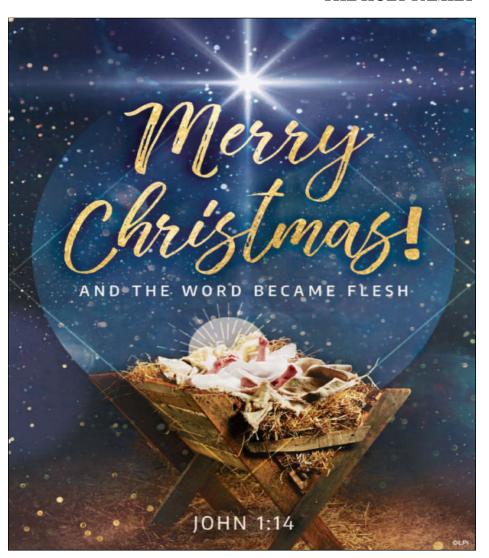
Administrative Assistant

Pat Garrity 342-8526

SHOP

Dale Lux 342-8516

DECEMBER 24-26TH, 2021 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE HOLY FAMILY



Mass Schedule:

Daily

9:00 AM: Monday through Saturday. Note: Tuesday Masses are currently reserved for the students only when school is in session.

Weekend

Sat: 5:00 PM | Sun: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Sunday 9:30AM Mass only:

Nursery for 2-3 year olds, no pre-registration required. **Little Lambs** for 4-5 year olds, pre-registration required.

Livestream

Watch on our St. Damian Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. **Mass:** 9:00 AM Daily, 5:00 PM Saturday, 9:30 AM Sunday

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

Wednesdays: 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

Our Chapel is open for private prayer daily from 9:30AM to 8:00PM.

Pastor's Corner by Fr. Joe Noonan

Merry Christmas! "This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). The experience of Christmas is unique to each person. For some, the holiday is a short break from work or school. For others, it is a festive and busy time of hosting or visiting family and friends. Some see it as an opportunity to share gifts or to serve others in need. Overlying these Christmas activities is the remembrance of the day in which "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son". It is a love so profound that God took on our human nature and entered his creation in the person of Jesus Christ. In the human nature of Jesus, God walked as we walk, talked as we talk and died as we will one day. In the divine nature of Jesus, God conquered sin and death through Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Merry Christmas. The Gospel of John (1:1, 14-15) declares that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

Our Creator did not create us, and then watch us from afar. Rather, God took on our human nature to be in and among us. Jesus Christ is fully God (divine) and fully man (human). In Jesus, we can know God in the most intimate way possible. Through him we have forgiveness of our sins so that we may be united with God.

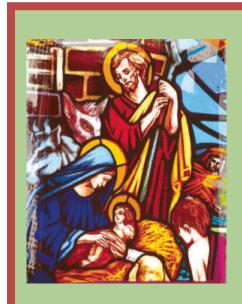
Never forget you are deeply loved by God. Through Jesus, you are a loved daughter or son of God. St. Paul wrote, "who can separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:39). Nothing can separate us from God. The Holy Spirit continues to work among us, especially in the Sacraments, to invite us to a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas. Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Experience the joy of Jesus with us here at St. Damian. Our vibrant community welcomes you to pursue Jesus Christ with us. Come and worship Jesus with us every weekend. Visit our website for more information and to learn about the many ways that you can connect with other parishioners: small groups, service opportunities, faith based groups and many other ministries. If you are new, please know that you are most welcome here. God may be inviting you to experience his love here at St. Damian.

Merry Christmas! Lastly, this Christmas, pray to Jesus our Savior to reside within you anew. Call upon him in a simple whisper to enter your heart in this festive holiday season. From everyone at St. Damian Church, may the joy, love and peace of Jesus reside within you always.

"God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that all who believe in Him might not perish but may have eternal life" John 3:16





May the love of the Christ Child surround you and your families during this Holy Season, and may His peace be with you throughout the coming year!

Merry Christmas

from Fr. Joe, Fr. Michael, Fr. Jerry, Deacon Bill, Deacon Tom H., Deacon Tom R., Deacon Rich, and our entire Parish Staff.

Pray for the Sick

Linda Carey Mary Anne LaHayne Linda Ruisz Linda Lisikiewicz Celine Lisikiewicz Rick Davis Greg Plesha David Olson Laura Mazurowski Elizabeth Massaro Michele Lockwood Eileen Coit Dan Joyce Lou Coppens, Jr. Geralyn Gordon Yolanda Flores Guinivere Fobert Minerva Fobert Barbara Bremer Michael Morgan Janet Abramic Michele Worden

Kathy Rauter Maureen Holmes John Morgan Al Belluomini Tony Mazurowski Klara Szabo Brian Frank Virginia Horvath Pat Duggan Wanda Roper Jean Ranos Aaron Hendrickson Megan Erick Pablo Flores Fr. Thomas Baima Carlos Diaz Dale Elenteny Andrea Riedl Edward Lisikiewicz Walter Lisikiewicz Robert Moll Deborah Klun

Lucy Gannon Marilyn Harms James Gerrard Kathy Rodifer Bill Conn Lauren Hardestv Nancy Nehls George Lubben Carolyn Koppers **Bob Sutter** Clara Zarnowski Thomas Stacv **Debbie Fogarty** Daniel Flynn Larry Twardy Iris Beltrame Shirley Booth Clem DeRosa Ken Spajer Leonard Brussano

The Isaiah Ministry provides handmade prayer shawls to those who are ill, undergoing tests or treatments or grieving the loss of a loved one. If you would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact Mary at (708)535-2672.

Those in need of prayer will be posted in the bulletin *Pray for the Sick* for three months. If you or a loved one are removed from the list but are still in need of prayer, or if prayers have been answered and you are no longer in need of prayer, please contact us so we can keep our list current. You can update information by calling the Pastoral Office at 687-1370 or email Connie at bulletin@stdamianchurch.org. Thank you, and may the Lord graciously hear our prayers!

Pastoral Center Holiday Hours

Friday, December 31 9:00AM - 12:00PM

CLOSED New Year's Day Saturday, January 1st



In Loving Memory

Amy K. Doherty
Linda S. Noonan
Lorraine M. Sepeczi
Philip Hernandez

Parish Support

December 12, 2021

Collected \$20,747
Budgeted \$18,000
Difference \$2,747
Year-to-Date Collected \$389,421
Year-to-Date Budgeted \$432,000
Year-to-Date Difference \$42,579

Votives	\$132
Sharing Parish	\$153
Capital Donation	\$255
Food Pantry	\$175
Christmas	\$2,112
Flowers	\$889
Sharing Parish	\$153
Capital Donation	\$255
Giving Tuesday	\$520
Oplatki	\$240
Guadalupe Raffle	\$135
Retired Religious	\$675

St. Damian offers eGiving and Text-to-Give at www.FaithDirect.net

We are grateful for your continued generosity!

2021 Christmas Flower Memorials

John Charles Abraham Edward & Judith Abraham John & Jacob Abraham

Adams Family
Carmen Aguilar
Dave Allison
Esther Alvarez

Francis Christopher Arakal

Ronald Barrett David Barzo Virginia Bolek

Marian & Stanley Budz

Tom Connolly

Kathleen M. Connors

Patricia Daley
William Daley
Ronald DeSantis
Dillon Family
Dreznes Family
Steve Duggan

DeSpain & McBurney Families

Arthur & Patricia Fanning

Arthur Fanning, Jr.
Gladys & Les Flannery

Rich Fousek

George & Tom Gale

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Gattone

James J. Gawla Lisa Forst Geraghty Therese A. Gonzalez

Carol, Ryan & Terese Gustafson

Edward Haak Robert T. Hall

Rolando & Josephine Haynes

Robert & Emily Haynes

Darlene Healy
William Hill
Raymond Hogan
Alan Hudson Family
Odilon & Matilde Huerta

Clara Inglot

Marie T. Innocenti

Bill & Vi Jablonski

John Julian

Charles Kalousek Harvey Kindt

Casimir F. Kogut & Family

Nick & Estell Komninos

Daniel Koncelski Jim Konieczny Ludwika Kos

Mary & Joe Kosman Krylowicz Family Zofia Krzysztofek Maxine & John LaFaire

Virginia Lang

August & Anne Lawrence

Jack Leonard

Mr. & Mrs. Normand LeTourneau

Marilyn Liston Kenneth R. Mager Olga Mata Juan Mata Geraldine Mayer

Peggy McCarthy
Laverne McCormick
Peggy McIntyre
Lee Ann Murray
Carole & Bill Murray
John & Norine Needham

Carol Obluck Alan Obluck Scott Obluck Stanislaw Obrochta

John J. & John K. O'Connor

Louetta O'Connor Anthony & Ellenor Olik

Barb Olik
Tom Olik
Genevieve Olsen
Roger Olsen
Terry Pickett

Chester & Rose Pilip Edward W. Polak

Albert & Concetta Reinke

Charles Richter
Paul C. Riedl
Mary J. Rodriguez

Stash & JoAnn Rogowski

Joaquin Rosales
Louis W. Rose
Ruzgis Family
Robert Sagan
San Juana Sandoval
Nikki L. Santos
Bernardino Santos

Stephen G. Schaefers

Richard & Albina Schroedle

Richard Schubert

Henry J. Snarski & Family Alan Wayne Stevens

John Stiegler

Trenna & Louis Streer Colleen & Gary Strock, Sr.

Beatrice Struve
Jason E. Supinski
Joan Swan
Josef Swiatowiec

Marge Szafoni

Jane Szafoni McLaughlin

Michelle Tatro

Anne Marie Lucie Taverne

Juan G. Utley

John Wesley Walker, Jr.

Michael F. Wall Frank B. Weitz Ken Whitemiller Thomas Williams

Walter & Mary Wozniak Patricia M. Wright Patrick J. Wynne

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God and Father of us all, we joyfully celebrate the birth of your Son, the eternal Word who came to dwell with us and is born this day of the Virgin Mary. May we come to share completely in your divine life through the coming of your Son among us.

We thank you for the gift of family.

Life is not always easy for us, but we know that You are always with us. As Your Word says, You will never leave us nor forsake us. In a world clouded by the darkness of sin, You are the Light of the world.

Draw us closer to You and to each other

Draw us closer to You and to each other through this coming year.

May the joy of this Christmas feast extend beyond our family to touch the lives of others with your holy love and make us all one family in you. Amen.



The Solemnity of Mary World Day of Peace

A Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass - New Year's Eve Friday, December 31 at 5:00 PM

Saturday, January 1 Mass at 9:00 AM only



Moms & Dads, let us care for the kids during Mass...

Our Nursery is open for 9:30AM Mass every Sunday, no preregistration required. Virtus trained, background checked volunteers care for your 1-3 year old while you attend Mass. The kiddies play while you pray - uninterrupted! The Nursery is in room 110 in the School, straight down the main hallway.

Little Lambs is for your 4/5 year old during 9:30AM Mass. Registration forms are found in the Narthex and online. Children are dismissed from Mass. They leave the Church with the Catechists to participate in a faith based activity and lesson. Visit our website for more info.



Southwest Young Adult Group Forming

Southwest side Catholic Churches (St. Julie, St. George, St. Damian, Our Lady of the Woods, St. Stephen) are working together to form a Young Adult Catholic group. A Young Adult is roughly 21-35 at any stage of life.

The group has just begun discussion about their direction, what type of events would be fun to host, etc...and we need someone to represent St. Damian in the discussion. You will have support from the parish. If this sounds interesting to you, please call Connie at 708-342-8527.

Chicago's March for Life Saturday, January 8, 2022 The Largest Pro-Life Event in the Midwest

www.marchforlifechicago.org, sponsored by weDIGNIFY



This year's schedule includes a Convention and a separate Youth Rally at at the Michigan Avenue Hilton. The March begins at 1:00PM from Federal Plaza at 50 W. Adams, marching approximately one mile to the Convention at the Hilton, ending at 3:00PM. The convention re-opens until 5:00PM. Participate in the Mass for Life at 4:00PM, also in the Hilton.

Cook County recorded 23,189 abortions performed in 2018. That is more that the total abortions in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri combined in 2019. Illinois' permissive laws are enabling a booming abortion business in Illinois.

The Church is Growing

December 5th, the family of St. Damian officially welcomed R.C.I.A. candidate Shyla in the "Rite of Welcoming." Shyla's Sponsor, her husband, presented her to the Church and handed her the sign of our faith, the cross. Fr. Michael, Deacon Tom and all present prayed over Shyla for God's blessing and continued discernment as she journeys towards the Easter Vigil where she will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.



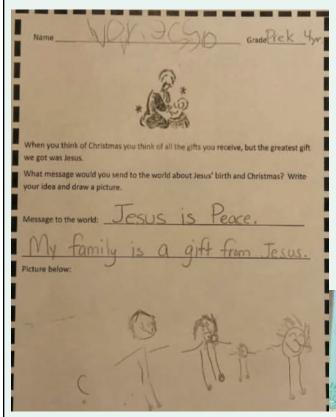


"Please God - Just Give me a Sign!" Christ on Central has been providing that sign for 10 years

Christ on Central is the Christmas Sign ministry of St. Damian parishioner Mark Odewald. Through the generosity of many people, Mark has used his God-given artistic talent to create signs proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ. The notable thing about Mark is that he has taken this ministry one step further - the step that most of us shy away from. Mark knocks on doors, many of them belonging to complete strangers, and asks for permission to display his 2' x 8' Christmas signs on people's property. He hangs the signs, takes them down, and stores them all year long. He even re-visits homes that have said "No" in the past. Some have changed their mind!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Christ on Central. Mark does not like any attention; instead he would like to thank everyone who helped support the ministry in some way, either financially or helping him physically hang signs in all types of winter weather. Christ on Central expands from Midlothian Turnpike to 176th Street giving all the glory, thanks, and praise to God.

A contest for a new Christmas sign was announced in early November. Almost 100 entries were submitted. And the winner is...4 year old Vanessa C. from St. Damian Preschool! Below see Vanessa holding her entry and a photo of her message on a new Christ on Central sign. The Christmas message to the world comes from Vanessa; the art comes from Mark Odewald. Congratulations to Vanessa. May we all feel the Peace of Jesus in our hearts this Christmas!





JESUS IS DEACE

Peace be with you!



Reflecting on the Nativity

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace.

At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly.

Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

Welcome to the Family Aryanah



Proud parents
Jason & Kristen
shared this photo
of their beautiful
newly baptized
baby girl with
all of us.

May the Lord bless and keep you all in His loving care.

The Cancer Support Group Tuesday, January 4 at 6:00PM Pastoral Center, Damian A.

Whether you are currently in treatment for cancer, supporting a loved one or friend who has cancer or in recovery – we hope you will join us at our next meeting

Our meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Join us anytime.

Questions? Call Joy 708-687-4762. Please leave a message.

"Moving Forward in Hope" Mental Illness Support Tuesday, Dec. 28, 7:00-8:00pm

The Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness is pleased to offer "Moving Forward in Hope," a monthly series of prayer, connection, and hope. Our goal is to create a safe place where those living with or caring for someone with mental health concerns can come together to pray and share with one another.

We know connection is paramount to mental health and well-being. These virtual meetings will cover relevant topics and be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. To register contact Deacon Tom Lambert at tlambert@ourlmc.org.

The St. Damian Mental Health Awareness (MHA) Support Group hosts regularly monthly meetings open to all. Join us! Our next meeting is Thursday, January 20th from 7:00 - 8:30PM in the Pastoral Center.

For more information call the Pastoral Center (708) 687 1370 or (708) 284 6511.

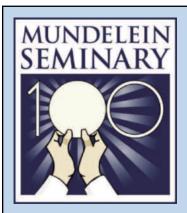
St. Damian Prayer Group Every Tuesday, 7-8:30pm

in the large meeting room at the east end of the School, Door "F."

Are you looking for a welcoming place to grow in your faith and strengthen your relationship with God? Join us!

Our next meeting is January 4.





Mark Your Calendar!

Holy Hour for Vocations St. Damian Church Saturday, February 5 following 9:00AM Mass

St. Damian Parish is honored to host a Holy Hour for Vocations in partnership with Mundelein

Seminary as the celebrate 100 years of forming our parish priests. The beautiful monstrance used at the 28th International Eucharistic Congress held on the seminary grounds in 1926 will be used for the Holy Hour. A representative seminarian will be present to share the historical significance of the monstrance and the impact of Mundelein Seminary on our parish and the Archdiocese.

Praying for our Future Priests

St. Damian parish is blessed to have a young man in discernment and formation at St. John Vianney Seminary.

Please remember Brenden and his fellow seminarians in your prayers.

Do you feel God is calling you? Fr. Michael Olson is our vicariate Vocations director - give him a call 708-342-8523.





New Date: Weds. April 6, 2022

Your previously purchased Tickets are good for the new date! Additional Tickets are \$25 each southchicago.eventbrite.com

Made for More is based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, an enlightening look at how God created us in His image in love and for love. Our bodies have meaning. Our identity is God-given.

Christopher West, a reknowned expert on this teaching, presents these truths powerfully and simply. Recommended for those 15 and over with a guardian. Call 708-342-8527 for info.

Young at Heart Seniors Luncheon Monday, January 10 at 10:00AM

St. Stephen's Parish, Tinley Park

Join us for Old Time Movie Day! We are serving lunch at no charge! St. Damian parishioners can contact Pat Weitz, 708-738-5155 for information.



Now Accepting Registration for 2022-2023 School Year

5300 155th St., Oak Forest 708-687-4230 stdamianschool.org

St. Damian School and Preschool Academy



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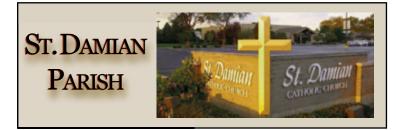
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St. Damian School News

Mrs. Miller's third grade students have been busy learning about Advent, collecting food for the needy and learning about Our Lady of Guadalupe.





Parish Registration

We welcome new parishioners! For your convenience, a registration form is located on our website www.stdamianchurch.org.

Religious Instruction for Children and Adults

Call Cheryl Plesha at 708.687.7778 for information about becoming Catholic or continuing education. Visit our parish website under Faith Formation.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Pastoral Center 708.687.1370 to request a priest to anoint persons who are ill.

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30 PM. Confessionals are located in the Sacred Heart Room, west side of the Narthex.

Baptism

Celebrated each Sunday at 12:45 PM. Call the Pastoral Center to arrange participation in the Baptismal Preparation Program. Arrangements should be made three months prior to the birth of your child.

Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six months prior to the date of the wedding. Contact one of the priests prior to setting a date at 708.687.1370.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 27

9:00 Catherine Jackson

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 Intentions of the Celebrant

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 Paul Wiser

Thursday, December 30

9:00 Michael Barrett, Francine Schick

Friday, December 31

9:00 Joaquin Rosales

5:00 Intentions of the Celebrant

Saturday, January 1

9:00 Irvin Markus, Odilon & Matilda Huerta,

Fobert Family Living & Deceased

Vigil Mass

5:00 Marie Innocenti, John Murphy,

Paul Wiser

Sunday, January 2

7:30 Bella Medrano Reyes, Paul Wechet,

Deacon Leonard Steinbeigle

9:30 Roberta L. & Joseph G. Noonan,

Olga Mata

11:30 Adolf & Maryann Szurkowski,

Neal P. & Connie Hallahan,

William Neibert

Liturgical Ministers January 2, 2022

Mass	Greeters	Cantor	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday 5:00 PM	Muredach McCloat Brian Paladin	Patrick Smith	Kate Cabrera Dolores Cozzolino	Jennifer Jones Tricia Mazurowski Ann Stearns	Caitlyn Forbes Marc Krawisz
Sunday 7:30 AM	Steve Kachlik Volunteer	Tony Berardi	Jim Katula Julia McMahon	Maria Connolly Elena Toreja Jeanne Taverne	Tessa Van Wyk Isabel Velez
Sunday 9:30 AM	Patrice and Patrick Thomas	Francesca and Anthony Chimera	Deb Hartigan Vickie Janicki	Sheila Perich Steve Arce Lee McCormick	Nora Van Kuiken Parker Zasada
Sunday 11:30 AM	Lance Bertolli Sharon Lavelle	Judy Dizon	Laura Morales Joan Romaniak	Thereseann Starr Gene Starr Brenden Infante	Alexis Dobrocky Rylee Neu



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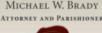
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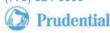
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