

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

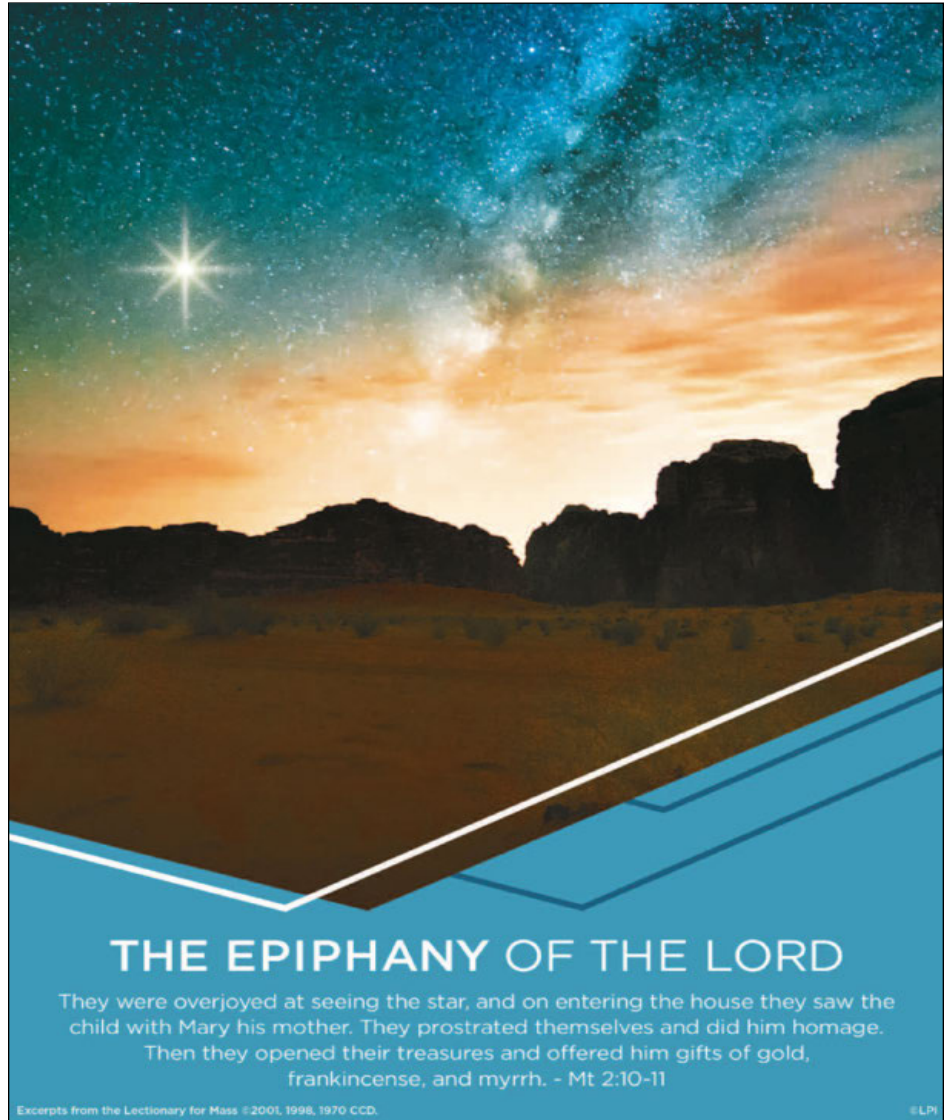
Donna Kay 687-1370

Administrative Assistant

Pat Garrity 342-8526

SHOP

Dale Lux 342-8516



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. Sign up sheet in Narthex.

Pastor's Corner by Fr. Joe Noonan

The Gospel of Matthew introduces us to the Magi most often depicted as three kings in Catholic art and decoration. However, scripture does not set a number for the Magi. Often the number of Magi is said to be three for their three gifts offered to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. The term "Magi" describes an ancient caste of Persian priests educated in the natural sciences. The common reference of "wise men" is from their training and study of natural science including astronomy. In their regular pursuit of astral observances they saw a star like none other. They felt this tremendous star indicated the birth of a new king and spurred them on to follow where it led. Through this star's appearance God revealed Jesus as a new born king. The supernatural knowledge of Jesus' birth came to the Magi from the Holy Spirit.

The Magi were gentiles indicating God reaching to both Jews and gentiles to discover the messiah. They understood Jesus is more than an earthly king as they "fall down and worship" him. Prostrating is an act reserved for the worship of God. The Magi were the first gentiles to believe in the Jewish messiah as God and the Savior of all people. This universality of salvation was addressed by St. Paul in our second reading today (Ephesians 3:2-6).

The Magi may or may not have been "kings". This title or role appears to have been a later addition to the tradition surrounding them. However, the notion that kings came to acknowledge that Jesus is the Savior of all humanity and depict that all kingdoms and kings submit to Jesus who is the King of Kings and the Lord or Lords. In Jesus, God enters into his own creation in order to welcome every people and nation to pursue a loving relationship with Him.

The Magi are a threefold example for us to follow. First, the Magi accepted God's invitation to discover Jesus. Seek God's invitation to you this year to pursue

Jesus daily. Second, the Magi were open to God's guidance and pursued with courage and hope where God directed them. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. Then listen and have the courage to follow the right path even when it is hard. The Magi did! Third, the Magi worshipped Jesus. Worship is the highest form of prayer. Worship opens our souls to the presence of God like nothing else. The Magi were initially inspired to pursue God by observing nature, the stars. They left their star gazing once they discovered God in the person of Jesus Christ. We might be inspired by the beauty of nature. Like the Magi, let nature inspire you to discover the Creator, the author of life. Nature is incredible to behold but a mere reflection of God's beauty.

The Magi returned by another route to safeguard Jesus, Mary and Joseph. A spiritual reading of this indicates they were changed by their meeting with Jesus. No longer could they walk the same path or go back to their old way of life. They had new meaning and a new direction to follow. Not only our souls but the soul of our nation seemingly is in need for this redirection toward Christ. Many prayers are needed for those who have rejected Jesus or His Church to fill the infinite hunger for their creator with finite things or causes.

The Magi embody our human longing for God and innate need to worship him. In this new year rediscover Jesus Christ in the spirit of the Magi. Plan intentionally to spend the time to travel and journey interiorly in daily prayer, worship at daily and Sunday Mass or get away from the noise as the Magi did and go on a retreat or day of reflection. You too might then end the year by taking a different route or path in a life changed, faith deepened guided not by a star but by the very light of Christ.

2021 Christmas Flower Memorials

Josefa Fonseca Arias
Gertrude & Edward
Donnelly
Aldo Murer
Stan & Sophie
Kerkla

Baptisms

December 18, 2021

Lucas John Aoun
Child of
Elie & Reta

December 26, 2021

Noah Joseph Brown
Child of
Steven & Kelly

Mia Lynn Engwall
Child of Erin

In Loving Memory

Marie T. Gregor

Vincenzo Tancredi

Joyce M. Kurelic

Michael J. McConnell

Kenneth L. Floramo

Rowland P. Jones

Parish Support

December 19, 2021

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Collected | \$17,875 |
| Budgeted | \$18,000 |
| Difference | (\$125) |
| Year-to-Date Collected | \$407,296 |
| Year-to-Date Budgeted | \$450,000 |
| Year-to-Date Difference | (\$42,579) |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Votives | \$136 |
| Sharing Parish | \$210 |
| Capital Donation | \$450 |
| Food Pantry | \$175 |
| Christmas | \$3,863 |
| Flowers | \$337 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$170 |
| All Souls - Nov | \$370 |
| Thanksgiving | \$15 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$50 |
| Initial Offering | \$65 |
| Giving Tuesday | \$470 |
| Oplatki | \$34 |
| CCHD - Nov | \$40 |
| Simbang Gabi | \$1,176 |
| Retired Religious | \$597 |

Thank you for your generosity!

Pray for the Sick

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Linda Carey | Tony Mazurowski | Marilyn Harms |
| Mary Anne LaHayne | Klara Szabo | James Gerrard |
| Linda Ruisz | Brian Frank | Kathy Rodifer |
| Linda Lisikiewicz | Virginia Horvath | Bill Conn |
| Celine Lisikiewicz | Pat Duggan | Lauren Hardesty |
| Rick Davis | Wanda Roper | Nancy Nehls |
| Greg Plesha | Jean Ranos | George Lubben |
| David Olson | Aaron Hendrickson | Carolyn Koppers |
| Yolanda Flores | Megan Erick | Bob Sutter |
| Guinivere Fobert | Pablo Flores | Clara Zarnowski |
| Minerva Fobert | Fr. Thomas Baima | Thomas Stacy |
| Barbara Bremer | Carlos Diaz | Debbie Fogarty |
| Michael Morgan | Dale Elenteny | Daniel Flynn |
| Janet Abramic | Andrea Riedl | Larry Twardy |
| Michele Worden | Edward Lisikiewicz | Iris Beltrame |
| Kathy Rauter | Walter Lisikiewicz | Shirley Booth |
| Maureen Holmes | Robert Moll | Clem DeRosa |
| John Morgan | Deborah Klun | Ken Spajer |
| Al Belluomini | Lucy Gannon | |

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!

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What
will
you
do
this
year?

A Prayer for the New Year

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen!

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.



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.

St. Damian Prayer Group

Meets 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.

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.

Healing Prayer Service

Wednesday, January 5, 7:00PM in the Church

Are you or a loved one ill?
 Are you dealing with a problem that doesn't seem to go away?
 Do you have a family member or friend
 that is spinning out of control?
 Do you feel you are alone and that God is not listening to you?

PRAYER has the power to change our lives.
 Sometimes the problem goes away.
 Sometimes our bodies or our minds are healed.
 Sometimes the circumstances remain the same,
 but we are changed.
 Doors open ...
 we see things in a new way ...
 we feel lighter ...
 we feel hope.

We never know how God will answer our prayers;
 but we can count on it that He will answer.

So COME bring your burden and lay it down.
 PRAY and have Deacon Rich Korepanow pray over you.
 Experience PEACE.
 Be BLESSED.



Every Wednesday in the Chapel
 9:30AM - 7:00PM

Our chapel is open for private prayer
 Monday through Friday
 8:30AM - 8:00PM

The Holy Hour of Reparation to the
 Sacred Heart of Jesus
 has returned to Thursday evenings in
 the Chapel, 6:30-7:30PM

*Current health and safety precautions
 must be followed.*

“Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.”

Mark 1:35

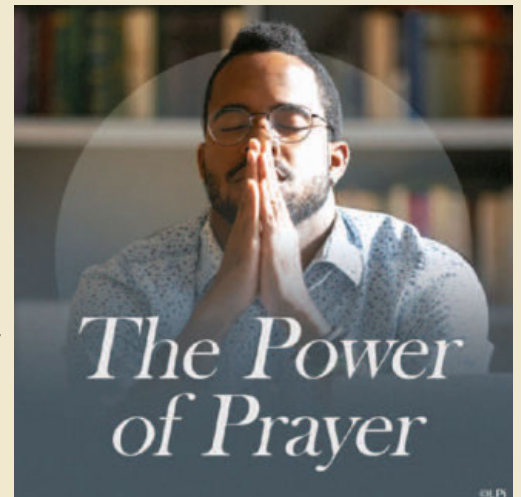
Jesus often went off by Himself to pray. We know that after Jesus was baptized by John He went into the desert for forty days to fast and pray before beginning His public ministry. We also see how that prayer strengthened Him against the temptations of the devil (Luke 4:1-13).

Luke 5:16 simply states, “He often retired to deserted places and prayed.” Before Jesus chose the twelve apostles, he prayed. “Then He went out to the mountain to pray, spending the night in communion with God. At daybreak he called his disciples and selected twelve of them to be his apostles.”

Even though He was God, He needed to converse with His Father. Jesus came to this world to show us how to live, and how to pray. Jesus drew strength from prayer. We can too. How much more do we need to come to God with our questions, concerns and gratitude?

Perhaps we can each try to be more like Jesus in the coming year by carving out a space for prayer in our busy schedules - *daily*. Don't set yourself up for failure by trying to pray the rosary every day if you are currently not a daily pray-er. Start small. Start with a format you are comfortable with - using a devotional book, scripture, formal prayers or just begin a simple conversation between you and God. Don't forget to listen for an answer. God will speak to you. Invite Him to be present in your life. Expect an answer.

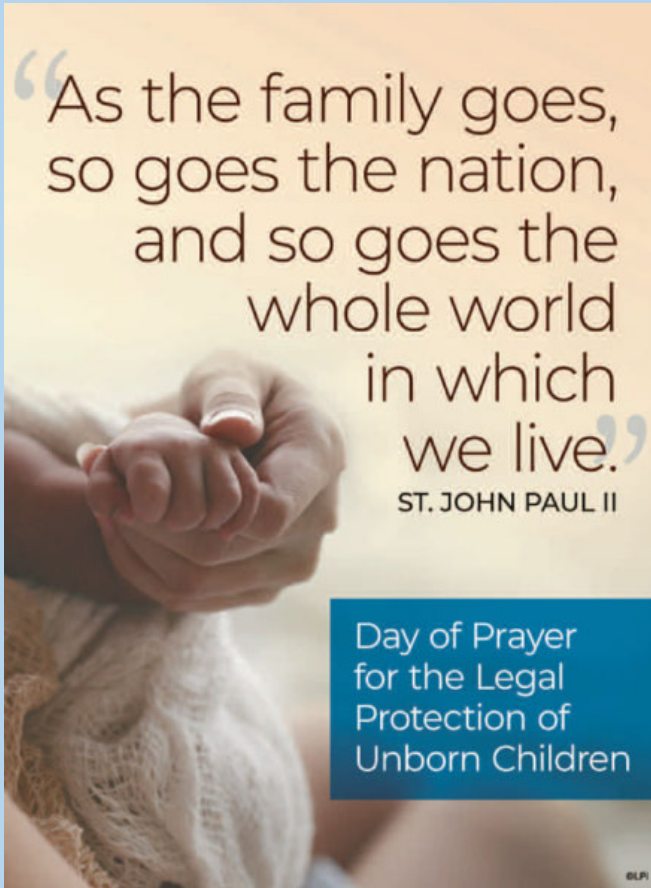
May your New Year be filled with the strength and peace of God's presence!



Prayer Vigil for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

The Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton* legalized abortion in every state on January 22, 1973. Previously, abortion law had been a State issue. The Supreme Court is once again considering abortion law in the ongoing legal case of *Dobbs v Jackson Health* in Mississippi. A decision is not expected until June 2022. Until then, Christians across the nation are uniting in prayer for the legal protection of the Unborn.

Do you have uncertainties about changing the current abortion laws? Questions? Please visit our parish website and choose the menu "PRAYING FOR LIFE." There are many links to helpful websites and resources exploring the issue of abortion. Information on the Dobbs case and the Catholic Bishop's statement on abortion can also be found there. Printed materials outlining the Dobbs case and the Catholic Bishop's statement on *Roe v Wade* can be found in the Information Rack in our Church Narthex.



Pro Life Prayer at St. Damian

A Daily Novena of Rosaries In the Chapel

Monday, January 17 - Friday, January 21

Rosary prayed every the half hour
beginning at 10:00AM, last rosary at 2:00PM

Sign Up to lead a Rosary;
Form is on the Information Table.

Saturday, January 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

Mass at 9:00AM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church
(*May be moved to Chapel in case of a Funeral Mass*)

Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed comunally at 3:00PM

Benediction with Fr. Joe Noonan at 3:15PM

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 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 than the total abortions in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri combined in 2019. Illinois' permissive laws are enabling a booming abortion business in Illinois.

The need is greater than ever; we must stand up for LIFE!

MUNDELEIN SEMINARY



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.

REMINDER:

**Religious Education
Classes Resume
Monday, January 3**

**The 2022/2023 Mass Book
will open this Spring for
Mass Intentions from
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

SOUTHCHICAGO.EVENTBRITE.COM

ST. DAMIAN PARISH

5300 155TH ST.
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WEDNESDAY

APRIL 6
2022

7:00 - 9:30PM

MADE FOR MORE

VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

with CHRISTOPHER WEST MUSIC BY MIKE MANGIONE

**This event had been cancelled due to the pandemic.
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 Connie at 708-342-8527 for info.

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Join others like yourself who want to make a difference today! We know your journey with us will be a rewarding experience!

For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@crisisctr.org or 708-429-7255, Ex 134.

**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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Bring Light to Dark Times



Donate now, reduce your state income tax and invest in our children's future! Take advantage of a limited time 2-for-1 matching gift.

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

The Illinois Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 7,000 students in the first three years. This year, as a global pandemic has created so many uncertainties in our society, you can still invest in a brighter future for children from our most vulnerable communities. By contributing through the Illinois [Invest in Kids program](#) you can make the lifelong advantage of a Catholic school education possible.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, you can take advantage of a 2-for-1 matching gift program that will triple the impact of your gift! Limitations apply.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

The Garcia family makes \$50,000/year and pays \$2,475 in Illinois state income taxes.

| Family Income \$50,000/year | Option A | Option B | Option C |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Illinois state taxes at 4.95% | \$2,475 | \$2,475 | \$2,475 |
| Invest in Kids donation | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$3,300 |
| Tax refund | \$375 | \$750 | \$2,475 |
| Total taxes paid to Illinois (after refund) | \$2,100 | \$1,725 | \$0 |
| Cost of donation to family after refund | \$125 | \$250 | \$825 |
| 2-for-1 matching gift program triples impact and provides three times the scholarships | \$1,500 | \$3,000 | \$9,900 |

Each option provides a refund back to the family, however **Option C** completely eliminates the family's tax burden and provides nearly \$10,000 in scholarships for students to attend Catholic schools.

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or tcs@archchicago.org, or visit archchicago.org/tcs.

St Damian School News

**The fourth grade will pray for all the St. Damian parishioners in 2022.
May Jesus' light fill your new year with happiness, health, and peace.**



Come visit St. Damian School & Preschool Academy
708-687-4230 www.stdamianschool.org

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ST. DAMIAN PARISH



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, January 3

9:00 Davey Stinson

Tuesday, January 4

9:00 Linda Laich, St. Damian Priests & Staff

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 Philip Shifrer

Thursday, January 6

9:00 Danny Fitzgerald
Jeff, Ryan & Donna Richter - Living

Friday, January 7

9:00 Patrick "Andy" Devine

Saturday, January 8

9:00 Jim Petkus, Jim Grisolano,
Dennis Dilger

Vigil Mass

5:00 Stan & Sophie Kerkla, John Julian,
Robert Sicher, Bill Kraszczyk

Sunday, January 9

7:30 Charles & Virginia Kalal,
Michael Spinler
9:30 Juan Mata, James Grisolano,
Richter Family - Living
11:30 Maureen Cahill, Dan Mueller,
Margie Gallagher, Joyce Kurelic

Liturgical Ministers January 9, 2022

| Mass | Greeters | Cantor | Lectors | Eucharistic Ministers | Altar Servers |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Saturday 5:00 PM | Ken Noell Kim Spindler | Eleanor Stone | Joan Kerkla Christina Zambrano | Michelle Noell Keely Colyer Kay Haase | Caitlyn Forbes Marc Krawisz |
| Sunday 7:30 AM | Steve Kachlik Brian Paladin | Tony Berardi | Allan Galassini Jeanne Taverne | Johanna Hurtado Loretta Wojtowicz Carol Seiner | Nathan Dunaj Grant O'Sullivan |
| Sunday 9:30 AM | Patrice and Patrick Thomas | Patrick Smith Music Ministry | Danny Arguelles Teresa Nuskiewicz | Cathleen DeYoung Maria Rosales Robert DeYoung | Reece Koszut Abigail Nuskiewicz |
| Sunday 11:30 AM | Lin McTeague Cielo Medina | Francesca and Anthony Chimera | Joan Romaniak Larry Twardy | Maureen Thompson Lavergne Innocenti Veronica Brushaber | Rylee Neu Peyton Wagner |

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