St. Damian Parish



Parish Offices:

5250 155th Street
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452
Phone: 708.687.1370
Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Closed for Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM - 1:00PM
Sunday Closed
www.stdamianchurch.org
Email: info@stdamianchurch.org
bulletin@stdamianchurch.org

Religious Education
708.687.7778
re@stdamianchurch.org

School Office
708.687.4230

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor Fr. Bob Stuglik
Associate Pastor Fr. Michael Olson
Deacons
Bill Stearns
Tom Hipelius
Tom Ruzevich
Richard Korepanow
Jim Katula
Sacristan
Lavergne Innocenti 708.687.1370
Director of Healing Ministries
Frieda Bertello 708.342.8529
Principal
Dr. Keith Matune 708.687.4230
Religious Education Coordinator
Cheryl Plesha 708.687.7778
Bulletin/Communications
Connie Swidergal 708.342.8527
Director of Music Ministry
Tony Berardi 708.687.9532
Office Manager
Christine Yaeger 708.687.1370
Director of Maintenance
Joe Beemsterboer 708.710.1510
Director of Finance
Donna Kay 708.687.1370
SHOP
Dale Lux 708.342.8516

Mass Schedule

Daily 9:00AM Monday through Saturday

Weekend Saturday 5:00PM | Sunday 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM

Livestream Watch on the St. Damian Facebook page
Mass 9:00AM daily and 9:30AM Sunday

Childcare Sunday 9:30AM Mass only:
Nursery for 2-3 year olds, no pre-registration required
Little Lambs for 4-5 year olds, September - April. Registration required.

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Daily 8:00AM - 8:55AM
Wednesdays 9:30AM - 7:00PM. Sign up in the Narthex

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 3:30 - 4:30PM in the Sacred Heart Room, west side of the Narthex or by appointment. Call 708.687.1370

Abortion has been one of the most divisive issues in America since states were forbidden to outlaw abortion after the 1973 Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision. Since that time, over 50 million abortions have been performed in the United States with an average of 3400 abortions being performed each day.

On one side of this contentious issue, those who call themselves “pro-choice” believe that abortion is a private medical decision that should take place between a woman and her doctor, without interference from the government or anyone else. On the other side, those who describe themselves as “pro-life” believe abortion is the killing of children before they are born and therefore should never be tolerated in a free society.

So where does the Catholic Church stand in the debate between “pro-life” and “pro-choice?”



The Catholic Church’s position on abortion is clear. In the magisterial document *Donum Vitae* (The Gift of Life) the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith affirmed that, “The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and therefore from that same moment his rights as a person must be recognized, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life,” (Sec I.1) Direct abortion, or the intentional killing of a human being living in the womb, is always seriously immoral because as persons the right-to-life is the most basic and fundamental right we possess. Even in light of this clear teaching, some questions that afflict people of conscience include:

Q: Does the Church oppose abortion if it is needed to save the life of the mother?

A: We may never perform an intrinsically evil act even to bring about a great good. For example, a just society cannot intentionally kill innocent civilians in a war, even for the praiseworthy goal of ending a conflict quickly and saving many lives. Likewise, in the context of pregnancy, a woman may not be killed in order to save the life of her child, and a child may not be killed in order to save the life of his mother. However, the Church does permit morally neutral medical procedures designed to save a pregnant woman’s life that may have an unintended side-effect of causing a child to die in the womb, such as the removal of a cancerous uterus.

Q: Does the Church oppose abortion in the case of pregnancy due to rape or incest?

A: In Romans 12:21 Paul says that we should not be conquered by evil but that we should conquer evil with good. The act of rape is a grave sin and an injustice that claims too many people, most often women and children, as victims. The Church teaches that victims of rape deserve immediate medical, emotional and spiritual care. The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (#36) states that Catholic healthcare providers have a duty to provide this care and to prevent the contraction of disease or the conception of a child. However, if a child is conceived in a pregnancy caused by rape, then this child is just as innocent and precious as the woman who was victimized and he or she should not be killed because of the actions of the rapist. The Church teaches that through mercy and love, a non-violent solution for both mother and child is far superior to helping a victim of violence (the raped woman) commit violence against her own child through abortion.

Q: How does the Church view those who have had abortions?

A: According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, if current trends continue, by age 45 one in three women will have had at least one abortion. While the church teaches that abortion is gravely immoral, she also teaches that God’s mercy and grace are never far from those who have sinned and seek God’s forgiveness. Along with women who have had abortions, it is common that the woman’s partner, family, friends, the abortion provider, and even society at large, are complicit in reaffirming (or even guilty of pressuring her) to make the “choice” of abortion. In the Encyclical Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II wrote a special message to women who are post-abortive. He wrote,

“I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone’s right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life” (99).

Save the Date!

Fr. Bob Stuglik's Mass of Installation
as Pastor of St. Damian
Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 11:30am
Reception to follow in Shaw Hall

Readings for the Week of October 6, 2024

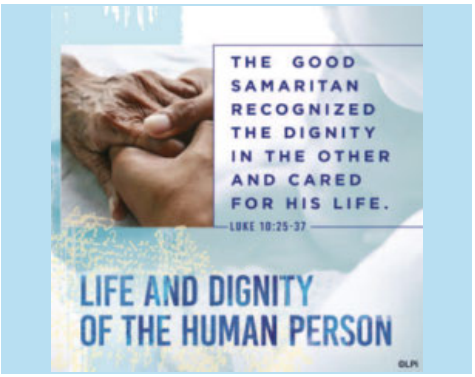
Sunday:	Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12
Monday:	Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4
Thursday:	Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13
Friday:	Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-26
Saturday:	Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 11:27-28
Next Sunday:	Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 (14)/Heb 4:12-13/ Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Pray for the Sick

Linda Carey	Alicia Newhall	Rich Huber
Mary Anne LaHayne	Jim Coyle	Toni Zerkel
Linda Ruisz	Lucy Gannon	Lucy Hanneman
Edward Lisikiewicz	Joyce Leland	Stacey Fischer
Walter Lisikiewicz	Patricia Chancellor	Andrea Riedl
Dan Joyce	Betty O'Neill	John Obler, Jr.
Veronica Brushaber	Bridget O'Neill	Bethany Kozak
Laura Mazurowski	Chester Swidergal, Jr.	Clem DeRosa
Lou Coppens, Jr	Susan Sprik	Ida Pilch
Arlene Newman	Donna Jamen	Manny San Juan
Sylvia Prokop	Carole Holding	Baby Giovanni Panozzo
Sandra Prokop	Joan Hogan	Michael Bartkowski
Jerry Bradley	LaVigne Family	Richard Adema
Marietta Penn	Susan Markovich	Bernadette Klein
Kris McCanney	Brian Frank	Olivia Glas
Shane McCanney	Patricia Coyle	Michael McIntyre
Esther Meyer	Susan O'Connor	Joyce McIntyre
Kathy McCloat	Michael Prokop	Christine Downes
Jacob Minchess	Patti Alberts	Mary Olson
Nicholas D'Angelo	McKenna Koziol	Beverly Davies
Sergio Rodriguez Jr.	Ben Pirog	
Ernesto Pulido	George Ruglio	

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!



Baptisms

September 29, 2024

Keegan Joseph McErlean
Child of
James & Nicole

Geno Luigi Both
Child of
Rocco & Jill

In Loving Memory

Fred G. Shaputis

Linda M. Cannon

Parish Support

September 15, 2024

Sunday Offerings

Collected in Church	$9,522
Faith Direct	$N/A
Budgeted	$17,000
Difference	($7,478)
Year-to-Date Collected	$191,495
Year-to-Date Budgeted	$204,000
Year-to-Date Difference	($12,505)

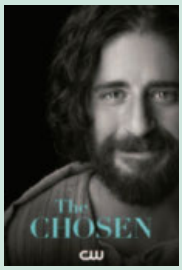
Faith Direct electronic donations are received by the parish bi-weekly.

Maintenance	$1,540
Capital Donation	$425
Sharing Parish	$375
Seminary Collection	$751

Thank you for your generosity!

Watch Season 4 The Chosen Wednesday, October 9 10AM, Pastoral Center

The Wednesday morning Bible Study Ladies invite parishioners to join them as they watch and discuss the newest season of The Chosen at 10:00AM in the lower level of the Pastoral Center.



There are 8 episodes. Viewing begins Wednesday, October 9; one episode per meeting.

Bible Discussion Group Thursday, October 10 7:00PM, Pastoral Center

This is a great way to learn and understand scripture, especially for beginners.

As we read the bible together, we will stop and discuss its meaning and how it affects our daily life. After a bit of discussion we reach an accurate understanding as we invite the Holy Spirit to lead us. Please bring your bible - any translation.

Questions? Contact Bob Sharon at (708)541-2675 or robertsharon49@gmail.com.

St. Damian Men's Club Tuesday, October 8 7:30PM in Shaw Hall



Our Raffle Winners will be drawn, **First Prize $1500!**

THANK YOU to everyone who supported us by buying a ticket!

Our guest speaker will be member Bill Siska.

All men 21 and over interested in becoming a member are welcome to join us for an informative meeting focusing on parish activities and afterward for refreshments and socializing.

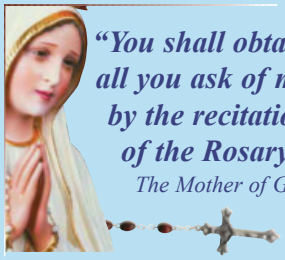
All members are requested to bring non-perishable food items for distribution by the St. Damian Food Pantry. See you there! "

St. Damian Prayer Group - Tuesday, October 8, 7PM

Aula, Door "F" at east end of School

We are beginning a 6 week presentation by Ralph Martin of Renewal Ministries: "Called to Holiness, Called to Mission" based on the teachings of St. Pope John Paul II

Questions? Call Cielo 708-254-3772



2024 Rosary Rally

Saturday, October 12
12:00PM at Jesk Park
155th St. & Ridgeland

America is at a historic crossroads. We must urgently heed Our Lady's request to conversion and repentance if we hope to enjoy God's blessings. The Public Square Rosary Crusade asks for the intercession of the Blessed Mother in a public call to conversion, repentance and prayer for America.

BLOOD DRIVE - SAVE LIVES!!



Embracing Memories

A seven week program to be held on
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00PM
in the lower level of the
St. Damian Pastoral Center,
5250 155th Street, Oak Forest, IL.

Knowing there are others who care about you and understand what you are experiencing can aid in the healing process.

Share this with a grieving friend!

Please register as soon as possible.
Plan now! Space is limited.

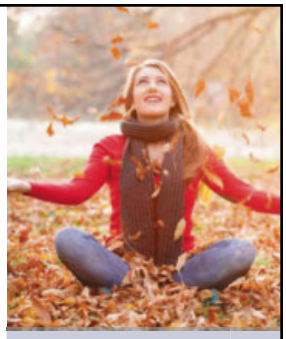
Call Deacon Stearns at 687-1312
or 708-341-3130 to
register.

Deeply Rooted in Loving Care



Fearless Mothers & Women of God

Faith over Fear... Pray more Worry Less



Come.. join us,

We know in today's world with our busy schedules, we strive to be the best version of ourselves, in all our roles, as a spouse, mother, daughter, employee, and woman of God. However, it is imperative that we take the time to fill ourselves up again.

This ministry will be discussing and covering a variety of topics that effect mother's and women in today's World.

- Feeling
  - Stuck
  - Alone
  - Overwhelmed Stressed
  - Lost
  - Empty
- Longing for More
  - Growth
  - Connection
  - Peace
  - Courage/Hope
  - Happiness

When:
Tuesday, October 8
Wednesday, October 23

Time:
6pm-7:30pm

Where:
St. Damian Pastoral Center
(Franciscan Room)

Light refreshments will be served!

Join Facebook Group Here





Choir Season begins with rehearsal on Monday, October 7 at 5:15PM in Church.

Our Adult Choir is always open to new members. Come, build friendships, make music and praise God!

New Members and Instrumentalists Welcome!

Would you like to play an instrument at Mass? Please contact Tony Berardi, Director of Music Ministry: TonyB@stdamianchurch.org or call/text 708.567.5560.

Help Support St. Damian Moms

The Fearless Mothers and Women of God gatherings have been very successful at helping young moms. The group is in need of VIRTUS trained babysitters to watch the children during meetings. Can you help? Babysitting just once or twice a month for two hours can free up a young mom to find encouragement and peace with other faithful women.

Contact Christine at ckwiat@gotwc.org.



RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2024

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

We are living in an exciting time of revival. Our National Eucharistic Congress, and the Eucharistic processions that led to it, involved hundreds of thousands of Catholics who will never be the same. The revival continues, and is so needed, especially in our efforts to defend human life.

Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, gives us the fullness of life. He calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person. While we live in a society that often rejects those who are weak, fragile, or vulnerable, they are the most in need of our care and protection. Pope Francis reminds us that "every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection."[1]

The law and millions of our brothers and sisters have yet to recognize this reality. We thankfully no longer live under the regime of *Roe v. Wade*, and our elected officials are now empowered to reduce or end abortion. But what we now see is that fifty years of virtually unlimited abortion has tragically created a national mindset where many Americans have become comfortable with *some* amount of abortion. This allows the abortion industry to continue to provide *any* amount of abortion. Given this challenge, the U.S. bishops have affirmed that, while it is important to address all the ways in which human life is threatened, "abortion remains our pre-eminent priority as it directly attacks our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, destroying more than a million lives each year in our country alone."[2]

"We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life..."

In a tragic way, abortion has become the pre-eminent priority for others as well. We see many politicians celebrating the destruction of preborn children, and protecting access to abortion, even up until the moment of birth. Few leaders are standing up to limit the harm of chemical abortion (abortion pills) to mothers and children, which is now the most common form of abortion. And heading into the November elections, as many as ten states face gravely evil ballot initiatives that would enshrine abortion in their state constitutions.

Pope St. John Paul II's words resonate today: "we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life' ... we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."[3]

And so we need a revival of prayer and action:

- We must renew our commitment to work for the legal protection of every human life, from conception to natural death, and to vote for candidates who will defend the life and dignity of the human person.

- We must call for policies that assist women and their children in need, while also continuing to help mothers in our own communities through local pregnancy help centers and our nationwide, parish-based initiative, *Walking with Moms in Need*.

- We must likewise continue to extend the hand of compassion to all who are suffering from participation in abortion, through the Church's abortion healing ministries like *Project Rachel Ministry*.

- Most importantly, we must rededicate ourselves to fervent prayer on behalf of life.

I invite all Catholics to join me in a concerted effort of prayer between now and our national elections, by daily praying our Respect Life Month "*Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*":

> *Jesus, you came that we might have life—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity. As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable. For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Through the graces of this revival, may we witness, work, and vote so that all children in the womb will be protected in law and welcomed in love, and that all mothers and families will be strengthened by our support and accompaniment.

For information on October *Respect Life Month*, visit https://www.respectlife.org/.

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The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion business in a community.

It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness during this 24-hour-a-day presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. It also serves as a call to repentance for those who work at the abortion center and those who patronize the business.

St. Damian parishioners are invited to join in the vigil outside of the Planned Parenthood facility in Flossmoor on Governor's Highway just off Vollmer Road. Our Fall vigil has just begun. Here is an exciting report from the leaders:

The first reported baby saved during this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign was in Illinois...and so was the second!

"The Flossmoor campaign had one [saved baby]," reported Rich, the Flossmoor campaign leader.

A sidewalk counselor walked an abortion-bound mother to the pregnancy help center, Aid for Women, right next door to Planned Parenthood. "She was counseled and decided to give her baby a new lease on life," Rich added.
That's not the only victory in Flossmoor.

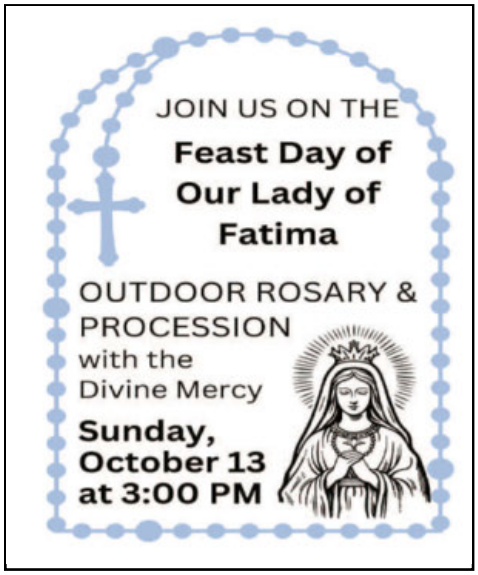
A post-abortive mother approached vigil participants and said that she had an abortion 25 years ago. A quarter-century later, the abortion still hurt--especially since it contributed to infertility and a broken marriage.

Prayer warriors directed her, too, to the pregnancy help center, where she received counseling and grief support...

"She is now considering joining [us] and participating in helping other women not make the same mistake she made," Rich said.

Flossmoor 40 Days for Life is off to a great start. Wednesday saw a baby's life saved, a driveway turnaround and a woman's soul, damaged by abortion many years earlier, seek out and receive counseling and comfort, all because someone cared enough to be present at the Planned Parenthood driveway to offer prayers, hope and help.

Plan to join us on Tuesday, October 22nd. See details in our narthex at the Information Table.



World Mental Health Sunday October 13, 2024

Please Join Members Of The St. Michael Parish Mental Health Awareness Ministry, as they gather to pray the rosary for those living with mental health afflictions

Sunday, October 13, 2024
at 3:00pm
In The Mary Garden
(If Inclement Weather Gather In The Chapel)

St. Michael Church,
14327 Highland Ave., Orland Park IL



St. Damian Seniors - Join St. Stephen's Young at Heart Group!

Membership is only $25/year, and guests are always welcome. Meetings are held in St. Stephen's Parish Hall in Tinley Park once a month on the second Monday. Information and tickets for meetings and events can be purchased through St. Damian parishioner
Pat Weitz at 708-738-5155.

October 14, Octoberfest - Menu: Brats, Salad and dessert. Music by German Band Die Musikmeisters. Members $10, Guests $15.

November 11, Bingo - Cash prizes and door prizes. $5 for a book of bingo cards. Split the Pot. Sloppy Joes and chips. Tickets $5/person available at the door or at the October meeting.

December 9, Christmas Party - Turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert. Entertainment by Ted Oliver Dueling Pianos. Members $10, Guests $15 in advance.







St. Damian School News

Third grade attended Mass with the entire school for the feast of our patron Saint, St. Damian.
Fr. Michael explained what a relic is and what it means to venerate a relic.
We were invited to venerate the relic and received a blessing.







Buy your Gift Cards from our SHOP program and reap the benefits!

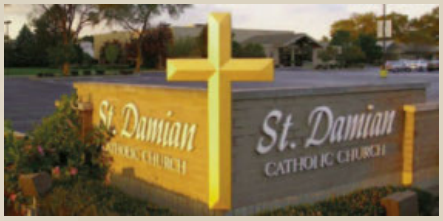
SHOP stands for "Shopping Helps Our Parish." SHOP sells gift cards from many local and national retailers. The vendors offer St. Damian a discount in the form of a rebated percentage which is split between the purchaser and St. Damian. Here is an example: You buy an AMC Theater gift card for $25 that offers an 8% rebate. 4% goes to support St. Damian and 4% is rebated back to you in the form of tuition credits (Religious Ed, Day School, your High School, College) or ministry support (any ministry of your choice i.e. St Vincent DePaul). You can use the credits yourself or apply them to a family member's or friend's account. You can even shop online!

Stop by the SHOP table and explore the possibilities. Questions? Contact Dale Lux at (708) 342-8516.

St. Damian School is in need of substitute teachers and one full time classroom assistant.

For more information, please respond to Dr. Matune: kmatune@stdamianschool.org.

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.

Baptism

Celebrated each Sunday at 12:45PM. 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.

Submit articles to our bulletin 2 weeks in advance of the desired publication date by emailing bulletin@stdamianchurch.org.

Questions on submissions? Call Connie 708.342.8527.

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 7
9:00 Diana Dilger, †Alfred Belluomini, †Kay Matthews, †Pollyanna Pe

Tuesday, October 8
9:00 Darlene Blackwell, †John Rodgers

Wednesday, October 9
9:00 †Romeo Avelino Dognidon, †John Sasveld, †Joyce Vogel

Thursday, October 10
9:00 †Guy Gattone, †Susan Swidergal

Friday, October 11
9:00 †Alfred Belluomini, †Pollyanna Pe

Saturday, October 12
9:00 Keiren Budds & Family, †Karen Standard, †Eddie & Amado Alcedo, †Anthony & Helen Standard

Vigil Mass
5:00 Baby Vienna Sy, †John Julian, †Glennis Stutzman, †Richard Mathis, †Margit Nelson, †Selves Olson

Sunday, October 13
7:30 Parishioners of St. Damian, †Polly Pe, †Bob & Lee Wollenberg, †Gregory Stolarczuk
9:30 Laura Standard, Michelle Standard, †Christine Neakarse, †Bonnie McKenzie
11:30 †Susan Swidergal, †Helen Bienik, †June Carlson, †Dorothy A. Cusack, †Lou & Trenna Streer

† Indicates Deceased

Liturgical Ministers October 13, 2024

** Indicates Sub Requested*

Mass Time	Presider	Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Vigil 5:00PM	Fr. Michael Olson	Muredach McCloat *Please Volunteer*	Andrea Sagel	Dolores Cozzolino Joan Kerkla	A. Nelson, M. Varley, T. Mazurowski, J. Jones, A. Bilotti	Casey Staszcuk Mackenzie Van Howe
7:30AM	Fr. Bob Stuglik	Steve Kachlik Brian Paladin	Tony Berardi	Pat Blabas Jeanne Taverne	L. Schubert, E. Toreja, S. Arce, D. Lipinski, K. Navarre	Sean Stokes Owen Wolff
9:30AM	Fr. Michael Olson	Patrice and Patrick Thomas	JoAnn Kelly	Deb Hartigan Alice Stiegler	A. Stearns, R. Dreznes, L. Dreznes, J. Siuda, C. Hudson	Zachary Kwiat Norah Young
11:30AM	Fr. Bob Stuglik	Lin McTeague Cielo Medina	Francesca Klem Anthony Chimera	Veronica Beltran Anne Streer	M. Walter, D. Olsen, M. Thompson, A. Montefolka, D. Montefolka	Baylana Beltran Lainie King

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Ken Eichorst, Parishioner

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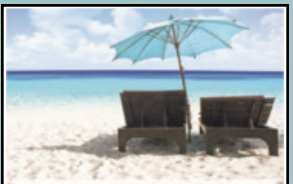
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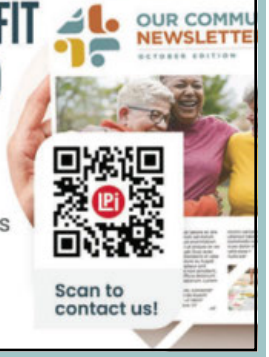

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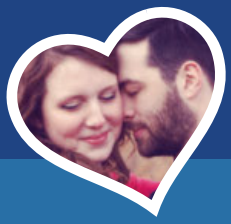
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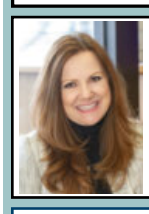

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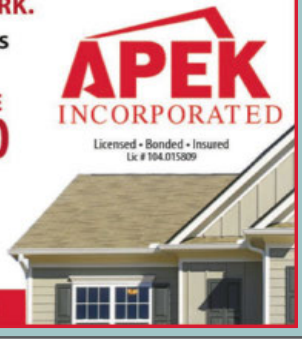

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