December 19, 2021 | Bulletin

St. Damien of Molokai

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

4th Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess?

After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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Parish Mission Statement

We at St. Damien of Molokai are a vibront parish lived out in a multi-cultural experience. Following the example of our humble patron, we embrace the challenge to harmonize the diversity within our faith community in order to draw closer to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

GET IN TOUCH

248-332-0283(84)

www.st-damien.org

St. Michael Church
120 Lewis St. Pontiac

St. Vincent Church
46408 Woodward Ave. Pontiac

stdamienpontiac/

@stdamienofmolokai

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office is located at the St. Michael Site.
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:15pm - 4:00pm

For concerns or questions regarding
Mt. Hope Cemetery | 248-350-1900.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday
12:00 pm, St. Vincent, English

Saturday:
4:00pm, St. Vincent, English
6:00pm, St. Vincent

Sunday:
8:30am, St. Vincent, Spanish
10:30am, St. Vincent, English (Livestreamed)
12:00pm, St. Michael, Spanish
7:00pm, St. Vincent, Spanish

RECONCILIATION

Every Friday
5:30pm - 7:30pm, St. Vincent, Billingual
Or by appointment please call our parish office

ADORATION CHAPEL

The chapel is open 24/7 at St.Michael's Church site. Please text or call 248-838-9805 (bilingual) or 248-897-9155 (Spanish) if: It is after 4pm during weekdays, and weekends.
You would like to sign up to be a regular Adorer. Instructions and more information will follow.

STAFF DIRECTORY

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John Reynolds

MASS INTENTIONS

All weekly masses are in English at St. Vincent Campus.

Monday, December 20
Jesus Ramirez (L)
Familia

Tuesday, December 21
Andrew Ramirez (D) 1st Anniv.

Wednesday, December 22
Ricardo & Rosentina Jimenez (D)
Family

Thursday, December 23
Mrs. Genevieve Drake
Children

Friday, December 24
For all Parishioners
No noon mass.

Saturday, December 25
10:00am, English:
For all Parishioners

12:00pm, Spanish:
Para todos los Feligreses

Sunday, December 26
8:30am, Spanish:
Heraclio Andrade (D)
Family

10:30am, English:
Pedro Hernandez (D) 1st Anniv.

12:00pm, Spanish:
MFCC

7:00pm, Spanish:
Jesus Lorenzo Barrón (D)

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone please call the parish office or send a note by mail to the parish office or by email to mail@st-damien.org.

PRAY FOR...

Helen Alvarado, Catherine & Michael Blasyck, Lynn Brockman, Marie Jacqueline Bicies, Katie Clark, Jerry Crowford, Janet Holley, Dolores, Mike, Billy Hockenberry, Joan Haslinger, Gilbert Ochoa, Susan Kelchner, Oaken Kovary, Melinda Kici-O'Brian, Carol McInnis, Noelito Nieves, Andres Nieves, Tony Nieves, Don Nelson, Edward Robak, Patricia Smith, Rod Schneider, Juan Carlos Trejo, Brian Thornberry, Nick Tubbs, Humberto Vargas, Fernando Tapia, for all expecting Mothers in the our parish, and for all those suffering from an illness.

Prayer List: *Unless otherwise requested the names published in the prayer list will be included for six weeks and then removed. To renew or add, please call the parish office.*

READINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20
Isaiah 7: 10-14
Psalms 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Luke 1: 26-38

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21
Zephaniah 3: 14-18a
Psalms 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1: 39-45

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22
First Samuel 1: 24-28
First Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Luke 1: 46-56

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23
Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24
Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Luke 1: 57-66

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
Second Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalms 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Luke 1: 67-79

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
The Nativity of the Lord Solemnity,
Holy Day of Obligation
Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalms 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Hebrews 1: 1-6
John 1: 1-18

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
HOLY FAMILY FEAST
First Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
Psalms 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10
First John: 3: 1-2, 21-24
Luke 2: 41-52

19 de diciembre de 2021

4° DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Tomar decisiones siempre es difícil; por muy simples que sean, lleva su tiempo de discernimiento. Hoy, la Liturgia se centra en María, y el Evangelio nos dice que: "Por entonces María tomó su decisión y se fue, sin más demora, a una ciudad ubicada en los cerros de Judá" (Lucas 1:39). Hacer la voluntad de Dios, como lo hizo la Madre del Señor, no fue cosa fácil. Al pronunciar su "sí", trajo consecuencias de fidelidad y servicio. "¿Cuáles eran sus pensamientos durante los meses de espera?" La respuesta proviene del pasaje de la visita de María a su pariente anciana, Isabel. "Entró en casa de Zacarías y saludó a Isabel". María estaba feliz por su maternidad, y a su vez, Isabel saludó a María diciendo: "¿Cómo he merecido yo que venga a mí la madre de mi Señor?" (Papa Francisco 12-23-2018).

Un diálogo de amor, entre estas dos mujeres, estalla en las montañas de Judea por el Mesías esperado. María acudió con prontitud, no con ansiedad, sino actuando como una verdadera discípula a su corta edad. La visita de María a su parienta Isabel debe ser un ejemplo vivo para prepararnos a vivir una Navidad de dinamismo, fe y servicio hacia el más necesitado. Un encuentro de alegría auténtica, que manifieste la compasión y la ternura de Dios hacia los que nos rodean a través de nosotros. ¿Cuántos miembros de la familia sufren por falta de una visita, de un saludo? A tan solo unos días del nacimiento del Salvador, es el momento oportuno para las obras de caridad. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad! Camina presuroso al encuentro del Señor.
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OFFERTORY

Registered Families: 1598	Registered Families: 1598
November 28, 2021	**December 5, 2021**
Envelopes & Online giving: 261	Envelopes & Online giving: 255
Total Offerings: $7,834	Total Offerings: $8,974

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ALTAR SOCIETY

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

A big thank you to all who baked, bought some baked goods or made a donation. The funds will be used to purchase cleaning and miscellaneous supplies, as will liturgical items. Again Thank you for supporting the Altar Society. Hope you enjoyed your baked goods. God Bless.

Un gran agradecimiento a todos los que hornearon, compraron algunos productos horneados o hicieron una donación. Los fondos se utilizarán para comprar artículos de limpieza y necesidades litúrgicas. Nuevamente, gracias por su apoyo de la sociedad del altar, esperamos que haya disfrutado de sus productos horneados. Dios los bendiga.

There will be no Mercy night on December 24th and 31st.

Join us for a Mercy Morning on January 1st at 11:00am followed by noon Mass.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th
Christmas Eve
4:00pm, St. Vincent, English
5:30pm, St. Michael, Spanish
7:00pm, St. Vincent, English
12:00am, St. Vincent, Bilingual

December 25th
Christmas Day
4pm & 6pm Mass Cancelled
10:00am, St. Vincent, English
12:00pm, St. Michael, Spanish

January 1st
Solemnity of Mary
11:00am, Mercy Morning
12:00pm, Mass, St. Vincent
Normal Mass Schedule Resumes.

KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS

Keep Christ in Christmas
Poster Contest
Please go to www.st-damien.org for more information.

CABALLEROS DE COLÓN

Concurso de posteres
Guardar a Cristo en Navidad
Mas informacion aqui: www.st-damien.org.

Parish Office will be closed from December 20th - January 1st.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

BABY JESUS' WISH LIST

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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