



The Solemnity of Mary January 1, 2012

# " *The Shrine* "

## St. Odilo Parish

### National Shrine of the Poor Souls

*St. Odilo Church is the only parish in the United States dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory. It was founded and sanctioned as the Shrine of the Poor Souls by His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein, in 1928, with a special indulgence of 200 days granted upon each visit to the shrine.*

**Rectory:** 2244 East Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402 (708) 484-2161  
**School:** 2301 S. Clarence, Berwyn, IL 60402 (708) 484-0755  
**Convent:** 2319 S. Clarence, Berwyn, IL 60402 (708) 788-3832  
**CCD Office:** 2301 S. Clarence, Berwyn, IL 60402 (708) 484-5321  
**Web Address:** [www.saintodilo.org](http://www.saintodilo.org) Fax: (708) 788-0565

**Pastor:**

Rev. Anthony Brankin

**Associate Pastor:**

Rev. Elvio Baldeon

**Priests:**

Rev. Msgr. Richard Saudis

Rev. Thomas J. Kaveney

**School Principal:**

Mr. William Donegan

**School Secretary:**

Mrs. Virginia Uphues

**CCD Coordinator:**

Mrs. Idalia Gonzalez

**Music Director:**

Mr. Paul Rau

**Parish Bookkeeper:**

Mrs. Beth Ritzenthaler

**Secretary:**

Mrs. Gail Kunce

**Mass Schedule:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:30 and 8:00AM

Saturday: 8:00AM, 4PM

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 (Latin), & 11AM & 12:30PM

(Spanish)

Holy Days: 7:00PM the previous evening; 6:30, 8:00AM,

12:00 Noon and 7:00PM

**Church is open:** Weekdays from 6AM - 4PM

**Confessions:** Saturday 11:15AM - 12Noon & by appointment.

**Rectory Office hours:** Monday thru Friday: 9AM -9PM

Saturday 9AM-9PM Sunday 9AM-9PM

**All Sacraments and ceremonies are available in Italian, Latin, Spanish & of course English.**

**Baptisms:** Every Sunday at 1:30PM. Parents are required to register with the Pastor. Parents should be registered parishioners. Please call to make an appointment.

**Marriages:** Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance with a parish priest. Please call the rectory to make an appointment.

**Visits to the Sick:** Please inform the rectory for hospital or homebound visits.

**Quinceaneras:** Cotillion Masses are available for our girls who have been confirmed-please call.

## **Ramblings - Fr. Brankin**

Christmas 2011

If you are like me, there is at least one Christmas in your memory that stands out as the reference point for every Christmas. This is the one that you remember as most beautiful, most full of joy. This is the Christmas that holds the key to all your future Christmases. And actually I mean Christmas Eve.

For me that special Christmas Eve happened when I was about eight. We were not a wealthy family at all. We lived in a bungalow just like the ones here in Berwyn. It was pretty normal—I think. Of course with five children, there were fights, and teasing and bickering. But we were always able to pull it all together in time for Christmas.

Now almost every Christmas Eve and Christmas—my father had to work because he was a policeman and therefore my mother, with five children under the age of 10, very much depended upon us to help her and to help each other. We didn't have a lot of extra things—that's for sure. But we were always warm and clothed. We had enough food and certainly we had enough love.

Now the Christmas I remember best began as the late afternoon dark began to fall all about the world. But the Christmas tree was all aglow with those big lights and the bubblers that we used to us in those days. They made it all seem so warm and comfortable.

My mother was boiling a pot of pasta for us. Of course there would be no meat in the sauce—for in those days it was forbidden for Catholics to eat meat on Christmas Eve. We so hoped and prayed that our Pa could get away from work for a few minutes and have supper with us. Ohh! That would have made it the best in the world.

Well, that year—lo and behold! Ma! Pa's home! Maybe it was for just an hour! But what joy! Pa was home! What more could you ask of Christmas? We were all home. This was even better than a personal visit from Santa.

The windows were all steamed up from the boiling pots, and there was clatter and clanging as my sister set the table—and there was a palpable love. Ma was by the stove cooking and Pa was in his uniform nibbling a little from her pans. Everyone was home. We are all together—and happy. Could there be anymore to life than that!

And that year—as if to complete the magic of the evening—after supper—my brothers and sister and I—tummies full of food and hearts full of excitement—sat on the couch looking out the window at the moon. We waited and we watched for hours because we had heard from the

holy nuns in school, that if there was a full moon on Christmas Eve and if you looked long enough, you could see the Holy Family right there in the face of the moon! Sometimes I think we saw it—maybe it was our imagination—but oh what a beautiful Christmas Eve that was.

There were no fights—there was no teasing—we were actually good that night. But of course. This was the night that Jesus was going to be born—and could there be anything more wonderful than that!

But there are many beautiful Christmases for all of our families. We all had them and have them. And our hope—every year—is that if we can give our children or grandchildren just one Christmas like the one we had—well—it would make it all worthwhile. And that is our prayer for all of our families.

Now an atheist might come up and ask us, “Wait a minute! What is the big deal? Why are you all so involved with the birth of this Baby? Why should there be such warm and wonderful feelings and such magic in your homes and families? This is just a baby and there are a lot of babies born every day—every year—and even on December 25<sup>th</sup>! What is so special about this baby?

“Oh you say He is God? He is God made man? He is King of Kings? Well, how could you say that? Do we not see that He is born in a stable—with dirt and donkeys all about with and cows and soiled hay and spiders and mice and rough farmhands all around Him. What kind of king is born like that?

“And Joseph and Mary don’t look very royal either—actually they look pretty worn out—as well they should be. They could not even find an Inn for this Baby to be born in! This is the creator of the Universe? You Christians certainly make a big deal out of this God who does not act like a God!”

And then we would tell the atheist—“That is the secret of Christmas. Christmas is about God becoming like us—and maybe sometimes—and maybe often—that means God actually becomes poor.”

You see, Christmas proves that God is not out there in space—somewhere far away from us and distant from our lives. God is not some all-powerful alien who simply endures us or merely tolerates us or even dislikes us. God is not some Universal Entity who regards us like a bunch of annoying worms under his feet!

No our God is here—in front of us—behind us—by our side and in our arms. He loves us so much that He wants to be like us—in our littleness—in our smallness and humility—in our poverty and suffering—and God wants to be like us, and for no other reason than that He wants us to know that He loves us. And being born a baby in a poor family and by assuming every detail of our poor lives He proves how much He loves us.

(To be continued next week)

## January 1st - St. Odilo of Cluny, OSB, Abbot (RM)

Born in Auvergne, France, c. 962; died at Souvigny, c. 1049. Saint Odilo was a scion of the very aristocratic French family of Mercoeur. He joined the monastery of Cluny when he was still very young. About 991, the abbot, Saint Mayeul, named him coadjutor. Upon the Mayeul's death in 994, Odilo became Cluny's fifth abbot.

During his 54 years in office he brought the other Cluniac houses into closer and closer dependence upon the mother house, and increased the number of foundations from 37 to 65. Among his general activities was the support he gave to Abbot Richard of Saint-Vanne for the acceptance in France of the institution called the Truce of God (Treuga Dei), whereby military hostilities were regularly suspended at certain times (Fridays through Mondays, Advent, and Lent). This measure had economic as well as religious and social significance and also guaranteed sanctuary to those seeking refuge in a church. Odilo also effectively promoted the Pactum Dei, whereby ecclesiastical persons and property were protected against attack in war.

In 998 (or 1031 by some accounts) he ordered that in all Cluniac houses November 2, the day after the Feast of All Saints, should be observed in memory of and prayer for all the dead; this observance, All Souls' Day, afterwards spread to the whole Western Church.

Though he was a friend of princes and popes, he was exceedingly gentle and kind and known throughout Christendom for his liberality to the needy. Odilo's concern for the people was also shown by the lavish help he gave during several famines, especially in 1006, when he sold Church treasures to feed the poor, and again from 1028-1033.

Saint Odilo's physical appearance was unimpressive, belying the strength of his character. He practiced great personal austerities (he wore a hair-shirt and studded iron chains) on himself, but liberality and kindness toward others. He experienced ecstasies. It is obvious that he was beloved by his contemporaries; Fulbert of Chartres surnamed Odilo "the Archangel of Monks."

Odilo united in his character gentleness with firmness, organizational skills with the ability to reconcile enemies. His favorite saying is that he would rather be damned for being too merciful than for being too severe. He promoted the spirit of true monasticism and tried to remove its abuses. During his rule, he sought to promote the close unity of Cluny and the Holy See.

It is appropriate that he should die during the Octave of Christmas because his favorite topic for sermons was the mystery of the Incarnation. The place of the Blessed Virgin was also worked out by Odilo, to whose writings the Mariology of Saint Bernard owes much.

His duties involved him in much traveling about, though he was ill during the last five years of his life. It was on a journey of inspection that he died, at the priory of Souvigny; he was about 86 (Attwater, Benedictines, Delaney, Encyclopedia, Farmer).

In art Saint Odilo is portrayed as a Benedictine Abbot with a skull and crossbones at his feet. Because he instituted the Feast of All Souls, at times he may be shown (1) saying Mass with purgatory open at his side; or (2) with angels releasing souls from purgatorial fire (Roeder). He is invoked on behalf of souls in purgatory and against jaundice (Roeder).

**SAVE THE DATE**

The  
Salt Creek Sinfonietta  
&  
St. Odilo Festival Choir  
will be performing  
Sacred Music with Schubert's Symphony #5  
February 19, 2012  
3pm

Please help us get ads for our program book for the concert!

Do you have a business? What about asking your employer?

We need advertisers for our concert program.

For more information call the rectory 708-484-2161

Sacred Music & Schubert's Symphony #5 on February 19th  
Sponsorship Opportunities

- \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00 (eighth page)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 100.00 (quarter page)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 250.00 (half page)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 500.00 (full page)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1000.00 (covers)

Please enclose  
a business card

Business/Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

This form can be return to the rectory . Thank you!

Greetings Saint Odilo Family,

Armory of Christ has had two very successful meetings in the months of October, November, and December. To start us off, we had a teen Mass in October, and then in November we had a movie night with an ice cream social. Finally in December, we participated in the Posada which was very fun. With such a high attendance rate, we can not thank you enough for bringing your teens closer to God through the ministry of our youth group and we pray and ask that you continue to support our youth group by bringing your teens to our monthly meetings. Also, A of C would also like to show our immense appreciation for A & L Electronics, Best Buy, Artistic Salon, and Familia Foods for all their donations and support. Their interest in helping the youth of our community is very commendable and we look forward to working with them as well as other businesses in the future. To end, on behalf of A of C, we would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year filled with family, love, joy, and hope. We include all of you in our prayers and we thank you for being such a supportive and loving parish that we can rely on. We especially want to thank Fr. Brankin and all the priests for helping us in ways that are unimaginable. Have a Happy New Year Saint Odilo!

Love,  
Armory of Christ

Instituto de Liderazgo Cristóforo  
773-472-1515 or 773-481-0628

## Clases Del Invierno 2012

**St. MIGUEL ARCANGEL**  
**1936 W. 48<sup>th</sup> St. (Damen )**  
**Chicago, IL 60609**

### Sesión Informativa e Inscripción

**Miércoles Enero 18, 2012 de 7 a 10pm**  
**Primera sesión Enero 25, 2012 de 7 a 10pm**

Curso de 10 semanas. Tres horas semanales  
Costo total \$100.

Adquiera...

¡Confianza en si mismo! ¡Mentalidad Positiva!  
¡Personalidad atrayente! ¡Facilidad de expresión!  
¡Entusiasmo y optimismo!

Elimine temores y complejos, aprenda a recordar nombres,  
adquiera dotes de líder.



**Hear God's call  
to the priesthood.**

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Office of Vocations

[www.ChicagoPriest.com](http://www.ChicagoPriest.com)



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**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**January 1, 2012**

Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.

— Luke 2:19

## SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Please remember the sick - Regina Szatkowski, Julia Adamczyk, Josephine Sprovieri, Barbara Dorolek, Roseanne Beckmann, Michael Termini, Ernest Karamas, Charlie Turek, Margaret Miller, Dolores Termini, Eglantina Chapa de Ruiz, Robert Pechous, Sharon Uren, Kimberly Lightford, Sharon Ferguson, Carlos Reyna, Bob Harazin, Baby Delanie A. Stepanek, Lucille Chlapecka, Anne Majchrowicz, Frank Kmet, Melody Chiang, Ralph Cannataro, John Zablocki, Maher Herbert, Brian Evan Molinaro, Barbara De Fina, Patricia Stalzer, Claudia Morales, Hector Gamboa, David Hepko, Ruth Hernandez, Karen Halter, Betty Holland, Elisabeth Andrejek, Scott Kmet, Jim J. Krejca, Betty Niwa, Georgiana Becker, Ernest Kin, Phil Cline, L. R. Hammond, Angie Hammond, Carmen Hernandez, Dr. Frank Zidek, Constance Jones, Gil Rabin, Radislav Petrovic, Ron Hurst, Angie Wasilewski, Diana Malinek, Henry Savio, Joanne Mitchell, Teresa Lara, Adam Pertl, Susan Deganhart, Dr. Antonio Dohse, Paul Gleeson, Sophia Sowa, Juan Vega-Valdez, Mark Schefke & Don Eck.

## REST IN PEACE

Please remember all those God has called to Himself from our parish family especially Violet Moravec and Loretta Malyska.

## OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

December 18, 2011	\$11,577.30
Last Year	\$10,133.97
December 25, 2011	\$11,215.56
Last Year	\$ 7,446.07
Christmas Collection	\$23,487.31

-Thank You!!!  
Fr. Brankin

## SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Jan. 7 & 8	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Servers
4PM		L. Canaveral	J. Vasquez P. Luna E. Guitierrez
8AM		S. Martinek	D. Mendoza M. Blitts
9:30AM			D. Celio B. Uphues C. Ramirez
11AM		M. Bonadonna	L. Acosta K. Uphues
12:30PM			R. Oldendorf D. Toledo

Servers week of Jan. 2 - 7: J. Garcia & M. Garcia

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### MONDAY, JANUARY 2-SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

6:30-Gertrude Jungblut & Helen Lafin (Family)  
8:00-Louise & Jerry Senkerik (Family)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 3-THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

6:30AM-John & Pat Roesse (Bill & Judi Biagi)  
8:15AM  
-Paul Lentz (Pat, Joe & Andrea)  
-Elizabeth Blasinski (Len Tufo)  
-Alberto Gonzales (Canaveral Family)  
-Harold Mally (Mary Dedowicz)  
-Marie Pluharik (Jay & Lorraine Popek)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4-SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

6:30-Shirley Coleman  
8:00-Mal & Kathy Mullin (Marian Lafin)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 5-SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

6:30-Surma & Martinotti Families (Kathy Martinotti)  
8AM  
-Kathryn Padera (William Padera & Family)  
-Eleanore E. Kocourek (Len Tufo)  
-Violet Moravec (Len Tufo)

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 6-SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

6:30-Horgan & Otmanoski Family (Cousin)  
8:00-Blessings on Georgiana Kasper

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 7-SAINT RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT, PRIEST

8:00-Helen Krnak (Salvino Family)  
4PM-Francesco Gaudio (Joseph Gaudio)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8-THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8AM-Anthony Shatas (Family)  
9:30-Intentions of William & Patti Collins  
11AM-Pietro Barbuscio (Carmelina Barbuscio)  
12:30-Manuel Marentes (Rosa Marentes & Family)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### TUESDAY...

7PM-Little Flowers (PR)  
7:30-Knights of Columbus (PH)

### WEDNESDAY...

2:45-Handbells (CH)  
6:30-Prayer Group (PrR)  
6:30-Schola Practice (CH)

### THURSDAY...

2:45-Childrens Choir (CH)



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