

The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2016

" *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) 680-0909
CCD Office: 2301 S. Clarence, Berwyn, IL 60402 (708) 484-5321
Web Address: www.saintodilo.org Fax: (708) 788-0565

Pastor:

Rev. Anthony Brankin

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Armand Ramirez Ruiz

Priests:

Rev. Msgr. Richard Saudis

Rev. Robert Coleman

Deacon:

Mr. Alfonso Salgado

School Principal:

Mr. William Donegan

School Secretary:

Ms. Laura Canaveral

CCD Coordinator:

Mrs. Idalia Gonzalez

Music Director:

Mr. Paul Rau

Business Manager:

Mrs. Beth Ritzenthaler

Secretary:

Mrs. Gail Kunce

Marketing/Advancement:

Mrs. Ruby Martinez

Mass Schedule:

Monday thru Friday: 6:30 and 8AM

Saturday: 8:00AM, 4PM

Sunday: 7AM (Sp.), 8:00 (Eng.), 9:30 (Latin) & 11AM (Eng.) & 12:30PM (Sp.)

Holy Days: 6:30PM (Eng.) the previous evening; 6:30, 8:10AM, 12:00 Noon and 6:30PM (Sp.)

Church is open: Weekdays from 6AM - 6PM

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

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

Saturday 9AM-6PM Sunday 9AM-3PM

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

Baptisms: Every Saturday at 10:30AM & Sunday at 1:30PM. Parents are required to register for baptism with a priest. 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

You will forgive me if I have mentioned this before, but the four weeks of Advent—symbolized by those four candles—stand for the 4000 years traditionally understood to have passed from Adam and Eve to the Birth of Christ.

Each candle, each week is a marker for a thousand years of watching and waiting, hoping and praying for some relief from the darkness—some ending of sorrow—the hope of a new dawn—a new beginning.

Now you might ask—how did they come up with four thousand years? Well, someone many years ago went through the bible with a fine-tooth comb and they added up the ages of all the genealogies and major biblical figures as they entered and left the stage of history. And they came up with four thousand years-- from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.

Now I do not think that we are obliged to believe in a literal four thousand years. But we are obliged to believe in Adam and Eve—that there were two actual persons from whom the whole human race descended.

Adam and Eve you say! Why that's just old Hebrew myths!

I remember back in college—in the 60's—when all this modernist stuff was beginning to get into the pews and poison people's mind—some fellow student said to me—after I had mentioned Adam and Eve in class—“You don't really believe in Adam and Eve do you?” I said to her “Well I may not be able to prove they existed—but you cannot prove they didn't exist. So I choose to believe.”

But I was wrong—they did prove the existence of Adam and Eve. That's right.

Do you remember—about 15 years ago—as soon as they broke the genetic code—the geneticists discovered that every human being alive today has the mitochondrial DNA of a woman from sub-Saharan Africa who lived about a hundred thousand years ago? She may not have been Eve—that may have been someone before her—but it does mean that the Catholic Church is correct—that we all are children of two original parents—and we call them Adam and Eve. You and I—quite literally—are brothers and sisters.

Science cannot say much more than that—so for the rest of the story we depend upon the Bible.

And you remember the story—how God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness and gave them paradise. You remember how Satan tempted them to disobey God by telling them that if they ate the fruit of the tree they would be just like gods.

And when they heard that they could be like gods—oh that's when things got interesting—to be like God! To do what we want to do! To rule and dominate and invent and create. How wonderful to be able to ignore that other God and all His rules! We just make up our own!

And so Adam and Eve fell for the lie from the Father of Lies—that we could be like God—that we could do our own will—and not His; and they committed the Original Sin. The First Sin—the Mother of all sins.

And what was Original Sin? The same as every sin—to refuse to do the will of God. That's what it always is—to be so filled with ego, and desire, and pride—that there is no room for God.

“Not what God wants, not God's Will, but ours! And we will accept no interference from any far-away God!”

In this way— Adam and Eve expelled God from their hearts. They broke the bond—the link—the union between Man and God.

That sin closed the gates of paradise—on earth and in Heaven—until that sin would be atoned for by the Sacrifice of the Son of God. And no effort on the part of humans to repair that break—to reestablish union with God or return to God's good graces—could work.

Humans always tried to get back to the God they had lost—but always on their terms—they would build the tower of Babel to try to reach God—they would sacrifice bulls and goats—and vegetables to try to make amends. And almost everywhere—would end up doing human sacrifice—and usually of children—just to appease the God who seemed always to be angry with them. And God would say to them and their sacrifices— “No”. You come to Me on my terms.”

And so they had to wait and as they waited, they suffered and slaved and stewed. They had to be slowly prepared for His most merciful coming. It would take four thousand or forty thousand years of cave-dwelling and discovering fire— inventing the wheel—Oh they would work by the sweat of their brow and sow thorns and thistles and then die. It would take thousands of years of wars and famines, plagues and pestilence, massacres and mayhem before they would be ready for His Coming.

Our ancestors lived a brutish life—full of striving and strain—no end to pain and sickness and the death—and ignorance. For thousands of years—we were alive and did not know why. For thousands of years we died and did not know if there were anything more than annihilation.

How terrible—How dark. That is why Advent is draped in purple—as we think about all those sad years when we were waiting for someone to come and deliver us from the misery of human existence without God. That’s right—human existence without God is miserable—and modern life proves it. And that is the point of Christmas—that in Jesus—by means of the Incarnation—the enfleshment of God in Jesus—we have been once again united to God. Now we have some hope of relief.

Now the skeptic could ask—well how does Christmas change anything? We still suffer. We still get sick—we still die. The homeless still sleep under the viaducts and the hungry still beg for food. And look at all the Christians all over the world who are daily shot or beheaded or crucified by Muslims? How can they celebrate Christmas? What does Christmas add to anything

In other words—If the Messiah has come and saved us why are we still in such a mess? Shouldn’t His birth two thousand years ago have brought us back to the Garden of Eden which Adam and Eve lost? Shouldn’t we now be enjoying Paradise?

There seems to be more suffering now than ever before. What’s up with that?

Well the answer is that the suffering we endure in this life—even if we are baptized and believe and love God and go to Mass and pray every day—that suffering is the residue of Adam and Eve’s Original sin—and that will remain as our inheritance from Adam and Eve and just punishment for our own sins. But in Faith—and since Christ—and with the sacraments—we know something more than our suffering—we know that it is only temporary.

There is now a deep abiding joy in our hearts that tells us that this world is not a dead-end—that our suffering is not all there is. We live the Incarnation and we know that Our Lord lives within us and He is saying to us: “There, there— everything will be alright.” And we know that. We know where we are and to where we are going.

If I believe in Jesus—it does not mean that I will be wealthy—and most Catholics have been poor—or at least not rich. If I believe in Jesus—it does not mean that I will not ever get sick—or that I will not die—My faith does not deliver me from suffering or sadness or tears or crying out or pain—I will experience all of that—Look at the Son of God on the Cross if you want to know your destiny as a child of Adam and Eve.

But after eons of separation and ignorance—now—since Christmas—I can take Him into my heart and let Him take me into His heart so that even in the midst of my suffering I have an unspeakable joy and peace and know that I am on the path to heaven .

The story of Christmas is the happy conclusion to the story of Adam and Eve. Their sin is forgiven—and we can be one with God again.

And that is why Christmas is worth the wait of Advent —no matter how long it took to get here.

Archdiocesan Mass for Life

Saturday, January 9, 2016, at 5 p.m.

St. Cletus

600 W. 55th St. La Grange, IL
(708) 352-6209
www.stcletusparish.com



We remember the innocent children lost and the women, men and families hurt through abortion as we reflect on the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Join Archbishop Blase Cupich and priests from across the Archdiocese of Chicago for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as we petition the Lord to transform our society from a culture of death into a culture of life.



Archbishop Blase Cupich,
Principal Celebrant

“Each of us is *Willed*, each of us is *Loved*, each of us is *Necessary*.”

~Pope Benedict XVI



For your convenience, you might want to consider enrolling in our electronic giving program to avoid writing a check or looking for loose cash every weekend. You may click on our Donate link on the Saint Odilo.org website to enroll or go directly to GiveCentral.org. This vendor will allow for secure and simple electronic payments. The amount and time you want to make donations can be changed at any time. Should you have any other questions regarding Give Central.org, please contact Mrs. Beth Ritzenthaler at the rectory.



MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO

LOVIN' LIFE IN CHICAGO

JANUARY 17, 2016, 2-4PM

MarchForLifeChicago.com
marchforlifechicago@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO

STARTS AT FEDERAL PLAZA (50 W ADAMS)

— SPEAKERS —

Melissa Ohden, Abortion Survivor

Archbishop Blase Cupich
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago

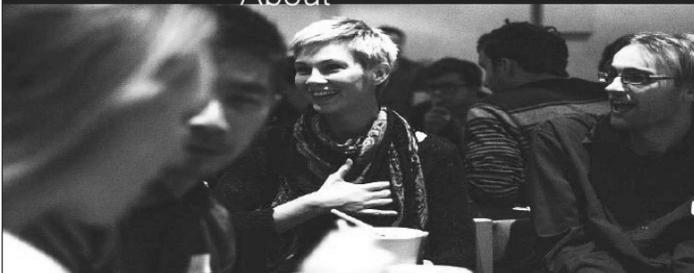
Bishop Paul of Chicago
Orthodox Church of America

Pastor Wilfredo De Jesús,
New Life Covenant Church in Chicago

→ SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS ←

ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE • ORTHODOX CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO • L.E.A.R.N. (LIFE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK) CATHOLICVOTE.ORG • LAKE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE • AID FOR WOMEN ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO • ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO RESPECT LIFE OFFICE • STUDENTS FOR LIFE OF ILLINOIS • CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS • COUPLES FOR CHRIST • FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY AND LIFE • PRO LIFE ACTION LEAGUE • RENOVACIÓN CARISMÁTICA CATÓLICA HISPANA • SPIRIT JUICE STUDIOS • PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN • DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD • ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE • RELEVANT RADIO • THOMAS MORE SOCIETY • THE WOMEN'S CENTER • FAMILIES IN CHRIST JESUS

Alpha Introduction.
 Come and See What It's
 About



What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment.

What Happens at Alpha?

A typical evening consists of a meal, a short talk about the Christian faith, and small group discussion.

Who is Alpha For?

Alpha is for everyone; no question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume any background knowledge or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome.

You are invited!

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016

1:00—3:00pm or 6:30—8:30pm

Cardinal Meyer Center

3525 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60653



Please register at **312-534-8107**

Learn more about Alpha at alphausa.org/catholic

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

CLASES DEL INVIERNO 2016

Lugar: Centro de Entrenamiento Cristóforo
 3018 N. Laramie Chicago, IL 60641
 (5100 al Oeste)

Sesión Informativa Inscripción

Sábado Enero 23, 2016 de 10:00am a 1:00pm

Primera Sesión

Sábado Enero 30, 2016 de 10:00am a 1:00pm

Curso de semanas. Tres horas semanales.

Costo total \$100.00

¡Enriquece tu vida! Actúa con Iniciativa, Responsabilidad, y Sentido de Pertenencia. ¡Comunícate! ¡Aprende! ¡Crece! y ¡Construye! Adquiera... Confianza en sí mismo, Mentalidad Positiva, Personalidad Atrayente, Facilidad de Expresión, Entusiasmo y Optimismo.



JUBILEE OF MERCY MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Plenary Indulgence for the Observance of the Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year

December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

Pope Francis has granted special Indulgences to the faithful who observe and take part in the celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy. In this year, the Pope has noted, “we need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.” By participating in any of the various observances of this Year, and while fulfilling the usual conditions (see below), one may gain this special Indulgence.

What must one do in order to receive the special Plenary Indulgence?

In order to gain this special Indulgence, a Catholic is required first to make sacramental Confession, receive the Eucharist at Mass, make a profession of faith and offer prayers for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

In addition to and in conjunction with fulfilling these conditions, one may then take part in any of the following observances of the Jubilee of Mercy.

Each time one visits, in the course of a pilgrimage, the Cathedral of the Holy Name of Jesus, or a designated Jubilee Parish, and there walks through the designated Holy Door, and makes a brief visit. *Parishes designated in the Archdiocese of Chicago are listed on the second page of this summary.*

Those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, e.g., confined to the home, the Holy Father noted, “For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.”

For those who are incarcerated, whose freedom is limited, the Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

The Pope has asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Please remember the sick - Regina Szatkowski, Josephine Sprovieri, Michael Termini, Ernest Karamas, Charlie Turek, George Kasper, Alice Kowalski, Henry Kereluk, Marge Shatas, Sr. Johanna Trisoliere, Ramon Marentes, Frank Stepnowski, Jody Stepnowski, Diane Reilly, Richard Wenc, William Stepanek, Karen Lewis, Joseph Kirchoff, our Veterans, Patricia Mars, Barbara Defina, Ralph Cannataro, Mike Kadrowicz, George Fuoco, Eddie Shishkoff, Mark Hruska, Baby Carmody, Frances Rapacz, Maurice Ford, Lucille Chlapecka, Milly Kosinar, Patricia Stalzer, Marty Oborski, Jerry Kolman, Shirley Klein, Anita Sanchez, Karen Halter, L. R. Hammond, Frank Munoz, Joanne Wilson, Fr. Fred Tomcik, Deacon Marvin & Peggy Kocar, Nathan Kucera, Steve & Kathy Birkenmeyer, Jack Burdsall, Sophia Hanson, Norma Kmet, Phil, Gussie Allen, Marin Salvino, Patricia Niwa, Barbara Mance, Deborah Ferguson, Francisco Solis, John Gardelka, Mary White, Jeanette Sprovieri, Richard Rychlicki, Hubert Ruiz, Mike Reato.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

December 20, 2015	\$10,898.34
Last Year	\$11,258.22
	Thank you!
	Fr. Brankin

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY...

- 6:15-Cheerleading (PH)
- 6:30-Legion of Mary (PrR)

TUESDAY...

- 3PM-Jr. High Choir (SCH)
- 6:15-Cheerleading (CB)
- 6:30-Little Flowers (PR)
- 7PM-Knights of Columbus (PH)

WEDNESDAY...

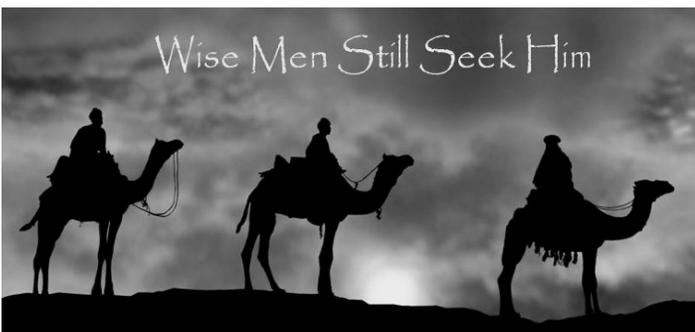
- 3PM-Hanbells (CH)
- 4PM-CCD (SCH)
- 6PM-ESL Beginners (PH)
- 7PM-Choir Practice (PR)
- 7PM-VBS Committee (PrR)
- 7PM-School Board (SCH)
- 7:30-ESL Intermediate (PH)

THURSDAY...

- 3PM-Children's Choir (SCH)
- 6PM-Arts & Crafts (SR)
- 7PM-Armory of Christ (CB)
- 7PM-Bible study (PR)
- 6PM-Mexican Folklorico Dance (PH)

FRIDAY...

- 6:30-Pequeno Rebano (CB)
- 7PM-Faith Formation (PR)
- 7PM-Spred (PrR)



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 4-SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

- 6:30AM-Jerry & Louise Senkerik (Family)
- 8:10AM-Souls in Purgatory (Rosalino Alsonso)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5-SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

- 6:30AM-Blanche Barrowman (Rose Pignataro)
- 8:10AM-William Stockhausen (Joan Stockhausen)
- Intentions of Anna Gasparro
- Carmen Tojong
- Sophia Hansen (Phyllis Markou)

3PM-Divine Mercy

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6-SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

- 6:30AM-Horgan & Otmanoski Family (Cousin)
- 8:10AM-Dorothy L. Melvin (Debra Clampitt)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7- SAINT RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT, PRIEST

- 6:30AM-Judy Lombardo (Women's Care Center)
- 8:10AM-Leandro Tojong
- Emily Pudil (Nancy Pudil)
- Tricia Fabry (Len Tufo)
- Zofia Siuty (Sister)
- John Anthony Godinez (Mom & Dad)
- Martin Gallagher (Friend)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8-CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

- 6:30-Dorothy Dedowicz (Son)
- 8:10AM-Robert Uphues (St. Odilo School Faculty & Staff)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9-CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

- 8AM-Thomas Williams (Banda Family)
- 2PM-Juliet Estevez-Dulceanera
- 4PM-Joseph Jirku (Laurelle Jirku)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10-THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- 7AM-John Anthony Godinez (Parents)
- 8AM-Anthony Shatas (Family)
- 9:30-Mary Russo
- 11AM-Intentions of Roberta Lorenz (Kasper Family)
- 12:30-Sergio Avila Herrera (Sergio Avila)

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

January 9 & 10	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Servers
4PM	N. Banda J. Garcia A. Kowalski	Not Available	B. Banda S. Rollins
7AM (Esp.)	T. Luna M. Marin R. Marin		A. Cruz R. Navarette
8AM	R. Cerino N. Kmet B. Ouska		A. Rivera, A. Gamboa
9:30AM			S. Carroll E. Gonzalez
11AM	R. Lorenz D. Oborski A. Perez		V. Hernandez C. Hernandez
12:30PM (Esp.)	V. Chavez L. Gonzalez E. Marquez A. Mendez		J. Diaz J. Diaz A. Mendoza

Servers for January 4, 5, 6: M. Gonzalez, A. Gamboa, D. Sanchez, M. Estevez
Servers for January 7, 8, 9: N. Blitts, J.P. Lopez, J. Watts

CHURCH NAME AND BULLETIN NUMBER

St. Odilo Church #512062

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Gail Kunce

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

secretary@saintodilo.org

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS