



WELCOME!

Dear Friends in Christ,

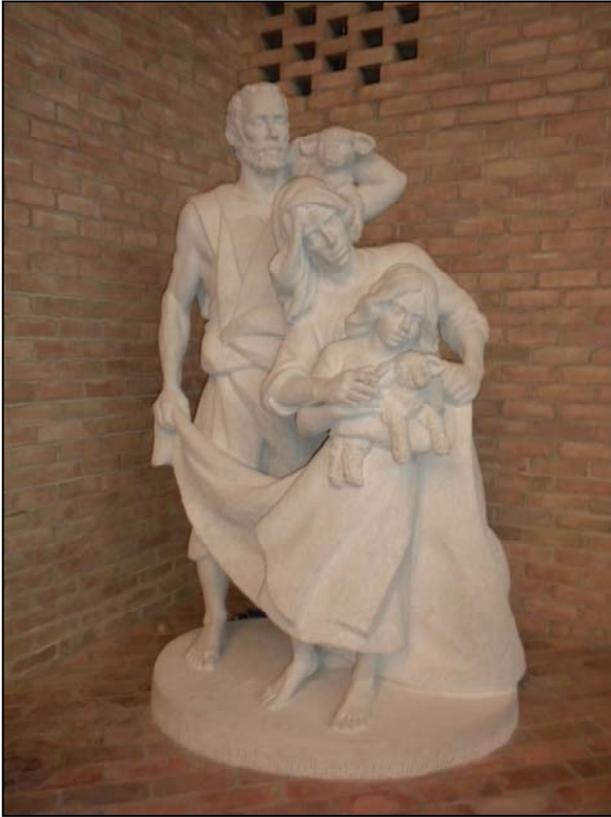
Welcome to St. Daniel Catholic Church! Whether you are a visitor, a prospective parishioner, or a newly-registered member, our whole parish community welcomes you in the name of the Lord. We realize that people who come to our church or our parish events may be practicing Catholics, former Catholics, non-Catholics, and people with no religious affiliation. You are all welcome!

Our parish community was founded in 1989 by Fr. Thomas White, who constructed our beautiful buildings. However, our parish is more than just our buildings, but a community of believers who celebrate their Catholic Christian faith together. We live out our faith through our sacred liturgies, our spiritual growth opportunities, our educational programs, and our Christian service projects.

This publication is written to share with you three essential steps toward a richer experience of the Catholic Christian faith. In brief, believe what the Catholic Church teaches. Celebrate the Sacraments which Christ entrusted to his Church. And become an active parish member. Thank you again for joining St. Daniel the Prophet Catholic Church! We are glad you are here!

Father James Dvorscak
www.StDaniel.org
630-384-0123

St. Daniel Catholic Church
101 West Loop Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004



STEP ONE

Why be Catholic? There is only one compelling reason for being a devoted Catholic Christian.

You personally believe, in your mind and heart, that what the Catholic Church teaches is really true, and is beneficial to our lives for ever.

Learning and embracing the saving truth of the Catholic Faith is thus the first step to receiving all the blessings that come from our religious faith.

There is also only one solid reason for remaining a fully-practicing Catholic Christian today.

When you are personally committed to living the beliefs and the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, God's plan for your salvation unfolds in your life, and in the lives of those whom we love, more and more, each and every day.

How to Unlock the Meaning of Life as a Catholic Christian

- * Listen attentively to the spiritual message contained in the homily, the Scriptural readings, the prayers, and the hymns of Sunday Mass. The word of God is proclaimed in its entirety in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church that have come down to us from the Apostles.
- * Read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, or a similar publication to review the life-enriching spiritual teachings of the Catholic Church. We recommend reading the shorter *Compendium*, or the national publication of the American Bishops, the *Catholic Catechism for Adults*.
- * Realize that the beliefs of the Catholic Church teach us the true meaning of what life is really all about. Why am I here? What purpose is there to my life? How can I really live my life fully instead of just survive? Jesus is the answer to all our questions about the real meaning of life.
- * Realize that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church show us how to lead good Christian lives that will lead us to our heavenly reward. The Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule also show us how we can make the most of our life here and now with a clear conscience.
- * Question for Reflection: How does my belief in Jesus Christ help me to understand life, and to live it better? The beliefs and moral teachings of the Catholic Church provide a compelling answer to this question, and a comprehensive life plan for making the most of out of my life.

LOOKING UPWARD, MOVING FORWARD . . .



STEP TWO

Who is a Catholic Christian? Quite simply, a Catholic Christian is a person who faithfully leads a sacramental life of grace as the sure and most certain path towards our final destiny in heaven.

Salvation comes to us through the Sacraments, which Christ gave to his Church to prayerfully celebrate until the time of his return to us in glory.

Since the time of his Ascension into heaven, the visible presence of Jesus Christ continues in the Sacraments he bestowed upon his Church.

Let us rejoice in the presence of the Lord, still in our midst, especially in the Eucharist, but also in each other, and in all people who are in need.

When Christ promised to be with us always until the end of the world, he clearly meant to fulfill that promise through his seven Sacraments.

How to Make the Most of Life through the Sacraments

- * Attend Sunday Mass each weekend. Sunday Mass is not just a duty or an obligation. Rather, it is a privilege to join our fellow believers, both on earth and in heaven, in worshiping Christ. Of course, those who are elderly or ill are excused - but we can bring Communion to them.
- * Here is our schedule for Sunday Masses: Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. On weekdays, Mass is at 7:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday, and it is preceded by the Rosary. Please check the bulletin for the Mass times on Holy Days.
- * Go to Confession, at least before Easter. Regular confession times are on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m., and on Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon. Just as we get regular check-ups from our physicians, we should go to confession regularly as well.
- * Spend time in prayer each day. We recommend *Magnificat*, a monthly prayer book from www.magnificat.com for your daily devotions. We also recommend meditative prayer, such as the Rosary or the Jesus Prayer each day as well. Prayer should be a regular part of our lives.
- * Question for Reflection: How do the Sacraments of the Catholic Church help me to make the most of my life? The Sacraments of the Catholic Church were instituted by Christ as the means of our salvation. They give us the grace to lead good lives, and help us get to heaven.

... LEADING ONWARD, TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!



STEP THREE

Why Parish Communities? What is the role of the local parish faith community in our personal, family, and public lives as Catholic Christians?

The parish community is where individuals and families spiritually connect with one another not only on the local level, but also with the universal Catholic Church in our diocese, our country, and throughout the whole Catholic Christian world.

The parish community is where we learn the faith through its various educational programs, where we celebrate and deepen our faith through the Sacraments, and where we practice living out our faith through parish and service activities.

Like any other worthwhile organization, we sign up because we share their core values. We attend their meetings, and we support their activities. It is the same with belonging to a parish.

How to Make a Difference as an Active Parish Member

- * Register as a parish member. If you have not already done so, please talk to the pastor after any Mass, or contact the parish office during the week for more information about becoming a parishioner. Our parish staff and parish leaders welcome you into our community of faith.
- * Come to church each week. Attend Sunday Mass faithfully, and regularly contribute to the parish through the offertory program. In addition to your prayers each weekend, consider your regular donation as a vote of confidence in the spiritual programs and activities of your parish.
- * Participate in parish activities. There are so many wonderful things going on in our parish community. By reading our informative weekly church bulletin, you will discover what is going on each week. There is bound to be something of interest and value to you and your family.
- * Join a parish organization. By joining a parish organization, you can surely make new friends, accomplish charitable deeds together, and help other people in the process. Whether you join to serve others, or come to receive a parish service, we grow together as a parish community.
- * Question for Reflection: How can I make the most of my parish membership? Paraphrasing a famous American statesman, "Ask not what your *parish* can do for you, but what you can do for your *parish*." When we learn to give of ourselves in faith, we gain so much more in return.

SAINT DANIEL THE PROPHET, PRAY FOR US!

WELCOME TO ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Please fill out this form for each member of your family, making additional copies as needed. Thanks!

What is your last name?
What is your first name?
What is your date of birth?
What is your gender and age?

What is your street address?
What is your city and zip code?
What is your telephone number?
What is your email address?

What is your position in your family?
<i>For example, are you a single person, a husband, wife, child, or another relative?</i>

What is your occupation or profession?
Are you still working or are you retired?

Are you still in school? Which school?
What year of school have you completed?

What is your religious affiliation?
Were you Baptized? In which church?
Did you make your First Confession?
Did you make your First Communion?
Did you receive your Confirmation?
How regularly do you attend church?

What is your current marital status?
Were you married in the Catholic Church?
What was your Last Name at birth?

Do you have any special needs, talents, or questions? Please let us know!
Please either contact us or write something on the other side of this paper.

Once again, a warm welcome to St. Daniel the Prophet Catholic Church!
For more information, please check out our parish website, StDaniel.org.

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