

## Thanksgiving Beatitudes

*Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?*

*Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.*

*Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.*

*Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.*

*Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.*

*Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.*

*Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.*

*—Author unknown*





*Dear Parents,*

*November is such a beautiful month. It is a month we show our thanks for everything we have been given and for the people in our lives. God is so good to us each and every day and we have so much to be grateful for.*

*I am thankful for you and each of your families. Thank you for choosing us to educate your children. We cherish them and their smiles that bless our halls each day.*

*Our teachers and staff are some of the hardest working and most dedicated people I know. What a blessing to work with them. I also am amazed at our wonderful parents and their dedication, support and ways they work to better our school community.*

#### *Committees and Organizations*

*We have many different fundraisers at St. Damian and each require volunteers who provide hours of support to run their event. I would like to recognize a few volunteers this month. Please forgive me if I have left you out. There are many people behind the scenes who keep everything flowing smoothly. Thank you to our Parent Ambassador Leader, Mrs. Kruswicki. Thanks for spearheading your team of wonderful volunteers who welcome our new school families. A few weeks ago many school families participated in our Damian Dash so thank you to Mrs. Lim and Mrs. Flores. Children and adults all enjoyed Trunk or Treat so thank you Mrs. Farrell and our School Board members for planning this event. Thank you also to Mrs. Stokes for running the Damian Drawing at the Trunk or Treat. Each of these events brings a sense of community and provides financial assistance to our school. Thank you for your support. Thank you Mrs. Boss for the monthly dine outs. Our Athletic Board, run this year by Mr. Staszak and board members, assist in the planning of all athletic events, games, practices, coaches and the list goes on. Trivia night is coming up soon (please sign up!) and thank you Mrs. Lee for planning this event. Thank you to our two teachers (who are also parents), Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Wisniewski, for running our Family and School. Your ideas and dedication have been outstanding. Thank you Mrs. VanderVelde and your team of Lunch Supervisors for making sure our students have time during their day to eat safely and enjoy some wonderful hot lunch days. Thank you all and please continue to assist in the events that are coming up. I look forward to recognizing more of our volunteers in the coming months.*

#### *Gala*

*Our 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Damian Gala will be held on February 22, 2018 at Gaelic Park. This is a wonderful event that involves the entire St. Damian community, so please mark your calendar. We are still looking for a chairperson and a few volunteers to run this year's Gala. The Gala is not only a big fundraiser it is also the main family event of the year. Please consider calling the office and offering to be part of the leadership team for this event. In the past only 8th grade parents ran this event. This year we would like to have many hands to lighten the load and have a variety of grade level volunteers to assist with this event. I know we have many wonderful parents out there who are creative, organized, love to throw a large party, and believe in this event. Please make this year's Gala the best one yet!*

*We are in need of prizes for our silent auction! Do you have season tickets you could donate or another "Wow" item? We appreciate any and all donations.*

*This was just a handful of our events so far, many more are coming and are being planned at this moment by amazing people. Please thank a teacher, volunteer or serviceman today!*

*God bless you,  
Dr. Marian M. Stockhausen*



## WHAT'S A SMALL GROUP?

By now you have heard the phrase, small group. But, do you know what it means? Basically, it's a group of people who get together to discuss a topic, a book, etc. St. Damian has small groups meeting already a few days a week. Some meet in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some at night. Some groups discuss the upcoming Sunday readings, some are reading the latest Matthew Kelly book, and some are using a book of their choice.

The benefits of small groups are many and varied. However, there are some basics that all enjoy:

- The groups share a common interest: a book or topic of discussion.
- The groups exchange ideas and learn how to dialogue.
- The groups have a lot of fun together. There's lots of laughter in between the discussion.
- The groups form camaraderie and trust.
- The groups become a community of the faithful and bring this back to the larger community when we gather at Mass and Worship.
- And, **most importantly**, the groups get to grow in their relationship with Jesus. In other words, they get to know Jesus! And, suddenly, the sacraments, the bible, songs sung in church – all the elements of faith take on new meaning - and people are excited about going to church!

### After the Mission, Small Groups will be meeting once a week for 6 weeks:

2 groups Tuesday, 7:00pm – Damian A & Damian B in the Pastoral Center (beginning October 31)

1 group Wednesday, 3:45pm – Shaw Hall (begins November 1)

1 group Thursday, 11:45am – Narthex (begins November 2)

1 group Thursday, 2:00pm – Religious Ed office (begins November 2)

1 group Thursday, 7:00pm – Damian B, Pastoral Center (begins November 2)

1 group Friday, 6:30am – Damian A, Pastoral Center (begins November 3)

1 group Friday, 6:30pm – Damian B, Pastoral Center (begins November 3)

1 group Saturday, 9:45am – Damian A, Pastoral Center (begins November 4)

All groups will be using Fr. Dominic Grassi's book, *Living the Mass, How One Hour A Week Will Change Your Life*. The books are a gift from St. Damian to you.

**Sign Up Sheets can be found on the Parish Resource Table in the Narthex.**



**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
**PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NITE**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6:30PM**  
**SHAW HALL**

All parish volunteers are invited to come to Shaw Hall to hear Joe Paprocki, author, speaker, story teller and all around “nice guy” who began his career as a catechist to become the National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press.

Joe was born in Chicago, lived on the north side of Chicago and shared his upbringing with 8 other siblings. He has more than 35 years of experience in ministry and has presented keynotes, presentations, and workshops in more than 100 dioceses in North America. He is a frequent presenter at national conferences including the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, the Mid-Atlantic Congress, and the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership.

He is the author of numerous books, including the best seller *The Catechist's Toolbox*, *A Church on the Move*, *Under the Influence of Jesus*, and *Called to Be Catholic*—a bilingual, foundational supplemental program that helps young people know their faith and grow in their relationship with God. Joe is also the series editor for the *Effective Catechetical Leader* and blogs about his experiences in faith formation at [www.catechistsjourney.com](http://www.catechistsjourney.com).

# *You are Invited to share God's blessings... at our "St. Damian Shares" Dinner*

For many of us, the holidays mean crazy schedules and much "busy-ness." For some however...the silence is deafening. What can you do to help? Share your blessings!

**What is the "Shares Dinner"?** St. Damian serves the needy in our community in many ways: through our St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Food Pantry, Helping Hands, assisting PADS, and our Homebound Ministry. We would like to continue to share God's blessings with those who have been in need recently, and those who have no one to spend the holidays with by inviting them to this free dinner and afternoon of companionship.

**When:** Friday, November 24

**Where:** Shaw Hall in the School

**Time:** 1- 3 pm Set Up and Decorate

3 pm - 5 pm Dinner & Entertainment

5 - 6 pm Clean Up!

## **Do you have a talent to share?**

We need: cooks, bakers, servers, decorators, hospitality, help with set up and clean up, monetary and food donations, and entertainment. Our menu is simple; roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, soup, rolls and dessert. Already have plans that day? Drop off a donation of baked goods or other food to help out!

**Hospitality is the key!** Do people say you have the gift of gab? Are you a good listener and conversationalist? Consider spending your afternoon engaging with folks who may have no one to talk to. It is more important than the food we serve - the respect, dignity and companionship we offer.

## **How do I volunteer?**

Call Connie at (708)342-8513, email at [ConnieS@stdamianchurch.org](mailto:ConnieS@stdamianchurch.org) or sign up by filling out the form below and return to the School/Re Office marked "SHARES DINNER c/o Connie S." Grade school children may volunteer only if accompanied by a parent.

**Help us turn "Black Friday" ... into "Blessings Friday"!!!**

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*Yes! I want to Share!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Set-up      \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality      \_\_\_\_\_ Bake      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ Cook      \_\_\_\_\_ Clean Up      \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation

On Friday, November 24, 2017 St. Damian Church will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "St. Damian Shares Dinner". This dinner is a community outreach effort designed to provide needy and homeless persons the opportunity to enjoy a holiday meal with companionship. For the past 2 years we have provided a "shopping area" of donated clothes. This year we have decided to focus on the items that are most requested.

#1. Warm socks – male and female

#2. Warm hats, scarfs and gloves – male and female

#3. Blankets (foldable, easy to carry)

#4. Warm sweaters, sweatshirts – male and female usually sizes Medium to X Large

We have also provided a St. Damian Shares blessing bag for each person to leave with. A list of needed items is below:

Hand and or foot warmers	sample size shampoo	bars of soap
Combs	disposable razors	small hand sanitizers
Protein, granola or breakfast bars	individual pkg of wipes	individual pkg of Kleenex
toothbrushes	floss	sample size toothpaste
sample size mouthwash	sample size hand lotion	

Also consider purchasing an extra \$5.00 or 10.00 SHOP gift card to put in a bag. These bags are blessed with Holy Water and prayed over before we pass them out.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated as this is basically how we fund this dinner and shopping area. All donations can be dropped off at our school or Religious Education office marked "St. Damian Shares, c/o Deb Stirn.

Help us turn "BLACK FRIDAY" into "BLESSINGS FRIDAY"

Thank you for your generosity.

God Bless,



Deb Stirn

St. Damian Shares



# Christmas Gift Giving Guide

## S.H.O.P. Cards make it easy!

*SHOP ideas for anyone on your list*

### MOM

Bath & Body Works  
SpaFinder  
Sephora  
Kohl's  
Target

### DAD

Home Depot  
Menards  
Lowe's  
Sears  
Outback Steakhouse

### GRANDPARENTS

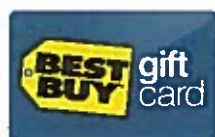
Groupon  
AMC Theaters  
Cheesecake Factory  
Cabela's  
Olive Garden

### TOYS for ALL AGES

Walmart  
Disney  
Toys-R-Us  
Best Buy  
Target

### TEACHERS

Panera Bread  
Dunkin Donuts  
Barnes & Noble  
Shutterfly  
Ulta  
Macy's



There are many more SHOP cards available

so start SHOPPING now for the Holidays

**AND EARN CREDIT FOR TUITION!**

SHOP cards are available before and after Mass and during posted scheduled School/RE hours.

You can also elect your credits be sent to the educational organization of your choice.

Please call Dale Lux with any questions 708-342-8516.

SHOPwithscrip.com St. Damian Parish



# Family and School News

## Looking Back...

We had a very successful KidStuff coupon book fundraiser! We sold 79 books!!! Thank you to all that participated!

We are currently in the middle of our Mixed Bag fundraiser. These 2 catalogs are full of items that would make great Christmas gifts! All orders are due by Halloween. If you order through school, you don't need to pay tax. Online orders need to add tax and get shipped to your home.

## Looking Ahead...

Breakfast With Santa is quickly approaching! Family & School members are working very hard to provide a fabulous holiday event! We will have a craft fair, Santa's Secret Shop, cooking decorating, letters mailed to Santa, professional pictures and of course, a wonderful breakfast! Mark your calendars for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Fundraising...

We are currently selling **St. Damian Lancer magnets** (\$5) for your car or fridge! We are also offering two different kinds of **window decals** (\$2). If interested, you may purchase at the front office or any of our Family & School events!

We are always collecting pop tabs and Box Tops! Please keep your eyes open for Box Tops on many products you purchase. Cut them out and send them to school. We earn money for each collected.

**Thank you** to all our families for contributing to our fundraisers and helping us raise money for our students and our school!



**Dessert Day 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Musical Fundraiser!**

**Pie Pick Up Day:**

**Monday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> in the  
lunchroom from 3:30-5:30pm**



*St. Damian Presents.....*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Variety Show**

**Wednesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**at 7:00pm**

**On Stage in the Father Grimmel  
Center**

*Come join us for an evening of fun and  
entertainment!*

*(Dress Rehearsal is on Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsal  
time will be sent home with the students that are  
participating.)*

*St. Damian students have talent!*



Join us for a

# FUNDRAISER

to support

## St. Damian School

Potbelly will donate 25% of net sales

**NOVEMBER 16TH, 2017 FROM 5:00 - 8PM**

Tinley Park Potbelly, 159th and Harlem  
708-444-2303 / [potbelly.com](http://potbelly.com)



25% of net sales made on 11/16/17 from 5:00pm-8:00pm will be donated to St. Damian School

11/16/17



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**EXTENDED DAY FAMILIES**



Extended Day **WILL** be open on Wednesday, November 22<sup>ND</sup> if we have at least 20 students participating.

We are offering a one-time fee of \$40.00 for individual students and \$65 for 2 or more students for the day. There is a \$10.00/Per Student **non-refundable** registration fee. The registration fee is to be sent in with your registration form below. The \$10.00 will be deducted from your fee. **BALANCE OF THE FEE IS DUE IN FULL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>. IF FEE IS NOT PAID IN FULL BY THE DUE DATE, THIS INCLUDES ON-LINE PAYMENTS AS WELL, STUDENT(S) CAN NOT ATTEND. SORRY NO EXCEPTIONS. NO "DROP-INS" THE DAY OF ALLOWED.**

Hours of operation are from **6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** promptly. Please provide a healthy morning snack. An afternoon snack will be provided. Please have your child bring a lunch and a drink. Milk will **NOT** be provided. We are a peanut free environment so no peanut butter, anything containing peanut butter, or manufactured in a facility using peanuts. We have a microwave and a toaster for warming up breakfast and/or lunches.

Children **CAN** bring their own toys and electronic devices from home. All items must be labeled with their name. Extended Day will **NOT** be responsible for any lost or damaged items. Cell phones are **NOT** allowed. No picture taking is allowed with any electronic devices. There is a phone for emergency calls to parents only.

Children can dress down in accordance with the St. Damian handbook, dress down day rules apply. Please have your child wear their gym shoes and dress appropriately for the weather, we will be going in the gym and outside. Weather permitting, we will be walking to the Park behind the Oak Forest Park District building. Please sign permission slip below.

If your child will be attending, please fill out the bottom portion and send it back to school along with your \$10.00/per student deposit no later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Any reply after that date will **NOT** be accepted unless approved by Mrs. Kaminski. If we **do not** have enough children enrolled you will be notified by Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Your deposit or full payment will be returned if we are not open. If you paid on-line your payment will be credited to your account.

***STUDENT(S) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND IF THEY ARE NOT PRE-REGISTERED WITH THE NON-REFUNDABLE \$10/PER STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE AND ARE PAID IN FULL BY THE DUE DATE. SORRY NO EXCEPTIONS ARE ALLOWED!***

***THERE ARE NO NURSING SERVICES AVAILABLE.***

**ATTENTION MRS. KAMINSKI, EXTENDED DAY**

YES, my child(ren) will attend on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Students(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Room No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. drop off time: \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. pick up time: \_\_\_\_\_

My Child(ren) has/have permission to walk to the OF Park: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

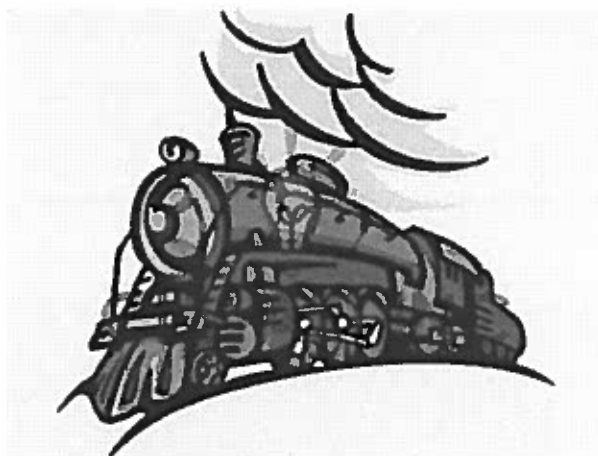
Full Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Number for the Day: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> ALONG WITH YOUR \$10.00 DEPOSIT.**

# ST. DAMIAN TUITION TOMBOLA

## Don't Miss Your Chance to Win a Month's Tuition



It works like this, each families name is entered in the Tombola if you paid for the month or the year, your tuition account is credited the Tombola amount of one month's tuition. Drawing will take place on Friday November 3rd; pictures are taken with your child and posted on our website and Facebook page.

Your payment options are as follows: Check or Money Order No Cash

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7 months \$70.00 (Nov thru May)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 month \$10.00 (Nov)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Chance/Chances \$10.00 each (Nov)

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Family Name:

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Child(ren)/Grade & Room#