

Saint Daniel the Prophet Church

Christian Service Commission

Updated on May 25, 2017

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Organizational Notes for Christian Service

Purpose of the Commission

- The Christian Service Commission coordinates the charitable and social endeavors of the parish community.
- Included in this commission are charitable drives and service projects, parish organizations and other activities.
- All parishioners and parish organizations are welcome to participate in the charitable endeavors of the parish.

Commission Leadership

- The Pastor appoints a parish staff member to serve as the Director of the Christian Service Commission.
- The Commission Director meets with the pastor and the Staff Council regarding the goals of this Commission.
- The Director meets with all the commission members on a regular basis, both individually and as groups.

Commission Membership

- The Commission members are either the leaders or designated representatives from each organization.
- Each year, commission members are appointed by the Director in consultation with the Pastor.
- The Director recommends a commission member to the Pastor for membership on the parish council.

Fundraising Activities

- Any fundraising activities are approved and scheduled by the Pastor through the parish Finance Council.
- All fundraising activities follow all the financial, insurance, legal norms that are required for parish events.
- A special monthly Christian Service collection helps fund the various service projects and parish charities.

Education and Advocacy

- Education and advocacy for the social teachings of the Church are also an important part of this Commission.
- The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are at the heart of the Christian Service Commission and its programs.
- The involvement of parish organizations and students is essential to the success of these charitable endeavors.

Parish Facility Usage

- The parish facilities are primarily for the use of St. Daniel Church and its parish community organizations.
- The use of parish facilities for outside groups is limited for reasons of insurance and practical concerns.
- Exceptions to this rule are subject to review by the Parish, Staff, and Finance Councils with the pastor.

Covenant Renewal Process

- Covenants for all parish organizations are reviewed by the pastor each year, and updated when necessary.
- This renewal process is conducted in consultation with the staff council, parish council, and finance council.

Christian Service Leadership Directory

Christian Service Commission:

- Director: Mike Doyle
- Commission Members: as listed below
- Parish Council: Ronald Moore

Christian Service Activities:

- PADS Homeless Shelter Volunteers: John and Mary Pappas
- St. Vincent DePaul Society: Cheryl Vescio
- Communion Calls to the Sick: Mike Doyle
- Parish Food Drives: Jeanette Krist
- Christmas Gift Drive: Ron Moore

Parish Service Organizations:

- Men's Club: Rev. James Dvorscak, moderator
- Circle of Women: Diane Ahlemeyer, moderator
- Seniors' Club: Julia Dwyer and Mary Lou Bogest
- Prayer Blankets: Margaret Bartek
- Greens Keepers Gardeners: Gerry Eichstaedt
- Head-Hands-Heart: Religious Education Parents

Other Organizations:

- There are several helpful organizations, such as support groups and charitable agencies in our local area.
- Some of these outside organizations and groups even meet in our parish facilities from time to time.
- However, none of these organizations are officially part of the Christian Service Commission as such.

To obtain contact information for any of these parish leaders and their programs, please send an email to info@stdaniel.org, or call the parish office at 630-384-0123.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

P.A.D.S. HOMELESS SHELTER

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored activity is the St. Daniel Parish PADS Homeless Shelter program.
- As a parish-based activity, this program is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose is to assist the DuPage PADS organization serve the homeless of our community.

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- St. Daniel Parish hosts a PADS night on the first Wednesday of the month, September through May.
- A special parish PADS manual outlines all the specifics of conducting this program in helpful detail.
- Because of the nature of this program, Protecting God's Children is required of those who monitor the clients.
- The DuPage PADS organization has an online training program that is required for parish volunteers as well.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-affiliated activity is the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Daniel Parish (SVDP).
- As a parish-affiliated activity, this program is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose is to help people in need through charity drives and through personal assistance efforts.

Organizational Notes

- The officers are selected according to the national by-laws of the St. Vincent DePaul Society.
- The Christian Service Director attends the meetings of the St. Vincent DePaul Society.
- An approved SVDP member serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- The SVDP parish hotline is 630-384-0126, and the SVDP email is SVDP@StDaniel.org.
- The SVDP holds Clothing Drives, and assists with the parish Food Drives and Christmas Drive.

Other Information

- The nearest St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop to our parish is located at 213 Main Street in West Chicago, their phone number is 630-293-9755, and their website is www.svdpjoliet.org. Thank you for your donations.
- Beyond the parish charity drives, the St. Vincent DePaul Society also accepts usable household items at their Thrift Shop in West Chicago, and can provide tax receipts for these gifts in kind.

COMMUNION CALLS

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored service activity is the St. Daniel Communion Calls Program.
- As a parish activity, Communion Calls are part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The main purpose of this service ministry is to make Communion Calls to the sick and homebound.

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) of this program are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a special delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- The Communion Calls visitors are trained by the parish liturgy staff and the parish Christian service staff.
- Known in some parishes as Ministers of Care, the Diocese provides special training for these volunteers.
- There is an annual gathering of the Communion Call visitors for prayer, fellowship, and ongoing training.
- The parish secretaries are the main information-intake personnel for the Communion Call visitors.
- The Communion Call visitors inform the parish office when someone they visit wants Anointing or Confession.
- They also inform the parish office about any extenuating circumstances that Christian Service should know.
- Each Good Friday, there is a special anointing liturgy in church at noon for the sick who wish to be anointed. The Communion Call visitors are selected from our regular parish Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

PARISH FOOD DRIVES

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored activity is the St. Daniel Parish Food Drive program.
- As a parish-based activity, this program is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose is to collect food: weekly, around Thanksgiving time, and around Ash Wednesday

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- Non-perishable food items can be brought the narthex welcome desk each weekend before Mass.
- The members of this program transport the donated food to the food pantry during the week.
- Additional volunteers are needed for the larger food drives around Thanksgiving and Ash Wednesday
- The People's Resource Center is the designated Food Pantry for the weekly parish food drives.

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored activity is the St. Daniel Parish Christmas Gift Drive (Share the Spirit).
- As a parish-based activity, this program is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose of this drive is to collect gifts and contributions for the local Share the Spirit Christmas charity.
- The designated recipient of these gifts and contributions is the People's Resource Center of Wheaton.

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- The Christmas gifts are collected in the narthex on the first Sunday in December each year.
- The Christmas gifts are delivered to the People's Resource Center on that Sunday afternoon.
- The monetary gifts are collected through a special envelope in the offertory packet each year.
- Like other second collections, checks are made out to St. Daniel Church, for processing.
- After counting this second collection, the parish issues a check to the People's Resource Center.

OTHER CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Support Groups:

Marriage Enrichment Programs: www.WWME.org, and www.ForYourMarriage.org

Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center: www.cdppcc.org, 630-752-9750

Bereavement Support Groups: Referrals are made through local area funeral directors at this time.

L.O.S.S. Support Group: Please contact the parish office about this diocesan suicide survivors support group.

Twelve-Step Programs: Please contact the parish office for referrals to local support groups for addictions.

Courage Support Group: Please contact www.CourageRC.org about this Catholic support group for SSA.

Catholic Faith: Please consult CatholicsComeHome.org for information about our Catholic Christian Faith.

Charitable Agencies:

Catholic Charities: 26 West St. Charles Road, Lombard, www.catholiccharitiesjoliet.org, 639-495-8008

Diocese of Joliet: 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, www.dioceseofjoliet.org, 815-221-6100

DuPage P.A.D.S. Homeless Shelter: 705 West Liberty, Wheaton, www.dupageoads.org, 630-682-3846

People's Resource Center: www.peoplesrc.org, 630-682-5402

Woman's Choice Services: www.WomansChoiceServices.com, 630-261-9564

St. Vincent DePaul Society: 213 Main Street, West Chicago, www.svdpjoliet.org, 630-293-9755

Community Outreach Ministries: www.outreachcommunityministries.org, 630-682-1910

ESSE Adult Day Care Services: 41 N. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, www.EsseAdultDayCare.org

Milton Township Offices: 1492 North Main Street, Wheaton, www.twp.milton.il.us, 630-668-1616

Jobs Driven Networking Group: 120 West Wesley Street, Lower Level, Wheaton, drivestaff.com/jdng

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH MEN'S CLUB

Name and Purpose: in the process of formation

- The name of this proposed parish-sponsored organization is the St. Daniel Parish Men's Club.
- All the men of the parish, and their sons, are welcome to become active members of this new club.
- As a parish-based organization, this club is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.

Organizational Notes: in the process of formation

- The President conducts the meetings, appoints the committee members, and coordinates the activities.
- The Secretary takes the minutes, and serves as a delegate to the Christian Service Commission.
- The Moderator, appointed by the Pastor, conducts elections each year for the officers of this club.

- Club Meetings: all the men of the parish, and their sons, are invited to attend the quarterly meetings.
- Parish Hospitality: hospitality Sunday is hosted by the Men's Club in rotation with other parish groups.
- Social Events: activities are planned to build up a spirit of community among the men of the parish.
- Spiritual Events: in addition to group attendance at Masses, there is a men's prayer breakfast each year.
- Service Events: volunteer assistance is provided for parish events and activities throughout the year.
- The Men's Club is not a fund-raising organization, but may participate in parish charitable activities.

CIRCLE OF WOMEN

Name and Purpose

- The name of this new parish-sponsored organization is the St. Daniel Parish Circle of Women.
- All the women of the parish, and their daughters, are welcome to become active members of this club.
- As a parish-based organization, this club is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.

Organizational Notes

- The President conducts the meetings, appoints the committee members, and coordinates the activities.
- The Secretary takes the minutes, and serves as a delegate to the Christian Service Commission.
- The Moderator, appointed by the Pastor, conducts elections each year for the officers of this club.

- Club Meetings: all the women of the parish, and their daughters, are invited to attend the quarterly meetings.
- Parish Hospitality: hospitality Sunday is hosted by the Women's Club in rotation with other parish groups.
- Social Events: activities are planned to build up a spirit of community among the women of the parish.
- Spiritual Events: in addition to group attendance at Masses, there is a women's prayer breakfast each year.
- Service Events: volunteer assistance is provided for parish events and activities throughout the year.
- The Women's Club is not a fund-raising organization, but may participate in parish charitable activities.

PARISH SENIORS

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored organization is the St. Daniel Parish Seniors' Club.
- All the seniors of the parish, men and women, are welcome to become active members of this club.
- As a parish-based organization, this club is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.

Organizational Notes

- The President conducts the meetings, appoints the committee members, and coordinates the activities.
- The Secretary takes the minutes, and serves as a delegate to the Christian Service Commission.
- The Moderator, appointed by the Pastor, conducts elections each year for the officers of this club.

- Club Meetings: all the senior citizens of the parish are invited to attend the quarterly meetings.
- Parish Hospitality: hospitality Sunday is hosted by the Seniors' Club in rotation with other parish groups.
- Social Events: activities are planned to build up a spirit of community among the seniors of the parish.
- Spiritual Events: in addition to group attendance at Masses, seniors are invited to parish prayer breakfasts.
- Service Events: volunteer assistance is provided for parish events and activities throughout the year.
- The Seniors' Club is not a fund-raising organization, but may participate in parish charitable activities.

PRAYER BLANKETS

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored organization is the St. Daniel Prayer Blanket Program.
- As a parish-based organization, this program is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose of this group is to pray and to make prayer blankets for the sick and the elderly of the parish.

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- The members of this program pray, knit, crochet, and sew prayer blankets for the sick and the elderly.
- The prayer blankets are usually distributed by the Ministers of Care throughout the year.

GREENS KEEPERS GARDENERS

Name and Purpose

- The name of this parish-sponsored organization is the St. Daniel Greens Keepers Garden Program.
- As a parish-based organization, this organization is part of the Christian Service Commission of the parish.
- The purpose of this program is to continue the tradition of taking care of the parish gardens each year.

Organizational Notes

- The Coordinator(s) are approved by the pastor, subject to renewal each year by mutual consent.
- An approved Coordinator also serves as a delegate to the parish Christian Service Commission.
- In March, the Coordinator(s) contact all the Greens Keepers for the new gardening year.
- Also in March, a sign-up weekend for recruiting new gardeners is scheduled for the narthex of church.
- In April, the Greens Keepers meet to fill out their order forms for flowers, for which the parish pays.
- Members of this program may order additional flowers, at their cost, for their own home gardens.
- In May, the flowers arrive and are planted, usually right after Mothers' Day.
- Name plaques recognize the garden spaces tended by the various gardeners.
- Throughout the summer, the Greens Keepers members tend their gardens.
- In the fall, the plants are removed, and preparations are made for the next year.

HEADS, HEARTS, AND HANDS

Name and Purpose

- The name of this religious education parent activity is the St. Daniel Heads, Hearts, and Hands program.
- As a parish-based group, this activity involves both the Education and the Christian Service commissions.
- The purpose is to provide religious education parents with opportunities to be involved in parish charities.

Organizational Notes

- This program is coordinated by the Religious Education office in conjunction with Christian Service.
- Many volunteers for our parish events and activities are recruited from our religious education families.
- Youth ministry participants and parents are also invited to participate in these parish service activities.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Boom Fit Women's Exercise Group

- The purpose of this organization is to provide exercise for local women in our parish center gym.
- Boom Fit meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings in the parish center gymnasium.
- Boom Fit sometimes meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as well. All are welcome!

Camp R.O.C.K.

- The purpose of this organization is to provide summer camp experiences for junior high Catholic youth.
- Training for the high school counselors takes place in our parish center. The camp itself is near Plano.
- For more information, please contact our parish youth minister at youthministry@stdaniel.org.

Coptic Orthodox Bible Study

- Members of St. Mary Church in Palatine, who live in Wheaton, meet on Sunday nights for Bible Study.
- This Bible Study group meets in a parish center classroom, as scheduled through the parish office.
- This is an ecumenical outreach of our parish community to members of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Knights of Columbus Council 10575

- The purpose of the Knights is to promote charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism among Catholic men.
- The Knights of Columbus meet in a parish center classroom, as scheduled through the parish office.
- For more information about this Catholic organization, please go to their website, www.kofc10575.org.

L.O.S.S. (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide)

- The purpose of this group is to give comfort and support to those who have lost loved ones to suicide.
- The L.O.S.S. program meets in a parish center classroom, as scheduled through the parish office.
- This group is sponsored by Catholic Charities of Chicago in cooperation with Catholic Charities of Joliet.

S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law-Enforcement Together)

- The purpose of this organization is for mutual assistance among Seniors and Law Enforcement Personnel.
- This community group meets in a parish center classroom, as scheduled through the parish office.
- This local community organization has been hosted by St. Daniel Church parish for many years.

Spotlight Christian Theater Group

- The purpose of this organization is to put on plays and musicals for the local community.
- Rehearsals are held in our parish center, although the performances are conducted elsewhere.
- For more information about this church-related organization, please go to their website, www.spotlight.org.