



## Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa

April 21, 1942 - August 4, 2012

Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa, longtime pastor of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in West Baltimore, passed peacefully at his home on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Monsignor Nalepa, known by most as “Father Damien”, first came to St. Gregory’s in October of 1978, serving as pastor of the N. Gilmor Street parish from 1981 until the time of his death.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, August 11 at 11 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore. The body will lie in repose from 9-11 a.m. Archbishop William E. Lori will celebrate the Mass. Additional public viewings are scheduled for Thursday, August 9 from 4-8 p.m. at the March Funeral Home on Wabash Avenue and Friday, August 10 from 2-8 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great. A wake service will occur Friday from 6-8 p.m. at St. Gregory’s.

Born on April 21, 1942, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Msgr. Nalepa was one of four children born to Edward and Mary Nalepa. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Province of St. Augustine’s Capuchin Order in 1970 and was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Baltimore on October 16, 1981 by Archbishop William D. Borders.

Throughout his priestly ministry, Monsignor Nalepa was active in improving the community surrounding the parishes where he served, most especially St.

Gregory's. He routinely conducted anti-violence vigils and even confronted suspected drug dealers on street corners. He initiated a gun buy-back program at the parish and organized food basket donations each Christmas. He served as chaplain for the Baltimore City Jail and continued ministering to men he met while they were imprisoned by helping them get reestablished when they were released. He frequently worked to help them get jobs and to encourage them to reestablish contact with their families. He served as a board member of the Welfare Rights Organization and the St. James Community Services Ventures. He was Chairperson of the Fulton House Work Release CIB Program and served on the Urban Commission.

“Monsignor Nalepa’s death is a great shock and a tremendous loss not only for our local Church but also for the City of Baltimore, which he served so faithfully and so selflessly,” Archbishop Lori said. “In his more than 40 years of service in Baltimore, Monsignor Nalepa improved the lives of countless individuals and did so with great humility, faithfulness and love. His Christ-like witness is an example for all priests, young and old, and should be a continuous reminder to all of us blessed to pray alongside the people we are called to serve.”

While attending to his pastoral duties, Msgr. Nalepa received a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from Morgan State University in 1974. He also pursued studies in Criminal Justice over the years. He was appointed a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness in May of 2006 by Pope John Paul II. Msgr. Nalepa served at two other Baltimore City parishes prior to his arrival at St. Gregory: St. Martin (1971-78) and St. Ann (1978). Msgr. Nalepa leaves behind his brother, Father Richard Nalepa, CP; his sister Nancy Herring and husband Gary; his brother Kenneth Nalepa and wife Evelyn; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great- nephews.

# Cemetery Details

## New Cathedral Cemetery

4300 Old Federick Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21229

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 9. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Public Viewing

AUG 10. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

St. Gregory The Great  
1542 Gilmore Street  
Baltimore, MD

## Wake

AUG 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Gregory The Great  
1542 Gilmore Street  
Baltimore, MD

## Public Viewing

AUG 10. 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

AUG 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Basilica Of The Assumption  
409 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

## Service

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Basilica Of The Assumption  
409 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

# Tribute Wall



“ *Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Miss you Father D.*

**Calvin** - August 09, 2013 at 06:49 PM



“ *Nakisha & NaYantra Collie lit a candle in memory of Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa*



**Nakisha & NaYantra Collie** - August 14, 2012 at 08:19 AM



*You were my rose and my gem.. You were a Giant of a man. You were a man with a heart of gold. You were not just my friend but my Best Friend. I love you but Jesus loves you best. Sleep on take your rest. I will love you forever Father D.*

**Nakisha & NaYantra Collie** - August 14, 2012 at 08:21 AM



“ *Kim, Clyde, Daniel lit a candle in memory of Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa*



**Kim, Clyde, Daniel** - August 12, 2012 at 08:57 AM

KF

“ *Kim S.Francis,Clyde Boatright And Family lit a candle in memory of Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa*



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**Kim S.Francis,Clyde Boatright and Family** - August 12, 2012 at 08:55 AM



“ *My condolences go out to the chufamily and to his rch. Father Damien was such a nice man that loved his family, friends, church and most of his community. He will be grealy missed by ALL. Sincerely, MarKese Teachey*

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**MarKese Teachey** - August 12, 2012 at 12:35 AM

BM

“ *my condolences to the Nalepa family. It was a privilege to have known him for 51 years. Sincerely, Barbara Matthews*

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**barbara matthews** - August 11, 2012 at 05:00 PM

MS

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 3yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!*

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**Ms Springer** - August 11, 2012 at 02:11 PM

HA

“ *Father Damien was an ex-co-worker of mine at the Baltimore City Denton Center and a friend of my family. He was a neighbor to my daughter Sandy Cathcart. He shared many occasions with us and he will really be missed. He always had a cheery hello for us whenever he saw us. May God bless his spirit.*

**Hanan Abdullah** - August 11, 2012 at 09:32 AM



“ *Josephine Price lit a candle in memory of Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa*



**Josephine Price** - August 10, 2012 at 07:41 PM



*IT SEEMS LIKE LIKE JUST YESTERDAY I HEARD YOUR VOICE;  
IT SEEMS LIKE HOURS AGO SINCE I LAST SAW YOUR FACE.  
I;D GIVE ANYTHING JUST TO SEE YOUR SMILE,  
OR SIT WITH YOU AND LAUGH FOR AWHILE.  
IT'S HARD TRYING TO MOVE ON WITHOUT YOU.  
FR.DAMIEN YOU WERE THE BEST.  
BUT I KNOW YOU ARE IN A BETTER PLACE WITH GOD HIS  
ANGELS AND A SMILING FACE.  
GOODBYE FOR NOW UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.  
YOU WILL BE MISS I LOVE YOU BUT JESUS LOVES YOU BEST.  
JOSEPHINE PRICE NASSAU BAHAMAS.*

**Josephine Price** - August 10, 2012 at 08:19 PM

JJ

“ HOW CAN YOU SAY GOOD BYE TO ONE SO FAITHFUL ONE WHO WAS A TRUE FRIEND AND MAN OF GOD I REMEMBER WHEN YOU CAME TO ST. GREGORY AND OH HOW THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGED. YOU OPENED A WINDOW AND A FRESH AIR BLEW THOROUGH SANDTOWN MANY GOOD THINGS CAME OUT OF YOUR WORK FOR GOD MAY YOU FLY TO HIS ARMS FOR REST FROM YOUR EARTHLY LABORS

Joseph Johnson - August 10, 2012 at 06:09 PM



“ I remember the first time he came to ask if his camp could use the swimming pool and i was the pool operator there.

Eric Brockington - August 10, 2012 at 12:07 PM



“ Eric Brockington lit a candle in memory of Monsignor Damien G. Nalepa



Eric Brockington - August 10, 2012 at 10:56 AM

BK

“ sending my prays out to Msgr. Damien family and church.

Binta Kalinowski - August 09, 2012 at 02:49 PM

CM

“ *Fr Damien was the first Catholic Priest I know who called you by name as he gives you communion! He seemed to have a personal relationship with his Parish members and everyone loved him. Always ready to sacrifice for the sake of the church. I spoke with him over the phone on Friday 8/03/2012 and he told me to see him after church on Sunday as was usually the case. It was a big shock that on getting to church on Sunday, I was informed he was called home by the Lord on Saturday, less than 24 hours after we spoke. This is how the Lord calls His Saints, and for sure, Fr Damien has done his work perfectly. I believe he is with the Host of angels in Heaven.*

*Requiescat in pace.*

*Chizoba Ezepue MD  
Jemsek Specialty Clinic  
Washington DC.*

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**Chizoba Ezepue MD** - August 08, 2012 at 08:21 PM

HJ

“ *You have been a dedicated servant of the Lord; yes you are gone, but you will never be forgotten.*

*Rest now..Your work is done*

*Hilarie Jackson*

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**Hilarie Jackson** - August 08, 2012 at 06:33 PM

LB

“ *Fr. Damien,*

*You were always more than my pastor. In all of my good times and bad times, you were there. You always greeted me with open arms and a smile. I will miss you so much.*

*Rest Now..Your work is DONE!*



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**Linda Blake** - August 08, 2012 at 09:47 AM

CF

*May the WORK you have done .....SPEAK for you.*

*Cheryl Hawkins*

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**Cheryl Hawkins and Family** - August 10, 2012 at 12:15 PM

TS

“ *2 files added to the album Theresa Stewart*



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**theresa stewart** - August 07, 2012 at 06:30 PM

DO

“ *Father Damien,*

*Baltimore is a better City because of you, the world is a better place because of you. You touch so many of us through your faith and love of the Lord. I am forever in your debt for teaching me how to live with purpose while serving the Lord. My heart goes out to your family and I know you are in a heavenly home.*



*Peace,*

*Donna D. Owens  
Former Mayor's Representative (Upton/Sandtown)  
City Administrator ,Niagara Falls ,New York*

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**Donna D. Owens** - August 07, 2012 at 03:09 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - August 07, 2012 at 10:05 AM

SC

*Father Damien,*

*You have been a huge part of our entire family, you married many in our family and even laid many to rest through the comforting word of God. You have been a dedicated servant of the Lord; yes you are gone, but you will never be forgotten.*

*The Scribner Family*

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**sharon campbell** - August 07, 2012 at 08:04 PM

CB

*Fr. Damien,*

*I have not known you as long as others, but the short time you entered my life you made a difference. Your warmth and sincerity was felt immediately. Rest in Peace.*

*Carol Berry-Booth*

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**Carol Berry-Booth** - August 08, 2012 at 09:05 AM

DS

*Father Damien,*

*You brought some much love with you when you attended our family gatherings. Your wisdom encouraged us to be better servants and to listen least we miss the message. Thank you for caring. We will miss you, but we know you are blessed and resting in the Peace and Love of the Lord.*

*The Spriggs Family*

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**Diane Spriggs** - August 09, 2012 at 08:07 AM

LR

*Father D*

*You must of been an angle sent from up above! You will always be remembered for your kind loving spirit! To the family may God grant you comfort in your hour of bereavement. May the peace of God be with you always.*

*Linda Regis The Bahamas*

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**Linda Regis** - August 11, 2012 at 06:46 AM