



## Daniel H. Olson

July 6, 1940 - January 30, 2024

Daniel H. Olson passed away at the age of 83 after suffering a brain stem stroke in late October. He is survived by his wonderful wife, Delphine, daughters Cindi Mursch and Pamela (Kevin) Kilbride. He leaves behind four loving grandchildren: Carson (Hannah) and Carly Mursch; Elise and Claire Kilbride along with extended family & friends. His grandchildren became the light of his life!

He was a graduate of the Palestrina Institute of Ecclesiastical Music, Detroit Conservatory of Music, and U of D Jesuit High School. He went on to earn both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music at Wayne State University where he was also a proud member and past president of Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity.

As an organist and choir director for over 50 years in the Archdiocese of Detroit, he served at St. Mary's Rockwood, St. Matthew Detroit, St. Andrew Rochester, and St. Owen Bloomfield Hills. He was founder and director of the Rochester Catholic Chorale, whose mission was to bring quality, choral music of the highest caliber for liturgical celebrations into churches & monasteries of the inner city of Detroit that were without choirs. This spanned over 25 years and reached worshippers in Michigan, Canada, and Italy. The R.C.C. appeared in the "Rosary Murders" movie that was recorded live at Holy Redeemer Church, Detroit, 1986.

Membership in the original Detroit Catholic Guild of Organists, East-Region Catholic Musicians, and National Pastoral Musicians was important to him. He was a contributing member of the American Guild of Organists.

Teaching music in schools was his other passion. He taught part time at Macomb Community College, full time in Warren Consolidated Schools, and the last 23 years of his teaching career was in the Utica Community Schools, primarily Switzer Elementary. He accompanied and directed the UCS Elementary Honors Choir for over 15 years.

At 17, he joined the Knights of Columbus Holy Cross Council in Detroit, and later St. Lawrence Council in Utica.

He and his wife, along with their daughters, traveled most of the United States on famous road trips that traversed from state capitols to landmarks, state and national parks. A highlight was traveling to Poland to see his grandfather, aunts and uncles, Chopin's infamous residence and playing the organ for the closing of the Icon in Czechostowa. His music took him to France and Italy and even offered him the opportunity to play on Liszt's organ.

His legacy was imparting the love and appreciation of good music to countless individuals, inspiring young musicians and adults. His knowledge and careful consideration of the liturgy ran parallel to the musical selections that he chose which greatly enhanced the worship experience for those attending.

The depth of his kindness, love for his family, his strong faith & uncompromising respect can be found in the lessons he bestowed on his daughters, grandchildren, students, musicians & all those whose lives he touched.

Our world will have the deepest void but heaven has gained an angel of many talents.

Visitation Sunday, February 4th 2-8pm; Rosary and Scripture Service at 7pm at the Wasik Funeral Home Inc; 49150 Schoenherr Rd. Shelby Township, MI 48315. In state Monday, February 5th 9:30am with Mass at 10am. St. Lawrence Catholic Church 44633 Utica Rd. Utica, MI 48317.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Daniel's name should be made to The Capuchin Soup Kitchen <https://www.cskdetroit.org> or The Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries <https://Drmm.org>

# Cemetery Details

## Guardian Angel Cemetery

4701 Rochester Road  
Oakland Township, MI 48306

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Scripture Service

FEB 4. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate in church

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FEB 5. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
44429 Utica Road  
Utica, MI 48317

## Funeral Mass

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FEB 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
44429 Utica Road  
Utica, MI 48317

# Tribute Wall

AO

“ I will never forget my favorite teacher.  
At St Matthew's School. Choir was my joy because of Mr. Olson.  
He gave my brother and I opportunities to grow our talents.  
He was the best!  
Anne Wales O'Malley

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**Anne Wales O'Malley** - August 14, 2024 at 02:47 PM

JC

“ We regret that we were unable to attend the celebration of Dan's wonderful, productive life. But we want to honor his memory and express our admiration for his dedication to his profession, family, and colleagues. Dan's desire to sing God's praises with quality sacred music affected thousands of congregants and choir members. That kind of influence is seldom recognized and appreciated. But he is now singing in the choir of angels fulfilling all the many days, hours, and months he gave to his Church and his God. Our sympathies to Delphine and family. Requiescat in Pace!

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**John and Mary Anne Callaghan** - February 07, 2024 at 06:31 PM

DI

“ Delphine, you and the family are in my thoughts a prayers. Dan  
Irwin

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**Daniel J Irwin** - February 04, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel H. Olson.*



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February 04, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ *Mr. Olson was an amazing energy during my years at St. Matthew's. For some reason two songs that he taught us in choir have stuck in my mind all these years, The Ave Maria and Oh Bladi Oh Blada. Amazing man. He then played at my wedding when he moved on to St. Lawrence in Sterling Heights, MI. RIP Mr. Olson I'm praying for your family during this trying time.*

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**Carolyn Yandura Kilar** - February 03, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ *My wife Sue and I knew Dan and Duffy from the Newman Club at Wayne State University. As it happened they got married the same day that Sue and I got married June 29 1963. So sorry for your loss. Sue died almost four years ago. I will keep you in my prayers Ted Krolikowski*

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**Thaddeus Krolikowski** - February 03, 2024 at 02:02 PM



“ *It has been an honor to have known the Olson family for so many years. I was one of the fortunate people to attend Pam and Kevin's wedding. During the mid-ceremony, both Dad's (Daniel and Chuck) performed beautiful traditional Irish songs together as a "Dad duet". The amount of love and care that went into that moment will be with us forever.*

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**Ellen Garey** - February 02, 2024 at 09:55 PM

KM

“ *What a wonderful music teacher and Honors Choir director!  
Condolences to the Olson family.  
The Metz Fsmily*

Kathleen Metz - February 02, 2024 at 06:22 PM

AB

*A truly wonderful and gifted  
Music director. I and the rest of VanSteelandt family cherish the  
memories of our wonderful choir at St Andrew's. Thoughts and prayers  
go out to Del and the family. God bless*

Anne Brown - February 03, 2024 at 10:06 PM

JP

“ *James, Melisa, Palmer & Piper Parzynski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in  
honor of Daniel H. Olson.*

James, Melisa, Palmer & Piper Parzynski - February 02, 2024 at 01:42 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was  
purchased for the family of Daniel H. Olson.*



February 02, 2024 at 01:42 PM

L1

“ *He was the best music teacher I base my children's music, teachers  
off of him and his ability to play the piano!!*

Lena Switzer student 1980s-1990s - February 02, 2024 at 10:33 AM

WW

“ I remember Dan when I first joined the UCS music department. I was a band teacher who had to learn how to teach elementary general music and he always had words of wisdom to help me. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Wendy Webster-Fischer

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Wendy Webster-Fischer - February 02, 2024 at 05:58 AM

RQ

“ He was in my class at U of D High School. Was a great classmate and our class will surely miss him. Ron Quick

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Ronald Quick - February 01, 2024 at 05:22 PM

FH

“ Sending our love and deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Residents and staff from Brookdale Utica MC!

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Florie Hadar - February 01, 2024 at 02:08 PM

CN

“ So sorry for the loss of such a kind man. He was choir director at St. Owen when I joined the choir. He was very much involved in choir preparation for St. John Paul's visit to Detroit. I've fond memories of this beautiful experience.

My thoughts and prayers to the whole family.

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Carla Nervo - February 01, 2024 at 12:49 PM

BC

“ On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Daniel. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of his life. Please be assured of my prayers for the entire Olson family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Daniel.

Br Nick Blattner OFM Capuchin - February 01, 2024 at 12:07 PM

ML

“ Marcia A Lemley lit a candle in memory of Daniel H. Olson



Marcia A Lemley - February 01, 2024 at 10:56 AM

ML

Pam, sorry to hear of your dad's passing. You and all your family are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏

Marcia A Lemley - February 01, 2024 at 10:58 AM

KM

Pam, I am so sorry for your loss. Hugs and prayers.

Kathy Milia - February 01, 2024 at 11:01 AM

KP

My dearest Uncle Danny was one of the finest people I have ever known. He was so very kind, patient and talented beyond belief. His commitment to his faith, family and work was unparalleled throughout the years. The memories of times with him shared could fill volumes. But the most important thing of all is that whenever I think/thought about him, it always brought a smile to my face and a genuine warmth to my heart. The world will be worse off without him, but I know for sure that heaven is a better place with him. May the cloak of Jesus Christ forever surround my loving Uncle Danny in His grace, peace and comfort. Amen.

Ken Powell - February 02, 2024 at 11:59 AM

KL

*My Deepest Sympthy to the Olson Family. I was in the choir at St Matthew's from 5-8th grade. I hadn't seen him in 54 years since graduating in 1970, but whenever his name came up, he was always remembered with great fondness. He left a lasting impression on me on how passionate he seemed to be about his "job", but it really did seem to be a labor of love with him. I was always happy that i stayed a soprano through 8th grade so I could stay in the front row & watch him play that magnificent organ in the choir loft. God Bless Mr Olson, R.I.P. Sir. Kevin Liening.*

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**Kevin Liening** - February 03, 2024 at 02:55 PM

WW

*Delphine and Dan visited me here in Florida a few years ago and I was to tickled. Hugs and prayers, Delphine. Wayne Warren, St. Anne Church, Ruskin, Florida*

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**Wayne Warren** - February 09, 2024 at 07:31 PM