

# SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Don and Elizabeth Madison

There is an old proverb that says the more things change the more they stay the same. Don Madison, an original member of Saint Rose, certainly can attest to that. For almost eight decades he's had a front-row seat observing the transformation of the parish. There have been changes for sure, but not in his participation in the Mass.

"When I was in grade school in the 1940s we went to Mass every day," he recalls. "I really liked being an altar server so I would do it every chance I got." Today, Don is still an altar server at Saint Rose, typically at the morning Mass twice a week. And, get this, he's still serving with one of his grade school partners, Bob Houck, another long-time parishioner. "Serving has always been special to me," says Don. "It's a rewarding experience to contribute to the Mass in this way and being an usher at the Saturday Mass."

Elizabeth, who married Don 66 years ago, also has a long history of helping out at Mass. She grew up in St. Adalbert's parish, located near the state capitol in St. Paul. As a young girl she learned the importance of being involved in the Mass, doing jobs such as preparing the communion vessels, arranging flowers and cleaning up after Mass. Up until recently she helped Don with his sacristan duties after the 4:30 Saturday Mass. "The order of sisters from Poland at St. Adalbert taught us the old world way of doing things," she says, "which included a deep reverence toward our faith. Ever since I have tried to keep that reverent approach in my spiritual life. The nuns reminded us that when you walked in the door of the church the real presence of Christ was the only thing that mattered." The Madisons bring a similar passion for their faith to the Saint Rose Adoration Chapel. They have been committed to the same evening hour for the entire 30 years that the Chapel has been open. "When you're a regular adorer you become closer to our Lord," says Elizabeth. "I get a feeling of closeness every time I go to Adoration."



## Other things to know about Don and Elizabeth:

- In 1950, when Don graduated from St. Paul's Washington High School, he joined the Navy Reserves and began a 21-year career working in the optical business. Later he spent several years employed at Joe's Sporting Goods.
- After many years of being a stay-at-home mother of seven children, Elizabeth worked for more than two decades at Deluxe Corporation in Shoreview. She has been a reliable volunteer for the Saint Rose prayer line for decades. "If I don't have a specific person to pray for, I pray for world peace," she says. "I say at least four rosaries a day, and have done as many as 12 in a day."

Elizabeth Madison passed away in December, 2021.