d Divine Mercy Parish d

(Founded 2010)

Saints Peter & Paul Church Est. 1903 St. Anne Church Est. 1882 St. Adalbert Church Est. 1910

Three Rivers, Massachusetts

Rev. Stefan J. Niemczyk, Pastor

Rectory: 2267 Main Street (413) 283-6030

Office Hours: Mon. & Fri. 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.; Tues., Wed., Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Divine Mercy Religious School & Parish Hall – 283-4320

Email: stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com ~~~ Website: www.churchofdivinemercy.org

July 17, 2011





Vigil of Sunday – 4:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. - **Sunday** – 8:00 a.m.(Polish) and 9:30 a.m. **Daily Masses** – 7:00 a.m. (except Tuesday) - Tuesday – Novena & Mass 5:30 p.m. **Holy Day Masses** – Refer to Mass Schedule

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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** – Saturday 3:00 p.m. First Friday at 6:30 p.m. **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & HOLY MATRIMONY** – Contact Rectory to make arrangements **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING)** – Contact Rectory when the need arises **SICK CALLS** – Anytime

Items for the bulletin should be submitted no later than Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Editorial discretion on all items. Email: <a href="mailto:stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com">stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com</a>.

Director of Religious Education - Jean Brigham (283-4232) Parish Secretaries - Lydia McKee & Debra Ingalls Choir Director & Organist - Mark Narreau (583-8541) Organist - Mary Besko & Barbara Kelleher Web-site Editor - Paul Brozek

**Welcome to Divine Mercy Parish** ~ We are pleased to have you present today and extend to you the warmest of welcomes. It is fitting that we should celebrate the Holy Mass together at our Parish, the center of our spiritual life. We ask everyone gathered here to remember this is a holy place. It is a place where the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lord present among us, is kept in the tabernacle. It is also a sacred place for prayer. Therefore, please maintain a respectful silence in the Church out of consideration for the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and those who are praying. Thank you for your understanding.

WEEKLY CALENDAR



#### SATURDAY, July 16th

- Confessions at 3:00 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, July 17th

- Chalice of Strength - Prayers for Priests & Vocations - 4:00 p.m. in the church

#### MONDAY, July 18th

PICNIC SET-UP 6:00 P.M. ~ PLEASE COME HELP!!!

## TUESDAY, July 19th

- Choir Rehearsal - check with Mark Narreau, Director

PICNIC SET-UP 6:00 P.M. ~ PLEASE COME HELP!!!

#### WEDNESDAY, July 20th

- Alcoholic Anonymous 7:00 p.m. St. Maximilian Kolbe Room
- Golabki Making 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

PICNIC SET-UP 6:00 P.M. ~ PLEASE COME HELP!!!

#### THURSDAY, July 21st

PICNIC SET-UP 6:00 P.M. ~ PLEASE COME HELP!!!

#### FRIDAY, July 22nd

PICNIC SET-UP 6:00 P.M. ~ PLEASE COME HELP!!!

#### SATURDAY, July 23rd

- Confessions at 3:00 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, July 24th

Church Picnics

COME & ENIOY!!!

- Polka Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- Divine Mercy Parish Picnic on the Parish Grounds from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Parish – Three Rivers, Massachusetts – July 17, 2011

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# Mass Intentions

#### <u>Saturday</u> - July 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. - +Stephanie Handzel - Her Sister-in-law Josephine Slozak and Family

4:00 p.m. - +Stanley & Vera Jasak - Their Family

+Deceased members of Wyrobek Family - The Family

5:15 p.m. -+Richard Wawro - Jill and B.J. Williams

+Horace Orszulak - His Sister Emma and Niece Dr. Melanie

#### Sunday - July 17th ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. - +Edward Godek - Janina & Waclaw Pryga

9:30 a.m. - +Stephen Lebida - His Wife and Family

#### Monday - July 18th

7:00 a.m. – Divine Mercy Parishioners

#### Tuesday - July 19th

5:30 p.m. - +Stanley Skowronek - His Son Michael & Family

#### Wednesday - July 20th ~ St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr

7:00 a.m. – +Stanley Grzywna – Anne Topor

## Thursday - July 21st ~ St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. - +Mary Roman - Pauline Ziemba

#### Friday - July 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ St. Mary Magdalene

7:00 a.m. – +Stanley Bigda – M/M Edward Koss

#### Saturday - July 23rd ~ St. Bridget of Sweden, religious; Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. – +Edwin Gruszczynski – The Family

#### 1:00 p.m. ~ Wedding of ~ Tracey Olearczyk & Jesse Pobieglo

4:00 p.m. - +Sophie Jacek - Her Son Fred & Daughter-in-law Joyce

+William Ziobrowski - His Mother & Father

5:15 p.m. - +Suzanne Lynn Beauchemin – Her Family

+Viola Benoit ~ 23rd Anniv - Ernie & Pearl Charland



# <u>Sunday</u> - July 24<sup>th</sup> ~ *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 a.m. – For the Health of Helena Dupre – Ethel Orszulak

9:30 a.m. - +Dominick Machnik - M/M Charles Bates

11:00 a.m. ~ Polka Mass

# ~~ DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS ~~

Classes have ended for the summer. Please remember to attend Mass as a Family. This is our Lords request as stated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment... "and it will please Him so much!" Parents are the first teachers of their children. Teach your child their prayers; then pray with them. Your own example in living our faith is the best way to do that!



## ~~ ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT ~~

Wednesday – 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday – 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you can give one hour, or substitute, please call Diana Roth @ 283-8709

# Forgiveness "No one heals himself by wounding another." St. John Chrysostom

#### For Reflection:

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.

But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

MOTHER THERESA OF CALCUTTA





From today's Gospel, Matthew 13: "...and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause other to sin."

Do not be deceived by the many untruths about abortion. Life begins at the beginning.

# ~~ DIVINE MERCY NEWS ~~

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

 $\label{eq:July 24th} July 24^{th} \sim \text{Divine Mercy Annual Picnic} \\ \text{August 7$^{th}$} \sim \text{Sunday Afternoon Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Church.} \\ \text{August 12$^{th}$} \& 13^{th} \sim \text{Divine Mercy Family Campout} \\$ 



#### **July 24th PICNIC NEWS**

We are still accepting donations for the "Special Raffle", they can be dropped off at the Rectory (please, during office hours only).  $\sim$ 



Thank You to all that donated to "The Boutique".

We have some great items, please stop by our booth for Gucci, Prada, as well as a special Vera Bradley section and don't forget our jewels.

The Arts & Craft booth is looking for hand-crafted items. We need your talent and help. Please call Carol Lavigne at 283-7222 with your generous reply.







IT'S PICNIC TIME!  $\sim$  So we know it's also time for your delicious baked "goodies". The Bake Sale Committee is again asking for your help! We'd love to see your baked goods, whatever your favorites are. PLEASE HELP us to have another successful BAKE SALE this year. See you there!

**CHICKEN BBQ TICKETS** will be sold after all the weekend masses until the picnic. The tickets are again \$10 each.

**PICNIC SET-UP** – Every night at 6:00 p.m. starting on Monday July 18<sup>th</sup> we will be getting together for about an hour to work on the picnic set-up. There are all kinds of little jobs that need to be done. If you would like to help or have any questions, please call Fred Orszulak at 283-7400.

THE LADIES OF ST. ANNE SODALITY would like to invite the Ladies of the Rosary Sodality to join them at C.J.'s Restaurant following the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> (St. Anne's Feast Day). The choice of menu is Stuffed Baked Shrimp, Baked Haddock, Stuffed Chicken Breast or N.Y. Strip Steak. \$15 includes tax and tip. For reservations please call Alice Losaw at 283-4688, Estelle Carbonneau at 283-8543 or Lynne Riendeau at 283-7038 before July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Anniversary Mass for Married Couples Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell cordially invites all married couples celebrating any significant wedding anniversary in 2011 to a special Anniversary Mass on Sunday, August 28th, at 2:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, MA. Many couples celebrating 25th and 50th anniversaries attend every year, but any couples wishing to remember their anniversary with this special liturgy are also most welcome. Please notify the parish office of your name and address **before Friday, July 22nd** to receive a personal invitation from Bishop McDonnell.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE GOLABKI!!! Anyone that would like to help make the golabki for the picnic can join us on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in the morning at 9:00 a.m. to roll them. No experience necessary, it's easy and we will show you how.



# FAMILY CAMPOUT AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH - August 12th & 13th

If you like camping and getting back to "nature", you can do it at the Divine Mercy Family Campout. Bring your own tent and sleeping bag. Setup will be behind the parking lot on the grass at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Men's Guild will be serving dinner Friday evening and breakfast Saturday morning. There will be a campfire for toasting marshmallows and games to fill the evening. Everyone from the Parish is invited to join us and enjoy a bit of peace and quite from our busy lives and have some fun with our Parish family. If you're interested, please contact Tom Losaw at 283-4688 or Joe Gazaille at 284-0538.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT ~ Parishioner Jennifer Fijal and baritone Danny Brevik will be presenting a concert with pianist Jerry Noble on Sunday, August 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. From spirituals to classical art songs to musical theater hits, the concert is sure to be enjoyable. Donations are welcomed, but aren't required. Come support the two before they move on to graduate school!

There is a family that lost everything in a fire and are in need of clothing boys size 5, girl size 12 man size lg-xlg woman size lg-xlg. Also thank you to those who donated 2 dressers & a bed. We are still in need of a twin bed anyone who can help may contact Sonny & Diana Roth @ 283-8709



#### **MOTHER OF MERCY PRAYER FORCE**

Anyone who would like their intentions prayed for please EMAIL to Diana @ stjoseph1955@msn.com we have a network of prayer warriors who will pray for your intentions etc.

<u>STAR PROGRAM 2011 - 2012</u> Your **July** contributions to the STAR Program may be deposited in the weekly collection basket or may be mailed to the Rectory. Please make your check payable to Divine Mercy Parish and include the applicable coupon so you will be properly credited and entered in the drawings.

# ~~ AROUND THE AREA ~~

**CONFESSIONS** – Every Tuesday from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sacred Heart on Boston Road in Springfield. English–Polish–Spanish. This is Fr. Tomasz Parzynski's Parish.

<u>POLISH PICNIC 2011</u> will be held on **Sunday**, **July 17**<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church on 414 North Street in Pittsfield. Polish & American food, dancing to "The Rymanowski Brothers", frozen polish food available at 9:00 a.m., hotdogs and hanburgers, fried dough, Kiddie Land and raffles.

**POLKA MASS & CHICKEN BBQ** to be held on **Sunday, July 17**<sup>th</sup> at the White Eagle Society Picnic Pavilion on Plain Road in Greenfield. Music for the Mass will be provided by Eddie Forman and Orchestra. There will be a 11:00 a.m. Polka Mass celebrated by Rev. Tomasz Gorny, Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Church. Chicken BBQ served at 1:00 p.m. followed by dancing from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. with Eddie Forman Orchestra. Tickets are \$12 for the BBQ and must be purchased by July 11<sup>th</sup>. Info at <a href="https://www.whiteeaglesociety.com">www.whiteeaglesociety.com</a> or 413-772-6983.

<u>ANNUAL NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE</u>  $\sim$  **July 18-26**<sup>th</sup> The 124<sup>th</sup> annual Novena to St. Anne is here! This year's theme is, "Teach Us to Pray". Each evening's celebration will feature a different speaker as well as music from various groups highlighting the many diverse ways the people of God celebrate our universal Faith. Bring your family and join us for one or more nights of grace as we pray, reflect and rejoice! <a href="https://www.stannestpat.org">www.stannestpat.org</a>.

**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL** on State St. in Springfield will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> Summer Picnic and Fundraiser on **Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**. The grounds of the Cathedral will open at 5:00 p.m. The Eddie Forman Orchestra will play, Polish & American foods will be sold and a soda, beer and wine cash bar will be available. A multi-item raffle will conclude with the raffling of a catered six-course dinner including special guests Bishop Timothy McDonnell & Msgr. Christopher Connelly. Rain or Shine - Parking & Admission free – bring your lawn chairs. Proceeds will help the parish to maintain its ministries and outreach to friends in a city area crippled by the June 1<sup>st</sup> tornado.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MICHAEL H. DESLAURIERS SCHOLARSHIP SUMMER BLAST "Fun for All"

To be held on **Saturday, July 30**<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 10 p.m. (rain or shine). Adults \$5 and children 12 and under are free. K of C Pavilion West Main St. (Rte.9) Ware, MA. Music by Dennis Polisky's "The Maestro's Men" from 6 to 10 p.m. Also a special appearance by Jerome Riley a former lead singer of the Platters. Food and Beverage available. Please no BYOB or BYOF.

FOR RISING 9<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRO-LIFE STUDENTS Mass. Citizens for Life Summer Academy. Free tuition. Become a Pro-Life Ambassador at six evening sessions in Charlestown or Worcester. Call 617-242-4199 or visit www.masscitizensforlife.org.

#### ~~ DONATIONS ~~

**GENERAL FUND - In memory of Stephanie Putz** ~ \$40 from Leo & Marjorie Putz, \$30 from Al & Millie Herzog, \$25 from Mark & Deborah Provost, \$20 from Lydia McKee, \$20 from Eugene & Maryann Grzywna, \$10 from Carol Mastalerz, \$10 from John Machnik, \$20 from Joseph & Betty Halgas, \$20 from Joey & Jackie Halgas, \$10 from George Motyka, \$10 from Fran & Steve Nowak, \$10 from M/M Chester Brozek, \$20 from Louise Kusek

**BURSE FUND - In memory of Stephanie Putz**  $\sim$  \$50 from Irene & Carl Ersing, \$20 from Lee & Barbara Lyon

**CASH DONATIONS TO OFFSET MONEY RAFFLE** ~ \$25 from Leslie & Susan Bonneville, \$20 from Pauline Bousquet, \$20 from Chris & Alice Bukowski, \$25 from Carol Holden, \$100 from Eleanor & Charles Jasak, \$25 from Stephen & Diane Marhelewicz, \$25 from Julie & Carol Mastalerz, \$25 from Mary Miarecki

**DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL RAFFLE** – Foot Spa with Jet Action donated by Walter & Helen Swiatlowski, Handmade Quilt made and donated by Debra Ingalls

SINCERE THANKS
For your generosity & support of our parish
God Bless All

#### **BE A VOLUNTEER**

BY GIVING <u>JUST AN HOUR</u> OF YOUR TIME!!

WE ALL HAVE TIME FOR OTHER FUNCTIONS IN OUR LIVES,

WON'T YOU CONSIDER HELPING OUT WITH YOUR ANNUAL PICNIC?

WE NEED YOUR HELP THE WEEK OF SET-UP AS WELL AS THE DAY OF THE PICNIC

CALL FRED Orszulak at 283-7400 or Mary Majka 323-4556 OR 413-244-6774.

#### **VOTIVE LAMP INTENTIONS**

1.+Edna Burns – daughter Patty. 1. Zsp. Joseph & Frances Swist – daughter. 1.+Earl McKee - wife Lydia. 1.+Frank & Mary Falk - daughter & son-in-law. 1.+Felix & Catherine Misiaszek – son Peter & daughter-in-law. 1.+Phyllis Misiaszek – brother Peter & sister-inlaw. 1.+Sister Josephine - Niece. 1.+St. Anne special blessings on grandchildren. 1. St. Anthony for a special favor. 1. +Joseph Misiaszek Peter & sister-in-law. 1. Zsp. Deceased members of Salamon & Marcinkiewicz families. 1. +Deceased members of Gut & Yurkunas family. 1.+Helen & Francis Ford - Pat. 1. Zsp. Jana Wasiuk - od zony z rodzina. 1. Thank you God, for prayers answered & continued blessings & good health - B.R. 1. God's blessing & continuing recovery for Eleanor – Charlie. 1.+Michael A. & Mary Wojnilowicz – son Michael. 1. Pray for world peace – Holy Rosary Sodality. 1. For a friend's health. 1.+Edward Ziobrowski – family. 1. For all members of the military – Rosary Sodality. 1. For an end to abortion – Rosary Sodality. 1. Health for our sick parishioners – Rosary Sodality. 1. For Priestly and Religious vocations – Rosary Sodality. 1. +Darryl Tyburski – love Mom, Dad, sister Betty & brothers Tom & Ray. 1.+Edward Godek - wife Pat. 1. Health & God's blessings for Irene Orluk - Sophie. 1.+Kowalczyk family - family. . 1. Healing for Susan B -LJF. 1. Rest in peace Michael – LJF. 1. Zsp. Franciszke I Wojciecha Frydryk – Syn. 1. Zsp. Stella I Leo Pulaski – J.F., 1. Zsp. Anne I Michala Zbylot – J.F., 1. Zsp. Edna I Frank Pytka – J.F., 1. Zsp. John I Michael Boronski – J.F., 1. Zsp. Patricia Kohler – J.F., 1. +Edward Zerdecki – wife & family. 1. God's blessings & health for daughter-in-law Donna. 1. +John Olearczyk - wife & family. 1. +Rusty Nowak - wife & son. 1. +Nancy Szostek - Gloria Nowak. 1. Thank you, Jesus, for many blessings received - Pauline & Ed. 1. +Steff Putz -Ruth Jamrog. 1. Blessed Mother – blessings & good health for daughters & granddaughters. 1. St. Lucy – E. 1. St. Jude & St. Anthony – E. 1. +Raymond Sabourin, Sr. – wife & family. 1. Jesus I Trust In Thee. 1. +Joe Misiaszek – Cis & family. 1. +Josephine Kargol – daughter. 1. God's blessings for Dr. Vigneaux's new granddaughter - Mark & Susan. 1. God's blessings & good health for a friend - T.M. 1. God's blessings for a full time job. 1. God's blessings & a safe trip for D&A to Europe. 1. God's blessings & good health for all our families. 1. +Stephen & Sophie Noga - son Stephen. 1. +Stefan Rosinski - wife S.. 1. +Anthony Zieminski – wife & family. 1. Safe travel for daughters. 1. Birthday blessings for Lydia McKee's July 13th birthday – Gloria Nowak. 1. +Louis Zglobicki – wife & family. 1. +Richard Wawro – love, wife Barbara. 1. +Stanley Karcz – Mary & Stanley Trela. 1. God's blessings & Happy belated birthday to Barbara Miskiewicz – love Josie & June. 1. God's blessings & get well Millie Robak - love. Josie & June. 1. Health & happiness of K.T.E.N. - M.P. 1. God's blessings & health for J.P.J.B.J. - M.P. 1. +Victor Bukowski - R.C.. 1. +Victor Bukowski wife Frances & family. 1. +Husband & son – love – A. Pietrewicz. 1. +Daniel Janulewicz – sister Nancy. 1. +Rose Desmarais – Nancy Morris. 1.God's blessings & health for Barbara Wawro on her birthday - Pat Godek. 1. +Fred Mastalerz - love, Julie & Carol. 1. +Lawrence & Caroline Kapinos – love Julie & Carol. 1. +Edwin McClosky – 4th anniv/ - Ted & Del. 1. +Frank Miskiewicz - Barbara. 1. +Sophie & Joseph Socha - Barbara. 1. God's blessings & good health for Vera Borowik- Barbara Miskiewicz. 1. +Henry Stefanowich - Anna. 1. To

St. Lucy for a special favor. 1. +Fred & Helen Krawczyk - daughter & son-in-law. 1. Blessings & good health for Kami W. on her **5th** birthday - Cioci Sally. 1. Birthday blessings for Genie, love, Jack, Regie & family. 1. Living & deceased members of Lemanski & Vaz families. 1. +Genevieve Vaz – Lori. 1. Please Jesus help Gigi to get well soon – love Uncle Charlie & Aunt Genie. 1. healing, strength, protection. 1. God's blessings – Owen, Kathryn, Brooke Johnson. 1. In memory of Hannah Johnson. 1. Blessings & good health for daughter & son & their families. 1. +John Mastalerz - wife & family. 1. God's blessings -Benjamin. 1. +Julia A. Machnik - S.. 1. Gale Benoit - S.. 1. +Stella Maestrone - S. 1. Susan L.K. – S.. 1. The Lemanski family – S.. 1. A.J. & Joanne – S.. 1. +Jennie Vaz – S.. 1. Lori Vaz – S.. 1. Zsp. Rodzicow Witkowskich – od corki. 1. God's blessings Irene Pietryka – Tom & Jane. 1. "Jesus I Trust In You" - family health & strength. 1. For Mom & Dad's health- TKNE. 1. +William Gilbert. 1. +Helen Starzyk. 1. +Eleanor Starzyk. 1. +Betty Bielaska. 1. God's blessing & good health for KDI. 1. For St. Christopher to protect & guide Father Stefan as he travels – L.R.. 1. For a pleasant & peace filled mini vacation for Father Stefan – L.R.. 1. +Father Paul Archambault – L.R.. 1. For God's direction, safety & for conversion of heart for Casey A. - L.R.. 1. For souls in purgatory - L.R.. 1. Family health & God's blessing. 1. Good health and God's blessings for my grandson – Babci. 1. +Walter Smola – wife Alice. 1. God's blessings, good health & continued success for Rep. Todd Smola - EK&GK. 1. God's help & guidance for my son - D.. 1. In loving memory of Grace Kulpa - daughter Debbie. 1. God's blessings for Alice Smola – son Rich. 1. +Grace Kulpa – husband Ed. 1. To St. Martin de Porres for special intentions. 1. To Pope John Paul I for good health of Blanche Wostena - children. 1. Zsp. Joseph Wostena, Jr. - wife & children. 1. +Frank & Sophie Swiatlowski family. 1. +Steffie Putz - Josephine Yurkunas. 1. Blessings & get well Lillian Olearczyk -Josephine Yurkunas. 1. Godo health for Millie Robak – Josephine Yurkunas. 1. Blessings – Thank you June & Randy - Josephine Yurkunas. 1. +Joseph Marchelewicz - family. 1. Special intention for Father Stefan – S.. 1. +Edward Rudnick – family. 1. Miracle of strength for Little Ben - Pat & Linda. 1. God's blessings & healing for Jake. 1. God's blessings for our family.

# ~~ BACK PAGE HUMOR & MORE ~~

It was one of the hottest days of the dry season. We had not seen rain in almost a month. The crops were dying. Cows had stopped giving milk. The creeks and streams were long gone back into the earth. It was a dry season that would bankrupt several farmers before it was through.

Every day, my husband and his brothers would go about the arduous process of trying to get water to the fields. Lately this process had involved taking a truck to the local water rendering plant and filling it up with water. But severe rationing had cut everyone off. If we didn't see some rain soon...we would lose everything. It was on this day that I learned the true lesson of sharing and witnessed the only miracle I have seen with my own eyes. I was in the kitchen making lunch for my husband and his brothers when I saw my six-year-old son, Billy, walking toward the woods. He wasn't walking with the usual carefree abandon of a youth but with a serious purpose. I could only see his back. He was obviously walking with a great effort ... trying to be as still as possible. Minutes after he disappeared into the woods, he came running out again, toward the house. I went back to making sandwiches; thinking that whatever task he had been doing was completed. Moments later, however, he was once again walking in that slow purposeful stride toward the woods. This activity went on for an hour: walking carefully to the woods, running back to the house.

Finally I couldn't take it any longer and I crept out of the house and followed him on his journey (being very careful not to be seen...as he was obviously doing important work and didn't need his Mommy checking up on him). He was cupping both hands in front of him as he walked, being very careful not to spill the water he held in them ... maybe two or three tablespoons were held in his tiny hands. I sneaked close as he went into the woods. Branches and thorns slapped his little face, but he did not try to avoid them. He had a much higher purpose. As I leaned in to spy on him, I saw the most amazing site.

Several large deer loomed in front of him. Billy walked right up to them. I almost screamed for him to get away. A huge buck with elaborate antlers was dangerously close. But the buck did not threaten him...he didn't even move as Billy knelt down. And I saw a tiny fawn lying on the ground; obviously suffering from dehydration and heat exhaustion, lift its head with great effort to lap up the water cupped in my beautiful boy's hand. When the water was gone, Billy jumped up to run back to the house and I hid behind a tree. I followed him back to the house to a spigot to which we had shut off the water. Billy opened it all the way up and a small trickle began to creep out. He knelt there, letting the drip slowly fill up his makeshift "cup," as the sun beat down on his little back. And it came clear to me: The trouble he had gotten into for playing with the hose the week before. The lecture he had received about the importance of not wasting water. The reason he didn't ask me to help him. It took almost twenty minutes for the drops to fill his hands. When he stood up and began the trek back, I was there in front of him.

His little eyes just filled with tears. "I'm not wasting," was all he said. As he began his walk, I joined him...with a small pot of water from the kitchen. I let him tend to the fawn. I stayed away. It was his job. I stood on the edge of the woods watching the most beautiful heart I have ever known working so hard to save another life. As the tears that rolled down my face began to hit the ground, other drops...and more drops...and more suddenly joined them. I looked up at the sky. It was as if God, himself, was weeping with pride.

Some will probably say that this was all just a huge coincidence. Those miracles don't really exist. That it was bound to rain sometime. And I can't argue with that... I'm not going to try. All I can say is that the rain that came that day saved our farm...just like the actions of one little boy saved another.