

+ Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin+

Jesus, I Trust in You!

Divine Mercy Rectory, 2267 Main St., (413) 283-6030

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, (413) 283-4320

Three Rivers, Mass.

Rev. Stefan Niemczyk, pastor

Pastoral Staff:

Parish Council president: John Yurkunas

Religious Education director: Jean Brigham

Organists: Mark Narreau, Mary Besko

Secretary: Lydia McKee

Sacristans: Michael Wostena, Maryann Wostena

Custodian: John Dziedzic

Office hours: Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email address: stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com

Website: www.churchofdivinemercury.org

Confessions: Sat, 3:00 p.m. (also before daily Mass)

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the rectory to make arrangements

Schedule of Holy Masses:

The Lord's Day ---

Vigil on Sat., 4:00, 5:15 p.m.

Sun., 8:00 a.m. (Polish), 9:30 a.m.

Daily (except Tues.), 7:00 a.m.

Tues., 5:30 p.m. with B.V.M. Novena

Holydays: as announced

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wed., 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sat., 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sick calls: anytime

New, But Rich in Tradition:

A Brief Overview of Divine Mercy Parish

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish was founded in 1905 to serve the needs of Polish immigrants. **St. Adalbert Parish**, Bondsville, began as a mission of Sts. Peter & Paul in 1910, was erected a parish in its own right in 1917, and closed in 2004. **St. Anne Parish** was founded in 1882 to serve the needs of French Canadian immigrants. By a decree of the Bishop of Springfield issued on Nov. 23, 2009, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Anne were merged to form **Divine Mercy Parish**. With its combination of a typical New England exterior and a beautiful Baroque interior, Sts. Peter & Paul Church is the designated worship place for Divine Mercy.

December 14, 2014

Gaudete Sunday; Third in Advent

(Roman Rite, ordinary form & extraordinary form)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 1 No. 15 / Dec. 14, 2014

Telephone Numbers: RECTORY (283-6030) Mark Narreau (583-8541) Jean Brigham (283-4232)
Items for bulletin must be submitted by Tues. morning for publication in the next Sunday's issue.
Thank you! All submitted items are subject to editorial discretion and may or may not be used.

N.B.: The *Parish Bulletin* is currently in transition. Some issues, or a part of them, may not be available online until further notice. *Thank you for your patience and understanding.*

The Most Blessed Sacrament ~ ~ ~

The Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved in our church, located in the tabernacle on the High Altar, beneath the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. We ask that you maintain a respectful silence when you are in the church. This is especially important before and after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Your reverent attitude is not only an example for all, but is respectful of those who are praying. *Thank you!*

Parish Events This Week in *December*

Sun., Dec. 14th

Religious Education classes, grades 6-10 – 10:30 a.m., parish hall
Chalice of Strength Prayers for Priests & Vocations, 4:00 p.m., church

Mon., Dec. 15th

Rosary for World Peace, 4:00 p.m., church

Wed., Dec. 17th

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 7:00 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Room.

Thurs., Dec. 18th

Anniversary of the death of +REV. ANDRZEJ KRZYWDA, 3rd pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul (1947)

Sat., Dec. 20th

Religious Education classes, grades K-5, 9:00 a.m., parish hall.
Confessions, beginning at 2:00 p.m., church
Sts. Peter & Paul Men's Guild DINNER beginning at 6:30 p.m., parish hall.

Mother of Mary Prayer Force

If anyone would like their intentions prayed for by a dedicated group of parishioners, please email them to jmjr2007@yahoo.com. We have a network of prayer warriors who will pray for you.

Apostles of Prayer

If you're requesting prayers for anyone or you'd like to join the Prayer Line, please call Cindy Leveillee @ 283-7836.

Palmer Food Share

Please continue to assist with your donations to the Food Share program. You may drop off donations in the baskets located in the church. *Thank you for your generosity!*

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you have questions, or are considering joining our parish, *you are most welcome!* Please see Father after Mass or contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Masses & Devotions This Week

*Praised be Jesus Christ! Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Laudetur Iesus Christus!*

Vigil of Sunday

- 4:00 p.m. +Madeleine & Cecile Camerlin – int. of Carl & Irene
 +deceased members of the Frank Kargol family – int. of the family
 5:15 p.m. living & +deceased members of the Antoni Frydryk family
 +Wilfred & Helen Bonneville – int. of son Leslie & daughter-in-law Susie

14. Sunday ~ Gaudete Sunday; 3rd in Advent

- 8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Vera Gilbert – od Michael Wojnilowicz
 9:30 a.m. +Stanley Wojtowicz – int. of his sons Paul & Stanley
 +William, Sr., Anna, & Billy Snyder – int. of Robert & Terry Snyder

15. Monday ~ Advent feria

- 7:00 a.m. for the parishioners

16. Tuesday ~ Advent feria

- 5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Maria & Andrzej Bochenek – int. of their family

17. Wednesday ~ Late Advent feria

- 7:00 a.m. +Stefan & Sallie Rosinski – int. of John & Mary Hartman

18. Thursday ~ Late Advent feria

- 7:00 a.m. +Cecelia Matera – int. of Cecelia Misiaszek

19. Friday ~ Late Advent feria

- 7:00 a.m. +Wojciech, Maria & Jan Majka – int. of their family

20. Saturday ~ Late Advent feria

- 7:00 a.m. +Stasia Orszulak – int. of Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality

Vigil of Sunday

- 4:00 p.m. +deceased members of the Handzel family – int. of June
 +Henry & Sophie Jacek – int. of son Fred & daughter-in-law Joyce
 5:15 p.m. +Joseph Majka – int. of Chris & Alice Bukowski & family
 +Richard Dulude – int. of his wife & family

21. Sunday ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Tadeusz Guzik – od nephew Michael & niece Maryann
 9:30 a.m. +John Olearczyk – int. of his wife & family
 +Christa Bressette – int. of her husband & family

PRAY FOR PRIESTS/DEACONS ~ Each day of the month is set aside to pray for a specific priest or deacon. *Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Fr. Donald Noiseux	Fr. Daniel Cymer	Fr. Francis Reilly	Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Fr. David Darcy	Fr. Edward Fitzgerald	Fr. Peter Naranjo	

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Please refer to the front cover for the hours of Adoration.

Since 1996, our parish has been **blessed to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the Adoration of the faithful**. However, **the Blessed Sacrament cannot be exposed in the monstrance on the altar unless one is willing to sacrifice one (1) hour. *Will you be that person?? Time spent with God is never time wasted!*** If you would like to substitute or commit to a specific hour in this important ministry of prayer, **please contact Diana Roth @ 283-8709. We need your help. *God is never outdone in generosity!***

School of Religious Education *NEWS*

Please refer to **PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK, page 2, for class days & times.**

We ask that parents faithfully send their children to these important classes on our Catholic Faith, and that the whole family regularly attend Sun. Mass (or Sat. Vigil). Any questions or for more information, contact Jean Brigham (283-4232).

Christmas Candy

The parish sincerely thanks Natalie and David Taylor, and Jane & Ron Swiatlowski for their donation of Christmas candy given **in loving memory of +Stanley & Celia Swiatlowski.**

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY ON MONDAYS

The **Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality** continues to pray the **Rosary on each Monday at 4:00 p.m.** in church (until further notice). Please come and pray for world peace and the protection for our citizens and nation. ***All are welcome! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!***

Sign of Peace

This is an *optional* gesture at every Mass. The Congregation for Divine Worship has recently called for the congregation to act with simplicity and more restraint when exchanging peace. For example, *a handshake is not obligatory*. In these cold months, it's also more practical **to prevent the spread of cold and other germs** with a simple and sufficient nod of the head, a smile or a whispered "peace to you."

In Case of Snow

Perhaps we might be spared of many snowstorms this year (!), but in the event of such events, we ask that you park your vehicles in the parking lot, rather than on the street. This will make plowing easier.

***** Christmas at Divine Mercy *****

Schedule-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, December 24th

Mass of the Christmas Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Combined Choirs Concert of Christmas Carols, Polish Koledy, French Carols at 11:30 p.m.

Pasterka/Shepherds' Mass at Midnight

with Procession to the Zlobek/Stable

Thursday, December 25th

Mass of Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m.

((((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

Pro-Life News ~ Vaccine in Africa

Because Africa is the only country that was not "bought" into the abortion mentality, the population controllers are furious! Now they are sterilizing women in Kenya without their knowledge. They inject them with tetanus shots laced with beta-hCG—a drug that sterilizes women and kills unborn babies. All 41 of Kenya's bishops have signed a statement, accusing them of this horrendous crime. For more information, go to Population Research Institute's website: www.pop.org, and please pray for the women of Kenya. *God bless you!*

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale & Lottery Calendar Sale

Fundraiser sponsored by Friends of the Palmer Senior Center **Annual Christmas Homemade Cookie Sale: \$7.00** (large box) and **\$5.00** (small box) Call to place your order by Dec. 19, 283-2670. Orders over two boxes must be prepaid (Palmer Council on Aging, 1029 Central St., Palmer, Mass.). Orders can be picked up on Dec. 22 after 1:00 p.m. or Dec. 23 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. / **Lottery calendar** cost: **\$5.00** (only 500 will be sold).

Children in Church

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up: "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me, too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

(((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

Area Advent Penance Services

Advent Penance Service will be held at **St. Michael's Cathedral** this **Wed., Dec. 17th** after **12:10 p.m. Mass**. Several priests will be available for confessions.

Seminarian Gift Cards Available

The diocese currently has twelve men in seminary formation. Our seminarians have little opportunity to earn money during their formation, but still have personal expenses. Whether it's gas to travel to parish assignments, an unexpected car repair, or maybe just enough black socks to get through the week, they can use a helping hand. It's an opportunity for the lay faithful to express their appreciation for the seminarians' "yes" to study for the priesthood. Returns are to be donated in the Sunday collection basket or to the rectory office by this **Sun., Dec. 14th**. Envelopes with names of seminarians are available on the back pew counters (near the bulletins and other notices).

Bishop Rozanski's Tour to World Youth Day 2016

Accompanied by Fr. Piotr Calik, Bishop Rozanski will lead a tour to World Youth Day departing on July 22, 2016 and returning on Aug. 3. The tour will include visits to Czestochowa, Auschwitz and Zakopane....several sites that were important in the life of Pope Saint John Paul II. An information session will be held on **Wed., Feb. 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Bishop Marshall Center, Springfield. For more details, call Stacy Dibbern @ (413) 452-0670 or email stacy.dibbern@diospringfield.org

April 2015 Haiti Plunge Mission Trip

Faith Przybycien, high school parishioner, has been selected to participate with a team of 12 youth & advisors from the diocese (April 2015). They will work in reforestation & erosion control, education & recreational programs in HASWEP cooperative. Participants must raise \$1650 (cost of trip) by recruiting sponsors. If you'd like to be a sponsor, please complete the form below and mail directly to Haiti Plunge, Inc. For more information: www.thehaitiplunge.org or The Haiti Plunge on Facebook.

~HAITI PLUNGE SCHOLARSHIP FORM~

I would like to contribute to Faith Przybycien's mission trip. /Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Donor's name (please print) _____

Address _____

Mail to: Haiti Plunge, Inc., P.O. Box 745, North Adams, MA 01247

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

The Sacrament of Charity

Part 11 – Continuing our series of excerpts from *the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS* (Feb. 22, 2007) by **Pope Benedict XVI**. These inspired words can be a source of meditation in preparation for Holy Mass, and/or as a thanksgiving after Holy Mass.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS... from Part II:

#69. **The correct positioning of the tabernacle contributes to the recognition of Christ's real presence in the Blessed Sacrament.** Therefore, the place where the Eucharistic species are reserved, marked by a sanctuary lamp, should be readily visible to everyone entering the church.....in churches which do not have a Blessed Sacrament chapel, and where the high altar with its tabernacle is still in place, it is appropriate to continue to use this structure for the reservation and adoration of the Eucharist, taking care not to place the celebrant's chair in front of it.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS... from Part III:

#70. By receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ we become sharers in the divine life in an ever more adult and conscious way.....St. Augustine imagines the Lord saying to him: *"I am the food of grown men; grow, and you shall feed upon me; nor shall you change me, like the food of your flesh, into yourself, but you shall be changed into me."* **It is not the Eucharistic food this is changed into us, but rather we who are mysteriously transformed by it.**

#71. **The worship of God in our lives cannot be relegated to something private and individual,** but tends by its nature to permeate every aspect of our existence. Worship pleasing to God thus becomes a new way of living our whole life.

#72. The Christian's customary practice of gathering on the first day after the Sabbath to celebrate the resurrection of Christ---according to the account of St. Justin Martyr---is also what defines the form of a life renewed by an encounter with Christ. St. Ignatius' phrase---"*living in accordance with the Lord's Day*"---emphasizes that this holy day becomes paradigmatic for every other day of the week.

#73. **To lose a sense of Sunday as the Lord's Day, a day to be sanctified, is symptomatic of the loss of an authentic sense of Christian freedom, the freedom of the children of God.....**Speaking of the various dimensions of the Christian celebration of Sunday, [my predecessor John Paul II] said that it is *Dies Domini* (the Day of the Lord) with regard to the work of creation, *Dies Christi* (the Day of Christ) as the day of the new creation and the Risen Lord's gift of the Holy Spirit, *Dies Ecclesiae* (the Day of the Church) as the day on which the Christian community gathers for the celebration, and *Dies hominis* (the Day of man) as the day of joy, rest and fraternal charity.

We need to remember that it is Sunday itself that is meant to be kept holy, lest it end up as a day "empty of God." (*Propositio 30*)

#74. **It is particularly urgent nowadays to remember that the day of the Lord is also a day of rest from work.....**work is for man and not man for work.....It is indispensable that people not allow themselves to be enslaved by work or to idolize it.

To be continued....

“In the Wilderness”

IN HIS [2011] ADDRESS TO THE BISHOPS OF NEW YORK during their “ad limina” visit, which canon law mandates for every five years, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of “*an increased sense of concern on the part of many men and women, whatever their religious or political views, for the future of our democratic societies. They see a troubling breakdown in the intellectual, cultural and moral foundations of social life, and a growing sense of dislocation and insecurity, especially among the young.*”

I became mindful of this on a train when someone seated behind me spoke interminably on a cell phone about shopping for sweaters. It would be pedantic in such a circumstance to expect a conversation about polyphony, nuclear physics, or the Cambridge Platonists, but what was miserable, apart from the inconsequential subject being discussed, was the repetitiousness, profanity, and inarticulateness of the speaker – *not to mention the unmodulated voice that sounded like Minnie Mouse on helium* – and the total lack of regard for the other passengers. Some trains now have a “quiet car,” as though silence were an oddity reserved for eccentrics. Perhaps trains will soon have a “thinking car” for those who want to perpetuate the dying custom of using one’s mind.

It was “in the wilderness” – the Biblical equivalent of a “quiet car” – that John the Baptist appealed to those willing to think. Only by thinking can people avoid “dislocation and insecurity,” and only by thinking about the deepest things can the “intellectual, cultural and moral foundations of social life” avoid breakdown.

Our Lord expects each of us to use the mind He has given us, and daily to be discontented with the little we know about our world. When a society breaks down, the best that dislocated and insecure people can hope for is that they might “feel good about themselves.” It is a limited aspiration. St. Augustine said, “**If you would obtain what you are not yet, you must always be displeased by what you are. For when you are pleased with yourself, there you have remained.**”

If I should have the chance to listen in on a saint talking on a cell phone, I expect that the conversation would be edifying and articulate. I do remember speaking over the telephone with **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** about a newspaper that had misquoted her, and she was brief, to the point, and blunt. There was nothing dislocated or insecure in her simple eloquence, and – although she was surrounded by noise – her voice was both quiet and quieting. That is the essence of prayer, and we may be thankful that we do not need a telephone to talk to God. We only need to direct our thoughts to Him. That is what John the Baptist was saying in the wilderness. Some people thought he was crazy, but he would have said the same thing about that person on the train shouting four-letter words over a cell phone.