

# + 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](mailto:stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com)

Website: [www.churchofdivinemercury.org](http://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 21, 2014**

*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

**(Roman Rite, ordinary form & extraordinary form)**

**Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 1 No. 16 / Dec. 21, 2014**

Telephone Numbers: RECTORY (283-6030) Mark Narreau (583-8541) Jean Brigham (283-4232)  
The **Parish Bulletin** is currently in transition. Some issues, or a parts, may not be available online until further notice. *Thank you for your understanding.* Items should be submitted **two weeks** before publication in the bulletin (e.g., items for Dec. 21 should be submitted by Dec. 7). *Thank you!* All submitted items are subject to editorial discretion and may or may not be used.

**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. 21<sup>st</sup>**

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. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Wed., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE**

Christmas VIGIL MASS, 4:00 p.m. with “Christmas Pageant” preceding Mass.  
Christmas MIDNIGHT MASS, preceded by Choirs Concert at 11:30 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> THE NATIVITY of OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas MASS of the DAY, 9:30 a.m.

**Sat., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Feast of St. John the Evangelist:* Blessing of wine at 7:00 a.m. Mass  
No Religious Education classes, grades K-5: *Christmas Break*  
Confessions, 3:00 p.m., church

**Mother of Mary Prayer Force**

If anyone would like their intentions prayed for by a dedicated group of parishioners, please email them to [jmjdrsr2007@yahoo.com](mailto:jmjdrsr2007@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. +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

### **22. Monday ~ Late Advent feria**

7:00 a.m. for the parishioners

### **23. Tuesday ~ St. John Cantius, priest**

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Helena & Stanislaus Wytrwal – int. of the family

### **24. Wednesday ~ Late Advent feria**

7:00 a.m. +Bishop Joseph F. Maguire – int. of a friend

### ***THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS***

4:00 p.m. **VIGIL** +Johnny Batcheldere – int. of Paul & Pat Narreau  
**MIDNIGHT/Pasterka Mass & Procession** ~ for the parishioners

### **25. Thursday ~ The NATIVITY of OUR LORD**

9:30 a.m. +Timothy Sullivan & +John Orzeeh – int. of Tom, Carol & family

### **26. Friday ~ St. Stephen, the first martyr**

7:00 a.m. +Cecelia Matera & +James Czech – int. of Tom & Jane Kubacki, Sr.

### **27. Saturday ~ St. John, apostle & evangelist**

7:00 a.m. +Antoinette Tenczar – int. of Polish Women's Club of Three Rivers

### ***Vigil of Sunday***

4:00 p.m. +Mary Lague – int. of the Apostles of Prayer  
 +Andrew & Alice Smart – int. of their family  
 5:15 p.m. +Richard Wawro, 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary – int. of his wife, daughters & family

### **28. Sunday ~ Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Mitchell Dobek – od Wanda Toczek  
 9:30 a.m. +Antoinette Tenczar – int. of Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality

**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. Christopher Waitekus	Fr. Tomasz Parzynski	Fr. James Nolte	Military Chaplains
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	
All priest	Fr. Rene Parent	Fr. Shaun O'Connor	

## 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*

The annual "Christmas Pageant" with religious education students participating will take place **before the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass.**

***CHRISTMAS BREAK:*** There will be **no religious education classes on Sat., Dec. 27 & Sun., Dec. 28.**

**Classes will resume for grades K-5 on Sat., Jan. 3, 2015 and for grades 6-10 on Sun., Jan. 4, 2015.**

**CANCELLATION REMINDER:** Now that winter is here, please check WWLP, Channel 22 or [www.wwlp.com](http://www.wwlp.com) in case of cancellation of CCD classes.

## *MIDNIGHT MASS PROCESSION*

**We are in need of children to portray Mary, Joseph, the Three Kings, Shepherds and Angels for the *Procession* around the church prior to Midnight Mass.** Students of all ages can participate (no rehearsals). **If any student is interested, please report to the St. Maximilian Kolbe Room (church basement) no later than 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.** Any questions, please call Cheryl Kozlik @ 283-2773.

## **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."

## Donations to the Parish

*The Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donation: Bog Zaplac!*

**To the General Fund –**

**\$2000** for healing oil from Sts. Peter & Paul Men's Guild

**\$100** in loving memory of +Sophie & Henry from son Fred & daughter-in-law Joyce

**\$50** in loving memory of the +Geslock family from Janet Brown

**\$10** in loving memory of +Josephine Yurkunas from Janet Brown

**To the Seminarian Fund –**

**\$1000** in gratitude to St. Anthony for prayers answered.

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

**Schedule-At-A-Glance**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

preceded by "Christmas Pageant"

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

## 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](mailto:stacy.dibbern@diospringfield.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## *Some Thoughts at Christmas*

Our fall was, has always been, and always will be, that we aren't satisfied in God and what He gives. We hunger for something more, something other.

**The only thing that will satisfy our hunger for more is to hunger for the One who comes down to Bethlehem, house of Bread, the One who comes after us and offers Himself as Bread for our starved souls.**

Wise men are only wise because they make their priority the seeking of Christ.

Your God refuses to give up on you.

Your God looks for you when you're feeling lost, and your God seeks you out when you're down, and your God calls for you when you feel cast aside. He doesn't run down the rebel. He doesn't strike down the sinner. He doesn't flog the failure.

---**Ann Voskamp**

## *((((((((("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](http://www.pop.org), and please pray for the women of Kenya. *God bless you!*

Picture here.....

# SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

## The Sacrament of Charity

**Part 12** – 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 III:**

#75. **The importance of the role given to the laity** who should rightly be thanked for their generosity in the service of their communities, **must never obscure the indispensable ministry of priests** for the life of the Church. Hence **care must be taken** to ensure **that such assemblies in the absence of a priest do not encourage ecclesiological visions incompatible with the truth of the Gospel and the Church's tradition**. Rather, they should be privileged moments of prayer for God to send holy priests after His own Heart.

#76. Communion always and inseparably has both a vertical and a horizontal sense: it is communion with God and communion with our brothers and sisters. Both dimensions mysteriously converge in the gift of the Eucharist.

**Secularization, with its inherent emphasis on individualism, has its most negative effects on individuals who are isolated and lack a sense of belonging. Christianity, from its very beginning, has meant fellowship**, a network of relationships constantly strengthened by hearing God's Word and sharing in the Eucharist, and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

#77. **One of the most serious effects of the secularization just mentioned is that it has relegated the Christian faith to the margins of life** as if it were irrelevant to everyday affairs. The futility of this way of living----"as if God did not exist"----is now evident to everyone. **Today there is a need to rediscover that Jesus Christ is not just a private conviction or an abstract idea, but a real person** whose becoming part of human history is capable of renewing the life of every man and woman.

#79. **The Christian laity**, by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation, and strengthened by the Eucharist, **are called to live out the radical newness brought by Christ wherever they find themselves**. They should cultivate a desire that the Eucharist have an ever deeper effect on their daily lives, making them convincing witnesses in the workplace and in society at large. **I encourage families in particular to draw inspiration and strength from this Sacrament**. The love between man and woman, openness to life, and the raising of children are privileged spheres in which the Eucharist can reveal its power to transform life and give it its full meaning.

#80. **The Eucharistic form of the Christian life is seen in a very special way in the priesthood**. Priestly spirituality is intrinsically Eucharistic.....**the priest**, beginning with his years in the seminary, **should make his spiritual life his highest priority**.....I join the Synod Fathers in recommending "the daily celebration of Mass, even when the faithful are not present." (*Propositio 38*) *To be continued...*

**CHRISTMAS 2015**

*May the Infant Jesus embrace all our parishioners with His gifts of love, peace, hope and health. May each of you experience many graces and goodness on this most Holy Feast of the Nativity, and throughout the New Year 2015!*

*Niech Boze Dzieciatko przyniesie wszystkim w parafii miłość, pokój, szczęście i zdrowie. Niech was obdarzy wszelkimi łaskami i wszelkim dobrem w Dniu Jego Narodzenia i w Nowym Roku 2015.*

*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!  
Joyeux Noel! A Holy & Merry Christmas to All!*

*Father Stefan and the parish staff:*

*John Yurkunas, parish council president*

*Jean Bringham, religious education director*

*Mark Narreau, choir director, & Mary Besko, organists*

*Lydia McKee, secretary*

*Michael Wostena & Maryann Wostena, sacristans/bulletin*

*John Dziedzic, custodian*

## **A Christmas Prayer**

May Christmas this year be a reminder to you of how much God loves you. May the holy day of Our Lord's Nativity be a beautiful day of grace for you, for the Lord came to make you His very own and gave His life for you and to you.

<b>PRO LIFE REFLECTION:</b>
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