

+ 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 28, 2014

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Roman Rite, ordinary form)

Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas (Roman Rite, extraordinary form)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 1 No. 17 / Dec. 28, 2014

Telephone Numbers: RECTORY (283-6030) Mark Narreau (583-8541) Jean Brigham (283-4232)

The **Parish Bulletin** is currently in transition. Some issues, or 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 2014 & January 2015*

Sun., Dec. 28th

No Religious Education classes, grades 6-10 – *Christmas break*

Chalice of Strength Prayers for Priests & Vocations, 4:00 p.m., church

Mon., Dec. 29th

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

Tues., Dec. 30th

Anniversary of the death of +Rev. Robert Ceckowski (1997), 5th pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul

Wed., Dec. 31st

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

Thurs., Jan. 1st HOLYDAY of OBLIGATION: MARY the MOTHER of GOD

Please refer to Holy Mass schedule on opposite page **Happy New Year!**

FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH, Jan. 2nd

Sat., Jan. 3rd FIRST SATURDAY of the MONTH

Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality meeting after 7 a.m. Mass, St. Maximilian Kolbe room.

Religious Education classes, grades K-5, 9:00 a.m., parish hall.

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. 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. +Mary Lague – int. of the Apostles of Prayer
+Andrew & Alice Smart – int. of their family
5:15 p.m. +Richard Wawro, 4th 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

29. Monday ~ St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

7:00 a.m. for the parishioners

30. Tuesday ~ Sixth Day Within the Octave of Christmas

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Andrew & Alice Smart – int. of their son

31. Wednesday ~ St. Sylvester

7:00 a.m. +Mary Lague – int. of George Motyka

Holyday of Obligation ~ Swieto Obowiazkowe

1. Thursday ~ The MOTHERHOOD of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY / “Nowy Rok”

8:00 a.m. –for God’s blessings upon our parish in the new year
9:30 a.m. +Timothy Sullivan & +John Orzeeh – int. of Tom, Carol & family

2. Friday ~ Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors

7:00 a.m. +deceased members of Frydryk & Pelczarski families – int. of the family

3. Saturday ~ Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:00 a.m. for the living & +deceased members of Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality,
Group of Betty Brozek

Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. for the parishioners
5:15 p.m. +Edna Burns – int. of her family
+George & Nellie Motyka – int. of Janice Kucewicz

4. Sunday ~ Epiphany of Our Lord / “Swieto Trzech Krolu”

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Sophie Gladkowski – od rodziny
za d.sp. Jan i Marya Safianek – od corki i ziecia
9:30 a.m. +Emily & Frank Prouty, Jr. – int. Cindy & Andrew Leveille

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
Msgr. Michael Shershanovich	Fr. Benedict Fagone, OFM.Conv.	Fr. L. Dorsch	Fr. Piotr Pawlus
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<i>Sorry! These names unavailable at time of printing</i>			

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*

Classes resume next weekend for grades K-5, 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 for announcements in case of cancellation of CCD classes.

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."

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

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.

Donations to the Parish

The Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donation: Bog Zaplac!

Correction: Last week, the last name Jacek was unintentionally omitted. Our apologies!
\$100 in loving memory of +Sophie & Henry Jacek from son Fred & daughter-in-law Joyce

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ITEMS FOR BULLETIN

As we prepare for more transitions with our weekly *Parish Bulletin*, we ask that any items for publication be submitted **TWO WEEKS before the desired Sunday date**. In this day and age of high technology, and in order that items be included and printing occurs on a timely basis, this is something we will have to adapt to.

For example, if you would like an item to appear in the January 25th issue, please submit your item no later than January 11th.

Your understanding and assistance is greatly appreciated!

THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say your prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Michael, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

MICHAEL: No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Linda, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

LINDA: A teacher.

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.

((((((((("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! They're now sterilizing women in Kenya without their knowledge, injecting them with tetanus shots laced with beta-hCG—a drug that sterilizes women and kills unborn babies. All 41 Kenyan bishops have signed a statement, accusing them of this horrendous crime. For more info., go to Population Research Institute's website: www.pop.org. *Please pray for the women of Kenya. God bless you!*

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

Irish Cultural Center

The Irish Cultural Center is sponsoring a new 10 day **Spring Time Tour to Ireland, May 5-14, 2015**. Please join us for an information session on **Sat., Jan. 10th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Dooley Campus Center at Elms College, room 207. Tour is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, please call Rose Baker @ (413) 519-2135 or visit ICC website at www.elmsirishcenter.org.

Boy Scout Troop #160

Boy Scout Troup #160 is having a **Christmas Tree Recycling Day** on **Sat., Jan. 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at Northern Tree, 1320 Park St., Palmer. Please support a good cause and dispose of your Christmas tree responsibly. The money raised supports the troop on various levels of camping and trips. This troop includes three boys from our parish. For more information, contact Lorrie Przybycien @ (413) 231-7979. *Thanks from Troop 160!*

Christmas "Thank You's"

MIDNIGHT MASS PROCESSION & HOLY MASS ~

To all our children who participated in the Midnight Mass Procession as angels, shepherds, Magi, St. Joseph & Blessed Mother Mary.

To Cheryl Kozlik and Julia Kozlik for coordinating the children's costumes and procession.

To all our parishioners who participated in the Christmas liturgies, and to the many guests who celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord with us this year.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL PAGEANT ~

To Jean Brigham for coordinating the Pageant before the Christmas Vigil Mass and the students who participated

LITURGICAL MUSIC ~

To Mark Narreau and our choirs for leading us in hymnody for the various liturgies.

ALTAR SERVERS ~

To all our servers who assisted in the various Christmas liturgies

To Michael Wostena, Master of Ceremonies at Christmas Mass during the Night.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ~

To Maryann Wostena, Lianne Martin, & Michael Wostena for decorating our church interior, including the sanctuary, altars, and Nativity scene.

DIVINE MERCY GROTTO & PARISH GROUNDS ~

To Barbara Miskiewicz for decorations & flower donations

To Philip Maslon, Nicholas Maslon, & Ted Wachta for the outdoor Nativity scenes

STS. PETER & PAUL MEN'S GUILD for visiting our ill and homebound parishioners

ELDERLY & ILL PARISHIONRES: for your prayerful support which keeps us connected!

Thank you very much Bog Zapla! A very blessed, joyous, and healthy new year!

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

THE SACRAMENT OF CHARITY

Part 13 – 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**:

#81. **The relationship of the Eucharist to the various ecclesial vocations is seen in a particularly vivid way in “the prophetic witness of consecrated men and women....”** (*Propositio 39*) Though they provide many services in...human formation and care for the poor, education, and health care, consecrated men and women know that the principle purpose of their lives is “the contemplation of things divine and constant union with God in prayer.” (Code of Canon Law 663, 1) **The essential contribution that the Church expects from consecrated persons is much more in the order of being than of doing. Here I wish to reaffirm the importance of the witness of virginity, precisely in the relation to the mystery of the Eucharist.....**the Eucharistic mystery also has an intrinsic relationship to consecrated virginity, inasmuch as the latter is an expression of the Church’s exclusive devotion to Christ, whom she accepts as her Bridegroom.....Consecrated life becomes an objective sign and foreshadowing of the “*wedding-feast of the Lamb*” (cf.: Rev. 19:7-9).

#82. In discovering the beauty of the Eucharistic form of the Christian life, we are also led to reflect on the moral energy it provides for sustaining the authentic freedom of the children of God..... **‘worship’ itself, Eucharistic communion, includes both the reality of being loved and of loving others in turn.**

#83. **Worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter.....it demands a public witness to our faith.....it is especially incumbent upon those who, by virtue of their social or political position, must make decisions regarding fundamental values, such as respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death, the family built upon marriage between a man and a woman, the freedom to educate one’s children and the promotion of the common good in all its forms. These values are not negotiable.** Consequently, Catholic politicians and legislators.....must feel particularly bound, on the basis of a properly formed conscience, to introduce and support laws inspired by values grounded in human nature.....**Bishops are bound to reaffirm constantly these value as part of their responsibility** to the flock entrusted to them. (*Propositio 46*)

#84. **The love that we celebrate in the Sacrament** is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it **demands to be shared with all. What the world needs is God’s love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in Him.** The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church’s life, but also of her mission. (*Propositio 42*)

The Christmas Cycle

During the season of Advent we longed for the coming of Christ. In Christmastide we experience the joy of His coming into the world. The Church is full of the Mystery of the Incarnation of Christ. Jesus as God, begotten of the substance of the Father before all the ages and born of the substance of His Mother in the world, is given to us. ***“And His Name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel.”***

By the union of our souls with Jesus born to human life, we are born to the divine life. ***“As many as received Him He gave them power to be made Sons of God.”*** (Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist)

In the Nativity of Jesus we learn to know God as His Father: ***“All things are delivered to Me by My Father. And no one knows the Son but the Father: neither does anyone know the Father but the Son and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him.”*** (Saint Matthew the Evangelist)

During Christmastide, the liturgy shows us the Messiah as the Son of God, clothed with humanity, glorified by the humble, surprised shepherds, and adored by the Magi from the East. Let us fall down before the Child and bless God, for the birth of Jesus is the beginning of our Redemption through grace to the supernatural life.

Christmas is the only day of the year, other than Easter which keeps the old custom of celebrating its Feast during the night. At this hour we called to mind that Mary in her spotless virginity gave to the world its Savior. In the midst of darkness, the Light was born. Therefore the Church celebrates Christmas on December 25, the time of the year when the days begin to lengthen. The custom of having three Masses originated in Jerusalem. A Mass was said in Bethlehem at a very early hour in the morning. Later a second Mass was celebrated in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. About midday a third Mass was celebrated. Each of the three Masses has its identifying characteristic. The Mass during the night celebrates particularly the birth of Jesus, the Mass at dawn commemorates the adoration of the shepherds, the daytime Mass celebrates the eternal generation of the Word and the dignity of the Son of God.

Whereas Advent is the season of “absence of Jesus,” Christmastide is a season of great joy in our possession of the Savior. Eight days after Christmas the Church celebrates the Motherhood of Mary and the circumcision of Jesus. On January 6 (or the Sunday near January 6 in countries where it is not a holyday), she commemorates the adoration of Jesus by the Magi (Epiphany).

Happy New Year / Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku / 2015

From Father Stefan and the entire parish staff: ***we wish all our parishioners and friends a very joyous, peaceful, and healthy new year!***