

+ 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/bulletin: 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. Miraculous Medal 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.

February 15, 2015

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Roman Rite, ordinary form)

Quinquagesima Sunday (Roman Rite, extraordinary form)

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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 February

Sun., Feb. 15th

No Religious Education classes, grades 6-10 – *Winter vacation.*

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

Mon., Feb. 16th

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18th ~ beginning of the Holy Season of LENT

Please refer to MASS & LITURGICAL schedule on page 3 (opposite).

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

Fri., Feb. 20th

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m., followed by Holy Mass.

Sat., Feb. 21st

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. +Edward Marhelewicz – int. of his family
+deceased members of the Opielowski family – int. of Carl & Irene
5:15 p.m. for the parishioners / za parafian

Feb. 15. Sunday ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Quinquagesima Sunday

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Jan i Irena Pryga – od syn Waclaw z zone Janiny
9:30 a.m. +Louise Church – int. of Diane & Sandy Rudnick
+Stephen Lebida – int. of his wife Sophie & family

16. Monday ~ feria

7:00 a.m. +Julian Toczec – int. of his family

17. Tuesday ~ Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Sophie Schultz – int. of her family

18. ASH WEDNESDAY / SRODA POPIELEC

7:00 a.m. +Louise Church – int. of her family
3:00 p.m. **Liturgical service (No Mass)** & distribution of ashes
6:00 p.m. +Deacon Edward Tenczar – int. of his family

19. Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. +Stanley Dyl – int. of Barbara Miskiewicz

20. Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. +Joseph Bubon – int. of his family
6p.m. Stations of the Cross, & Mass: +Antoinette Tenczar – int. of Thomas & Betty Bukowski

21. Saturday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. +Amelia Dojka – int. of her family

Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. +Victor Rivard – int. of his family
+Hedy Workum – int. of Gloria Nowak
5:15 p.m. +Nancy Michaud, 7th anniversary – int. of her family
+Joseph & Constance Kucewicz – int. of their daughter Janice

Feb. 22. Sunday ~ FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 a.m. za parafian / for the parishioners
9:30 a.m. +Marilyn Astin – int. of her family
2:00 p.m. **Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations & Benediction**

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
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	Fr. P. Dinh-Dang	Fr. Charles Kuzmeski	Fr. Daniel Cambra
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC	Fr. Albert Breton	Fr. John Smegal	

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*

Regular classes meet each Saturday and Sunday morning. Details on page 2.

➤ **NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS WEEKEND**

Classes resume on Sat., Feb. 21 & Sun., Feb. 22 at the regular times.

CANCELLATION REMINDER: Please check WWLP, Channel 22 or www.wwlp.com for announcements in case of winter weather 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."

MASSES, 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**. (e.g., an item desired to appear in a Jan. 25th issue, should be submitted no later than Jan. 11th). Likewise for **Mass intentions: *Please be considerate and plan the date you would like a Mass offered well in advance. Your understanding is greatly appreciated!***

Donations to the Parish

The Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donations: Bog Zaplac!

In loving memory of +Blanche A. Wostena ~~~

To the General Fund –

\$20 from Joseph DaSilva

\$20 from the Warakomski family

In loving memory of +George Woffenden, Jr. ~~~

To the General Fund –

\$10 from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bates & family

2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** (ACA), an exercise in charity in the Diocese of Springfield since 1959 (previously known as “Catholic Charities” and “Catholic Stewardship Appeal” **begins** this year, as has become the custom the last few years, **in the Season of Lent.**

Parishioners have received, or should be receiving contribution forms and letters in the mail. Please be as generous as possible to the ACA which provides services for so many diocesan programs and persons of genuine need.

“Repent”

~A beautiful prayer for Lent~

My Lord, Jesus, behold me defiled by sin. Again I have stained the holy garment of grace in my soul that your blood has cleansed so often. O, Father of Mercy, hear my prayer. Give me a true spirit of penance that through the humble supplication of a contrite heart I may again receive pardon.

Since my last confession I have fallen more frequently than usual. My Jesus, I have gone back. But do not forsake me, though I richly deserve to be rejected as obstinate and incorrigible. Behold me prostrate before you, O my God. My sinfulness weighs me down. Alas, Jesus my God and Savior, I dare not raise my eyes to you. How can I who have so often violated my past resolves presume to ask pardon again?

O my soul, crushed by the load of sin, take courage; your Redeemer will console you in your desolation. Reject me not, though I have miserably broken my promise of amendment. Cast not off your wretched child or I shall be forever lost. From my heart I grieve for having offended you. O holy Mother of God, my guardian angel, my holy patrons, intercede for me with my Judge and obtain for me the pardon of my sins. O Jesus, grant me a true spirit of penance. My Jesus, have mercy on me.

~Saint John Neumann (+1860), first American male saint, canonized in 1977

Catholic Witness

“It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres.”

Pope Benedict XVI, visit to Washington, D.C., April 2008

((((((((“EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN”))))))))

Casino Night

A **Casino Night bus trip** will take place on **Sat., Feb. 28, 2015** to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. Cost: \$35 (for each passenger over age 21; players club card needed for package – sign up for one on arrival, if needed), includes \$15 meal coupon and \$15 in free bets at the Big 6 wheel! Departure: 3:00 p.m. from Holyoke Catholic High School (HCHS), Springfield St., Chicopee. Arrive at casino, 4:30 p.m. Depart from casino, 10:30 p.m. Arrive at HCHS: 11:55 p.m. **Check made payable to HCHS Booster Club** and mailed to Liz Cassidy, P.O. Box 860, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Palmer United Booster Club

Palmer United Booster Club is having its 4th Annual Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip on **Sat., March 28th** departing Palmer High School at approx. 2:30 p.m.; return to PHS at 11:30 p.m. At the casino from 4 to 10 p.m. Cost: \$30 per person, inc. bus trip with \$15 food voucher & \$15 betting voucher provided upon arrival at the casino. Food & beverages allowed on the bus. You must be 21 and over to attend.

Contact Kris Methe @ (413) 537-4240 to reserve a seat early. Check payable to: Palmer United Boosters Club (or PUB Club); mail: Kris Methe, 65 Shearer St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Trip to Ireland

Rev. Gary Dailey & Rev. Matthew Alcombright are leading a trip to Ireland, **Aug. 7-18, 2015**. This 12 day pilgrimage will take you to castles, cathedrals, stunning cliffs and landscapes, abbeys, horse and carriage rides through Killarney National Park, Guinness Storehouse, fine Irish whiskey, Inis Mor Island cruise, Marian shrine of Knock & more. Cost: \$3295. Information night: Wed., Mar. 4 at 6 p.m., Holy Spirit Chapel at St. Michael’s Cathedral, 254 State St., Springfield. For more information, contact Stacy Dibbern @ (413) 452-0670 or visit www.johnpaultours.com/springfield.

Fasting and Abstinence ~ Regulations for the Season of Lent

The Church has specified certain forms of penance, both to ensure that the Catholic will do something, as required by divine law, while making it easy for Catholics to fulfill the obligation. Thus, the 1983 Code of Canon Law specifies the obligations of Latin Rite Catholics [Easter Rite Catholics have their own penitential practices as specified by the Code of Canons for the Eastern Churches].

- Canon 1250 ~ All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.
- Canon 1251 ~ Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conferences of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abstinence – The law of abstinence requires a **Catholic, 14 years of age until death**, to **abstain from eating meat on Fridays** in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. **All the Fridays of Lent are obligatory days of abstinence** as decreed by the U.S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops [Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products, e.g., margarine and gelatin which don't have meat taste.]

Fasting – The law of fasting requires a **Catholic from the 18th birthday (Canon 97) to the 59th birthday** (i.e., the beginning of the 60th year), a year which will be completed on the 60th birthday) to **reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals** which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Such **fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. [The fast is broken by eating meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk). Alcoholic beverages do not break the fast; however, they seem to be contrary to the spirit of doing penance.]

Aside from these minimum penitential requirements, **Catholics are encouraged to impose some personal penance on themselves at other times**. It could be modeled after abstinence and fasting. A person could, for example, multiply the number of days they abstain. Some people give up meat entirely. Similarly, one could multiply the number of days that one fasted. Also, freely chosen fasting could consist in giving up something one enjoys, e.g., candy, soft drinks, smoking, video games, constant use of the internet or texting, etc.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence besides those outside the age limits, include those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need. When in doubt, check with your confessor.

The Sexual Revolution and the Breakdown of Marriage

By Russell Shaw

March 20, 2014

Continued from last issue...

AND WHAT IS THE NORMAL, NATURAL WAY OF HANDLING AN EPIDEMIC? Care for the sick and take steps to prevent the epidemic from spreading. As applied to the epidemic of marriage breakdown among Catholics now painfully apparent in numbers like those above (see last week's issue), this points to the need for a two-part response: tending the sick ("pastoral care") and seeking to stem the epidemic (teaching the Church's doctrine on marriage with clarity and conviction).

Pope Francis evidently understands the importance of this two-pronged formula. In an interview with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Serra*, he praised Pope (now **Blessed**) Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* condemning artificial contraception as "prophetic." **Pope Paul**, he said, "had the courage to stand against this majority, to defend moral discipline, to exercise a cultural brake." Rather than "changing doctrine," he added, doctrine should be applied in ways that recognize "people's situation and that which is possible for people to do."

That is Francis' approach. As applied to the synod and marriage, he is pained by the situation of divorced and remarried Catholics whose first marriages haven't been annulled and would like, if possible, to find a way for them to receive Communion. But not at the expense of the doctrine that marriage is indissoluble. **Despite the opinion polls and the lobbying, surrendering to the epidemic of marriage breakdown simply guarantees its spread.**

About the author:

Russell Shaw was secretary for public affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference from 1969 to 1987. He is author of 20 books, including *Nothing to Hide* and the highly acclaimed *American Church: The Remarkable Rise, Meteoric Fall, and Uncertain Future of Catholicism in America*.