

+ 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.

March 29, 2015

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

(Roman Rite, ordinary & extraordinary forms)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 2 No. 13 / March 29, 2015

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 HOLY WEEK in *March and April*

Sun., March 29th

No Religious Education classes, grades 6-10

Gorzkie Zale / Lenten Lamentations & Benediction – 2:00 p.m., church

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

Mon., March 30th

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

Holy Wednesday, “Spy Wednesday,” April 1st

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

Holy Thursday, April 2nd

Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3rd

Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion & death, 3:00 p.m. (NO MASS THIS DAY)

Holy Saturday, April 4th

No Religious Education classes, grades K-5, 9:00 a.m.

Blessing of Easter food, 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m., parish hall

Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.

Mother of Mary Prayer Force

If anyone would like their intentions prayed for by a dedicated group of parishioners, please email them to jmjdrrs2007@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. +William, Josephine & Boleslaus Kulis – int. of daughter
+Joseph Slozak – int. of June & Richard
5:15 p.m. +Nicholas Haskell & +Gavagnin family – int. of Lydia Tanne
+Reggie Flaherty, 6th anniversary – int. of his family

29. Sunday ~ PALM SUNDAY of the LORD'S PASSION

8:00 a.m. za parafian / for the parishioners
9:30 a.m. +John Styspeck & +John Pisarski, Jr. – int. of wife Roslyn
+deceased members of Szlosek, Schultz, & Ferry family
2:00 p.m. **Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations & Benediction**

30. HOLY MONDAY

7:00 a.m. +Patricia Yurkunas – int. of Lynn Riendeau

31. HOLY TUESDAY

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Stanislaus Kryczka – int. of Teresa Sucharski & family

APRIL 1 HOLY WEDNESDAY ~ "Spy Wednesday"

7:00 a.m. +Josephine Cioch – int. of her daughter & grandchildren

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

2. HOLY THURSDAY

-no morning Mass-

5:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper: deceased priests of our parish

3. GOOD FRIDAY

The only day of the year when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not offered

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & death

4. HOLY SATURDAY

Adoration at the Tomb of the Lord

7:30 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil: for the parishioners

5. EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

7:30 a.m. Resurrection Procession & Mass: za parafian / for the parishioners

9:30 a.m. +Brian McGuire – int. of Patricia & Mark Bogacz

+Earl Noble, 1st anniversary – int. of Natalie, Tracy, & Robyn

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. Sean O'Mannion	Fr. Thomas Shea	Fr. John Sheaffer	Fr. Quynh Dinh Tran
Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	
All priests	All military priest chaplain	All bishops	

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??*

****IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF ADORATION!******

We are happy to welcome Joanne Stolar as the new Adoration Coordinator who will succeed Diana Roth after May 1st. *We thank Joanne for volunteering for this ministry! It would have been unfortunate if our parish had to close Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament after two decades!*

Hours still needing volunteer adorers:

Thursday, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Fridays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

12:00-1:00 p.m.

2:00-3:00 p.m.

*Time spent with God is never time wasted! He may be calling YOU! To substitute or commit to an hour in this ministry of prayer, please contact Diana Roth @ 283-8709. **God is never outdone in generosity!***

School of Religious Education *NEWS*

***No Religious Education Classes on this Palm Sunday, March 29th or next week, Easter Sunday, April 5th. No classes on Holy Saturday, April 4th.** Regular classes resume the weekend of April 11 & 12. Final classes are a week later, April 18 & 19.

First Holy Communion is Sun., May 3rd at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Grade 2 will have classes on Sat., April 25th and Sat., May 2nd.

Please refer to calendar on page 2 for times and location.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY ON MONDAYS

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

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 +Patricia Yurkunas ~~~

To the Seminarian Fund –

\$25 from June Slozak

\$20 from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kulig

STS. PETER & PAUL MEN'S GUILD NEW

1/ The Sts. Peter & Paul Men's Guild will attend the **9:30 a.m. Mass on this Palm Sunday, March 29**, followed by the **annual Communion Breakfast** in the parish hall. Members gather in the back vestibule (near the St. Maximilian Room) at 9:15 a.m.

2/ **Monthly meeting** will be held on **Wed., April 8 at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. All members urged to attend; new members are welcome, including young men.

2/ Men's Guild **Prime Rib Dinner on Sat., April 18 is SOLD OUT.**

3/ **Scholarship Applications** for graduating high school students, awarded by the Men's Guild on behalf of the parish and **in memory of +Father Robert J. Ceckowski**, are available in the sacristy before/after Masses beginning March 28. **Application deadline: May 2.** Applicants must plan to attend a 2 or 4-year college, and have been of service to our parish. For any questions, please contact John Fox @ 284-0234

THIRD ANNUAL PARISH TAG SALE

Our parish's **3rd Annual TAG SALE** will be held on **Sat., May 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the parish hall. ***A unique shopping experience! Bake Sale / Light lunch available for sale / Free coffee all day /*** Please save any usable or slightly used items. ***Drop off times will be announced soon!*** We need people to pack, set-up items, help at drop off times, and on the day of the sale). ***Your help will be greatly appreciated!*** We hope to repeat this year the successful Tag Sales from the past.

Polish Women's Club of Three Rivers

The Polish Women's Club of Three Rivers (PWCTR) is pleased to announce that **applications for the 2015 scholarship program are now being accepted.** Applicant shall be a high school senior, in good scholastic standing, entering an accredited college, and must be a child or grandchild of a PWCTR member. **Deadline for submitting applications: May 8, 2015. FOR APPLICATIONS,** please contact Margaret Brozek @ (413) 323-8236.

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

2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** (ACA), the annual exercise in charity of the Diocese of Springfield since 1959 (previously known as "*Catholic Charities*" and "*Catholic Stewardship Appeal*" has begun, as in the last few years, with the Lenten Season. Contribution forms have been mailed to parishioners. Please be generous to the ACA which provides services for so many diocesan programs and persons of genuine need.

TENEBRAE ~ GOOD FRIDAY

The ancient service of **Tenebrae** ("darkness" or "shadows") will be held at St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield on **Good Friday, April 3rd at 7:30 p.m.** This solemn event commemorates the **Passion and death of Christ** through readings, music, and the dramatic extinguishing of light. Tenebrae ends with a thunderous stomping of feet symbolizing the earthquake when Our Lord died. After a moment of silent reflection, a single candle is lit to signify Christ's light returning to the world. Then all depart in silence. Service will be performed by Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, accompanied by strings from Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Community Music School.

St. Joseph Polish Society / Polski Towarzystwo Sw. Jozefa

St. Joseph Society Scholarship Committee announced it is now **accepting applications** for the year 2015 program. A total of \$2000 is available for qualified applicants. **Application deadline: May 10.** To be eligible, a student must complete high school in 2015, have a GPA of 2.8 entering an accredited college, and meet other requirements specified by St. Joseph Society. The applicant must be son or daughter of a society member (male/female) in good standing. For more information, contact Joseph Siok @ 967-3830, Stanley Siok @ 283-3570 or Peter Warakowski @ 283-8189.

Monastic Experience Weekends for Women

Each year, the Benedictine Nuns of St. Scholastic Priory in Petersham, Mass. Hold **Monastic Experience Weekends** in order that **young women** may see their life "from the inside," and gain useful knowledge of **how to discern a vocation**. Women participate in the daily balance of prayer, work and study, and have opportunity to speak to others who have been called to the **contemplative way of life**.

Weekends are offered to women ages 18-40: **June 19-21, and October 9-11. For more information**, please contact: Sister Mary Frances, OSB, St. Scholastica Priory, 271 North Main St., Petersham, MA 01366; smfwynn@aol.com / www.stscholasticapriory.org. / (978)-724-3213.

BASICS of OUR CATHOLIC FAITH ~ 8

from: The COMPENDIUM of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

41. In what way is God the truth?

God is Truth itself and as such He can neither deceive nor be deceived. He is “light, and in Him there is no darkness” (I John 1:5). The eternal Son of God, the incarnation of wisdom, was sent into the world “to bear witness to the truth” (John 18:37)

42. In what way does God reveal that He is love?

God revealed Himself to Israel as the One Who has a stronger love than that of parents for their children or of husbands and wives for their spouses. God in Himself “is love” (I John 4:8, 16), Who gives Himself completely and gratuitously, Who “so loved the world that He gave His only Son [so] that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:16-17). **By sending His Son and the Holy Spirit, God reveals that He Himself is an eternal exchange of love.**

43. What does it mean to believe in only one God?

To believe in the one and only God involves coming to know His greatness and majesty. It involves living in thanksgiving and trusting always in Him, even in adversity. It involves knowing the unity and true dignity of all human beings, created in His image. It involves making good use of the things which He has created.

45. Can the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity be known by the light of human reason alone?

God has left some traces of His Trinitarian being in creation and in the Old Testament but **His inmost being as the Holy Trinity is a mystery which is inaccessible to reason alone** or even to Israel’s faith before the Incarnation of the Son of God and the sending of the Holy Spirit. This mystery was revealed by Jesus Christ and it is the source of all the other mysteries.

48. How does the Church express her Trinitarian faith?

The Church expresses her Trinitarian faith by professing a belief in the oneness of God in Whom there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three divine Persons are only one God because each of them equally possesses the fullness of the one and indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other by reason of the relations which place them in correspondence to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is generated by the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

52. Who created the world?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the one and indivisible principle of creation, even though **the work of creating the world is particularly attributed to God the Father.**

WHO We Receive at Mass Matters More Than What

SOME CATHOLICS ARE EITHER CONFUSED OR INADEQUATELY INFORMED regarding the obligations of the First Precept of the Church* which states: “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.” Commonly referred to as “*the Sunday duty*,” this is how we fulfill the Third Commandment, “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.”

The Season of Lent highlights the ignorance of this precept by some individual Catholics. The first example is **Ash Wednesday**. This first day of Lent is *not* a holy day of obligation. Yet many churches are filled with people, more than one would see on a specific holy day, or even on a Sunday. Most are there because they are regular, faithful churchgoers. However, some (*and we welcome the strangers!*) are there simply to “get” their ashes. This is borne out by the fact that those same persons, after receiving the symbolic sign, depart the church before the rest of the Mass continues to its conclusion.

A second example of Catholics ignorant of the First Precept of the Church is **Palm Sunday**. Again, there are usually many *more* people attending Mass that day, and among them are those concerned with “getting” their palms. Some go so far as to snatch as many palms as they can grasp, thereby depleting the supply for those at the remaining Masses (*perhaps you might witness this curiosity today*).

This is a serious confusion. ***Why would someone believe that ashes smudged on the forehead or a strip of palm are more important than the primary reason we go to Mass: Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, His Body, Blood, soul, and divinity?***

Perhaps part of the reason is our *materialistic mentality*. We love to “get” things. But in accumulating certain possessions, *we often overlook that which is most important*. Perhaps this is a reason for poor Mass attendance on holy days and even Sundays.

Part of the blame rests at the feet of the U.S. Bishops and the confusion they’ve created. The Catholic Church currently requires ten annual (10) holydays of obligation (Canon #1246), which may be reduced by a national Bishops’ Conference. **In the U.S. there are six holydays**: Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1); Ascension Thurs.; Assumption of B.V.M. (Aug. 15); All Saints (Nov. 1); Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8); Christmas (Dec. 25). *Confusion arises because the U.S. Bishops lift the obligation to attend Mass when Jan. 1, Aug. 15, or Nov. 1 fall on either a Mon. or Sat. (Good grief!)*

The bottom line is: it’s not so much about *what* we receive at Mass, but ***Who!***

*The six Precepts are duties that the Catholic Church requires of all the faithful. Like the Ten Commandments, the Precepts are binding under pain of mortal sin. The six Precepts are: 1) The Sunday and holy days obligation; 2) Confession (minimum, once a year, if mortal sin has been committed); 3) The Easter Duty (receiving Holy Communion at least once a year during the “Easter time” (First Sunday of Lent through Trinity Sunday); 4) Fast and abstinence; 5) Material support of the Church; 6) Observing the Marriage Laws of the Church.

From: “A Mustard Seed” by MJW #761