

+ 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.

April 26, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Roman Rite, ordinary form)

Third Sunday after Easter (Roman Rite, extraordinary form)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 2 No. 17 / April 26, 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 WEEK in April & May

Sun., April 26th

Tag Sale drop-off, 10:30-11:30 p.m., parish hall.

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

Mon., April 27th

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

Wed., April 29th

Tag Sale drop-off, 6:30-7:30 p.m., parish hall.

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

Sat., May 2nd

Rosary Sodality catered breakfast & meeting after 7 a.m. Mass, parish hall.

Religious Education First Holy Communion class, grade 2, 9:00 a.m., parish hall

Tag Sale drop-off, 10 a.m.-Noon; 4:30-6:00 p.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 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 bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Laudetur Iesus Christus!*

Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. +Walter Frydryk – int. of his wife & family
+deceased members of the Muniec family – int. of the family
5:15 p.m. for the parishioners

26. Sunday ~ FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Zygmunt, Marianna i Jan Szulc od rodziny Gurzynski
9:30 a.m. +Edward & Alice Rudnick – int. of their family
+Alice & Andrew Smart – int. of their son Andrew & daughter-in-law Cindy Leveille

27. Monday ~ Easter feria

7:00 a.m. +Wojciech & Kazimierz Sondej

28. Tuesday ~ St. Peter Chanel, priest & martyr; St. Louis de Montfort, priest

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Blanche Wostena – int. of Lynn Riendeau
+Antonio Silva – int. of William & Janet Jalbert

29. Wednesday ~ St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. +Bishop Stefan Moskwa

30. Thursday ~ St. Pius V, pope

7:00 a.m. +Monsignor Marcin Tunia

MAY 1. Friday ~ St. Joseph the Worker / First Friday of the Month / Pierwszy Piątek

7:00 a.m. +Edna & Frank Skutnik – int. of their family

2. Saturday ~ St. Athanasius, bishop & doctor of the Church

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

Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. +Sister M. Eucharia Wielkiewicz, F.S.S.J.; +Arline Britt – int. of Gloria Nowak
5:15 p.m. +Stephen & Sophie Kosmider – int. of their son Stephen & family
+Stanley & Celia Swiatlowski – int. of Ron, Jane, David, & Natalie

3. Sunday ~ FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER {POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY}

8:00 a.m. za parafian / for the parishioners
9:30 a.m. – intentions of the First Holy Communion class
- for Leokadia Wasiuk – int. of her children Teresa & John
+Walter & Joanna Rudek – int. of their daughter Barbara & family

2:00 p.m. Coronation of the Blessed Mother / Koronacja Najsw. Maryi Panny

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. Joseph Marchese	Fr. Francis Manning	Fr. Daniel Malone	Fr. John Gawienowski
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Fr. Daniel Pacholecunavailable at time of printing		

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??*

****ADORATION CONTINUES IN OUR PARISH****

Please pray for/welcome our new Adoration Coordinator Joanne Stolar (as of April 15th). *We thank Joanne for volunteering for this ministry! After two decades, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will continue in our parish.*

Hours still needing volunteer adorers:

Thursday, 8:00-9:00 a.m.; 9:00-10:00 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 Joanne Stolar @ 283-4651. God is never outdone in generosity!

School of Religious Education *NEWS*

STUDENTS & PARENTS: *Please remember that religious education is not just for eight or nine months of the year. Rather, we continue to learn about our Faith each day. One of the best ways to do so, is to attend Sunday Mass regularly and faithfully!*

First Holy Communion is next Sun., **May 3rd** at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. There will be class for Grade 2 on Sat., May 2 at 9:00 a.m. *May God bless our First Holy Communicants, their parents and families!*

Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality

The Rosary Sodality will have a **catered breakfast next Sat., May 2nd** in the parish hall. Ladies of the parish are invited to come, including any members who we haven't been able to reach. **If you plan to attend, please contact Marion @ 283-6029.**

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!

To the General Fund ~

In loving memory of + William Bigda -

\$20 from Peter Warakomski

STS. PETER & PAUL, ST. ANNE CEMETERIES...

Please remove all Christmas flowers and decorations from our parish cemeteries as soon as possible in order that the cemeteries may be properly landscaped. *Thank you!*

LECTOR SCHEDULES – 4:00 & 5:15 P.M. VIGIL MASSES

Newest schedules are available in sacristy (except for those who have been emailed.).

THIRD ANNUAL PARISH TAG SALE

Our parish's 3rd Annual TAG SALE will be held on Sat., May 16, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the parish hall. *Bake Sale / Light lunch available for sale / Free coffee all day /* Please save any usable or slightly used items (please, NO electronics, TVs, etc.).

Drop off times: Sun., April 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Wed., April 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Sat., May 2, 10 a.m.-Noon; 4:30-6:00 p.m.; Mon., May 4, 10 a.m.-Noon; 6:00-8 p.m.; Thurs., May 7, 6:00-8 p.m.; Sat., May 9, 10 a.m.-Noon.

Persons needed to pack, set-up items at drop off times, and on Tag Sale day. *Your help will be appreciated!* Contact Ruth Curtain @ 283-2450/Diane Marhelewicz @ 283-9039.

STS. PETER & PAUL MEN'S GUILD NEWS....

1/ The Men's Guild will hold its **May meeting on Wed., May 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. All current members are urged to attend, and any prospective members are invited to join. Membership is open to all men of the parish, including young men. Come and be a part of this vibrant and uplifting parish organization!

2/ 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.

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

RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

Annual Mother's Day Dinner, **Sun., May 7th** at Chez Josef, Agawam, sponsored by Mass. Citizens for Life, Pioneer Valley region. Speaker: Carol Tobias, President of National Right to Life committee. Tickets: \$50 (\$25, students). Tickets online at www.masscitizensforlife.org. or call (413) 583-5034 Checks may be mailed to Virginia Wade, chairwoman, P.O. Box 96, Ludlow, MA 01056.

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.

"RUN FASTER WITH THE PASTOR"

St. Mary's School, **5K FUN RUN "Run Faster with the Pastor"** will take place at the school, Charles St., Ware on **Sat., May 9.** Registration & Number Pick-up: 7:30-8:30 a.m. / 9:00 a.m. 5K / 9:10 a.m. 2 Mile Walk / 10:00 a.m. Kids Fun Run/Obstacle Course (Free) / St. Mary's students \$10 / Racers/Walkers \$25. For more information contact: kjurczyk369@gmail.com or call (413) 237-3539. Register at www.runreg.com/run-faster-with-a-pastor.

United Polish-American Organization Council (UPACOC) Scholarship

2015 UPAOC Scholarship applications are now available in the sacristy. Feel free to stop by and pick one up. **Eligibility criteria** for this annual scholarship:

A Any boy/girl of Polish descent or legally adopted by Polish parents (*at least one parent of Polish origin*); **B** Applicant or parent must hold membership in a Palmer Polish-American organization or be a member of Divine Mercy Parish; **C** Graduate of high school or recognized academy; **D** Accepted (or about to be accepted) at a college, university, or institution of higher learning; **E** Transcripts from high school or recognized academy; **F** Letter of recommendation (*not from a relative*). **Application deadline: Fri., May 8, 2015.**

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 Warakomski @ 283-8189.

Is Confession Dead?

By Terence K. O'Leary (March 1, 2015), retired President/CEO of a Boston marketing & communications company and a former board member of Mass. Citizens for Life.

The confessionals are empty. The sinners have gone away. Or should I say, "sin has gone away." Not to be judgmental, but rather to be observant, I sense poignantly a lack of what I would call "sin awareness" among modern Catholics. We seem to have assimilated the secular notion that the concept of sin places outdated, even psychologically damaging restraints on people, or that the feeling of guilt for wrongdoing (or wrong-thinking) is emotionally debilitating. Thus, **we see in society the virtual elimination of the word "sin." We don't want to hurt anybody's self-esteem. Catholics, perhaps innocently, have bought into this nonsense.**

Cohabiting young adults are seen going to communion with apparent impunity. Our children are taught in public school health classes that [impure acts are] "normal" (as if a mathematical average equals absolution). They are told that abortion is a legitimate medical procedure, as if "medical" means okay. Some adults with decades-long resentments against others apparently have no problem allowing these self-destructive feelings to fester and to ignore the basic Christian concept of unconditional forgiveness.

Our young appear to have almost universally adopted the idea that pre-marital sex is acceptable. Pro-choice Catholic politicians take the sacraments in a blatant display of hubris, arguing ignorantly that abortion is a matter of conscience. Football fans cheer when a member of the opposing team has his head nearly separated from his body. Marriage seems in many cases to be about as serious as "going steady" was when I was in high school.

Our pope is emphasizing the need to welcome the disaffected and to affirm them as Catholics. Fine, but we need also to reaffirm doctrinal truth. These objectives are not at loggerheads; both are mutually, authentically Christian. In making Catholicism a living faith for sinners of all stripes, we must also meet the challenge of truth telling and not lower the bar for re-entry.

We are weak, all of us, and in constant need of the wonderful sacrament of reconciliation. I am a sinner, and as such I have a need for the confessional at least monthly. Not because I have a scrupulous conscience or because I'm "hard on myself," but because I believe human frailty to be a constant state requiring constant vigilance.

I suppose with a profoundly informed conscience many of us could survive spiritually with a once-a-year confession. Not I. I know myself better. I would become lazy, apathetic, and removed from the spiritual world. From a purely selfish standpoint **I am spiritually refreshed by the sacrament of reconciliation.** It's not a question of merely "staying out of Hell this week." Rather, it is a moment of understanding of my potential for some degree of holiness and **a realization of the nature of God's mercy.**

Continued on next page....

Is Confession Dead? ~ *continued from previous page*

I want to be straight with Him. I want to thank Him for his mercy. Thank him for His Cross. Ask Him to shape me up. Give me more self-discipline. Respond to His will. This is when I am most happy, most optimistic and most confident.

Why have we forgotten these things? **Have we been so misguided by warped interpretations of Vatican II that we think that serious sin has disappeared?** Do we even know what is venial and what is mortal? Do we think that examination of conscience and an act of contrition are always enough to prepare for the Eucharist? **Do we really understand what *is* sin, and what *isn't*?** Are we so naive as to think that secular psychobabble can replace doctrinal truth?

If the laity can't answer these questions satisfactorily, why shouldn't we expect our clergy to answer them – the same clergy that would admonish us to take advantage of a confessional that may be open, in most cases, no more than forty-five minutes to an hour each week? My pastor is pretty good at this. His message is strong and fairly frequent. But I have lived a long life as a Catholic, lived it in nine different parishes, and have seen the sure but gradual decline in the use of the confessional.

How can Catholics take the confessional seriously when they do not have the answers to these questions? When a parish of 3,000 people produces fifteen or twenty penitents at the confessional each week?

The problem of a seriously diluted sacrament lies as much with the clergy as with the laity. Not to be hard on the clergy, who have probably become discouraged at the dramatic downturn in confessional visitations, but **the educational problem (from the pulpit) is theirs to solve.**

I am sure there are some priests who believe that the confessional, for a time, had become a Jansenistic ritual of scrupulous excess, that we needed to "loosen up," and know that we are all basically good and needn't be too worried as long as we haven't created a major "separation" from God. Like what? Murder? Adultery? Coveting my neighbor's goods? And any number of other sins, great and small, that have not disappeared from human hearts or the world.

If we are going to argue historically that private confession only appeared after several Christian centuries, we had better still today know exactly what would take its place. Because what we seem to have at present is Eucharistic anarchy: *"I'm a good person. I can go to Mass and Communion any time I want."* So why, exactly, did Christ have to come into the world and die a horrible death on the Cross?