



Divine Mercy Parish

SACRED HEART CHURCH • ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

THAT TIME OF YEAR

After this weekend, we only have one more weekend before Christmas is celebrated. It's getting closer.

As we get closer to Christmas, time seems to intensify. There are the rounds of parties to which we are all invited. Families prepare for Santa's visit. Some are also preparing to hightail it out of town on holiday to be with friends and family elsewhere. The activity is non-stop.

Take a moment. Take a breather. Step back from all the wonderful hustle and bustle and the hanging of mistletoe to contemplate the mystery we celebrate this Advent.

HUH?

It really bothers me that the secular culture conflates Advent with Christmas. Of course, most in the secular culture have no clue that it even is Advent.

I was recently driving back from a meeting in Chicago. It was late afternoon and there I was on Sheridan Road, getting closer to Winnetka. On the radio the guy was saying, "Now that it's Christmas. . ."

I didn't hear what followed because all I could focus on was his declaration that it was Christmas. It wasn't. It wasn't even Advent yet. (The meeting I was coming back from was held on November 19.)

We weren't even at Thanksgiving (at that point) and the radio announcer is saying it's Christmas!

STEP BACK

That's why I invite us to step back and away from the hectic pace of these days. Take a moment in prayer to contemplate the message of the Advent season, which is: God enters our lives.

The Lord comes with promise and power. He saves us and sets us free for his kingdom. This happened in history, with the advent of Christ. It will happen again at the end of time, when Christ will bring the fullness of the kingdom.

We live in that in-between time, between the first and second comings of Christ. It is a time of great promise and possibility.

As you step back in prayer and contemplate the message of this season, ask yourself what area in your life needs the power of Christ and his promise? Where in your family or among your friends cries out for the healing presence of God, the kind of healing that only God can give?

It's not too late. It never is, for God. Ask God in prayer to come into your heart, your life, your family, all your relationships, your work—wherever he is needed.

It's not too late. We are a people of the Advent of Jesus Christ.





LECTOR WORKBOOKS AVAILABLE

Current lectors for Divine Mercy can pick up their 2020 Lector workbooks for the coming year in the vestibule of St. Philip or the Gathering Space of Sacred Heart. Thank you for your service!



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

RESPECT LIFE

That the joy of the Lord's coming may strengthen all pregnant mothers to welcome and nurture the new life God has entrusted to them, we pray to the Lord.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

A scripture reflection group meets every Monday morning in the Sacred Heart offices after the 8:30am Mass. We gather for one hour to read and reflect on the coming Sunday readings. We share what is in our hearts and on our minds. No experience in scripture necessary. All are welcome!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

"You too must be patient. Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

DECEMBER 18th 8am—Noon VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY St. Columbanus Food Pantry 331 E. 71st Street in Chicago

POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER

Jesus, true God and true man, destroyed death, is risen and wants to rise again in the hearts of all. No one, no matter how wounded by evil, is condemned to be separated from God on this earth forever.

ALPHA SEASON ONE ENDS AND NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BEGINS

We would like to thank all those who participated in our first season of Alpha. It is so heartwarming to witness the transformation of the attendees. Many have said the experience was transformative for their lives. New friends were made. Barriers fell away. Parishioners from both worship sites of St. Philip and Sacred Heart became new found friends and confidants.

We also would like to thank the team that hosted this first season of Alpha. First and foremost was the chair of our Hospitality Team, Rachel Rowland, who went above and beyond to lead this effort, often by herself! Rachel planned and executed meal plans to feed 100 people each week! Many thanks also to Lisa (and husband Geoff) Centner, who provided some of our Monday night meals and was often by Rachel's side whenever she was needed. Patty Sanfilippo, Mary Anne Martin and Liz Harvey also pitched in to help! Thank vou!

Thanks to Pat Dietz and Phyllis Russell who worked along side Rachel on Wednesday mornings, and even led the charge in Rachel's absence when she needed to be out of town. To Kelly Matthews Pluta and Rita Compton, who often brought in food to share. And to Jim Dietz and Cathy Stegich, who often helped with clean-up!

Our utmost thanks go to our small faith group hosts: Maureen Valvassori, Greg Grodecki, Patty Sanfilippo, Sue Lehocky, Judy Pyke and Linnea Baney, who joined us from Alpha Chicago. Our small groups would not have been successful without our small group helpers: Claudia Goodrich, Liz Harvey, John Russell, Shannon

McSorley, Cathy Stegich, Michelle Wasielewski, Alex Valvassori and Rita Compton.

Alpha can never succeed without prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks to our Prayer Team of Deb Guy, Dan and Deb Kubasiak, Fran and Jim Freeman, Kelly Matthews-Pluta, and of course our priests: Fr. Steve, Fr. Dean, Fr. Mike and Fr. Dan.

All we can say is, God is good! May all who were involved in Alpha go on to become missionary disciples, seeking to bring others on the journey to come to truly know Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU TO THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST TEAM!

Many, many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the success of the annual Pancake Breakfast that took place last Sunday at the St. Philip gym. We actually ran out of pancakes and syrup!!

This effort was led by a dedicated group of parishioners who contributed in **so** many ways, particularly Bobbie Weiss! Thank you! Additional thanks go to Jeanne Doherty for

ticket sales and cashiers, Jim and Pat
Dietz for hospitality, Dona Carroll and
Margery Fejes for their décor, Kim
Orth for publicity, Cathy Stegich for
the raffle, Rima and Ed Abraham for
their donation of the Nativity Set,
Lori Racine for supervising the
Children's Ministry volunteers, to
Stephanie Kirk and Jenny
Gallagher for coordinating
Children's Ministry ticket sales, to

Children's Ministry ticket sales, to Santa's Workshop, the North Pole Outlet ladies and the Crafty ladies—cheers! Thanks to Stan Smith, the infamous coffee maker and sausage cooker! To the many, many volunteers who freely gave of their time to plan for this event for months, thank you! Additional thanks to all those who set-

up, cooked, served, greeted, bussed tables, and cleaned-up (special thanks to Tony, Salvador and Noemi), and all those who sponsored the Pancake Breakfast and donated raffle prizes. And of course, thank you to Santa Claus for his visit!



















SOME MORE SCENES FROM
THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT
AT DIVINE MERCY!
(CHRISTMAS SHARING DELIVERY
TO ST. COLUMBANUS, AND
ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT)

OUTREACH

ST. COLUMBANUS FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 18

St. Columbanus, the sharing parish of Sacred Heart Church, will have its regular food distribution on Wednesday, December 18th, the week before Christmas.

Help is needed — make it a family outing! You can pack perishables at 8am AND/OR distribute food at 10am. Come for the entire morning or just for the distribution.

St. Columbanus is located at 331 E. 71st Street in Chicago, just east of the Dan Ryan. Volunteers meet AT St. Columbanus.

Dress for the weather as everything takes place outside. Parking is available in the lot behind the school (enter off of S. Calumet Ave.), on 71st Street or Calumet.

Questions? Contact Maureen Valvassori at mvalvassori@divinemercynorthshore .org or 847-446-0856.

CHRISTMAS SHARING WITH OUR SHARING PARISHES ST. COLUMBANUS AND ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN

SACRED HEART CHURCH

THANK YOU to all of the Divine Mercy families who adopted St. Columbanus families this Christmas season. Fr.Matt O'Donnell, the pastor of St. Columbanus, extends his thanks to all of you on behalf of his parishioners. You have been a gift during this season of giving. Thank you!.

And...you can still make donations to Divine Mercy Parish towards the purchase of Jewel Foods Gift Cards for St. Columbanus families in need. We ask that your donation be in increments of \$25. You can find envelopes in the Gathering Space.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

Beginning today, take a tag off of the Christmas Tree in the Church vestibule that indicates a particular gift card needed for the St. Benedict the African community. Gift cards in any denomination are welcome, though smaller denominations work better for the people of their

community. Christmas Sharing at St. Philip will run through the feast of the Epiphany.

Please note that there will no longer be a toy collection for Catholic Charities. The parish has decided to focus all energies on the needs of the St. Benedict the African community.



STEWARDSHIP GIVING

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Due to the printer's holiday deadline, we will not be able to provide this week's Glance.

COMMUNITY

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING AND WINTER BOOTS NEEDED

It is cold out there!! What to do with those scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, jackets, coats and winter boots that you no longer need, but are still in good condition? Well, our dear friends at St. Columbanus Parish are always extremely grateful for any of these items. Any size of these items (women, men, infants and children) will be put to good use in the community. Any or all cold weather gear, bagged and tied please, may be placed in the first closet on the left as you enter the outside door from the Sacred Heart campus parking lot. If you have any questions, please email Kathleen Clarke at clarkekathleen63@aol.com. THANK YOU!











The best opportunity of the year to support Catholic schools

To increase the funds available for tax credit scholarships*, several donors partnered to create a **matching gift pool**. Every dollar donated to this program through the scholarship granting organization Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2019 and Feb. 29, 2020 and designated to a school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago will be matched with two dollars from this pool (limitations apply). The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on Feb. 29, 2020, whichever comes first.

Example: A taxpayer donates \$2,000 to Empower Illinois through the match program. The taxpayer will be eligible to claim a \$1,500 tax credit when he/she files their previous year's taxes. The donation creates \$6,000 in scholarship support (after the \$4,000 match). For the net cost of \$500 (\$2,000 donation less \$1,500 tax credit), this donor will provide a student with a \$6,000 scholarship to attend a Catholic school of his/her choice.

To take advantage of the matching gift program, follow the steps at empowerillinois.org/donors. For additional information, contact the Archdiocese of Chicago's Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617.

^{*}The Illinois tax credit scholarship program provides a 75 percent state income tax credit to individuals who contribute money to fund scholarships for students from low-income families to attend private schools. Eligible students may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake counties.



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL!



Our second graders went to the Shedd Aquarium! They explored many areas of the Shedd, attended the dolphin show, and had an interactive lesson about coral reefs in the Philippines. Everyone had an amazing time!







It's time to color our 2nd Advent candle.

St. Nicholas came and visited kindergarten and left them oranges and candy canes in their shoes!



The 8th grade has started their unit on chemistry. They demonstrated their understanding of physical and chemical properties to solve a CSI mystery. They needed to use their skills to identify which suspect left the evidence powder at the crime scene. Mrs. Mack is happy to report, all her 8th grade detectives successfully identified the culprit!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 17th
Early Childhood Advent
Prayer Service
Parish Center 11:00am

Thursday, December 19th Candles and Carols Church 6:30pm

Friday, December 20th Christmas break begins JK-8th 1:20pm Dismissal



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/PREP)

Building Community and Growing in Faith

Our Children's Ministry held two special programs over the past few weeks, and both were incredibly well-attended — a tribute to the wonderful faith community here at Divine Mercy Parish.

The first, our **Prayer Fair**, drew more than 225 children and their parents for a session on the different kinds of prayer and how to pray. Our activities included prayer lap books (for the younger children) as well as prayer cubes (for the older children) featuring our beloved Catholic prayers.

We also held our **First Reconciliation Retreat**. Nearly 85 children and their parents packed the Parish Center for a wonderful session on the gift of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We learned about the Prodigal Son and how he was welcomed back to his home with open arms in the same way our Lord welcomes and forgives us through Reconciliation. We made Ten Commandment bracelets and decorated votive candles that children and parents will light at First Reconciliation, signifying the light of Christ is within us.

Thank you to our families who joined together for these special sessions!





Families enjoying the First Reconciliation Retreat art projects.



Prayer chains help us remember our intentions and blessings.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE - Weekend of December 21 & 22, 2019

SACRED HEART CHURCH

5:00 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Lanza

Greeters: Dan O'Rourke, Ludy Mariano

Servers: Matthew Compton, Michael Compton

Lector: Claudia Mann

EM's: Catherine Lehman, Ludy Mariano, Patty Sanfilippo

Cantor: Saturday Choir

7:30 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Cassidy (Deacon Keenan)
Greeter: Mary Newton, Volunteer needed
Servers: Matthew Bradley, Volunteer needed

Lector: Trip Lane

EMs: Nancy Kehoe, Volunteer needed

Cantor: Bernadette Garza

9:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Lanza (Deacon McNulty)
Greeters: Mary Newton, Volunteer needed
Servers: Joe Drehkoff, Quinn Drehkoff

Lector: Chris Hartman

EMs: Robert Maganuco, Mary Newton, Kathy Handelman

Cantor: Bernadette Garza and Children

10:30 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Semmer (Deacon Keenan)

Greeters: Edward Kuffert

Servers: Lindsay Minogue, Luke Malles

Lector: Barbara Anderson

EMs: Kay Madden, Mary Jo Bushell, A.J. Leonard,

Volunteers needed

Cantor: Sacred Heart Adult Choir

4:30 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Semmer Greeter: Dan Hagedorn

Servers: Ava Half, Michael Smylie

Lector: Catherine Boyle

EMS: James Collins, Ann Marie Kiener, Dan Hagedorn

Cantor: Matt Mieling & Ensemble

MINISTERS OF CARE

Lake Cook: Howard Lanser Glen Oaks: Frieda Baker

Maryhaven / Lutheran General:

Mary Breen, Mary Claps, Maureen Claps, Marilyn Hielscher,

Marty Kearney, Anna Koberda, Michael Koberda,

Diana Scheeler, Tom Carroll

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

5:30 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Cassidy

Servers: Evan Rick, Jameson Rick

Lector: Liz Harvey

EMs: Rob Hilliard, Judy Meade, John Meade Ushers: Gino D'Egidio, Charlie Orth, Tom Stegich

7:30 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Solazzo (Deacon Puhala)

Servers: Volunteers needed Lector: Steve Clingan

EMs: Rima Abraham, Stephen Cross, Caroline Duppler

Ushers: Joe Pacini, Greg Clingan

9:30 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Solazzo (Deacon Puhala) Servers: Kaya Cravens, Ryan Cravens

Lector: Susan Seeberg

EMs: Jeanne Doherty, Chris Kaiser, George Kaiser
Ushers: Dan Murphy, Stan Smith, Jody Smith, Paul Weiss

PLEASE PRAY

For Those Who Are Sick

The following people suffer from illness or chronic conditions.

They have asked for the prayers of our parish family.

Please remember them to the Lord.

Mark Agnew, Jeannie Ambrose, Michael Anderson, Jim Baisley, Dorothy Banas, Donald Blair, Elaine Boback, Sande Bolan, Paula Brady, Dennis Braun, Wendy Braun, Luciana Butera, Milly Calabrese, Kierre Caldwell, Patt Carlson, Patricia Catarello, Teresa Chapman, Kelly Bolan Chevalier, Sheila Devlin, Tim Doll, Rick Doucette,

David and Mary Ann Duerwachter, Maureen Dwyer,
Timothy Feeney, Reese Felderman, John Flynn, Lisa Franke,
Lydia Gatton, Benjamin Grillo, Philip Hall, Laura Hendricks,
John Hoerster, Nancy Holihan, Mario Iturino, The Jatis Family,
Becky Jones, Philip Jones, Marge Kalsch, Edward Kennedy,
Ginny Kunkel, Gina Quirk Lazicki, Anne Lesniak, John Madden,
Drew Mans, Jackson Mans, Matthew Morgan, Beth O'Brien,
Sally O'Malley, Ennio Rossi, Mary Sabo, Donna Sabido,
Dick Schager, Catherine Scheid, Mary Shepherd, Judy Sokal,
Mary Tatro, Linda Walsh, Julie Wright, Simonne Wysockey,
Lisa Zitella and Dr. Jerome Zwierzycki

For Those Who Have Died

May the souls of the faithfully departed, Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

SACRED HEART

Monday, December 16

7:00 am-Loretta Maloney 8:30 am- Jim O'Toole

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 am-John Kiraly 8:30 am-William Martin

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 am -

8:30 am- Marion Balcerzak

Thursday, December 19

7:00 am-Carol O'Leary Kane 8:30 am-Yefim Lenderman

Friday, December 20

7:00 am-

8:30 am- Jim O'Toole

Saturday, December 21

8:30 am- Steven Black

Michael Charters

5:00 pm- Rowland and Rosemary Hoffman

Sunday, December 22

7:30 am – Carol O'Leary Kane 9:00 am – Francesca Cerullo Scandariato 10:30 am-Carol Frazza 4:30 pm- Parishioners of Divine Mercy

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE

Monday, December 16

8:ooam - Mary Ann Turza

Tuesday, December 17

8:ooam- Virginia and Gray Esterbrook

Wednesday, December 18

8:ooam – Mary Lou Colfer

Thursday, December 19

8:ooam –Betty Moran

Friday, December 20

8:ooam- Mary and Rita Gallagher

Saturday, December 21

8:00 am-Lewis Acott

5:30 pm-Deceased members of the Meade, Kelly and Morris Families

Sunday, December 22

7:30 am-Robert Hutchings 9:30 am-Parishioners of Divine Mercy

THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY

Monday, December 16

Scripture Reflection Group 9:00am / SH PO

Councils and Boards Christmas Party 6:00pm / SH Rectory

Tuesday, December 17

Crafty Ladies 9:00am / SPA Convent Prayer Group 9:00am / SHFR Early Childhood Advent Prayer Service 11:00am / SH PCR

Wednesday, December 18

Finance Council 7:00am / Parish Office

Thursday, December 19

SHS Candles and Carols 7:00pm

Friday, December 20

Holy Hour 3:00pm / SPA

Saturday, December 21

Wine & Cheese Hospitality after 5:30pm Mass / SPA

Sunday, December 22

Children's Choir at 9:00am Mass

SACRAMENTS

Sacraments can be scheduled at either church. Arrangements should be made through the main office at Sacred Heart.

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday—3:00-5:00pm (SP) Saturday—9:00-9:30am (SH) Saturday—5:00-5:15pm (SP) or by appointment

BAPTISM

By appointment. Please call the main parish office or visit our website for the requisite forms.

MARRIAGE

Contact the main parish office 6 months prior to the anticipated date of the marriage.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the main parish office to arrange for the sacrament for the seriously ill and homebound.

DO YOU HAVE A BULLETIN SUBMISSION?

Please adhere to the following specifications when submitting an item for the bulletin. The deadline is Tuesday, 9:00am for the following Sunday.

BULLETIN SPECS:

FONT STYLE: Corbel

FONT SIZE:

Headlines: 12 (ALL CAPS & BOLD)

Body text: 10 LINE SPACING:

Before and After Paragraphs: opt

Between Lines: 1sp

Avoid outlining text boxes, if you can.

Continue to create ads for special events like A Moveable Feast,
Oktoberfest or NiteLites. We simply ask you incorporate the Corbel font style when you are able.
Please submit all items to divinemercybulletins@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY OFFICES

Main Office

Sacred Heart 1077 Tower Road Winnetka, IL 60093 (847) 446-0856 Fax: (847) 501-5311

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Office

St. Philip the Apostle 1962 Old Willow Road Northfield, IL 60093 (847) 446-8383 Fax: (847) 446-8338

Fax: (847) 446-8338 Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm

Religious Education Offices Sacred Heart (847)446-6535 St. Philip (847)446-8390 or (847)446-8383

Sacred Heart School Office 1095 Gage Street Winnetka, IL 60093 (847) 446-0005 www.shwschool.org

Children's Ministry Office 1077 Tower Road Winnetka, IL 60093 (847) 446-6535

www.divinemercynorthshore.org

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THANK YOU!