



Divine Mercy Parish is a Welcoming
Community that Inspires Disciples of
Jesus to Share God's Love and
Transform the World.



New Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church
4:00 p.m. St. Philip the Apostle Church
5:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church
6:30 p.m. St. Philip the Apostle Church
10:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. St. Philip the Apostle Church
11:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church

Livestream Schedule:

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day

Caroling before
each Mass

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

cf. Isaiah 45:8

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY

We are now only a week away from the day when we celebrate the Lord's coming in the Incarnation. In Jesus—Emmanuel—God is with us, as we are reminded in today's readings. For thousands of years, a waiting world yearned for this momentous event. Now we know that God's actual, physical presence in the world has been realized. Amid all the hustle and bustle of these final days before Christmas, let us not overlook the greatest gift of all.



SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

— or — Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

— or — The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

THE ORDER OF MASS

PRELUDE

Mary, Did You Know?

M. Lowry

Together we join our voices in praise singing the Entrance Song.

ENTRANCE HYMN

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

BESANCON

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more
 3. Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more

1. crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 2. seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to
 3. light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y

1. a - ble. Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 2. nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 3. weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look

1. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 2. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 3. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Text: 87 98 87; © 1957; Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965. Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Assoc., Inc. All rights reserved. Music: Trad. French Carol.

4:30 p.m. ENTRANCE SONG

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong take heart

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, you are the everlasting sign of peace and mercy from God the Father: Christ, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, you will come again to judge the living and the dead: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **R. Amen.**

During Advent (except December 8 and 12) the "Glory to God" is omitted.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

Please be seated after the prayer.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah speaks to the Jewish King Ahaz, who is more interested in politics than religion. Isaiah announces that the wife of Ahaz will soon have a son, who will be a better king than his father. Christians have seen in this passage a deeper meaning, namely, Mary giving birth to Jesus.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

We observe a time of sacred silence to reflect on God's word.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

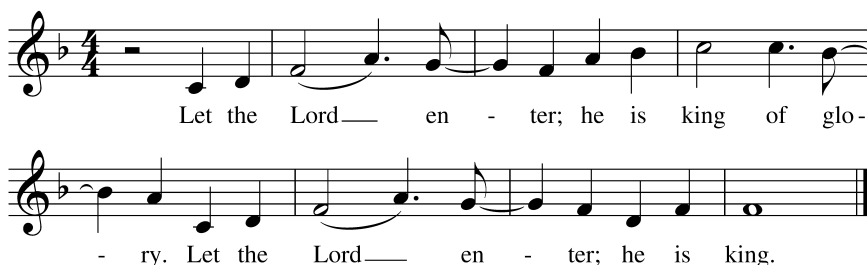
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

In our final week of preparation for Christmas, we call on the Lord to finally enter-to enter our world, our history, our hearts.

Ps 24

John Zisa

REFRAIN



The English translation of the Psalm Response from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1997, 1981, 1969, ICEL. All rights reserved.

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TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin shall be with child.

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.

This Advent, we have heard Isaiah speak of the day when our misery would turn to joy, when the blind would see and the lame would walk, when the wolf and the lamb would play together, and when nations would beat their swords into plowshares. Today we hear him announce a sign: a virgin will bear a son, who will be named Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." Let us treasure this in our hearts as we contemplate the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies in Jesus.

REFLECTION

Joseph, Matthew tells us, was a righteous person, meaning he followed the law religiously. Even though he and Mary were not yet wed, they were betrothed, and this was considered the initial stage of marriage. The law was clear that in a case like theirs, in which a married woman conceived a child by a man who was not her husband, both the woman and the man should be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 22:23-24). But Joseph, Matthew shows us, was not only righteous but merciful.

Continued on page 4.

Rather than sentence Mary to death or even expose her to shame, he decided to divorce her quietly. Because there had not yet been a public ceremony of their marriage, most people would never know. So even before the angel of the Lord came to him in a dream, Joseph gave mercy priority over justice. After the angel visited him, he publicly took Mary into his home, doubtless realizing that after the child was born there would be whispering. But he committed himself to be the foster father of Jesus, who himself came to bring both justice and mercy. In dying for us on the cross, Jesus ensured that mercy once and for all triumphed over the justice we would otherwise deserve.

QUESTION FOR THE WEEK

To whom can you show mercy during this week before Christmas?



ABOUT ST. JOSEPH

Feastday: March 19

Patron of the Universal Church, unborn children, expectant mothers, fathers, working people, travelers, immigrants, real estate buyers and sellers, and a happy death.

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. **R.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. **R.**

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

4:30 p.m.



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SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

The opening words of the letter to the Romans are an example of the classical style of letter writing at that time: Paul first identifies himself, extends a greeting, gives some helpful information about himself, and personalizes his letter by naming the community to whom he is writing. Paul highlights the fact that Jesus was descended from the Royal House of David. Early Christians (many of them from the

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We observe a time of sacred silence to reflect on God's word.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand.

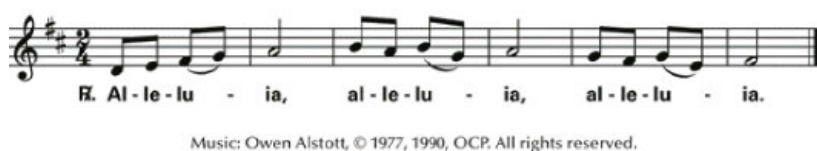


Verse sung by the music ministry.

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. R.

Matthew 1:23

4:30 p.m.



GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew describes Joseph as a just man, who plans to make some attempt to reconcile steadfast love and law.

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A ✠ proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord. **R. Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Please be seated after the proclamation.

COMMENTARY

The prophet Isaiah proclaims, and Matthew repeats, that the virgin’s son shall be named Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). But the angel of the Lord tells both Mary and Joseph that her Son is to be named Jesus, “because he will save his people from their sins” (1:21). The Son of God is both: God incarnated in our world, truly divine and truly human, and our Savior, born into this world so that he might die for our sins and bridge our fundamental separation from God. Wrapped up in the Incarnation is the seed of the Resurrection. God with us is God saving us. Emmanuel is Jesus.

Joseph, Matthew writes, did not want to expose his betrothed to shame, and her unexpected pregnancy would lead to whispers or worse. Remember Adam and Eve’s first reaction once their eyes were opened? They felt shame. They sewed fig leaves to make loincloths for themselves and they hid from the Lord. Disobedience led to shame, which led to separation from God. But God was not willing to leave us orphaned in shame. The Son was born into this world as an act of divine mercy, to save us from our disobedience to God. We, the Church, are the Bride of Christ, betrothed to Jesus, who like Joseph, does not want us to be left in shame.

Joseph was a righteous man, Matthew tells us, devoutly observing the law. He was also a decisive man, working out a plan that would enable him to uphold the law in a way that would be merciful to his betrothed. But the angel of the Lord intervened and Joseph immediately changed his plans. He remained as decisive as before, but with a brand new decision. We may not experience anything as dramatic as Joseph’s dream, but God can intervene in our lives as well, asking us to change our plans, no matter how decisive we already are. May we remain open to God’s intervention in our lives.

Rejoice! To you shall come Emmanuel!

PROFESSION OF FAITH*Please stand.***Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven (*bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (*stand*) He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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HOMILY**OFFERTORY SONG****LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING**

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, This Rose I have in mind,
 3. O Flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,

1. Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, As those of old have sung.
 2. With Ma-ry we be-hold it, The Vir-gin Moth-er kind.
 3. Dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev-'ry-where;

1. It came, a flow-er bright, A-mid the
 2. To show God's love a-right, She bore to
 3. True man, yet ver-y God, From sin and

1. cold of win-ter, When half spent was the night.
 2. us a Sav-ior, When half spent was the night.
 3. death now save us, And share our ev-'ry load.

Text: 76 76 6 76; based on Isaiah 11:1; Trad. German Carol, 15th cent.; tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.
 Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1599.

4:30 p.m. OFFERTORY SONG**WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT**

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

Text: Taizé Community, 1991
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

At this holy table we dare to dream dreams of everlasting peace and refreshment at the banquet table of eternal life. In thanksgiving for the foretaste of heaven that we experience at this table, we offer this prayer of praise and gratitude.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. *Please stand.*

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

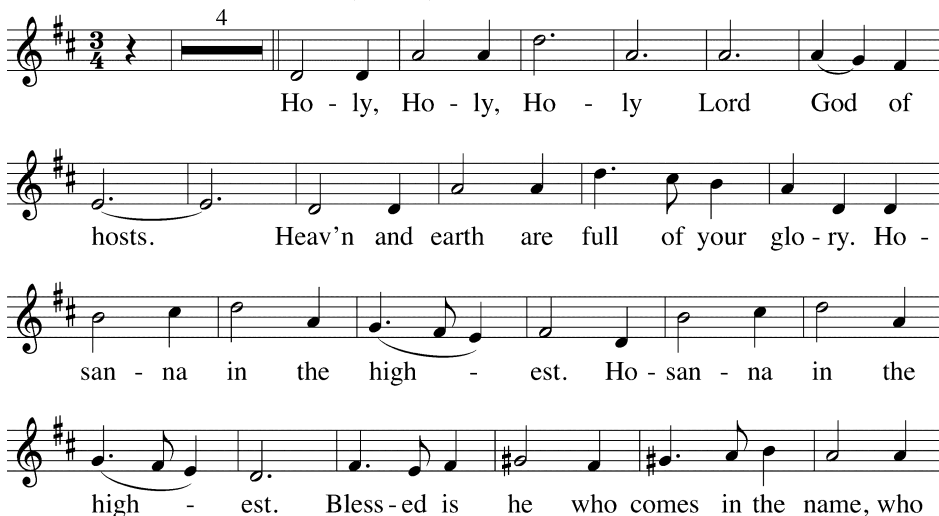
PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

PREFACE

The Lord be with you. **R. And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **R. We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE ACCLAMATION (HOLY)



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (*bow*) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, (*stand*) suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life ever lasting. Amen.

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UNIVERSAL PRAYER

R. Lord, hear our prayer.



OFFERTORY ANTIPHON

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Luke 1:28, 42

Blessing of a Home Nativity

Once you have your Nativity Scene all set up, take some time to ask for God's blessing as a family. In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil (Dec. 24) of Christmas or at another suitable time.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The word of the Lord.

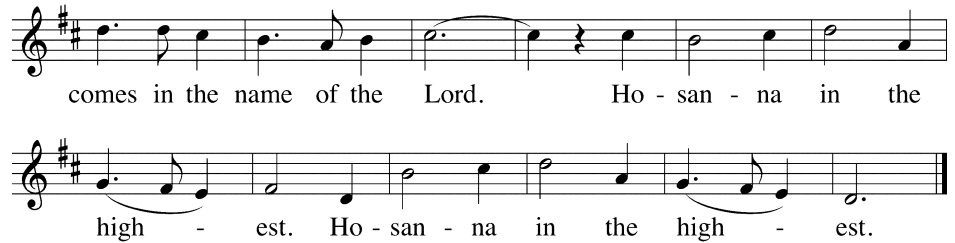
R. Thanks be to God.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Please kneel after the acclamation.

MYSTERY OF FAITH



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DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.



Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Please stand after the acclamation.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, ... as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

SIGN OF PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, peace I leave you, my peace I give you; ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

9.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD



After the litany, please kneel.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

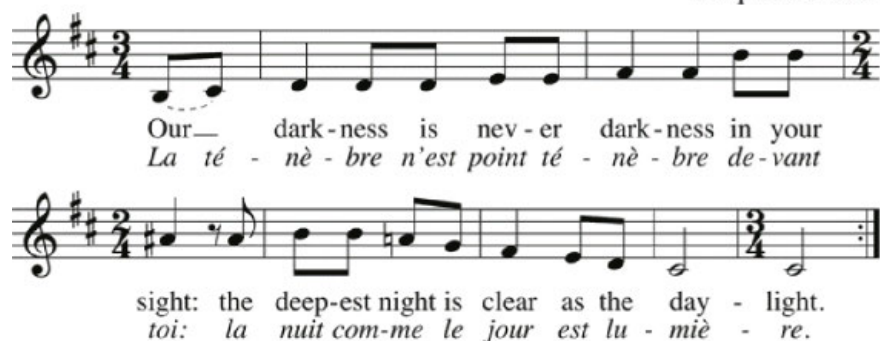
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION SONG

4:30 p.m.

Jacques Berthier



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COMMUNION ANTIPHON

During communion we sing psalms and other songs that express our praise of the Father, our spiritual union in Christ, and our fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

After communion we spend some time in silent prayer and/or sing a psalm or song of praise.



The beautiful monstrance from Our Lady of Ransom in Niles. Mary lifting up the Blessed Sacrament, her beloved son.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENING OF ADORATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH SACRED HEART CHURCH

7-8:00 p.m.

The Magi, the group who brought Eucharistic Adoration to Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday afternoons, will be hosting a special evening Adoration for the parish as we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas. All are invited!

Attendees recite the rosary for the first half of the hour. If you don't know how to say the rosary, no problem! The Magi will lead the congregation through the prayers. The second half of the hour is spent in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Many people use the "A.C.T.S." method of prayer. A=Adoration, the praise of our Lord and Creator. C=Contrition, sharing our sins or mistakes with our merciful Lord. T=Thanksgiving, giving thanks to the Lord for all our blessings, no matter how large or small. S=Supplication, asking the Lord to answer the prayers we bring to Him.

PLEASE JOIN US!

PASTOR'S "TO THE POINT"



This is one of those liturgical years where we get the full effect of Advent. In most years, because of where Easter falls in the calendar, Advent gets scrunched up to the point where Christmas is celebrated within days of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Not this year. We get the whole fourth week of Advent to savor prior to the Christmas weekend.

To me, this means is that we get to luxuriate in anticipation. We can stay with Advent a big longer than most years. We can allow the anticipation to build a bit more slowly; to percolate, if you will, so when Christmas comes at full force, we are ready to enter into its delights.

Now, mind you, Christmas is not just one weekend. Liturgically, it stretches over several weeks. This year it lasts from December 25th through January 9th, ending with the Baptism of the Lord.

Enjoy the fullness of Advent to prepare for, and then celebrate with vigor, the entire Christmas season. If possible, keep those Christmas trees up till January 8 or 9. Remember that Epiphany is celebrated the weekend of January 8th and is often called "little Christmas."

Plan something wonderful and festive on that weekend with family and/or friends to keep the Christmas spirit going. Preparing to do so is part of the Advent season. Happy Advent!

COMMUNION SONG NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER

As we process to receive Holy Communion we join the music ministry in singing.

1. Now the heav - ens start to whis - per As the veil is
 2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light Now be - gin to
 3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, Come to bless with fire and fra-grance

To the stir - ring, faint with - in: Seed of prom - ise,
 Shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing
 Hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly,

deep - ly plant - ed, Child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 star of splen - dor, Gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 in the stran - ger, In the out - cast hid from view:

Like the soil be - neath the frost - line,
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness;
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger,

Hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: SUO GAN, 8 7 8 7 D; Welsh melody; arr. by Nicholas Palmer, b.1963

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

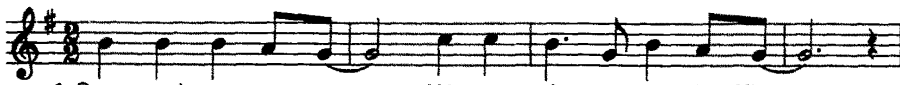
Please stand.

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

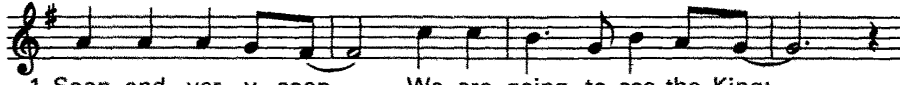


SENDING SONG

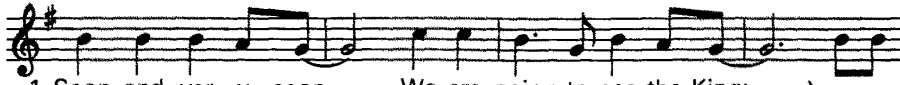
SOON AND VERY SOON



1. Soon and ver - y soon, — We are going to see the King; —
2. No more cry - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —
3. No more dy - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —



1. Soon and ver - y soon, — We are going to see the King; —
2. No more cry - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —
3. No more dy - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —



1. Soon and ver - y soon, — We are going to see the King; —
2. No more cry - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —
3. No more dy - ing there, — We are going to see the King; —



1-3. lu - jah! — Hal - le - lu - jah! — We're going to see the King. —

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4:30 p.m. SENDING SONG

PATIENCE, PEOPLE

John Foley, S.J.



Pa-tience, peo-ple, till the Lord is come.



1. See the farm - er a - wait the yield of the soil. He watch - es
2. You have seen the pur - pose of the Lord. You know of
3. Stead - y your hearts, for the Lord is close at hand. And do not



1. it in win - ter and in spring rain. } Pa-tience,
2. his com - pas - sion and his mer - cy. }
3. grum - ble, one a - gainst the oth - er. }



1-3. peo-ple, for the Lord is com - ing.

Text: Based on James 5:7-9, 11. Text and music © 1977, John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH CALENDAR

December 18, Sunday

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
International Migrants Day*

- 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch Service - A Just Harvest
- 11:30 a.m. Alpha - Parish Center Rotunda
- 7 p.m. Flutopia Concert - Sacred Heart Church

December 19, Monday

*Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent
International Human Solidarity Day*

- 8 a.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Evening Adoration - Sacred Heart Church

December 20, Tuesday

*Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent
International Human Solidarity Day*

- 8 a.m. Mass - St. Philip
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary - St. Philip
- 4:30 p.m. Children's Caroling Party - Parish Center Rotunda

December 21, Wednesday

*Optional Memorial of St. Peter Canisius
Winter begins*

- 8:30 a.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 2 p.m. Adoration - Sacred Heart
- 3 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation - St. Philip
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Fr. Kartje - Parish Center Rotunda
- 7:00 p.m. Music Ministry Rehearsal - Parish Center Lower Level Music Room

December 22, Thursday

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent

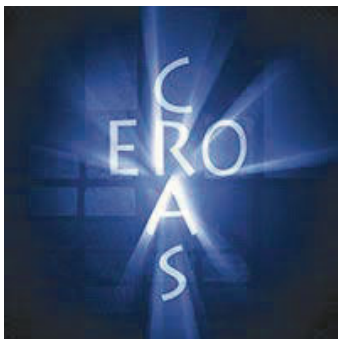
- 8:00 a.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 7:00 p.m. Small Faith Sharing Group for Advent - at the home of Kathleen Clarke

December 23, Friday

Optional Memorial of St. John of Kanty

- 8 a.m. Mass - St. Philip
- 8:30 a.m. Adoration & Rosary - St. Philip
- 9 a.m. Small Faith Sharing Group for Advent - St. Philip, JPIL Room

Continued on the next page.



**ERO CRAS—WHICH MEANS,
“TOMORROW, I WILL BE
[THERE].”**

THIS WEEK'S PARISH CALENDAR (continued)

December 24 Saturday

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

- 3 p.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 4 p.m. Mass - St. Philip
- 5 p.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 6:30 p.m. - St. Philip
- 10 p.m. - Sacred Heart

December 25, Sunday

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

- 10 a.m. Mass - St. Philip
- 11 a.m. Mass - Sacred Heart
- 4:30 p.m. Mass - **No Mass**



This week the Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of Mary Ryan Townsend (SH) and Martin Crowley (SPA).

The gifts of bread and wine are in memory of Marian Moran.

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The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before

Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Christmas Eve or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen." The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever. **R. Amen.**

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 or Ezekiel 17:22. The readings ends with : The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said. The leader says: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord. **R.** Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, give light to our hearts.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

Then the leader says this prayer with hands joined: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying: May the God ☩ of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever. **R. Amen.**

The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Join our parish music ministry before each Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass for 30 minutes of wonderful Christmas caroling.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00 p.m. – Conway/Stevens Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. (SPA)– Danny Boy Murphy †

10:00 a.m. (SH) - John O'Brien †

4:30 p.m. (SH) - Mary Ryan Townsend and Parishioners of Divine Mercy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 (SH)

8:00 a.m. – Jim O'Toole †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. – Brian Blair †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 (SH)

8:30 a.m. – Betty O'Sullivan †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – Lorayne Cascino †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. – Brian Morgan †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 p.m. (SH) - Robert J. O'Brien †

5:00 p.m. (SH)– Ludy Mariano

6:30 p.m. (SPA) - Andrew Berghoff †

10:00 p.m. (SH) - Ted Heppner †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. (SPA) – Mary Seul Franke †

11 a.m. (SH) - Parishioners of Divine Mercy

MASS INTENTIONS

Contact the parish office 847-446-0856 or
megan@divinemercynorthshore.org.

Make your Christmas Donation today using our safe & secure Give Central site by scanning the QR code. Thank you!



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, Donald Blair, Elaine Boback, Ronald Braun, Wendy Braun, Robert Conte, Jr., John Coyne, Rich Danstrom, Jeff Estabrooke, James Farney, Mary Beth Fellingner, Lisa Marie Franke, Frank Frelka, Ermin Garcia, Jr., Paul Greco, Benjamin Grillo, Jack Hogan, Sarah Hyde, Emily Jatis, Peggy Keese, Rick Kehrer, Patti Kotscharjan, Donna LaCaze, Gina Quirk Lazicki, Griffin Maks, Rosaleen Mazur, Teresa McNamara, Mike McNulty, Cathy Nolan, Beth O'Brien, Joan O'Donnell, Lynn Pattison, Judy Rasfeld, Kathy Sarch, Violet Vanselow, Larry White, Douglas Williams, and all those written in our parish book of intercessions.

If you or your loved one needs a Minister of Care or is seriously ill or near death, and in need of the Sacrament of the Sick/Last Rites, please contact the parish office at 847-446-0856.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart Church:

Saturdays 9:00a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

St. Philip the Apostle Church:

Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
with Rev. Gerald Cole.

ADORATION

Sacred Heart Church:

Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:00p.m.

St. Philip the Apostle Church:

Fridays from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

JOIN OUR ONLINE ROSARY

Meet on Zoom, weekday mornings at 7:30 a.m. See our website homepage for the link. (Note: It has changed!)

LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS

December 24, 2022

3:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. Steve Lanza

Sacristan: Ludy Mariano

Servers: Maddie P., Quinn D., Troy Q.

Lectors: Chris Hartman/Bill Hague

EM: Christ Hartman, Nancy Kehoe, Dana Hendry

Music Ministry: Laudes Divinae

4:00 p.m.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

President: Fr. Bob Heinz

Sacristan: TBD

Lector: TBD

EM: Cathy Stegich, TBD

Music Ministry: Jenny Farney / Miranda Farmer

5:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. John Kartje

Sacristan: Ludy Mariano

Lector: Nicky Howard

EM: Patty Sanfilippo, Cathy Lehman

Music Ministry: Laudes Divinae

6:30 p.m.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

President: Fr. Bob Heinz

Sacristan: Rima Abraham

Lector: Liz Harvey

EM: Dcn. Bob Puhala, John Meade, Judy Meade

Music Ministry: Jenny Farney/Miranda Farmer

10:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. Steve Lanza

Sacristan: Ludy Mariano

Lector: Barb Anderson

EM: Dcn. Gerry Kennan, Patty Sanfilippo,

Dan Kubasiak, Deb Kubasiak

Music Ministry: Laudes Divinae

December 25, 2022

10:00 a.m.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

President: Fr. Bob Heinz

Sacristan: Rima Abraham

Lector: Jim Dietz

EM: 3 Ministers Needed

Music Ministry: Laudes Divinae

11 a.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. Steve Lanza

Sacristan: Ludy Mariano

Lector: Cathy Lehman

EM: 3 Ministers Needed

Music Ministry: Jenny Farney/Miranda Farmer

NO 4:30 P.M. MASS Dec. 25

JOIN US FOR FLUTOPIA



IN CONCERT AT SACRED HEART CHURCH
AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 7:00 P.M.

Anna Ausmann Sheryl DeVore Lise Delain Biotin
Sarah Doherty Nancy Fencel Lee-Ann Frega
Mary Simon Jennifer Visocnik
Director: Laurel Ann Kaiser

PROGRAM

DING DONG Merrily on High
Greensleeves

Fantasia

Deck the Halls Pentatonix Style

Christmas Time is Here

Skating

Angels We Have Heard on High

Still Still Still

Waltz of the Flower

Silent Night

Hallelujah Chorus (all rise!)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
(along!)

ALL ARE WELCOME.

FREE CONCERT, BUT DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

CONSIDER BEING AN ON-LINE DONOR TO DIVINE MERCY!

Recurring on-line donations greatly increases our ability to project revenues and better plan for expenses. Click here to create your secure account today: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/205>. Consider these advantages: elimination of offering envelopes, postage and check-writing; donor-elected option to cover credit card processing fees (a NEW feature which greatly reduces our costs), and uninterrupted ongoing support of Divine Mercy ministries even when you're away!

In fiscal 2022, 36% of our offertory (Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections) came to us via on-line donations. Let's aim for a higher percentage this year!



As we await the coming of Christ into the world, we ask you to prayerfully consider this request. Thank you!

Call either Cindy Atsaves, Finance Manager, or Michelle Wasielewski, Director of Operations at 847.446.0856 with any questions.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

If you are looking for a quality values-based Catholic education, consider Sacred Heart School! You may email Jennifer Sullivan at jsullivan@shwschool.org to schedule a tour or visit our website at shwschool.org.

Come and see why our
families love us!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DIVINE MERCY

 Divine Mercy Parish Presents

Children's Caroling Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:30-5:30 PM

**PARISH CENTER AT SACRED HEART
1090 GAGE, WINNETKA**

- Come and sing Christmas carols led by parishioner Alex Valvassori
- Christmas crafts
- Hot chocolate and treats
- Come cozy and comfy or dress in your holiday gear
- Babies, children of all ages, aunts, uncles, grandparents, caregivers & friends welcome

Come one, come all!

Questions? Contact Kathy Handelman,
khandelman@divinemercynorthshore.org or Liz McGowen at
lmcgowen@divinemercynorthshore.org at **847-446-0856**

PARISH OFFICE

Open Monday - Friday 9am to 4pm
Office Address: Divine Mercy Parish
1077 Tower Rd. Winnetka, IL 60093

PARISH OFFICE / STAFF

Parish office or staff member, dial (847) 446-0856; enter the extension number.

Rev. Steven M. Lanza, Pastor
slanza@divinemercynorthshore.org

Rev. Robert P. Heinz, Retired Resident
rheinz@archchicago.org

Deacon Mike McNulty
mimcnulty@divinemercynorthshore.org

Deacon Gerry Keenan, 773-251-6626
gekeenan@archchicago.org,

Deacon Bob Puhala
bpuhala@usml.edu

Michelle Wasielewski,
Director of Operations, x. 131
mwasielewski@divinemercynorthshore.org

Ron Vanasdlen, Director of Liturgy
& Music, x. 107
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Liz McGowen, Director of Pastoral Care,
Outreach and Special Events, x. 108
lmcgowen@divinemercynorthshore.org

Patty Sanfilippo, (ALPHA Information),
Director of Evangelization &
Lifelong Formation, x. 103
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Kathy Handelman,
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Kelly Shoup, Children's Ministry Admin
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Judy Pyke, Director of Communications
jpyke@divinemercynorthshore.org, x. 104

Cindy Atsaves, Finance Office, x. 114
cindyatsaves@divinemercynorthshore.org

Megan Nolan, Administrative Assistant
megan@divinemercynorthshore.org, x. 101

Sacred Heart School,

(847) 446-0005

Margaret Webb, Principal,
mwebb@shwschool.org

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Sacred Heart School has a job opportunity for a Junior Kindergarten Assistant. This can be a flexible position from 8:45 - 1:30 or until 3:00pm Monday through Friday. The right person will be a caring individual who understands the importance of helping these little children begin to know God, learn socialization skills, and create a joy for learning. Being a team player, possessing organizational skills and flexibility are a must. If you are interested in learning more about this position please contact: Margaret Webb, Principal of Sacred Heart School at 847-446-0005 or mwebb@shwschool.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Faithful Revolution: Vatican II

"The world was going to hell in a hand basket and what was the Church going to do about it?" - Robert Blair Kaiser, Time magazine correspondent at Vatican II.

Join Fr. Steve Lanza for this 5-week video series, along with discussion and dialogue beginning Thursday, January 5th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center.

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