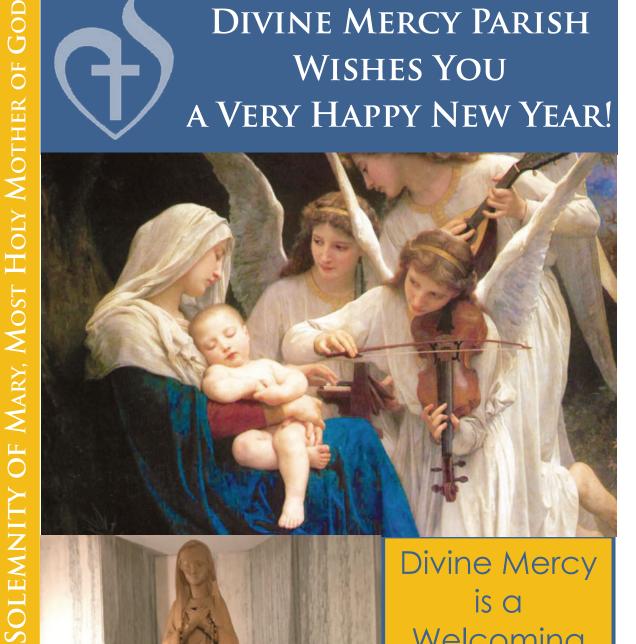
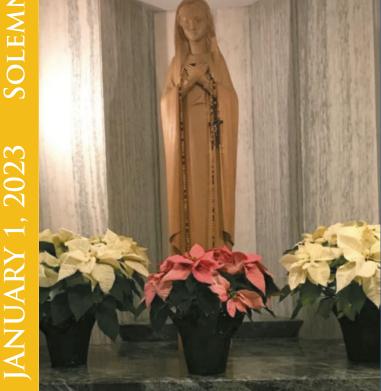
# **DIVINE MERCY PARISH** WISHES YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!





WORSHIP AID & BULLETIN

SACRED HEART CHURCH • ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

**DIVINE MERCY PARISH** 

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

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### THE ORDER OF MASS

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY

How appropriate that on the first day of every year we honor Mary, the Holy Mother of God, for it was her willing obedience to God's plan that enabled the Incarnation and therefore initiated what in time became Christianity. Today is also the World Day of Peace and so we look to Mary, the Queen of Peace—who bore the Prince of Peace—as our model and inspiration for holding peace in our hearts, our communities, and in our world.

#### 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.

PRELUDE Prayer

World Peace

SING OF MARY

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



Used with permission. Music: Christian Lyre, 1830.

#### **PENITENTIAL ACT**

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

Christ Jesus, you ransom us from the chains of sin and death: Christ, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.** 

Lord Jesus, you speak a word of hope and peace to your people: 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.



# 2.

# The Introductory Rites



#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

Numbers 6:22–27 The Lord bless you and keep vou!

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 May God bless us in his mercy.

#### Galatians 4:4–7

We too are the sons and daughters of God.

#### Luke 2:16–21

Mary reflected on all these things in her heart.

As the new year dawns, we realize the blessings that we have been given. God blesses the Chosen People as they invoke God's name. We are blessed as daughters and sons of God, able to call God, "Abba, Father!" Like the shepherds, who heard the message of the angels and went to find the word made flesh, let us listen to the word of God, then go forth praising and glorifying God.

#### COMMENTARY

After their rescue from slavery in Egypt, the Chosen People prepared to embark on a long and difficult journey through the desert to the promised land. To mark this new beginning, Aaron and his sons called down God's blessings, God's favor, and God's peace upon the people. later, Jesus' birth Centuries represented an even greater new beginning: Through Mary, God became incarnate in our world. The shepherds were so excited by the news that they rushed to the stable to find the child who was Christ and Lord and tell everyone what they had

Music © 2011, WLP

Continued on page 4.



#### COLLECT

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. 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

#### Numbers 6:22-27

The fourth book of the Bible is called the Book of Numbers simply because in describing the wanderings of the people in the Sinai Desert, it gives two census reports. In this section, we hear how God instructed the priestly leaders to bless the people.

The LORD said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

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 67:2-3, 5, 6-8

Psalm 67 was probably part of a temple liturgy in which the congregation echoes a part of Aaron's priestly blessing from the book of Numbers (today's first reading).



May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R**.

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **R**.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R**.

heard. How appropriate we celebrate this new beginning on New Year's Day, the day that marks the start of a new year, a time when we look forward to the promise of a clean slate, resolve to make changes in our lives, and renew our hope in God's promise to humankind: that Jesus was born into this world to live with us, to die for us, and to save us from our sins. Mary humbly, selflessly, and obediently bore Christ to the world. May we follow her example in this new year and bear Christ to God's children in our own little corner of the world.

# $\mathbf{Q}$ uestion for the Week

How can you bring hope and joy to others by bearing Christ to the world?

### Reflection

On this first day of a new year, we look forward to new beginnings, hopeful that this year will be better than the last. The Chosen People were looking forward to a new beginning in the promised land when Aaron and his sons called down God's blessings, God's grace, and God's peace upon them. The shepherds realized a new beginning was taking place in Bethlehem and hurried there to see the newborn king. Mary embraced the new beginning her life had taken after she was visited by the angel. May we look forward to our new beginning, assured that we have a God with us who chose to become incarnate in the world, who chose to share in our humanity, who chose to redeem us from our sins.

Luke says that Mary reflected on the shepherds' visit and their message. Reflection is a habit we seem to have lost in today's world. Because we are constantly connected to the whole world and to everyone we know. How often do we take the time to power down our electronics and spend some time in prayerful reflection? Sounds like a good resolution for 2023!

# The Liturgy of the Word

#### PASTOR'S "TO THE POINT"



A new year and to whom to we go? To mom. Well, to be more specific, we go to the Mother of God.

We go to Mary, God's Mother and our spiritual mother.

This title (in Greek Theotokos or "Godbearer") caused quite the controversy in the early Christian Church as the bishops and theologians debated how it could be possible that God has a mother.

I'll let those controversies stand on their own and only say in this regard that the title of "Mother of God" or "God-bearer" says as much or more about Jesus than it does Mary. Inasmuch as Jesus has a mother, he is revealed to be fully human, one like us in all things but sin.

He is God, fully divine and yet, at the same time, fully human. And Mary, who is completely human and not divine, plays a unique and singular role in salvation history. She says "yes" to God's plan and therefore Christ comes into the world.

How might we ourselves each say "yes" to God this day, this month, this year and help the kingdom of God advance to its fullness? Is there someone who needs our helping hand? Someone who needs us to visit them or console them or encourage them?

Mary helped set in motion the incarnation of divine grace. We go to her, asking for her intercession at the start of this new year, seeking to emulate her example of a wholehearted "yes" to God.

### SECOND READING

Galatia was a Roman province in what is now central Turkey. Paul had visited there and founded a Christian community. In this section of his letter to them, he explains that all people, not just a select few, are called to be sons and daughters of God.

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

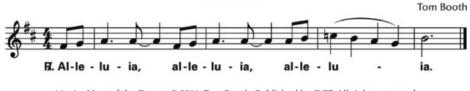
We observe a time of sacred silence to reflect on God's word.

The word of the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**R**. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.



Music: Mass of the Desert; © 2011, Tom Booth. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

#### Verse sung by the music ministry.

In the past, God spoke through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. R. He-

### **GOSPEL PROCLAMATION**

Luke 2:16-21 The last verse of today's gospel reading is significant, as it proclaims the circumcision and naming of the child Jesus. That Mary and Joseph are obedient to the Jewish Torah is part of Luke's good news. The rite of circumcision, celebrated eight days after birth, is called the covenant of circumcision" and marks the male child's formal entry into the covenantal Jewish community (see Genesis 17:10-11).

The Lord be with you.

**R**. And with your spirit.

A - proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard

#### Continued on the next page.

Galatians 4:4-7

# 6.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord. **R**.

**R.** Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ. Please be seated after the proclamation.

### HOMILY

#### **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. © 2010, ICEL Corp.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

#### **OFFERTORY ANTIPHON**

Blessed are you, O holy Virgin Mary; and worthy of all praise; for from you has come forth the sun of justice, Christ our God.

OUR OFFERINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

You are welcome to access Give Central by using your phone and the QR code as the gifts are prepared to make your offering today.



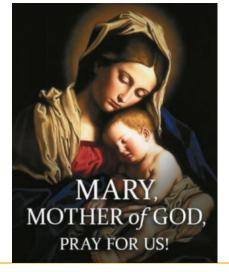
#### **Apostles' Creed**

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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#### A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, A time of welcoming your graces and gifts, A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, A time for growing in virtue and goodness. Come, Holy Spirit, Be with us today and always. Amen.



# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

# 7.

### **OFFERTORY** CAROL

### I SING A MAID OF TENDER YEARS

- 1. I sing a maid of tender years to whom an angel came. And knelt as to a mighty queen, and bowed bright wings of flame: A nation's hope in her reply, this maid of matchless grace; for God's own Son became her child, and she his resting place.
- 2. She watched him grow to manhood's strength to meet his destiny. And when the danger of his truth brought him to Calvary, she stood by him all powerless to ease his dying pain. 'Til in the darkest hour of all, she held her Son again.
- 3. And if the song had ended there, our eyes would fill with tears. But ah! the song had just begun to echo down the years! Now lift your voices, hearts and souls, to sing with one accord, to honor Mary, Mother of the Christ, the risen Lord!

# INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the company of the shepherds, the angels, and holy Mary, Mother of God, we give glory to God around this holy table.

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

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. 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)**



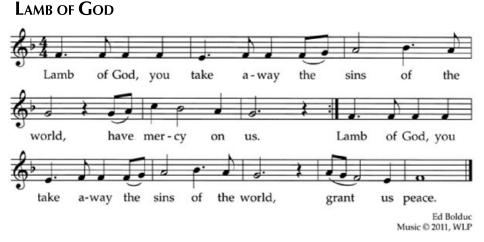
# DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN

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.

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist







### After the litany, please kneel.

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

8

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 ANTIPHON**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Hebrews 13:8

#### COMMUNION SONG

#### HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN

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

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain: Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.

#### 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 peace of the Lord be with your always. **R. And with your spirit.** 

#### **Communion Song Verses**

1. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.

2. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Text: Based on Luke 1:28, 42. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

# **CONCLUDING RITE**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *Please stand.*

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.** 



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### SENDING HYMN

Hail, holy Queen enthroned above: O Maria! Hail, mother of mercy and of love. O Maria!

Refrain: Triumph all ye cherubim; sing with us, ye seraphim! Heav'n and earth resound the hymn: Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

2. Our life, our sweetness here below: O Maria! Our hope in sorrow and in woe. O Maria! Triumph ...

3. And when our life-breath leaves us, O Maria! Show us thy Son, Christ Jesus. O Maria! Triumph ...

Text: 84 84 with refrain; Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae, ca. 1080; tr. anon. in Roman Hymnal, 1884. Music: Melchior Ludwig Herold, 1753–1810; Choralmelodien zum Heiligen Gesänge, 1808.

#### THIS WEEK'S PARISH CALENDAR

#### January 1, Sunday

New Year's Day World Day of Peace Kwanzaa ends

- 8 a.m. Mass St. Philip
- 10 a.m. Mass Sacred Heart
- 4:30 p.m. Mass—NO MASS

#### Parish Office closed until Jan. 9

#### January 2, Monday

Memorial of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

• 8 a.m. Mass — Sacred Heart

#### January 3, Tuesday

Optional Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

- 8 a.m. Mass St. Philip
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary St. Philip
  Classes resume at Sacred Heart School

#### January 4, Wednesday

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

- 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

#### January 5, Thursday

- Memorial of St. John Neumann
- 8:30 a.m. Mass Sacred Heart
- 7 p.m. Adult Formation: Vatican II Documents—Parish Center Rotunda

#### January 6, Friday

Optional Memorial of St. André Bessette First Friday

- 8 a.m. Mass St. Philip
- 8:30 a.m. Adoration & Rosary First Friday Devotions— St. Philip
- 11 a.m. Visitation for Ann Burns
- Noon Funeral Mass for Ann Burns—Sacred Heart

#### January 7, Saturday

Optional Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort First Saturday

 7:30 a.m. Men's Inspirational Study Group — Sacred Heart Fireplace Room

> Vigil of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

• 5 p.m. Mass — Sacred Heart

#### January 8, Sunday

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

- 8 a.m.— St. Philip
- 10 a.m. Mass Sacred Heart
- 4:30 p.m. Mass Sacred Heart
- Hunger Hero Weekend (Watch the e-blast for needed items!)
- Name Tag Sunday
- Hospitality after the 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Masses

# HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

# 10.

This week the Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of Ann Lucas Burns.

The gifts of bread and wine are in memory of Mary Ann Duerwachter.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31** 5:00 p.m.(SH) - Phil Alexander †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 8:00 a.m. (SPA) — Tim Doll † 10:00 a.m. (SPA) — Parishioners of Divine Mercy

MONDAY, JANUARY 2 (SH) 8:00 a. m. — Bob Berner †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 (SPA) 8:00 a.m. — Danny Boy Murphy †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 (SH) 8:30 a.m. — Vince DiPaolo†

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 8:00 a. m. (SH) — Stella Galanis †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 (SPA) 8:00 a.m. — Andy Pluta †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 (SH) 5:00 p.m. – Denis Dunne

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 8:00 a.m. (SPA) — Bill Seeberg † 10:00 a.m. (SH) — Lynne Kralovec 4:30 p.m. (SH) — Ramiro Millan and Parishioners of Divine Mercy

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

Have a Happy New Year!

#### **UNCLE PETE'S MINISTRY**

This ministry is a great way to serve as a family, no matter the age! Join us on Monday, January 16 from 7-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center at Sacred Heart to assemble sack dinners for those less fortunate. They are then delivered the next day to a Just Harvest

Community Kitchen in Rogers Park. Join us! Register <u>here</u> or scan the **OR code** to help us plan for the right number of packing stations.



#### FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

The following people 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 Fellinger, Lisa Marie Franke, 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, Douglas Williams, and those written in our 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 call 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, especially Frank Frelka.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Until JANUARY 9, 2023

#### LITURGICAL MINISTER ASSIGNMENTS

January 7, 2023

#### 5:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH **Presider: Fr. Steve Lanza** Sacristan: Ludy Mariano Servers: Ministers Needed Lector: Barb Anderson EM: Patty Sanfilippo Song Leader: Carla LaMarr

#### January 8, 2022

8:00 a.m. ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH Presider: Fr. John Kartje Sacristan: Rima Abraham Servers: Ministers Needed Lector: Minister Needed EM: Judy Meade Song Leader: Kelsea Webb

#### 10:00 a.m.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH **Presider: Fr. Steve Lanza** Sacristan: Rima Abraham Servers: Ministers Needed Lector: Dan Kubasiak EM: Dee Hanlon Song Leader: Kelsea Webb

#### 4:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH **Presider: Fr. Bob Heinz** Sacristan: Ludy Mariano Servers: Ministers Needed Lector: Minister Needed EM: Minister Needed Song Leader: Miranda Farmer

# WOMEN'S CLUB GATHERING: JANUARY 23RD @ 7PM

Did you read the **Christmas issue of** *Connections*? If so, you read a bit of Siobhan Hill's story on the pilgrimage she made this past fall through France and Spain along the Way of St. James or the Camino de Santiago.

Join us on Monday, January 23rd from 7-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center at Sacred Heart to hear the rest of her story! Siobhan will share more about her amazing adventure with us at the **first gathering of our Women's Club**. Gather some friends and join us for a glass of wine. We look forward to seeing you! *Didn't read part one of her story in Connections? Click here!* 



# THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DIVINE MERCY

# STARTS THIS THURSDAY! JOIN US!

Join Father Steve to watch The Faithful Revolution: Vatican II a video series on the Second Vatican Council called by the visionary Saint Pope John XXIII. "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.

Revisit a time when change and renewal were in the air. The series presents archival footage and special interviews with participants at the Council, affording us insight into this pivotal 21st ecumenical council of the Church.

Each session includes time for dialogue. See where it all began and where it might yet lead us. This 5 week series begins Thursday, January 5th at 7pm in the Parish Center.

# SUPER FUN SATURDAY

Warm up from the cold with an afternoon of FUN! Bounce houses, dancing, DJ contests, pizza & more!

Saturday, February 11, 2023 11:30am-2:00pm

Divine Mercy Parish @ St. Philip's Gymnasium 1980 Old Willow Rd, Northfield \$5/person (ages 2+); maximum \$20/family

**SEE YOU THERE!** 

Hosted by Divine Mercy Parish

#### $(\mathbf{f})$

#### YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS DONATION!

If you were unable to join us this Christmas, you can still support the good work of the parish. Your generosity enables us to support our many outreach efforts and keep the lights on! We graciously ask you to remember Divine Mercy Parish in your giving. Thank you ever so much, and may God bless you! Simply scan the QR Code or click <u>here</u> to be taken to our safe & secure Give Central site.



# **ALPHA IS COMING!**

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of gatherings where guests have the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly and inviting atmosphere where no question is too simple or complex. It's an

opportunity to explore the big questions of life: Is there more to life than this? Why is there suffering in the world?

#### How does it work?

Each session includes a great meal, a short video followed by a chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic in a



small group setting. There's no obligation to say anything, there's nothing you can't say (seriously) and there's no such thing as a silly question.

#### WHY IS ALPHA FOR YOU? Find a Community

Connecting people in our area from all walks of life, Alpha is a way to meet people that you wouldn't have otherwise.

#### Energize your Faith

Does your faith feel stagnant? Joining Alpha is an engaging and relational way to grow in faith through powerful videos and small group discussion.



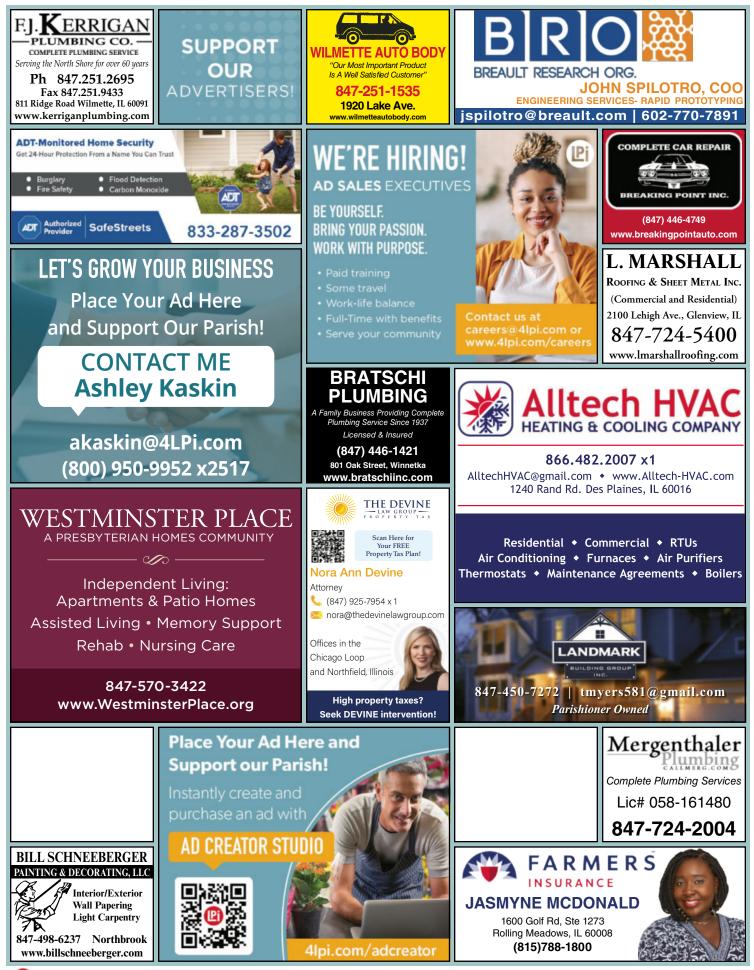
#### Move Past Small Talk

With the small group format, each week is an opportunity to get to know others through the sharing of thoughts, experiences, and perspectives which in turn can help you get in touch with your own beliefs.

### Just Not Sure? Come and See

No pressure, no judgment...just food, friends, and great conversation exploring great questions. Everyone is invited, regardless of spiritual background or beliefs.

Give yourself the gift of Alpha to connect with others, experience faith, and converse on a deeper level. Join an upcoming Alpha session that fits your schedule: Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center starting January 24th (register here) or Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center starting January 25th (register here). Questions: email Patty Sanfilippo or call 847-446-0856.



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

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