

DIVINE MERCY PARISH
SACRED HEART & ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCHES

DECEMBER 24/25, 2023
CHRISTMAS

WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY PARISH

WE ARE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY THAT
INSPIRES DISCIPLES OF JESUS TO SHARE GOD'S
LOVE AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.



DIVINE MERCY PARISH WISHES YOU
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE LORD

PASTOR'S "TO THE POINT"



This Fourth Sunday of Advent is gone in a flash! Due to the needs of the liturgical calendar, on this same day we enter the Christmas season, celebrating Christmas Eve, which means this year there is no fourth week of Advent. It's literally only hours long.

Still, that's time enough to consider another lesson from Pope Francis in this column, which we've been doing for all of Advent. In his encyclical, he writes: "Love also impels us toward universal communion. No one can mature or find fulfillment by withdrawing from others. By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging" (n. 95, *Fratelli Tutti*).

Christmas is upon us. The season of gift-giving, all in honor of the greatest gift given to us by God, his Son, Jesus Christ.

God gives us a person. God gives us his Son. Why? For many reasons, true. One of those reasons would be: that we might see and acknowledge each other as "gifts" from God.

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent. Merry Christmas! The season of Love is upon us, a love that goes out of the self in growth and maturity alongside other believers in the journey of life.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day. Psalm 2:7

Or Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Graduale Romanum, Roman Missal, Third Edition

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY

Merry Christmas! Today we celebrate God's greatest gift: Jesus Christ. He did not come into this world in a grand and spectacular way; no, he was born to an unassuming woman, in a humble stable, in an unfamiliar town, after a long and difficult journey. But soon the skies filled with angels from heaven, announcing the glad tidings to the shepherds in the fields. We are those shepherds now, coming together in joy and wonder and expectation to worship our newborn king.

ENTRANCE CAROL

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

We stand as the Carol begins and sing together.

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

At 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

2. Long have we waited for our God Messiah, into our hearts he is born today. Join now our praises singing alleluia! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

10 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Adéste fidèles, laeti triumphantes, Veníte, veníte in Bétlehem. Natum vidéte Regem angelórum. Veníte, adorémus, veníte, adorémus, veníte, adorémus Dóminum.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711–1786;
tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt. Music: John F. Wade.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

R. Amen.

GREETING

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

R. Lord, have mercy. R. Christ, 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.**

The Glory to God, is sung.

GLORY TO GOD

3 p.m. & 5 p.m.



Glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high-est. Glo-ry!

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly King, O God, al - might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high-est. Glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. A - men.

Text © 2010, ICEL

Ed Bolduc
Music © 2011, WLP

COLLECT

R. Amen.

*Please be seated after the prayer
for the First Reading.*

FIRST READING

The prophet Isaiah lived 750 years before Christ. In his time, the northern Jewish King-dom of Israel was laid waste by the armies of Assyria. Today's passage offers the conquered people hope for a glorious future under a wonderful king. Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy.

Isaiah 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

*After the First Reading we hear the word
of God proclaimed through the Psalm.*

In the Christian tradition, Psalm 96 has become the great psalm of Christmastime. The psalm celebrates the victory of the Lord who "in the sight of the nations . . . has revealed his justice."

4 p.m., 10 p.m., 9 a.m., & 10 a.m.

GLORY TO GOD

Mass of Christ the Savior

Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. 1. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God, heav'n-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.

2. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are scat-ed at the right hand, the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us. 3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men. A - men.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,

Gael Berberick and Kevin Keil
Refrain based on GOD REST YOU MERRY

To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord, Christ the Lord.

To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

- Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Sing to the LORD; bless his name.
- Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
- Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
- let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.
- They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.

After the Psalm we hear the word of God proclaimed through the Second Reading.

SECOND READING

The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete.

Titus 2:11-14

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

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

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Before hearing the proclamation of the Gospel we stand and sing the appointed acclamation.

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

On this most holy solemnity, we celebrate the birth of the world's true light. The Prince of Peace, whom Isaiah prophesied and the angels proclaimed, was born to Mary in the city of David, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a simple manger. There was no room for him in the inn, so let us always make room for him in our hearts, our lives, and our world.

Luke 2:1-14

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A proclamation ✠ from the holy Gospel according to Luke

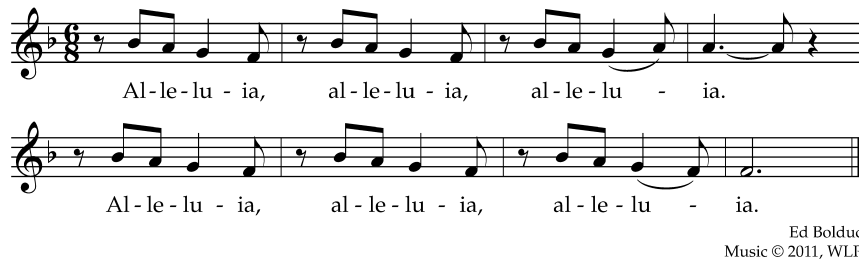
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

3 p.m. & 5 p.m..

We stand as we join the Music Ministry in singing:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Ed Bolduc
Music © 2011, WLP

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

4 p.m., 10 p.m., 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.

We stand as we join the Music Ministry in singing:

Based on GESU BAMBINO
Pietro Yan, 1886–1943
Arr. by Paul Hillebrand

REFRAIN



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated after the proclamation.

Verse sung by the music ministry.

I proclaim to you good news of joy, good news of great joy: Today our Savior is born for us, a Savior, Christ the Lord. **R.**

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We stand.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (*genuflect*) 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.

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 (*genuflect*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (*stand*) For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, 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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UNIVERSAL PRAYER

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

OUR OFFERINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH



Following the Offertory Carol

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

R. Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

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.

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth exult before the face of the Lord, for he is coming.

Psalm 96(95):11

OFFERTORY CAROL

4 p.m. & 9 a.m.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Together we sing.

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of

o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply
 strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be,
 an - gels sing; Come a - dore, on bend - ed knee,
 an - gels praise; Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
 Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 While our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: *Les anges dans nos campagnes*; French, c. 18th C.; tr. from *Crown of Jesus Music*, London, 1862
 Tune: GLORIA, 7 7 7 7 with refrain; French traditional

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

With great joy on this festival day, we are filled with wonder and awe at the birth of God's Son. With a profound sense of gratitude we raise our voices in this great prayer of thanksgiving.

PREFACE

In the name of the entire holy people, the priest glorifies God the Father and gives thanks for the whole work of salvation or for some special part of it that corresponds to the day, festivity or season.” (GIRM 79a)

With the priest, we join the heavenly powers singing the Preface Acclamation (Holy).

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, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, 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, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with your always.

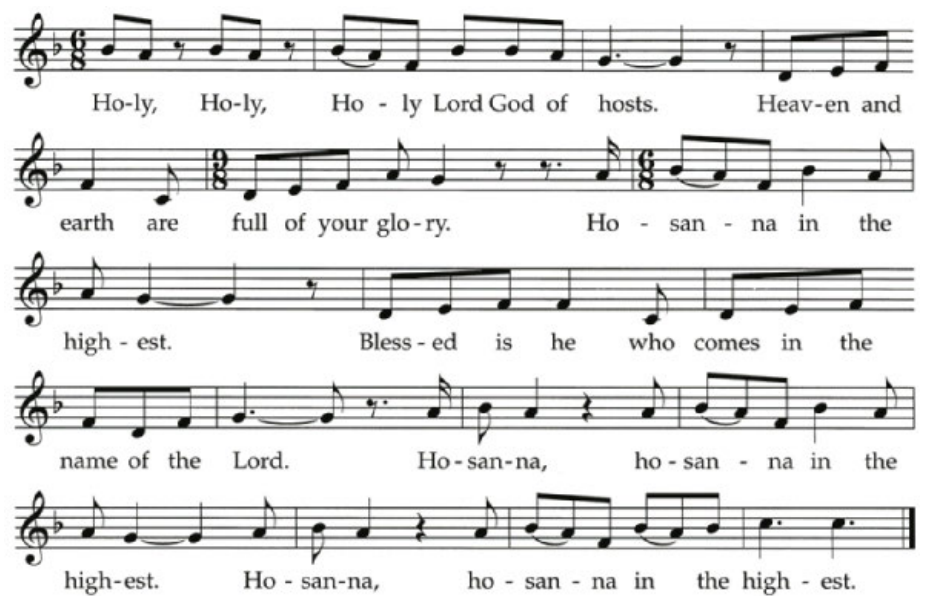
R. And with your spirit.

Each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace. only to those who are nearest them.

GIRM #82

PREFACE ACCLAMATION (HOLY)

Together we sing.



We kneel after the acclamation.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

Together we sing.



DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN

Together we sing.



We stand after the acclamation for the Lord's Prayer.

LAMB OF GOD 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. *Together we sing after the Sign of Peace.*



LAMB OF GOD

4 p.m., 10 p.m., 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Together we sing after the Sign of Peace.*After the litany, please kneel.***COMMUNION CAROL***Together we sing with the Music Ministry.***O HOLY NIGHT**

1. O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope – the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on our knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the Wise Men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our Friend. He knows our need – our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before him lowly bend! Behold your King, before him lowly bend!

3. Truly he taught us to love one another; His law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Translator: John S. Dwight; Author: Placide Cappeau (1847) Tune: CANTIQUE DE NOEL

*After the Lamb of God is sung:***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.

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.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Word became flesh,
and we have seen his glory.**

John 1:14

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

R. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **R. Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel. **R. Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favor and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **R. Amen.**

DISMISSAL R. Thanks be to God.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Excerpts from the English translation of *The Order of Mass* from *The Roman Missal* © 2010; International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). Antiphon Text: Music reprinted with permission from ONE LICENSE #A — 704470 and CCLI #11581902 Streaming License #20463075.

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SENDING CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

1. ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 3. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 2. plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 3. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 3. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
 Music: T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759.

Merry Christmas from the Clergy and Staff of Divine Mercy Parish!

The Season of Christmas Time

*Christmas is not a single day but an entire season
concluding on January 8.*

Dec. 26, 8 a.m., Feast of St. Stephen —St. Philip	Jan. 2, 8 a.m., Ss. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen—St. Philip
Dec. 27, 8 a.m., Feast of St. John —Sacred Heart	Jan. 3, 8:30 a.m., The Most Holy Name of Jesus—Sacred Heart
Dec. 28, 8:30 a.m., Feast of the Holy Innocents—Sacred Heart	Jan. 4, 8 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton— Sacred Heart
Dec. 29, 8 a.m., Fifth Day of Christmas—St. Philip	Jan. 5, 8 a.m., St. John Neuman, First Friday—St. Philip
Dec. 31, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—Regular Weekend Mass Schedule	Jan. 7, Epiphany of the Lord— Regular Weekend Mass Schedule
Jan. 1, 9 a.m., Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—Sacred Heart	Jan. 8, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Last Day of Christmas Time —Sacred Heart

10.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DIVINE MERCY

ALPHA IS COMING IN JANUARY!

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 16th ([register here](#))

or **Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** in the Parish Center starting January 17th ([register here](#)).

Questions: contact [Patty Sanfilippo](#) or call 847-446-0856.

Join Us for Alpha
Tuesday Evenings
6:30-8pm beginning 1/16/24 or
Wednesday Mornings from
9:30-11am beginning 1/17/24



WHY?

To energize your faith, move past small talk, find a community, and make new friends.

Register or get more info:
divinemercynorthshore.org/alpha

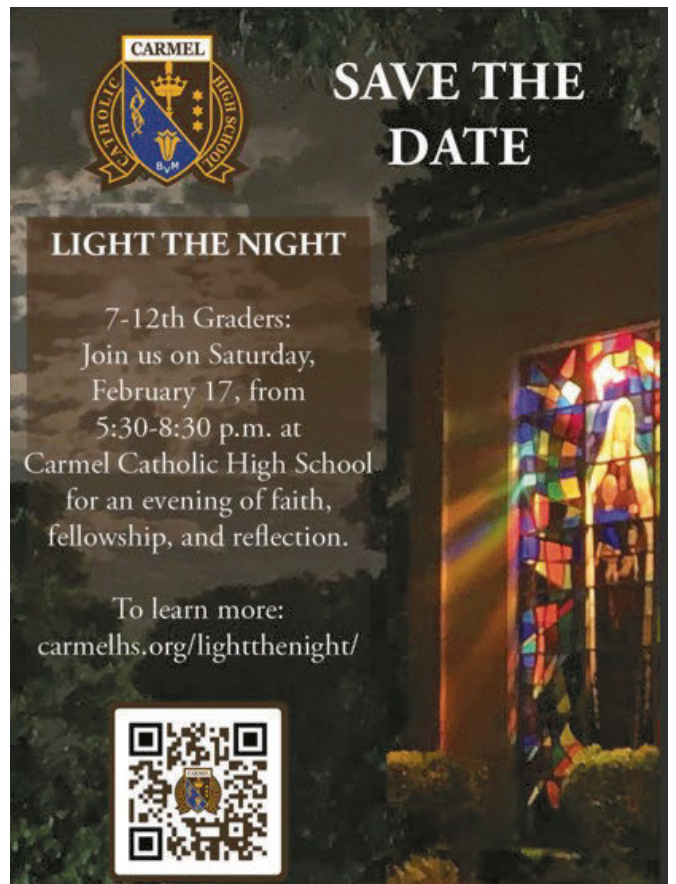


SAVE THE DATE

LIGHT THE NIGHT

7-12th Graders:
Join us on Saturday,
February 17, from
5:30-8:30 p.m. at
Carmel Catholic High School
for an evening of faith,
fellowship, and reflection.

To learn more:
carmelhs.org/lightthenight/





Blessed are the Peacemakers: The Christian Call in the Midst of Violence

Brian Schmisek, PhD

Provost, University of Saint Mary of the Lake/
Mundelein Seminary

Our world, both at home and across the globe, seems engulfed by violence. We each have our own fears, hopes and coping mechanisms when confronted with it.

How does our faith inform our response?

What are the teachings of Jesus and the Church?

Join popular speaker Brian Schmisek for an important discussion about the issue of violence and our response as Christians.

You are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation following the presentation.

The event will not be livestreamed but will be recorded.

Please register if you would like to receive the link to the recording after the event.

A Tri-Parish Event

Monday, January 15

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Ss. Faith Hope &
Charity Parish Center**
191 Linden St. Winnetka

To register, go to
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AADAB29ABFA7-46512245-blessed>
or use the QR code below.



Questions?
Contact Pam Coster at
pcoster@gmail.com



MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Join Catholic writer, speaker, and podcaster Joan Watson, on a Marian Pilgrimage across the Iberian Peninsula! As we travel from Fatima to Lourdes at a contemplative place, we will have the opportunity to pray at both ancient and modern Marian sites. Specifically curated by Joan with daily focuses and themes, this journey aims to increase your love of Jesus through Mary and the saints like Anthony, Dominic, and Teresa of Avila. June 20-30, 2024. For more information, visit versoministries.com/marian2024 or email Joan at joan@versoministries.com.

Take advantage of the Christmas special for \$400 off with promo code **MARY400**.

**YOU ARE WELCOME
TO TAKE THIS
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Jan 17 & 31, Feb 7 & 28

Mar 6 & 20, Apr 3 & 17

May 1, 15 & 29



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Parish Center
at Sacred Heart



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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



SUPER FUN SATURDAY

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

Saturday, February 3, 2024
11:30am-2pm
Tickets on Sale Soon!

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

Presented by Divine Mercy Parish



Questions?
 Liz McGowen, lmcgowen@divinemercynorthshore.org,
 847-446-0856 ext. 108

NEWS FROM OUR TEEN COUNCIL

The Teen Council met Sunday earlier this month to decorate and package cookies made by our very own Megan Nolan to sell at a DMTC (Divine Mercy Teen Council) Bake Sale following the Christmas Pageant and then again after 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17th. All funds raised go towards a summer service trip for the DMTC. The cookies were beautiful! The teens did an amazing job decorating, baking and packaging.

Interested in being a part of this group? [Click here](#) or scan the QR code.



THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK AT DIVINE MERCY

We are on the cusp of great things at Divine Mercy. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are everywhere we look, and that is because our parishioners and guests have chosen to be engaged in their faith. They have taken that first step of saying, Yes! They've made the commitment to get to know Jesus better. And the heavens rejoice.

This is YOUR church, YOUR parish and YOUR faith community. It can only flourish through God's grace and the efforts of us all. We graciously ask you to remember Divine Mercy Parish in your giving this Christmas. Your generosity, which is the SOLE source of funding for everything we do at Divine Mercy, helps us bring you the Mass each week, do the good work of the parish through our community outreach partners, evangelize through efforts like ALPHA, connect with our homebound parishioners, and keep the lights on! We are grateful beyond measure for your support.

[Click here](#) to use our website to make your Christmas donation, or scan the QR Code.

Merry Christmas and God bless you!



WHERE ARE WE IN OUR 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, THE WAY FORWARD?

First, did you know that our Parish Council created a 5-Year Strategic Plan in 2022? You can find it on our website homepage by [clicking here](#).

We are in the midst of year 2 of our Strategic Plan, focusing our efforts on building *Community* at Divine Mercy. We are on track with the goals that we established last summer:

- Grow and expand existing Welcome Ministry.
- Establish Northshore ministry for teens.
- Develop forum for listening to real and relevant needs, via annual Listening session.
- Build "soft entry" points into community for Catholics and guests.

We still have work to do, and are very much looking forward to further executing our goals in 2024.

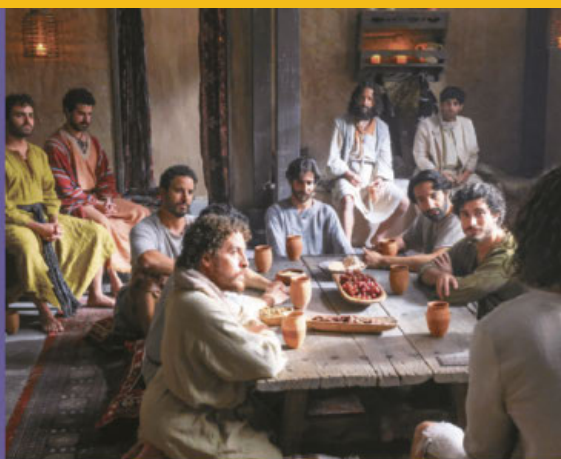
Join us for Season 3

The Chosen Following Jesus Then & Now

Thursdays 6:30-8 pm
Beginning February 1, 2024
for 8 weeks

at Divine Mercy Parish Center at
Sacred Heart (Burr & Gage Sts.)
We Begin with Dinner!

ALL ARE WELCOME



Enter into the story of the people who surrounded Jesus. Sinners who spent time with the one Man who understood them & would eventually die for them. You'll meet the people who loved Him, served Him, & followed Him, seeing the Savior through their eyes as you consider who He is & why He came. Their story is ours.



Each episode will be
followed by a short
discussion. Join Us!



NEW PASTOR SELECTION PROCESS AND SURVEY

Our pastor, Fr. Steve Lanza, will be retiring in June of 2024. The Archdiocesan Priest Placement Board is beginning the search process for a new pastor of Divine Mercy Parish beginning July 2024. Representatives of the Priest Placement Board met with our Parish Staff, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team, the Parish Council, the Finance Council and the Chairs of all of our Boards (including Sacred Heart School) on December 4th to gather input on what Divine Mercy needs in a pastor for our future.

The Priest Placement Board seeks input from our parishioners as well through a questionnaire they have created. You can find copies of that questionnaire in the Gathering Space at Sacred Heart and the vestibule of St. Philip. Once you complete the questionnaire, you can place them in the receptacle box located in the same location. All questionnaires will be forwarded to the Priest Placement Board. **QUESTIONNAIRES ARE DUE AT THE PARISH BY DECEMBER 28th.**

JOIN US FOR UNCLE PETE'S MINISTRY IN JANUARY

Each month, parishioners gather to pack sack meals for the hungry. The meals are then delivered to A Just Harvest Community Kitchen in Rogers Park. We typically meet the first Monday evening of the month from 7-8pm in the Parish Center, but given the holidays, our January gathering will take place on Monday, **January 15th** from 7-8pm in the Parish Center. All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate!



Our December Crew!

This is a great service outing for families. We have "jobs" for all ages! [Register here](#), just so we know how many stations to prepare. Thank you!

Next steps? The Priest Placement Board will review all the information gathered from and about Divine Mercy (as well as other parishes in need of a pastor) over the next 2-3 months, while simultaneously speaking with priests who are considering new assignments. Please keep the Priest Placement Board in your prayers during this process as they discern the best pastor for Divine Mercy.

Thank you for your participation in this important process. The future of Divine Mercy depends on all of us!

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

SERVE A JUST HARVEST IN JANUARY!

Our community partner A Just Harvest offers daily lunch service for the hungry and homeless in the Rogers Park community. Divine Mercy Parish is scheduled to serve lunch on the third Sunday of the month. Our next day of service at A Just Harvest is Sunday, January 21st. We need volunteers to cook the casseroles ahead of time and deliver the food to the Parish Center at Sacred Heart on Saturday, January 20th, a volunteer to drive it to A Just Harvest that same day, and volunteers serve at A Just Harvest on that Sunday. If you are interested in serving in any of these ways, we encourage you to [click here](#) or scan the QR code to see if you can meet any of their needs. Thank you so much!



THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE LITURGICAL MINISTER ASSIGNMENTS

December 30, 2023

5:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. Bob Heinz

Sacristan: Joe Schuessler

Servers: Ministers Needed

Lector: Barb Anderson

EM: Minister Needed

December 31, 2023

8:00 a.m.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

President: Fr. John Kartje

Sacristan: Rima Abraham

Servers: Ministers Needed

Lector: Steve Clingan

EM: Michael Koberda

10:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. John Kartje

Sacristan: Ludy Mariano

Servers: Ministers Needed

Lector: Kathy Janega

EM: Minister Needed

4:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

President: Fr. Bob Heinz

Sacristan: Minister Needed

Servers: Ministers Needed

Lector: Minister Needed

EM: Minister Needed

January 1, 2024

Mass is celebrated at 9 a.m. for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Because this solemnity is on a Monday, there is no obligation to attend Mass, however, it's a great way to start the New Year.



JOIN US FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT BOTH OUR CHURCHES

Join us on Wednesday afternoons at Sacred Heart Church from 2-3:00 p.m. or Friday mornings after the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church for Adoration and recitation of the Rosary. We hope you'll join us, and spend some time with Jesus. Our world and our Church need so many prayers today!

What the Saints say about Adoration:

"Whenever I go to the chapel, I put myself in the presence of our good Lord, and I say to him, 'Lord, I am here. Tell me what you would have me to do' . . . And then, I tell God everything that is in my heart. I tell him about my pains and my joys, and then I listen. If you listen, God will also speak to you, for with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen. God always speaks to you when you approach him plainly and simply."
— St. Catherine Labouré

The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven, and will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth."
— St. Teresa of Calcutta

New liturgical ministers are always welcome! Available? Contact Ron Vanasdlen via email at: rvanasdlen@divinemercynorthshore.org.
Training is provided.

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

Rev. Ken Kiepura, Retired Resident

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

Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu

Michelle Wasielewski,
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Liz McGowen,
Director of Pastoral Care, Outreach
and Special Events, x. 108
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Patty Sanfilippo, (ALPHA Information),
Director of Evangelization & Lifelong
Formation, x. 103
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Kelly Shoup,
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry
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Judy Pyke, Director of Communications
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Cindy Atsaves, Finance Office, x. 114
cindyatsaves@divinemercynorthshore.org

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

Sacred Heart School,
1095 Gage St, Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-0005
Jodi Reuter, Principal,
jreuter@shwschool.org

Visiting a Homebound Friend or Relative?

Our homebound parishioners most likely are unable to attend Mass, so we encourage you to bring a copy of the bulletin/worship aid and the most recent issue of *Connections* on your next visit with them.

We know our homebound parishioners appreciate those visits, and being filled in on all that happens at the parish.

You'll find extra copies of the bulletin/worship aid and *Connections* in the vestibule of the parish office. 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, Loretto Berghoff,
Paul Berghoff, Caroline Birnbaum,
Donald Blair, Elaine Boback,
Ronald Braun, Wendy Braun,
Robert Conte, Jr., John Coyne,
James Farney, Joseph Felicelli,
Julie Felicelli, Mary Beth Fellingner,
Lisa Marie Franke, Ermin Garcia, Jr.,
Patricio Gilchrist, Benjamin Grillo,
Rose Anne Grimes, Regina Harvey,
Mike Hayes, Barbara Hayward,
Jack Hogan, Jim Horrell, Sarah Hyde,
Rick Kehrner, Ryan Kelly, Andy Klatt,
Patti Kotscharjan, Diana Lambert,
Gina Quirk Lazicki, Margaret Lenhart,
Ginny Linting, Susan Lodge,
Jamey Machens, John Madden,
Sr. Peggy McDonnell, Mike McNulty,
Heather Mroz, Beth O'Brien,
Joan O'Donnell, Lynn Pattison,
Mike Pearson, Cheryl Pierson,
Debbie Puhala, Brad Raguse,
Judy Rasfeld, Scott Rood, Kathy Sarch,
Terry Shin, Catherine Sullivan,
Kay Thomas, Rita VanHyning,
Violet Vanselow, Amanda Warford,
Larry White, and those written in our
parish book of prayer.

If you or your loved one needs a Minister of Care, 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,
especially **Debbie Puhala** and
Tiffany Giroux.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart Church:

Saturdays 9 - 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 2 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Philip the Apostle Church:

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

ONLINE ROSARY via Zoom

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.

Link on website homepage

PARISH CALENDAR

The month of December is
dedicated to the
Immaculate Conception
and the **Divine Infancy**.

December 24, Sunday

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

- 3 p.m.—Sacred Heart
- 4 p.m.—St. Philip
- 5 p.m.—Sacred Heart
- 10 p.m.—Sacred Heart

December 25, Monday

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

- 9 a.m.—St. Philip
- 10 a.m.—Sacred Heart
- **THERE IS NO 4:30 p.m. Mass today.**
- Parish Office Closed this Week

December 26, Tuesday

Feast of St. Stephen

- 8 a.m. Mass — Sacred Heart
- Parish Office Closed this Week

December 27, Wednesday

Feast of St. John

- 8:30 a.m. Mass — Sacred Heart
- 2-3 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration - Sacred Heart Church
- Parish Office Closed this Week

December 28, Thursday

Feast of St. John

- 8:00 a.m. Mass — Sacred Heart
- Parish Office Closed this Week

December 29, Friday

Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas

*Optional Memorial of
St. Thomas Becket*

- 8 a.m. Mass — St. Philip
- 8:30 a.m. Adoration & Rosary — St. Philip
- Parish Office Closed this Week

December 30, Saturday

*Sixth Day within
the Octave of Christmas*

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Inspirational Study Group - Sacred Heart Fireplace Room
- 9—9:30 a.m. Confessions — Sacred Heart
- 5 p.m. Mass of Anticipation— Sacred Heart

December 31, Sunday

*Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
New Year's Eve*

Regular weekend Mass schedule.

MASS INTENTIONS**SUNDAY, DEC 24**

3 p.m. (SH) - Emily Solek †
4 p.m. (SPA) - Andrew Berghoff †
5 p.m. (SH) - Elie Valvassori †
10 p.m. (SH) - Parishioners of Divine Mercy

MONDAY, DEC 25

9 a.m. (SPA) - Al Tagtmeier †
10 a.m. (SH) - Fran Sinclair

TUESDAY, DEC 26 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. - Barbara Kubic

WEDNESDAY, DEC 27 (SH)

8:30 a.m. - Debbie Puhala †

THURSDAY, DEC 28 (SH)

8:00 a.m. - Leonard & Clare Lehman †

FRIDAY, DEC 29 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. - Debbie Puhala †

SATURDAY, DEC 30 (SH)

5:00 p.m. - Anthony Daddono †

SUNDAY, DEC 31

8:00 a.m. (SPA) - The Crafty Ladies of St. Philip
10:00 a.m. (SH) - Parishioners of Divine Mercy
4:30 p.m. (SH) - Tom Reedy †

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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