

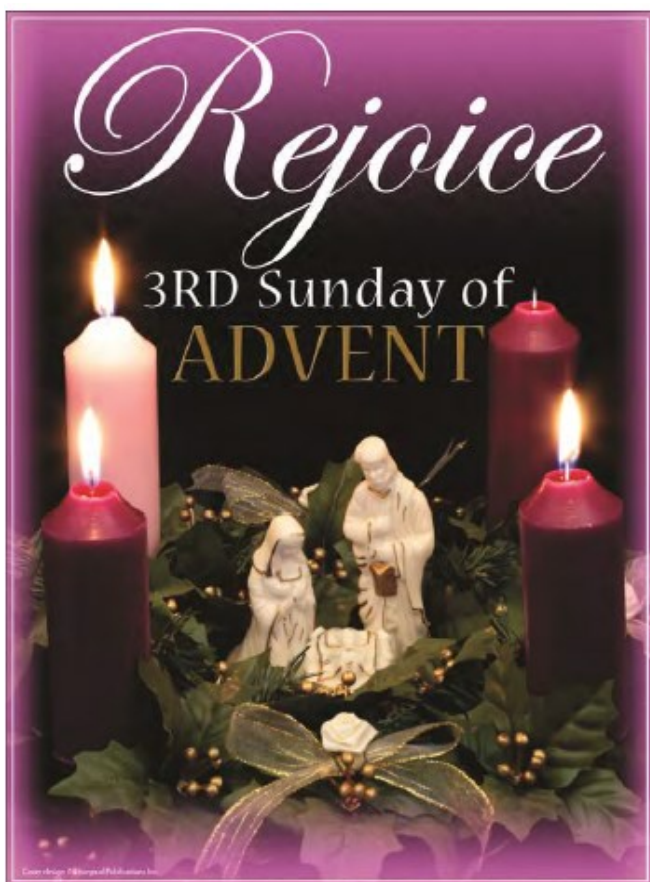


DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Sunday of Joy

The Sunday of Joy

Christmas
Concert

December 13th
on our Website



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

BUSY?

Normally this time of year we'd all be running around trying to finish up all our Christmas preparations, attend parties and social gatherings, deck the halls (so to speak), and get those greeting cards in the mail. Stuff like that.

The pandemic may have put a crimp in that typical busy-ness. Or perhaps it has intensified things, given that some parents have to help with e-learning and we all have to continually re-think how we are doing things in order to accomplish what we need to do and also be safe in doing it.

I can tell you this, though, we're all better off, if during this season of Advent we carve out a bit of space and time to allow the Holy Spirit to soothe us, comfort us, and enliven us. For me that means extra prayer time.

It also means a few other practices that you might also want to adopt (if you've not already done so). For example—

- After a certain time in the evening, and for me that's usually after supper, I simply don't look at my smart phone. Yes, I still pick up on calls. But I studiously avoid checking my emails in the time between supper and going to sleep. Those emails will still be there in the morning when I have more energy for dealing with whatever issues they may bring me.
- Doing some spiritual reading. You'd think I do that all the time, given my profession, but I don't, at least, not on a daily basis. I love the little books we give out for free in Advent and Lent. I read the selection for each day in Advent as part of my Morning Prayer routine. Those selections get me thinking and putting God and kingdom issues before all else, as should be. The selections also make me calmer, ready to enter into the daily business of the parish.

- This season I also try and catch up with folks I haven't talked to in a while. For me, that includes family and friends, people who have known me for many years now, but whom I generally take for granted. I know I shouldn't. But I do. Advent offers me an opportunity to touch base with them, reminding myself and them that I never want to deliberately take these special people for granted. They are a gift in my life and should be treated as such, including reaching out and communicating with them at this time of year.

These kinds of activities have helped me in the past to deal with the busy ramp up to the holiday season. You probably have your own unique practices to help you slow down and recapture meaning and significance in your life and therefore not allow the myriad of busy activities to impact your soulfulness in this season.

We savor Advent as best we can and prepare for the joy of Christmas, even in a pandemic. Blessings on you!

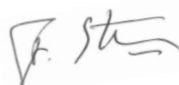
GAUDETE!

That's the Latin word in the command form, bidding one another, "Be joyful!"

That's also the ancient description for this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. We describe it as such because the Christmas season is right around the corner. Only one more Advent Sunday and then Christmas is upon us.

There is a lot which would prompt us to be joyful. So many wonderful people are stepping up and meeting the needs produced by this pandemic.

Gaudete, indeed!



HOPE



PEACE



JOY

COMMUNITY

THE SUNDAY OF JOY CHRISTMAS CONCERT TODAY

Join us today for **The Sunday of Joy**, a Christmas Concert featuring some of our talented parishioners, musicians, cantors and students (from both Sacred Heart School and Children's Ministry). The Concert will be available on our website for your viewing pleasure. Be sure to watch!

We realize this has been a tough year for everyone, and we wanted to bring you a little extra joy on Gaudette Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy. It's a time to rejoice that our Savior is coming! Christ will come again and burst into our world and our hearts.

It's also been a difficult year for Divine Mercy Parish. As you might suspect, we're behind in our collections. Not all of our parishioners are with us on Sundays, and our usual crowds at Christmas will be much smaller due to the pandemic. We're hoping that this Concert might also be an inspiration for everyone to make their Christmas donation to the Parish.

We'll hope you'll join us and celebrate the Sunday of Joy! There are many reasons to rejoice, despite the pandemic, and YOU are among the best. We rejoice because of our wonderful parishioners, and particularly those who have volunteered to help us reopen our churches for Mass. We could not do this without you! **THANK YOU!!**



OUTREACH

THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY ABOUNDS!!

While we are STILL collecting for St. Benedict the African through January 6th, you have graciously donated above and beyond our expectations for the **Great Gift Card Challenge!** You have succeeded in making the Christmas dreams come true for the parishioners of our sharing parishes during this pandemic year. We are truly grateful to you.

You can still participate by visiting our Christmas Sharing page on our website under Ministries/Outreach, where you can "sign up" for one or more gift cards for **St. Benedict the African**. [JUST CLICK HERE](#). Here's what to do:

- 1) Sign-up for a gift card on our website ([link above](#)) or call the parish office at 847-881-6664.
- 2) Purchase the gift card at your favorite store (in person or online)
- 3) Place gift card(s) in an envelope marked "Christmas Sharing St. Benedict" (Please include verification slips.)
- 4) Drop it at Mass, or the parish office at Sacred Heart Church, or send them via snail mail to: Divine Mercy Parish, 1077 Tower Rd., Winnetka, 60093, Attn: Christmas Sharing

DEADLINES:

St. Benedict the African will be accepted up until **Wednesday, January 6th**.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS MASSES & HOW TO WATCH FROM HOME

Here is our schedule of Christmas Masses. Reservations must be made for all Masses, and most are already full. Thank you for signing up early! This helps us tremendously in recruiting our volunteers, which help us bring you each Mass! For those few spots that remain, make your reservation as soon as possible by visiting our website at: (<https://www.divinemicynorthshore.org/christmas-mass-reservations.html>)

MASS SCHEDULE (**Availability status noted below is as of December 6th at NOON.**)

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

3:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church - FULL. To be livestreamed via **FACEBOOK**. You do NOT need a Facebook account to tune in. Visit: Facebook.com/divinemicynorthshore

3:00 p.m. Sacred Heart School Gym (Overflow Mass) FULL - attendees will view the Facebook Stream on televisions.

3:00 p.m. St. Philip Church - FEW SPOTS AVAILABLE. To be livestreamed on our **WEBSITE HOMEPAGE**.

3:00 p.m. St. Philip Church DRIVE-IN - SPOTS AVAILABLE. Attendees can tune in via smart phones or tablets to our website homepage or listen to the FM Radio transmission (station to be shared that day).
HOLY COMMUNION BROUGHT TO YOUR CAR

5:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church - FULL. To be livestreamed on our **FACEBOOK** page.

5:00 p.m. Sacred Heart School Gym (Overflow Mass) FULL - attendees will view the **FACEBOOK** stream on televisions.

5:00 p.m. St. Philip Church - FULL. To be livestreamed on our **WEBSITE HOMEPAGE**.

9:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church - FULL. To be livestreamed on our **WEBSITE HOMEPAGE**.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 a.m. St. Philip Church - SPOTS AVAILABLE. To be livestreamed on our **WEBSITE HOMEPAGE**.

10:30 a.m. Sacred Heart Church - FULL. To be livestreamed on our **WEBSITE HOMEPAGE**.

WEBSITE: www.divinemicynorthshore.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/divinemicynorthshore



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Would you like a Mass said for a loved one? Just call Megan Nolan at our office at 847-881-6664 or 847-446-0856, and she'll be able to help you. You can also email Megan Nolan at megan@divinemercynorthshore.org

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER

That each of us may proclaim the greatness of God through our actions of love and kindness to others, we pray to the Lord.

POPE FRANCIS ON INSTAGRAM

#Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Several of you have recently brought to our attention that your offering envelopes are not arriving by mail in a timely manner. We have discussed this matter both with Overt, the envelope printing and mailing service provider, and with our local mail carrier. At this point, we can only attribute the delays of inconsistency with the USPS. As an alternative to the traditional envelopes, we encourage you to sign up for on-line giving via Give Central. Please visit our website (click [here](#)) and do so today! It's easy, secure, environmentally-friendly, and reliable! Thank you for your support of our parish.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 14

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection,

agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49—a life short, but full.

REFLECTION

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message—like the gospel—is loud and clear: Don't—if you really want to live!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



5 BEHAVIORS TO KEEP US SAFE

As a member of
our community, I will ...

1. Wear a mask
2. Keep my distance
3. Wash and sanitize my hands
4. Stay home if I am sick
5. Get tested if I exhibit symptoms

... because protecting others
in our community is
my responsibility, too.

And finally...if you, or anyone in your family, tests positive, please let us know—especially if you have attended one of our Masses.

Thank you! And God bless all our medical professionals!

COMMUNITY

WANT TO BE IN THE KNOW? EMAIL US!

Given the current reality, the only way we can communicate with our parishioners is through email, our website and social media. You won't want to miss these, or other important information related to the gradual reopening of our churches.

So! If you're not receiving our e-blasts, get on our mailing list. They are also mobile-phone-friendly now, so please check them out! Please send Judy Pyke your email address, and she'll get you connected. You can email her at jpyke@divinemercynorthshore.org or call our temporary office number: **847-881-6664**. THANK YOU!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

JOIN THE VIRTUAL CAFÉ

Join fellow parishioners online on Sunday mornings to get to know each other better and share your thoughts on the homily or readings you heard at Mass. All conversation welcome! The group meets online every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m., so if you'd like to participate, contact Sue Lehocky at 847-881-6664 or slehocky@divinemercynorthshore.org and she'll put you on the Zoom call!

WORSHIP AIDS FOR MASS

In an effort to reduce costs at the parish during the pandemic, worship aids will no longer be printed. They will be found on our website, which you can download before you come to Mass or scan this QR code with your smart phone camera to access it at church or at home so that you can follow along.

NOTE: all three Masses will appear, so you'll need to scroll to the Mass you are attending.



FINANCE



**Scan the Code
to Donate!**

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS DONATION BEFORE YEAR END

Whether you'll join us for Mass in Church, the St. Philip parking lot, the Sacred Heart School Gym or your own living room in front of your Tree this Christmas, we graciously ask you to remember Divine Mercy Parish in your giving.

Your generosity helps us bring you the Mass each week, do the good work of the parish, support our outreach efforts and keep the lights on! We are grateful beyond measure for your support, particularly during this extraordinary year!

Merry Christmas and God Bless You!!

FINANCES AT A GLANCE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

Given the early publication date for this bulletin due to the holidays, we were unable to calculate donations for the week. Financial figures will be shared with you as soon as possible. Thank you.

If you are not an online donor and wish to sign up, please contact Cindy Atsaves in the parish office at cindyatsaves@divinemercynorthshore.org.

Thank you for your generosity to Divine Mercy Parish!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/PREP)

Our Confirmation Candidates Are Feeding the Homeless



The Confirmation candidates pack a sandwich, drink, fruit, snack and uplifting note in each Ziploc bag.



We delivered 196 lunches to Coalitions for the Homeless this past week. Five days a week, every week, they need 150 lunches dropped off, 50 at each of the three separate locations. It's a monumental volunteer effort. Many thanks go to all of our Confirmation candidates and their families, who carefully assembled five lunches and an inspirational note to help us meet our quota. Also to Claudia Heldring, above right, who has coordinated this entire effort, to catechist Dan Hagedorn, shown above left with daughter Kelly, who has helped deliver, and to Jenny Gallagher, who has also been a key part of the delivery team. Great work all!

Sunday Concert of Joy Link Coming Your Way

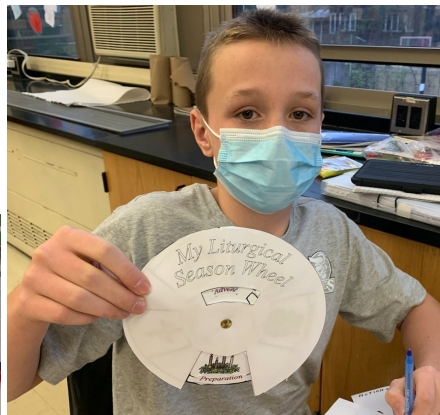
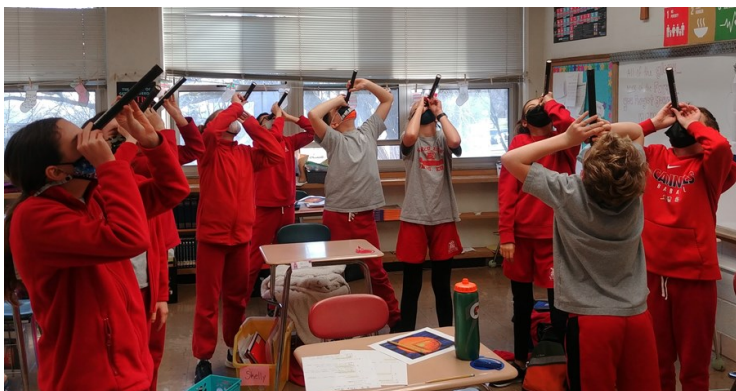
Each family will be sent a link to our special Sunday of Joy Concert today. This will be our session for December 13 and our online Christmas Celebration. Christmas Pageants are prohibited, but next year we will have a wonderful Pageant for our 3rd and 4th graders! The concert features some of our talented parishioners, musicians, school and Children's Ministry families. Also be on the lookout for a separate video, which will feature families singing and performing the carols of the season. Thank you to all the families who contributed to this video. It is sure to warm your heart and prepare you for the joy of Christmas!



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL!



The 6th grade is exploring the visible light spectrum. Here they are using spectroscopes to develop an understanding that white light is composed of all the different colors of light. The spectroscope can bend white light and divide it into its component colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.



In religion class our 8th graders are preparing for Christmas with a Liturgical Season Wheel.



8th grade has started their chemistry unit this trimester. We are not letting the absence of our science lab stop us from doing experiments. In this lab, students were part of a crime scene investigation; using their knowledge of physical and chemical properties of matter to determine which suspect left behind their signature powder at the crime scene.



1st grade is using tens and ones cards to play the Sandwich Game and compare numbers.



6th grade is learning about Ancient Egypt, and specifically mummification! They put their knowledge to use and mummified oranges in social studies using baking soda, salt, and cinnamon!

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

December 19, 2020

SACRED HEART CHURCH

5:00 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Dan Cassidy

December 20, 2020

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
CHURCH

8:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Dean Semmer

December 20, 2020

SACRED HEART CHURCH

10:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Dean Semmer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you now
as if you **were** already there
and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me
to be separated from you.

Amen.

MINISTERS OF CARE

Given the various restrictions of nursing homes in the State of Illinois, the constraints of established safety protocols of the Archdiocese, and the fact that the majority of our volunteers fall into the vulnerable category, home visits by Ministers of Care cannot be made at this time. If your loved one 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 or 847-881-6664. One of our priests will respond to your call.

PLEASE PRAY

For Those Who Are Sick

*The following people suffer from illness or chronic conditions.
They have asked for the prayers of our parish family.
Please remember them to the Lord.*

Mark Agnew, Jeannie Ambrose, Michael Anderson,
Irina Anikovich, Donald Blair, Elaine Boback, Dennis Braun,
Wendy Braun, John Dory, Lisa Franke,
Paul Greco, Benjamin Grillo, Jack Hogan, Mario Iturino,
Gina Quirk Lazicki, Ruth Martin, Beth O'Brien, and Lisa Zitella

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTOR SCHEDULE

December 19, 2020 Sacred Heart Church **5:00 p.m.**
Sam Fifer

December 20, 2020 St. Philip the Apostle Church **8:00 a.m.**
Michael Koberda

December 20, 2020 Sacred Heart Church **10:00 a.m.**
Dan Kubasiak

If you are interested in the ministry of Lector at either Sacred Heart or St. Philip the Apostle, please contact Ron Vanasdlen, via email rvanasdlen@divinemercynorthshore.org

If you are able to assist our Greeter ministry, please contact Michelle Wasielewski via email mwasielewski@divinemercynorthshore.org

No other ministers are being scheduled. If you get an email from Ministry Scheduler Pro, please disregard it.

For Those Who Have Died

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

Roberta Olshansky

Mary Deppe, Mother of Maria Deppe McNitt
Jack Ward, Father of Patty Becker

MASS INTENTIONS

Note that the Wednesday Mass currently is closed to the public. Only the Sacred Heart School students are allowed to attend. It may be viewed on our website homepage via livestream.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK AT BOTH SACRED HEART AND ST. PHILIP

MONDAY, December 14 (SH)

7:00 a.m. - Maureen Burke

TUESDAY, December 15

8:00 a.m. (SPA) - Helen Kane

WEDNESDAY, December 16 (SH)

8:30 a.m. -

THURSDAY, December 17 (SH)

7:00 a.m. -

FRIDAY, December 18 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. -

SATURDAY, December 19 (SH)

5:00 p.m. - Genevieve Conway

SUNDAY, December 20

8:00 a.m. (SPA) - Pat Doherty

10:00 a.m. (SH) - Parishioners of
Divine Mercy

THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY

All meetings at Divine Mercy Parish are currently suspended until further notice.

SACRAMENTS

Please call the Parish Office temporary number at 847-881-6664 for the most current information regarding Sacraments during this time.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered at both of our worship sites. Sacred Heart Church offers the Sacrament on Saturday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and at St. Philip the Apostle Church on Wednesday afternoons with Fr. Javier Del Castillo from 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. And there is no need to make a reservation! We remind everyone to wear a mask, and that you'll be greeted by someone from our reopening team.

Please know that if it has been a while since your last confession, "Do not be afraid!" (Matthew 14:27). *The priest will help guide you.*

A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. (Rite of Penance, no. 45)

DO YOU HAVE A BULLETIN SUBMISSION?

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

BULLETIN SPECS:

FONT STYLE: Corbel

FONT SIZE:

Headlines: 12 (ALL CAPS & BOLD)

Body text: 10

LINE SPACING:

Before and After Paragraphs: opt

Between Lines: 1sp

Avoid outlining text boxes, if you can.

Continue to create ads for special events like Nite Lites. We simply ask you incorporate the Corbel font style when you are able. Please submit all items to:

divinemercybulletins@gmail.com

DIVINE MERCY OFFICES

Given the constraints of the pandemic, our offices are currently closed. You can still reach us by calling our temporary office number at 847-881-6664.

You can also reach any staff member via email. You can find that directory on the next page.

Thank you for your understanding.

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

Making Disciples • Building Church • Serving Others

PARISH STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Steven M. Lanza, slanza@divinemergynorthshore.org

Associate Pastor - Rev. Dean Semmer, dsemmer@divinemergynorthshore.org

Resident - Rev. Daniel Cassidy, dcassidy@divinemergynorthshore.org

Deacon Mike McNulty, mimcnulty@divinemergynorthshore.org

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

Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu

Director of Communications - Judy Pyke, jpyke@divinemergynorthshore.org

Principal Sacred Heart School - Kristen Fink, kfink@shwschool.org

Director of Evangelization and Lifelong Formation - Sue Lehocky, slehocky@divinemergynorthshore.org

Director of Pastoral Care and Outreach - Maureen Valvassori, mvalvassori@divinemergynorthshore.org

Director of Liturgy & Music - Ron Vanasdlen, rvasdlen@divinemergynorthshore.org

Director of Operations - Michelle Wasielewski, mwasielewski@divinemergynorthshore.org

Finance Office - Cindy Atsaves, cindyatsaves@divinemergynorthshore.org

Coordinator of Children's Ministry - Kathy Handelman, khandelman@divinemergynorthshore.org

Administrative Assistant - Megan Nolan, megan@divinemergynorthshore.org