



DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

DECEMBER 27, 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



New Years Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve, December 31st

No Morning Mass

5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart

(Fr. Steve Lanza)

New Year's Day January 1st

9:00 a.m. at St. Philip the Apostle

(Fr. Dan Cassidy)

HAPPY NEWYEAR!

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

Wishes You A Blessed Christmas Season
and All the Hope, Peace, Joy & Love
Christ Brings To The World!

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

FAMILY

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Imagine that God himself grew up within a family. He had a mother and a foster-father. God himself experienced that basic cell of society, the family, and how critical it is for our growth and coming to maturity.

Family is absolutely critical in our lives, a key to who we will become as adults. Family helps mold and define us. At the same time, as we are maturing, we learn to go beyond family.

Check out this section from Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. In paragraph 87 – 89 of that encyclical, he writes -

Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfillment except “in the sincere gift of self to others” [the Pope is quoting the Second Vatican Council]. Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: “I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others” [here he quotes Gabriel Marcel]. No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. “Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when

we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails” [he’s quoting himself in an *Angelus* talk from 2019].

In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves toward others. Since we were made for love, in each one of us “a law of *ekstasis*” seems to operate: “the lover ‘goes outside’ the self to find a fuller existence in another” [quoting Karol Wojtyla before he was elected pope]. For this reason, [people have to take up the challenge of moving beyond themselves].

Nor can I reduce my life to relationships with a small group, even my own family; I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life. My relationship with those I respect has to take account of the fact that they do not live only for me, nor do I live only for them. Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us.

In a nutshell, Pope Francis is saying that while family is hugely important and critical, we all eventually go beyond the family unit to cultivate relationships and encounters with others. Love impels us to do so.

We are built by God to go beyond our own self. We find fulfillment in others.

Family is the first place we learn this lesson. But the lessons of love we learn within family are then applied beyond the boundaries of family.

May the Holy Family be a model of love, a love that keeps expanding ever outward in relationships and encounters that befriend, help and serve others!

Fr. Stan



THE GREAT GIFT CARD CHALLENGE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

In the midst of a pandemic our sharing parishes are facing great need. The parishioners of Divine Mercy did not disappoint!

Many thanks to all who were a part of this year's Christmas Sharing gift card collection. Over 200 gift cards were collected for our sharing parishes, St. Benedict the African and St. Columbanus, which exceeded our goal! Because of your wonderful generosity, the needs of many will be met this Christmas and all year long. God bless each of you!

While we are STILL collecting for St. Benedict the African through January 6th ([JUST CLICK HERE](#) and follow the instructions), you have graciously donated above and beyond our expectations for the **Great Gift Card Challenge!** We are truly grateful to you.

THANK YOU!



The Reason for the Season!

INTERESTED IN TECH?

We're looking for help with our livestream Masses. If you'd like to assist us by operating the cameras and audio, we'd happily train you!

Contact Michelle Wasielewski at 847-881-6664 or email her at: mwasielewski@divinemercynorthshore.org.

THE SUNDAY OF JOY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We hope you were able to join us for our Sunday of Joy Christmas Concert. If not, you can still watch it on our website. Just visit our homepage and scroll down or click [here](#).

We would like to thank all those who participated in the making of the video, especially Ron Vanasdlen, Tony Sarch, Jon Comstock, Kathleen Clarke, Bill Hague, Bob Snediker, Sofia and Anna Popovici, Kristin and Audrey Lolli, Isabel Hernandez, the Schachman Family, Faith Hamman, Nora and Riley Luzadder, Clara Manzano, Jenny Farney, Kevin Seimbor and Fr. Steve!

We are so grateful to those who took the time to visit our website to watch this wonderful concert, and even make a donation to the parish. We're truly grateful for your support! Merry Christmas to all! We couldn't do all that we do without you.

THANK YOU!!

Here is the text of Fr. Steve's Homily from the Sunday of Joy Christmas Concert & Prayer Service on December 13th

Thank you for tuning in! I hope you are enjoying these songs and singers. I hope that you allow the scripture and prayer of this video to speak to you about the true meaning of the Advent season we are in and the Christmas season we are about to celebrate.

In a word, it's all about generosity. God is extremely generous! He sends us a Savior, Jesus Christ, who saves us. He does this simply because God loves and cares for us.

I'd like to talk a little bit more about this, about generosity, but I realize that I'm speaking to two different age groups. I figure a lot of families are watching, in which case we've got kids watching and adults watching. So I'd like to say something to the kids first—and then I'd like to talk to

the adults.

Kids first. At the start of this concert, we lit the Advent wreath. Three candles to show that we are now in the third week of the season.

What does a candle do? Once it's lit, it doesn't hold back, it burns brightly and provides light! Have you noticed how many households are putting up lighted decorations both inside and outside these days?

Kids know that this pandemic is causing a lot of pain and anxiety. You may, yourself, be feeling anxious about the threat it represents.

Here's what you can do about it. Be a shining light! In your words and your actions, be bright and shiny. Say words that are kind to others, to your family, and to your friends and classmates. Make life brighter for them by what you say and what you do. **Act** kindly!

Maybe you're already doing this. Great! Keep it up! It makes a difference—and it mirrors the generosity of God himself who saves us for no other reason than that he loves us!

Parents and other adults who are watching, that message was also for you, but I have an additional concern that I'd like to share with you, referring to the same spirit of generosity.

Before the pandemic, our parish usually found itself behind budget in Sunday giving. This year, due to the pandemic, we are much **further** behind—about 30% further behind, like almost every other parish in the Archdiocese.

You hear that (30%) and think, well not so bad! However, when that gets translated into real dollars we are \$100,000 in the hole at this point in the fiscal year. To put that into perspective, here are four items from our budget:

1. excluding special projects backed by specified donors, and excluding the two capital campaigns, in any given year the parish spends close to \$300,000 to repair and replace aging infrastructure on our two campuses, whether that's parts for boilers, roofing tiles, plumbing, and so on—all stuff you don't normally see, and, by the way, this figure is nowhere near what we will end up spending **this year** due to the added COVID safety measures for disinfecting our churches and our school;

2. the annual subsidy which the parish provides to Sacred Heart School is around \$180,000 dollars;

3. the property and casualty insurance we owe each year to the Archdiocese (which is self-insured) comes to approximately \$150,000;

4. our combined annual utility costs total about \$225,000.

These four examples should be sufficient to explain why we need your help!

I know the people of this parish are generous. Generosity only happens when generous givers know there is a real need! I come to you hat-in-hand and ask for your sacrificial help—help that is definitely needed and help that will be definitely appreciated.

This is *Guadate* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. I know I always feel more joyful when I give to worthy causes. If you are so moved, you can either text the word CHRISTMAS to 847-865-9295, or use the QR Code at the bottom of your screen.

Whether you are young or older, may God bless you in this special season of giving!

May God look kindly on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death—and may he guide our feet into the way of peace, love and light!

Happy Advent! And Merry Christmas! Thank you so much!

ALPHA

JOIN US FOR ALPHA ONLINE

We invite you to take a break from scrolling and try Alpha, a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith.

What is Alpha? Alpha is an opportunity to explore the big questions of life. What is my purpose? Why is there suffering?

Who's it for? Absolutely anybody!

How does it work? Each session includes a short video followed by a chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and discuss in a small group. 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. It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

In normal times we'd love to invite you to meet together before each session for a meal. Sadly, we can't do that at the moment so you'll have to grab a cup of coffee or your preferred refreshment and join us online via Zoom! Don't worry about the technology – all you need is a computer (ideally with a camera), tablet or a smartphone.

We believe that Alpha is a key component of what the future holds for us as we build our new reality as Divine Mercy Parish. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know others who are interested in exploring questions of faith.

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Catholic or not...
Practicing or not...
Or simply curious.



**Pause Netflix.
Try Alpha.**



ALPHA AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH
STARTING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 7 P.M.
Location: The most comfortable spot in your home!
INTERESTED? Contact: Sue Lehocky at
slehocky@divinemercynorthshore.org
or call us at 847-881-6664 or 847-446-0856.

OUTREACH

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR EFFORTS CONTINUES!

In answering God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we are proud of Divine Mercy's efforts to do just that. Our partnership with Three Tarts and A Just Harvest will continue until May! Thank you to all those who so generously donated to this effort. Outreach such as this is only possible because of your generosity.

Parishioners who are part of our Love Your Neighbor Team continue to call, connect with, and assist other

parishioners, some since last April! Efforts to continue to help and support Connections for the Homeless, A Just Harvest Community Kitchen in Rogers Park, New Trier Township Food Pantry, Northfield Township Food Pantry, our sharing parishes (St. Benedict the African and St. Columbanus), Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy (the school of St. Columbanus) and more, are on-going!

Stay tuned for more information and opportunities in 2021! If you would like to become involved in our efforts,

or join the Love Your Neighbor Team, contact Maureen Valvassori, mvalvassori@divinemercynorthshore.org or call 847-881-6664.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

POPE FRANCIS ASKS FAMILIES TO PUT DOWN THEIR PHONES ON HOLY FAMILY FEAST

Note: The following article comes to us from the Catholic News Agency on the feast of the Holy Family in 2019.

* * *

On the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth Sunday, Pope Francis encouraged families to get off their cell phones and talk to one another. "In your family, do you know how to communicate with each other, or are you like those kids at the table -- each one has their own cell phone, chatting? In that table there is a silence as if they were at Mass, but they don't communicate with each other," Pope Francis said in his Angelus address Dec. 29.

"We need to retake communication within the family: parents, children, grandparents and siblings must communicate with each other," the

pope said. "This is your assignment for today for the feast of the Holy Family."

Pope Francis said that the Holy Family is a model for families today in "following the Gospel, the foundation of holiness in a family," as they prayed, worked, and communicated with each other.

"The Holy Family of Nazareth represents a choral response to the will of the Father. The three members of this exceptional family help each other to discover and carry out God's plan," he said.

"The family is a precious treasure: we must always support and protect it," the pope said. The Holy Family was "totally available to God's will," he said,



providing an example of obedience and openness for families today. The pope pointed to Mary's obedience to God at times when she did not fully understand God's plans for her. "Mary silently meditates, reflects and worships the divine initiative. Her presence at the foot of the cross consecrates this total availability," the pope said.

"As for Joseph, the Gospel does not bring us a single word: he does not speak, but acts by obeying," Francis added. An example of this was Joseph's trust in God's will as he fled with his family to Egypt. "Under the guidance of God, represented by the Angel, Joseph removes his family from the threats of Herod," he said. "The Holy Family is thus in solidarity with all the families of the world forced into exile, solidarity with all those who are forced to abandon their land because of repression, violence, war."

Pope Francis asked for prayers for the victims of a car bomb in Mogadishu, Somalia that killed over 70 people Dec. 28, and expressed his closeness to all family members mourning their loss. "Let us entrust to Mary, 'Queen of the family,' all the families of the world, especially those experiencing suffering or unease, and we invoke her maternal protection on them," Pope Francis said.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A note of thanks to the members of our Parish Council, who have begun the difficult work of strategic planning for the future of our parish. These are dedicated individuals, who care about our Catholic faith, the people of Divine Mercy, and a future to inspire us all. Next time you see one of these individuals, thank them for their service!

Tom Borders
Dona Carroll
Lisa Centner
Kathleen Clarke
Jim Dietz
Sam Fifer
Liz Harvey
Sue Lehocky
Judy Pyke
Patty Sanfilippo
Susan Seeberg
Cathy Stegich
Maureen Valvassori
Michelle Wasielewski
Fr. Steve Lanza, Pastor



COMMUNITY

DO YOU GET OUR DAILY (SHORT) EMAILS!

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, as they could include important information related to our parish and the Coronavirus..

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@divinemicernorthshore.org or call our temporary office number: **847-881-6664**. THANK YOU!

CONFESSIONS SUSPENSION AT ST. PHILIP REMINDER

Confessions have been suspended, **now until further notice**. Fr. Javier has been diagnosed by his physician as presumed positive. Once Fr. Javier is able to return, parishioners will be notified. THANK YOU!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

LOOKING FOR FELLOWSHIP?

Bring your favorite beverage and join us online on Sunday mornings. All are welcome as we share how we are doing and some spiritual reflection on something you may have heard at Mass (or elsewhere!).

We meet online Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for 30 minutes, beginning **NEXT WEEK**. If you'd like to participate contact Sue Lehocky at 847-881-6664 or slehocky@divinemicernorthshore.org and she'll put you on the Zoom call!



RESPECT LIFE PRAYER

That the family may become ever more the sanctuary of life, where all are welcomed as a gift rather than a burden, we pray to the Lord.

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.



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@divinemicernorthshore.org

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!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FINANCES AT A GLANCE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 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@divinemicernorthshore.org. If you wish to make a donation via a stock transfer, please contact Cindy as well.

Thank you for your generosity to Divine Mercy Parish!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/PREP)

The Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the human family unit, as well as the ultimate family unit: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The feast, not a solemnity, is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. The Feast of the Holy Family is intended to help us all recognize and celebrate our own family units.

Here is a prayer for today:

*Father in heaven, creator of all,
you ordered the earth to bring forth life,
and crowned its goodness
by creating the family of man.
In history's moment when all was ready
You sent your Son to dwell in time,
obedient to the laws of life in our world.
Teach us the sanctity of human love,
show us the value of family life,
and help us to live in peace with all men
that we may share in your life forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

Let's take a moment to celebrate our families and all the love and joy as well as work and commitment that comes from being in a family! On this special feast day, we say: God bless you all!





LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL!



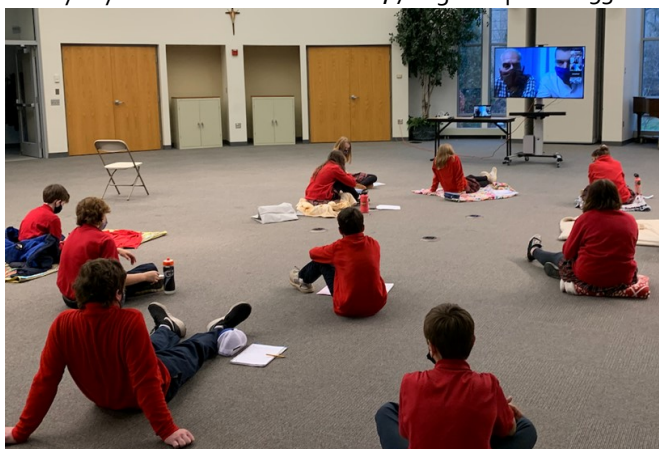
Pre-school students dressed in their "Sunday Best" are getting ready to make their Christmas video for Candles and Carols!



Kindergartners having fun and so happy to be able to play at school with friends!



7th grader's virtual field trip with a missionary in South Sudan! We learned about what it means to be a missionary, as well as what everyday life looks like. After that, 7th grade packed 53 blessings bags that will be distributed at a nearby soup kitchen!



Here's to a prosperous, healthy and Happiest of New Years! Bye Bye 2020!

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

January 2, 2021

SACRED HEART CHURCH

5:00 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Steve Lanza

January 3, 2021

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
CHURCH

8:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Steve Lanza

January 3, 2021

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTOR SCHEDULE

January 2, 2021 Sacred Heart Church 5:00 p.m.

Bill Hague

January 3, 2021 St. Philip the Apostle Church 8:00 a.m.

Bob Snediker

January 3, 2021 Sacred Heart Church 10:00 a.m.

Kathy Janega

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@divinemerlynorthshore.org

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

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

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, Valrie Doppke, John Dory, Lisa Franke, Paul Greco, Benjamin Grillo, Jack Hogan, Mario Iturino, Gina Quirk Lazicki, Ruth Martin, Beth O'Brien, Quinn Stepan, and Lisa Zitella

For Those Who Have Died

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

Dennis Benich, Brother of Annette Henik



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 28 (SH)

7:00 a.m. - Fr. Jack Kilgallen

TUESDAY, December 29

8:00 a.m. (SPA) - Global Unbound
Community

WEDNESDAY, December 30

No School / No Mass

THURSDAY, December 31 (SH)

5:00 p.m. -

FRIDAY, January 1 (SPA)

9:00 a.m. -
Parishioners of Divine Mercy

SATURDAY, January 2 (SH)

5:00 p.m. - Parishioners of Divine
Mercy

SUNDAY, January 3

8:00 a.m. (SPA) - Fr. George Klein

10:00 a.m. (SH) - John Conley

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:
divinemercurybulletins@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