

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

January 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“They were
overjoyed at
seeing the
star, and on
entering the house
they saw the child
with Mary his
mother.”
Matthew 2:10-11



Divine Mercy Parish
Wishes You A Very Happy New Year!

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

SHOW THE WHOLE WORLD

This weekend we are still in the Christmas season as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. The word *epiphany* means "showing" or "manifestation." The point of the Epiphany, with its gospel passage of the magi arriving in Bethlehem from far away, is to say that Jesus is meant for the world, for everyone.

This leads me to our parish vision statement: *Divine Mercy Parish is a welcoming community that inspires disciples of Jesus to share God's love and to transform the world.* Nothing small about this vision! We disciples of Jesus aim to transform the entire world. Many of you already know that for years now there have been dedicated parishioners who have reached out to meet the needs of others in far flung places, in Haiti, Tanzania and Sri Lanka. The Good News of Jesus Christ cannot be contained or held back! That lovely news of compassion and care goes out to all the world! We have a hand in spreading that Good News.

We pursue the Good News close to home and far abroad. The mission of Christ urges us to stay focused and stay busy.

The world needs us more than ever. God bless all the committed disciples and followers of Jesus in this beautiful parish who work so hard to bring and to become Good News to others.

TRADITIONAL VIEW OF CHRIST'S MISSION

One of the hallmarks of the Catholic Church is its rich tradition that has evolved over the centuries. This makes for a deep theology and a fertile practice of the faith.

As I think on this Epiphany of the universal mission of salvation and our role in it, I am reminded by the very name of our parish "Divine Mercy" of the tradition of the Catholic Church in clearly enunciating the seven Corporal

Works of Mercy, those being:

1. feed the hungry
2. give drink to the thirsty
3. clothe the naked
4. shelter the homeless
5. visit the sick
6. visit the imprisoned
7. bury the dead.

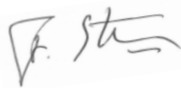
Our Catholic tradition also offers us another list, the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy, those being:

1. counsel the doubtful
2. instruct the ignorant
3. admonish the sinner
4. comfort the sorrowful
5. forgive injuries
6. bear wrongs patiently
7. pray for the living and the dead.

As Jesus says in his parable about the last judgment, "Whatever you did to one of these least . . . of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). These fourteen items from our tradition help us to focus on "the least."

Fourteen concrete practices that if we attend to them we will be well on our way to living up to the name of our parish as we pursue the mission of Christ in the world.

Happy Epiphany!



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! THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH!



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.

Alpha Online

Join Us and Invite a Friend!

Have you experienced Alpha yet?

If not, now's your chance! Join us from the comfort of your own home and invite a friend!

WHEN: Monday nights, beginning February 1st from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Come to the first session and "see" what you think. No obligation!

WHERE: Grab your favorite beverage and snack and join us from home!

TO REGISTER: Ready to join us? Visit our website to register: www.divinemercynorthshore.org/alpha



Want to Learn More Before You Attend?

To help you get a better sense of what Alpha is, we have more information below. [Visit our website for more resources and video testimonials](#). If still have questions, feel free to email [Sue Lehocky](mailto:slehocky@divinemercynorthshore.org) at slehocky@divinemercynorthshore.org or call 847-881-6664.

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! it is for anyone at any point in life – no matter what you believe or don't believe. Those who attend Alpha come from all backgrounds, religions, ages, and viewpoints. Whether you consider yourself a skeptic, curious about faith, a growing Christ-follower, or a life-long Christian, Alpha is a place to interact with others and learn from different perspectives. Alpha is where you can grow in your understanding and knowledge of who God is and what the Bible communicates about His purpose for all of us.

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. So grab your preferred refreshment and join us online via Zoom!

We Hope to See You There!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR GREETERS AND USHERS!

Many thanks to all of our greeters and ushers that help us host you for Masses and confessions. They are the devoted parishioners who greet you at the door, share hand sanitizer with you, take your non-contact temperature, and guide you to your seat, Holy Communion and the exit! Special thanks to those who gave so generously of their time for the Christmas Masses at St. Philip the Apostle Church, Sacred Heart Church and the Sacred Heart School Gym. We could not invite people to attend Mass at Divine Mercy without your help. You are essential to our efforts during this pandemic, and we are truly grateful for you!

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



CHRISTMAS IMAGES

Just a few scenes of Christmas at Divine Mercy Parish!



THE SUNDAY OF JOY 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 Vanasden, 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!

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@divinemercynorthshore.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. 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!



RESPECT LIFE PRAYER

That the Manifestation of the glory of Christ will enable all nations to also recognize the sanctity of each and every human life, 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@divinemercynorthshore.org

FINANCE



Scan the Code to Donate!

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS DONATION

Whether you joined 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! Happy New Year and God Bless You!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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. **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!

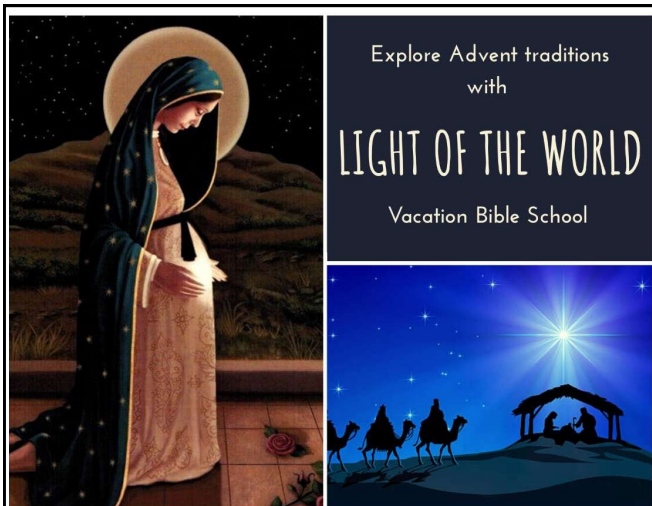
Happy New Year to Our Families!



Welcome Back Family Mass
Father Dan Cassidy will celebrate this special Mass at 10 a.m. on
Sunday, January 24, 2021
St. Philip the Apostle Church
and Parking Lot
1962 Old Willow Road
Northfield, IL 60093

We will have a sign up for those who wish to be in the church and those who wish to be in the parking lot. Families will pick up our Unit Three Pflaum Gospel Weekly curriculum materials for all students (PK-7). Weather permitting, treats may be served! Don't miss this special Mass designed for our families.

All are welcome!



Thank you to all of our families who joined us at the Light of the World Vacation Bible School. It was wonderful to share the last days of Advent together, to learn about St. Nicholas, St. Mary and St. Elizabeth, and Mary's parents, Ann and Joachim.

Keep singing our songs:
He is the light, light, light
Light of the world and He shines, shines,
shines for all to see!

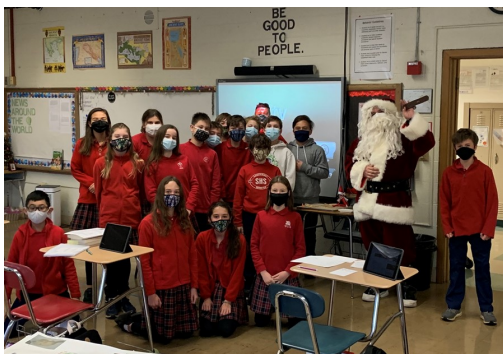
Upcoming Dates

January 24, 2021 — 10 a.m. Family Mass
January 31, 2021 — Movie Sunday, details to follow
February 7, 2021 — 9 a.m. Sessions resume; 8th grade in person if possible
February 14, 2021 — Service Sunday, details to follow
February 21, 2021 — Regular session; 2nd grade in person if possible
February 28, 2021 — No sessions
March 7, 2021 — Regular session; 8th grade in person, special Confirmation speaker
March 14, 2021 — Regular session; 7th grade special session in person, if possible
March 21, 2021 — Regular session; 2nd grade in person if possible
March 28, 2021 — No session, Spring Break
April 4, 2021 — No session, Easter



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL!

A look back at Christmas 2020...



*May the peace of the Lord
be with you in 2021!*

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

January 9, 2021

SACRED HEART CHURCH

5:00 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Dean Semmer

January 10, 2021

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
CHURCH

8:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Steven Lanza

January 10, 2021

SACRED HEART CHURCH

10:00 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Steven Lanza

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 9, 2021 Sacred Heart Church 5:00 p.m.

Ludy Mariano

January 10, 2021 St. Philip the Apostle Church 8:00 a.m.

Michael Koberda

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

Cathy Lehman

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.

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.

James Stewart, Nephew of Renee Richart



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, January 4 (SH)

7:00 a.m. -

TUESDAY, January 5 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. - Jack Gustefson

WEDNESDAY, January 6

No School / No Mass

THURSDAY, January 7 (SH)

7:00 a.m. - Mary Brault and Theresa Schmid

FRIDAY, January 8 (SPA)

8:00 a.m. - Fr. George Klein

SATURDAY, January 9 (SH)

5:00 p.m. - Denis A. Dunne

SUNDAY, January 10

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

10:00 a.m. (SH) - Diane McIntosh

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, rvanasdlen@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