

+ Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin+

Jesus, I Trust in You!

Divine Mercy Rectory, 2267 Main St., (413) 283-6030

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, (413) 283-4320

Three Rivers, Mass.

Rev. Stefan Niemczyk, pastor

Pastoral Staff:

Parish Council president: John Yurkunas

Religious Education director: Jean Brigham

Organists: Mark Narreau, Mary Besko

Secretary: Lydia McKee

Sacristans/bulletin: Michael Wostena, Maryann Wostena

Custodian: John Dziedzic

Office hours: Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email address: stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com

Website: www.churchofdivinemercury.org

Confessions: Sat, 3:00 p.m. (also before daily Mass)

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the rectory to make arrangements

Schedule of Holy Masses:

The Lord's Day ---

Vigil on Sat., 4:00, 5:15 p.m.

Sun., 8:00 a.m. (Polish), 9:30 a.m.

Daily (except Tues.), 7:00 a.m.

Tues., 5:30 p.m. Miraculous Medal Novena

Holydays: as announced

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wed., 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sat., 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sick calls: anytime

New, But Rich in Tradition:

A Brief Overview of Divine Mercy Parish

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish was founded in 1905 to serve the needs of Polish immigrants. **St. Adalbert Parish**, Bondsville, began as a mission of Sts. Peter & Paul in 1910, was erected a parish in its own right in 1917, and closed in 2004. **St. Anne Parish** was founded in 1882 to serve the needs of French Canadian immigrants. By a decree of the Bishop of Springfield issued on Nov. 23, 2009, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Anne were merged to form **Divine Mercy Parish**. With its combination of a typical New England exterior and a beautiful Baroque interior, Sts. Peter & Paul Church is the designated worship place for Divine Mercy.

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent

(Roman Rite, ordinary & extraordinary forms)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 2 No. 9 / March 1, 2015

Telephone Numbers: RECTORY (283-6030) Mark Narreau (583-8541) Jean Brigham (283-4232)
The **Parish Bulletin** is currently in transition. Some issues, or parts, may not be available online until further notice. *Thank you for your understanding.* Items should be submitted **two weeks** before publication in the bulletin (e.g., items for Dec. 21 should be submitted by Dec. 7). *Thank you!* All submitted items are subject to editorial discretion and may or may not be used.

The Most Blessed Sacrament ~ ~ ~

The Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved in our church, located in the tabernacle on the High Altar, beneath the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. We ask that you maintain a respectful silence when you are in the church. This is especially important before and after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Your reverent attitude is not only an example for all, but is respectful of those who are praying. *Thank you!*

Parish Events This Week in March

Sun., March 1st

Religious Education classes, grades 6-10, 10:30 a.m., parish hall
Gorzkie Zale / Lenten Lamentations & Benediction – 2:00 p.m., church
Chalice of Strength Prayers for Priests & Vocations, 4:00 p.m., church

Mon., March 2nd

Rosary for World Peace, 4:00 p.m., church (*weather permitting, as this winter goes!*)

Wed., March 4th

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:00 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe room.

Fri., March 6th

Stations of the Cross – 6:00 p.m., followed by Holy Mass.

Sat., March 7st

Religious Education classes, grades K-5, 9:00 a.m., parish hall.
Confessions, beginning at 2:00 p.m., church
Men's Guild CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER, 6 p.m., social; 6:30 p.m., dinner, parish hall

Mother of Mary Prayer Force

If anyone would like their intentions prayed for by a dedicated group of parishioners, please email them to jmjdrr2007@yahoo.com. We have a network of prayer warriors who will pray for you.

Apostles of Prayer

If you're requesting prayers for anyone or you'd like to join the Prayer Line, please call Cindy Leveillee @ 283-7836.

Palmer Food Share

Please continue to assist with your donations to the Food Share program. You may drop off donations in the baskets located in the church. *Thank you for your generosity!*

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you have questions, or are considering joining our parish, *you are most welcome!* Please see Father after Mass or contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Masses & Devotions This Week

Praised be Jesus Christ! Niech bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Laudetur Iesus Christus!

Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. +Mary Bolow – int. of her son Randy
+Shirley Morton – int. of Claire & Sue Robello
5:15 p.m. +deceased members of the Monat family – int. of the family
+Robert, Donald, Roger, Richard & Ronald Bigos – int. of the family

March 1 Sunday ~ SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Wiel, Ks. Leonard Chrobot – od Michael i Maryann Wostena
9:30 a.m. for the parishioners
2:00 p.m. **Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations & Benediction**

2. Monday ~ Lenten feria

7:00 a.m. +Alice Marhelewicz – int. of Steve & Diane

3. Tuesday ~ St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Mary Jones – int. of her sister Theresa Sousa

4. Wednesday ~ St. Casimir, prince

7:00 a.m. +Dennis Morin – int. of his Aunt Rita Weinstein

5. Thursday ~ Lenten feria

7:00 a.m. +Stefan & Sallie Rosinski – int. of their family

6. Friday ~ Lenten feria

7:00 a.m. +Casimir Romaniak – int. of his family
6p.m. **Stations of the Cross, & Mass:** +Rosemary Wojtowicz – int. of Diane Pikul

7. Saturday ~ Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs

7:00 a.m. for living & +deceased members of the Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality,
Vigil of Sunday / Group of Alice Losaw

4:00 p.m. +Alice Pietrewicz – int. of Cindy Leveillee
+Helen Izyk, anniversary – int. of her daughter, son, & family
5:15 p.m. +Chester Majka – int. of Chris & Alice Bukowski & family
+Lawrence & Marie Roberts – int. of their family

8. Sunday ~ THIRD SUNDAY in LENT

8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Kazimierz i Jozefa Wasiuk od Leokadja z rodzine
9:30 a.m. +Cecelia Matera – int. of George Motyka
+Delphia & Marie Legare – int. of daughter Jeannette
2:00 p.m. **Gorzkie Zale / Bitter Lamentations & Benediction**

PRAY FOR PRIESTS/DEACONS ~ Each day of the month is set aside to pray for a specific priest or deacon. *Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bishop Mitchell Rozanski | Fr. Richard Florek | Fr. Steven Montesanti | Fr. Anthony Nockunas |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| Fr. Warren Mitchell | Fr. John Salatino | Bishop Emeritus Timothy McDonnell | |

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Please refer to the front cover for the hours of Adoration.

Since 1996, our parish has been **blessed to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the Adoration of the faithful**. However, **the Blessed Sacrament cannot be exposed in the monstrance on the altar unless one is willing to sacrifice one (1) hour. *Will you be that person?? Time spent with God is never time wasted!*** If you would like to substitute or commit to a specific hour in this important ministry of prayer, **please contact Diana Roth @ 283-8709. We need your help. *God is never outdone in generosity!***

School of Religious Education *NEWS*

Regular classes meet each Saturday and Sunday morning. Please refer to calendar on page 2 for times and location.

CANCELLATION REMINDER: Please check WWLP, Channel 22 or www.wwlp.com for announcements in case of winter weather cancellation of CCD classes.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY ON MONDAYS

The **Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality** continues to pray the **Rosary on each Monday at 4:00 p.m.** in church (as weather permits). Please come and pray for world peace and the protection for our citizens and nation. ***All are welcome!***

Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us!

Sign of Peace This is an *optional* gesture at every Mass. The Congregation for Divine Worship has recently called for the congregation to act with simplicity and more restraint when exchanging peace. For example, *a handshake is not obligatory.* In these cold months, it's also more practical **to prevent the spread of cold and other germs** with a simple and sufficient nod of the head, a smile or a whispered "peace to you."

MASSES, ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ITEMS FOR BULLETIN

As we prepare for more transitions with our weekly *Parish Bulletin*, we ask that any items for publication be submitted **TWO WEEKS before the desired Sunday date.** (e.g., an item desired to appear in a Jan. 25th issue, should be submitted no later than Jan. 11th). Likewise for **Mass intentions: *Please be considerate and plan the date you would like a Mass offered well in advance. Your understanding is greatly appreciated!***

Donations to the Parish

*The Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donations: **Bog Zaplac!***
\$100 for the Paschal Candle **in loving memory of +Frank Miskiewicz** from wife Barbara
In loving memory of +Stanley Pawlowski, 20th anniversary ~~~
To the General Fund – \$100 from his daughter Joan Pawlowski
In loving memory of +Antonio Silva ~~~
To the General Fund – \$40 from Ed Noonan, Noonan Energy Corp.
To the General Fund – \$100 In thanksgiving for blessings received
In loving memory of +Blanche Wostena ~~~
To the Seminarian Fund – \$25 from Julie & Carol Mastalerz

STS. PETER & PAUL MEN'S GUILD NEWS

Dinner: The Men's Guild will host a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner **next Sat., March 7th** in the parish hall. Social at 6 p.m., dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$10, adults; \$5, children under 12. For tickets, contact Fred Orszulak @ 283-5620 or (413) 427-9266, or Tom Losaw @ 283-4688.

Meeting: The Men's Guild will hold its monthly meeting on **Wed., March 11th at 6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall. Current members are urged to attend; prospective members are invited. Membership is open to all men of the parish, including young men. *Come, be a part of this vibrant and uplifting organization.*

2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)**, the annual exercise in charity of the Diocese of Springfield since 1959 (previously known as "*Catholic Charities*" and "*Catholic Stewardship Appeal*" has begun, as in the last few years, with the Lenten Season. Contribution forms have been mailed to parishioners. Please be generous to the ACA which provides services for so many diocesan programs and persons of genuine need.

((((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

Trip to Ireland

Rev. Gary Dailey & Rev. Matthew Alcombright are leading a trip to Ireland, **Aug. 7-18, 2015**. This 12 day pilgrimage will take you to castles, cathedrals, stunning cliffs and landscapes, abbeys, horse and carriage rides through Killarney National Park, Guinness Storehouse, fine Irish whiskey, Inis Mor Island cruise, Marian shrine of Knock & more. Cost: \$3295. **Information night: Wed., Mar. 4** at 6 p.m., Holy Spirit Chapel at St. Michael's Cathedral, 254 State St., Springfield. For more information, contact Stacy Dibbern @ (413) 452-0670 or visit www.johnpaultours.com/springfield.

((((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

Palmer United Booster Club

Palmer United Booster Club is having its 4th Annual Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip on **Sat., March 28th** departing Palmer High School at approx. 2:30 p.m.; return to PHS at 11:30 p.m. At the casino from 4 to 10 p.m. Cost: \$30 per person, inc. bus trip with \$15 food voucher & \$15 betting voucher provided upon arrival at the casino. Food & beverages allowed on the bus. You must be 21 and over to attend.

Contact Kris Methe @ (413) 537-4240 to reserve a seat early. Check payable to: Palmer United Boosters Club (or PUB Club); mail: Kris Methe, 65 Shearer St., Palmer, MA 01069.

Monastic Experience Weekends for Women

Each year, the Benedictine Nuns of St. Scholastic Priory in Petersham, Mass. Hold **Monastic Experience Weekends** in order that **young women** may see their life "from the inside," and gain useful knowledge of **how to discern a vocation**. Women participate in the daily balance of prayer, work and study, and have opportunity to speak to others who have been called to the **contemplative way of life**.

Weekends are offered to women ages 18-40, and this year will be held on **March 13-15, June 19-21, and October 9-11**. For more information, please contact: Sister Mary Frances, OSB, St. Scholastica Priory, 271 North Main St., Petersham, MA 01366; smfwynn@aol.com / www.stscholasticapriory.org. / (978)-724-3213.

"Spring" (?) Ahead.....

Yes, as strange as it may seem in this very harsh winter, the government would have us believe it's "almost spring" by mandating **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME to begin on March 8th**. *Be sure to move your clocks ahead one hour (and thereby lose an hour of sleep and the morning daylight!).*

Prayer after Communion ~ Second Sunday in Lent

Let us pray. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to You, O Lord, for allowing us while on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BASICS of OUR CATHOLIC FAITH ~ 4

from: The COMPENDIUM of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

17. What is the relationship between Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium?

Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium are so closely united with each other that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

18. Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?

Because God Himself is the author of Sacred Scripture. For this reason it is said to be inspired and to teach without error those truths which are necessary for our salvation. The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors who wrote what He wanted to teach us. **The Christian faith, however, is not a “religion of the Book,” but of the Word of God---“not a written and mute word, but incarnate and living”** (Saint Bernard of Clairvaux)

19. How is Sacred Scripture to be read?

Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of the Magisterium of the Church according to three criteria: (1) it must be read with attention to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture; (2) it must be read within the Living Tradition of the Church; (3) it must be read with attention to the analogy of the faith, that is, the inner harmony which exists among the truths of the faith themselves.

20. What is the *Canon* of Scripture?

The *Canon* of Scripture is the complete list of the sacred writings which the Church has come to recognize through Apostolic Tradition. The *Canon* **consists of 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New Testament.**

21. What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?

Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true Word of God. All of the books of the Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy of God’s saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Savior of the Universe.

22. What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?

The New Testament, whose central object is Jesus Christ, conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation. Within the New Testament the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are the principle witness to the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, they hold a unique place in the Church.

Fasting and Abstinence ~ Regulations for the Season of Lent

The Church has specified certain forms of penance, both to ensure that the Catholic will do something, as required by divine law, while making it easy for Catholics to fulfill the obligation. Thus, the 1983 Code of Canon Law specifies the obligations of Latin Rite Catholics [Easter Rite Catholics have their own penitential practices as specified by the Code of Canons for the Eastern Churches].

- Canon 1250 ~ All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.
- Canon 1251 ~ Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conferences of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abstinence – The law of abstinence requires a **Catholic, 14 years of age until death, to abstain from eating meat on Fridays** in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. **All the Fridays of Lent are obligatory days of abstinence** as decreed by the U.S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops [Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products, e.g., margarine and gelatin which don't have meat taste.]

Fasting – The law of fasting requires a **Catholic from the 18th birthday (Canon 97) to the 59th birthday** (i.e., the beginning of the 60th year), a year which will be completed on the 60th birthday) to **reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals** which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. **Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** [The fast is broken by eating meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk). Alcoholic beverages do not break the fast; however, they seem to be contrary to the spirit of doing penance.]

Aside from these minimum penitential requirements, **Catholics are encouraged to impose some personal penance on themselves at other times.** It could be modeled after abstinence and fasting. A person could, for example, multiply the number of days they abstain. Some people give up meat entirely. Similarly, one could multiply the number of days that one fasted. Also, freely chosen fasting could consist in giving up something one enjoys, e.g., candy, soft drinks, smoking, video games, constant use of the internet or texting, etc.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence besides those outside the age limits, include those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need. When in doubt, check with your confessor.

Use this for March, 2015.....

The YEAR of CONSECRATED LIFE

Following the customs of his predecessors, most recently **Pope Benedict XVI** who declared the *Year of St. Paul, the Year for Priests, and the Year of Faith* during his pontificate, **Pope Francis** has declared a *Year of Consecrated Life*. This special time, running **from Nov. 29, 2014 to Feb. 2, 2016**, will occur mostly in 2015, which is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. The *Year of Consecrated Life* celebrates the contributions made to the Church and the world by the various men's and women's religious Orders, congregations, and institutes throughout the world. Although religious life among older, established communities is on the decline, there are signs of renewal with the birth of newer communities and *authentic* renewal among some "senior" congregations (e.g., Sisters of Life, Dominicans Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Nashville Dominicans, Redemptorists), proving that consecrated life will always have a place in the Church. Consecrated life is a sign for all God's faithful of the life of the world to come in eternity.

~ Faith ~

"What is meant by faith? It is to feel in good earnest that we are creatures of God; it is a practical perception of the unseen world; it is to understand that this world is not enough for our happiness, to look beyond it on towards God, to realize His presence, to wait upon Him, to endeavor to learn and to do His will, and to seek our good from Him."

-Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-1890), beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI

"Repent"

~A beautiful prayer for Lent~

My Lord, Jesus, behold me defiled by sin. Again I have stained the holy garment of grace in my soul that your blood has cleansed so often. O, Father of Mercy, hear my prayer. Give me a true spirit of penance that through the humble supplication of a contrite heart I may again receive pardon.

Since my last confession I have fallen more frequently than usual. My Jesus, I have gone back. But do not forsake me, though I richly deserve to be rejected as obstinate and incorrigible. Behold me prostrate before you, O my God. My sinfulness weighs me down. Alas, Jesus my God and Savior, I dare not raise my eyes to you. How can I who have so often violated my past resolves presume to ask pardon again?

O my soul, crushed by the load of sin, take courage; your Redeemer will console you in your desolation. Reject me not, though I have miserably broken my promise of amendment. Cast not off your wretched child or I shall be forever lost. From my heart I grieve for having offended you. O holy Mother of God, my guardian angel, my holy patrons, intercede for me with my Judge and obtain for me the pardon of my sins. O Jesus, grant me a true spirit of penance. My Jesus, have mercy on me.

~**Saint John Neumann (+1860), first American male saint, canonized in 1977**

Bishop Rozanski's Tour to *World Youth Day* 2016

Accompanied by Fr. Piotr Calik, Bishop Rozanski will lead a tour to World Youth Day departing on **July 22, 2016** and returning on Aug. 3. The tour will include visits to Czestochowa, Auschwitz and Zakopane....several sites that were important in the life of Pope Saint John Paul II. An information session will be held on **Wed., Feb. 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Bishop Marshall Center, Springfield. For more details, call Stacy Dibbern @ (413) 452-0670 or email stacy.dibbern@diospringfield.org

Irish Cultural Center

Irish language classes from the Irish Cultural Center and Elms College start the week of Jan. 19, including a brand new beginner's class with no prior study required. Also offered are second semester introduction and intermediate classes, as well as a Novice class for credit. For class times, cost & more information on enrolling, call Ellen Gallivan @ (413) 265-2537 or visit www.ElmsIrishCenter.org

