

# DIVINE MERCY PARISH

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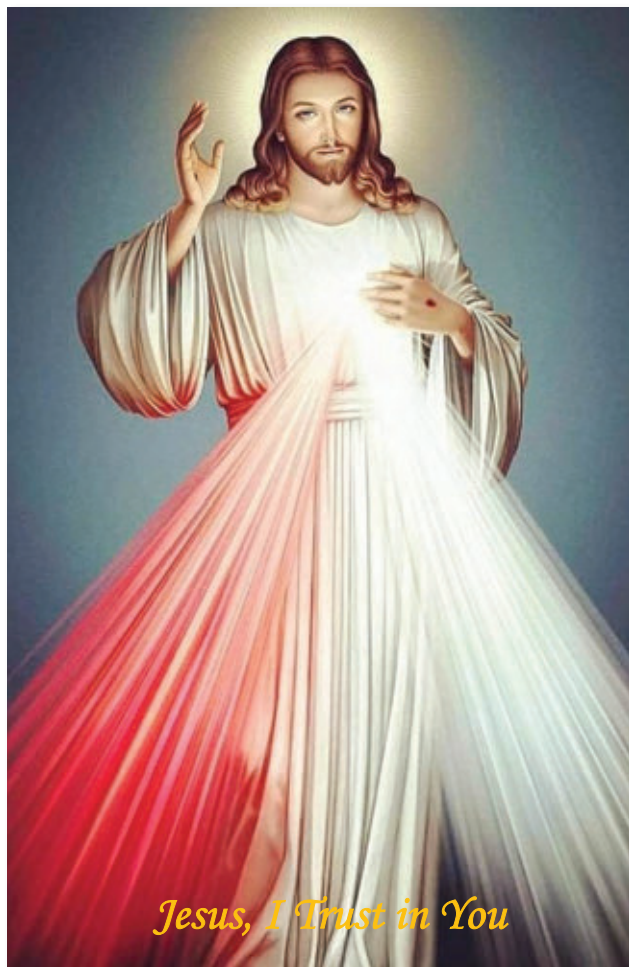
232 Central Avenue, Rahway NJ 07065

<https://www.divinemercyrahway.church>



*"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

*Matthew 4:46*



*The Perfect Prayer in time of Covid19*

*Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.  
Amen.*

### *New Mass Schedule*

<b>Weekday</b>	12:00 pm Monday to Friday
<b>Martes</b>	7:00 pm Misa en Español
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am, 4:00 pm (Vigil Mass)
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm Misa en Español
<b>Holydays</b>	6:00 pm (Vigil Mass) 12:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm Misa en Español

**Very Rev. Alexander T. Cruz, VF**  
*Pastor*, extn 103

*Email:*fr.alex@divinemercyrahway.church

**Rev. Jozef Krajnak, Ph.D.**  
*Resident Priest*, extn 104

*Email:*frjozef63@divinemercyrahway.church

**Joseph Keefe (Trustee)**  
**Arlene Mione (Trustees)**

*First Sunday of Lent*

*February 21, 2021*

### **Parish Membership**

Our members may come from different origins but we are one in faith, in our love and devotion to the merciful Heart of Jesus. Everyone is welcome to join our growing community. Please email or visit our office to register.

### **Parish Office/Rectory**

**Hours:** Mon to Fri, 9 am - 3 pm

**Email:**

[office@divinemercyrahway.church](mailto:office@divinemercyrahway.church)

Tel (732)388-0082, (732)388-0083

CCD (732)382-0004

Fax (732) 382-4784

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

4:00 pm (V) † George Lussa

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21***First Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am † Anthony Robinson

9:30 am † Maritez Serdena

11:00 am (FBL) † Al Knox

12:30 pm (SP, FBL) † John Reitemeyer

5:00 pm (F) † Niceta Hernandez

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22***Chair of Saint Peter*

12:00 pm People of the Parish

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23***Feast of Saint Polycarp*

12:00 pm † Mary Jane Mulaney (Eternal Repose)

7:00 pm (SP) Carlos & Maria Bonilla  
(Wedding Anniversary)**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

12:00 pm † Marcelina P. Diego

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

12:00 pm † Mary Jane Mulaney (Eternal Repose)

7:00 pm (SP) † Ron W. Carthy (Death Anniversary)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

12:00 pm † Jay Jay Reyes

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

9:00 am Marla Marquez (Thanksgiving)

4:00 pm (V) † Arline T. Rooney

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

8:00 am † Elizabeth McCarty (Death Anniversary)

9:30 am † Joseph &amp; Ethel Fech

11:00 am (FBL) Joseph Manzano Marron (Birthday)

12:30 pm (SP, FBL) † Paulina Rivas

**Legend:** (V) Vigil Mass, (SP) Spanish Mass, (F) Filipino Mass,  
(FBL) Facebook Livestreamed Mass @ the parish

**FB page** [Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway NJ](https://www.facebook.com/divinemercyrahway)

**MASS INTENTIONS ONLINE**

Mass offerings and available dates for mass intentions are now visible at <https://divinemercyrahway.church/mass-intentions>. Credit cards and bank transfers are accepted mode of payments for mass offering. You can still visit the parish office from 9am to 3pm, Mon to Fri.

**THE INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER for FEBRUARY**

*"Violence Against Women"*

*We pray for women who are victims of violence, that maybe protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.*

**THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY****SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

7:00 PM RCIA English Class (104)

7:00 PM Guadalupe (Church)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

7:00 PM John XXIII (Church)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

7:00 PM BLD (Church)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

9:30 AM Lenten Retreat (Spanish)

12:00 PM Baptism Noah Michael Ortiz

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)

Check Events & News @ <https://divinemercyrahway.church>

**Prayer to Saint Joseph**  
(Prayer after the rosary)

To you, O blessed Joseph,  
do we come in our tribulation,  
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,  
we confidently invoke your patronage also.  
Through that charity which bound you  
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God  
and through the paternal love  
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,  
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance  
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,  
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O  
most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,  
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;  
O most loving father, ward off from us  
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;  
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us  
and from heaven assist us in our struggle  
with the power of darkness.  
As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,  
so now protect God's Holy Church  
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;  
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,  
so that, supported by your example and your aid,  
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.  
Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2021 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both **Fast and Abstinence** during Lent are ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY. If possible the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday Night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and the death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully & to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
2. On a day of Fast, only **one(1) full meal** is permitted, and **two (2) smaller meals**, which, **if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**
3. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.
4. On the day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence
5. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is serious obligation.
6. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual, may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self denial as penance.
7. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 21 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 30, 2021.

\* Canon 920; *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

**Baptism**

*Friends, let's welcome and pray for the newly baptized of our parish community James Samuel Sotomayor.*



Please remember to include our parish in your prayers. Everyone can still send weekly offerings to our Parish by signing up at Parish Giving online. It is fast, secure and easy. Thank you and be safe. God bless.

- **HOSPITAL VISITS**

For the spiritual needs of your sick family members, please call our hospital Chaplain, Fr. Jozef Krajnak Ph.D. at 732-877-6835.

- **COVID Alert NJ**

Covid Alert NJ is a phone app highly recommended by the Archdiocese of Newark for all the faithful due to the rising cases of Covid-19 and due to exposure to people after the holiday season. It is an exposure notification mobile app that anonymously notifies users of potential exposure to Covid-19 while maintaining user privacy and security. It is free and secure, available to anyone 18 and older who lives, works, or attend s college in New Jersey. The app can be downloaded from Google play store or Apple App store.

- **COVID-19 REMINDER**

COVID19 cases in our parish is rising. Please follow safety instructions inside the church.

**We are asking for full cooperation in this matter. If you traveled recently or you are sick or anyone in your family is sick due to Covid-19, PLEASE STAY HOME and DO NOT GO TO CHURCH!**

- **2021 ANNUAL APPEAL**

The 2021 Annual Appeal will fund essential programs and ministries at the heart of our Catholic mission in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark– namely to proclaim the gospel, to pass on the faith to future generations, particularly through the celebration of the sacraments, and to care of the poor and those on the margins. Please consider making a donation. Your gift will make a difference. For all checks and pledges the envelopes will be distributed this week. Checks should be made payable to *2021 Annual Appeal.*

**Donations by mail** (please do not send cash) send it to:

*Development Office/Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 9577  
171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104*

**Online donation** please follow this link below;

<https://www.rcan.org/appeal> or <https://www.rcan.org/ways-to-give> or [www.rcan.org/sharing](https://www.rcan.org/sharing).

As of February 17, 2021 the **Total Collection** for this campaign is **\$5,091.00** & the **Total Pledge** is **\$5,200.**

Thank you very much for your generosity and support for this campaign. God bless you all.

- **BURIAL**

Starting March 1, 2021, the fee for whole body burial and grave opening at St. Mary's cemetery will be \$2000 on weekdays. For weekends the rate is \$2,250.

**Wedding**

*Congratulations and best wishes to Katosca Aponte & Edgardo Roberto Barcenas and Arnulfo Eusebio Rosales Martinez & Socorro Guzman Silva. May Christ bless your marriage with a love that last forever.*



**ORATIO IMPERATA AGAINST THE COVID-19**

(Revised 2021)

Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands.

Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic in our country.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion.

Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health.

Protect those who care for them.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

Mother Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

**Sacramental Schedule**

**Confession** Weekdays after the 12 pm mass  
Saturdays 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm or call the priest for an appointment

**Baptism** Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest

**Marriage** Couples planning marriage must notify the Parish rectory a year in advance for date and requirement. Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest.

**Anointing of the Sick** Contact a priest at any time. Hospital visits are still limited due to Covid-19.

**Holy Communion** For anyone who are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the parish office or rectory.

**GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

The **Tabernacle Lamp** is being offered for

† Albert F. Reitemeyer.

The **Altar Bread** is being offered for

† John R. Reitemeyer.

The **Altar Wine** is being offered for

† Margaret Reitemeyer

The **Altar Candles** are being offered for

† Albert F. Reitemeyer.

**CDC and Archdiocesan Guidelines in Celebrating Mass during Pandemic**

1. Everyone **MUST WEAR MASK** all the time while inside the church.
2. The front of every **available seat** is marked with a **WHITE TAPE**. Seats without the white tape should be left vacant.
3. To follow and maintain social distancing **70 to 80 people only** will be allowed inside the church.
4. Keep social distancing at all times (**6 feet apart from each other**) Couples and families living in one room may seat next to each other
5. **NO SHAKING OF HANDS** and **NO KISSING** during the giving of the sign of peace. **NOD** and **WAVING OF HANDS** are the acceptable means of giving the sign of peace.
6. Use the **middle aisle** to receive **Holy Communion**. Stay on the floor markings to keep social distancing. Use the left or right aisle to return to the pew.
7. **Communion by hand** is highly recommended and encouraged at this time.
8. Anyone who feels the need to step out of the church during mass for a moment to breath may do so and may return to the seat afterwards.
9. The **Chapel** at the left side of the church will be used as extension of the church during mass and will be open for people with special condition and those in need of space and flexibility. The chapel has a **maximum capacity of 6 people** at this time. Communion will be served to all parishioners by a Eucharistic minister.
10. Please maintain social distancing when leaving the church.
11. **Congregating after the mass** inside the church is not allowed.
12. Please follow all the guidelines religiously.

**Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding.**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK DIRECTIVES in time of Pandemic**

The Church is open for **SUNDAY Masses**. Only **50% capacity** of the Church or **70 people** are allowed inside the Church.

**STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE CARDINAL'S DIRECTIVE BELOW FOR REOPENING IS WITHOUT EXCEPTION**

1. Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days will remain in effect.
2. **Social distancing** should be strictly observed while inside the church (**6ft apart from each other**).
3. **NO MASK NO ENTRY**. Mask should be worn inside the church at all times
4. Parishioners should take their temperature before coming to Mass. **Anyone showing symptoms of sickness must stay home.**
5. Parishioners are asked not to congregate after all Masses and should leave the church immediately unless they plan to spend time in quiet prayer/worship.

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

### First Reading: *Genesis 9:8-15*

God establishes a covenant with Noah, giving a rainbow as its sign.

### Second Reading: *1 Peter 3:18-22*

In our baptism, we are saved through Christ's death and Resurrection.

### Gospel Reading: *Mark 1:12-15*

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

### Reflection: "ADJUST TO SCARCITY"

[Antoine de Saint-Exupery](#) wrote, "I have always loved the desert. One sits down on a desert sand dune, sees nothing, hears nothing. Yet through the silence something throbs, and gleams..." Deserts are difficult places in which to survive. The conditions found in a desert are quite unlike what most of us know as normal. But the desert has always been seen as a place of spiritual enlightenment, where human beings have profound awakenings and encounters with the Divine. Rich wisdom from the experiences of our desert fathers and mothers are at the foundation of our Christian spiritual tradition. Wonderful surprises and soul learning can be found in the desert silence, which isn't really silent at all. It's simply an environment free of distraction and excessive stimulation where one can begin to listen more deeply and keenly to what is going on.

Lent invites us into the desert. As the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert, so that same Spirit drives us into that same place of peace filled scarcity. We live a simpler, more reflective life for forty days hoping to confront some of the demons that bind us to our weakness and imperfections. They weigh us down with their burdens and make life much heavier than it really needs to be. Freely choosing to limit our distractions, obsessions, illusions, dependencies, securities, and familiarities for forty days opens the door to greater self-awareness and freedom. Preparing a suitable desert place requires some brutal honesty with ourselves and a willingness and desire to grow and change.

It's easy to give up the chocolate, coffee, or wine for a time, but without some real soul searching, reflection, prayer, and perseverance what really changes at the end of these forty days? We learn little if we simply resume business as usual. The success of our Lenten desert journey will come to light when we acknowledge that God is making good on his promises without reservation. If we do not believe that God is real and actively involved with us on a personal level, then Lent will have little value. God's covenant has to mean something to us. Whether we realize it, we struggle with two gods. One is real and the other is not. Our world and the life we create for



ourselves can easily become our "god," requiring our daily allegiance. We can find that we get tired worshipping this god we have created and literally "sell our soul" as it demands. We even willingly sacrifice principles and morals. We run after this god as if on an endless treadmill, never quite catching up or getting where we think we need to be. Exhausted from all of the effort, we have little energy left to do much else.

The real God, however, is the God who created and fashioned us out of love and made a timeless covenant with us. He will be our God and we will be his people. It is this God whom we find in the desert and the very presence that "throbs and gleams" in the silence. It is when we are able to peel away all of the superficialities and unnecessary business of life that we learn to live with more scarcity and discover what is really needed for happiness.

The desert brings us to courage and strength. It is easy to become apathetic amid the world's uncertainties and struggles. The flame of God's presence can lead us from the land of "why bother" to the land of hope and surprises. The desert teaches us what really matters, lessons like those we have learned during this time of pandemic. We begin to rely more on the inner strength that comes from God rather than the minimal and passing comfort provided by created things. Transformed by the desert winds and challenges, we can become more credible witnesses not of what the world can do for us, but what God can do and is doing!

Repenting of the falsehoods and empty pursuits will produce within us the fruit of a holy Lent. The god of the world comes with many falsehoods, distractions, hollow promises, distorted ideologies, and things that compromise humanity. We need to separate from all of that and discover the truth. Jesus came out of the desert proclaiming the Gospel of God. How will we come out of our desert experience? What may change? What is known for certain is that God has not abandoned us or given up on all that he made. It is quite the contrary. God always starts new and fresh and desires nothing more than for us to love him. There is no better way to show that love than to choose the real God over the false one. God is paving the way for a new plan for humanity. Making that vision real will require that we become less of an image of ourselves and more of an image of Jesus Christ. Having met God in the desert, his presence will throb within us and our presence will reflect the glorious light of Christ!

Let us pray for a holy Lent. Our world is depending upon it and so is God.

Reflection by Fr. Mark Suslenko, <https://www.4lpi.com/>

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

*Genesis 9 : 8 - 15*

*Psalms 25 : 4 - 5, 6 - 7, 8 - 9*

*1 Peter 3 : 18 - 22*

*Gospel from Mark 1 : 12 - 15*



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### What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

### #WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of  
Samantha Josephson



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