

# DIVINE MERCY PARISH

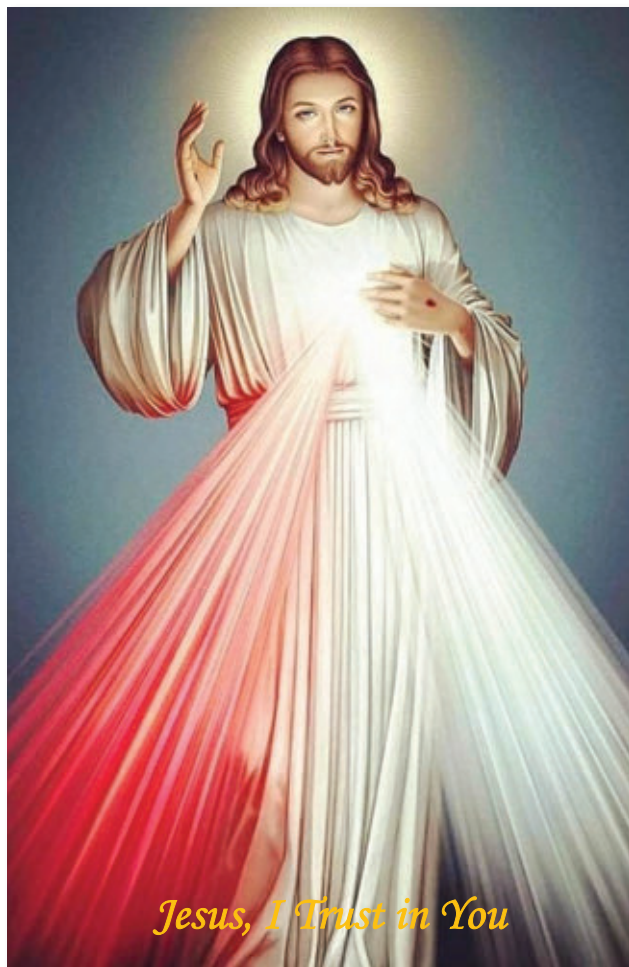
## PARROQUIA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

Formerly St. Mary's and St. Mark's Roman Catholic Churches

Serving Jesus Christ since 1854 and 1871

232 Central Avenue, Rahway NJ 07065

<https://www.divinemercyrahway.church>



*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life."*

*Jn 3:16*

*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,<br>4:00 pm (Vigil Mass)                                      |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 8:00 am, 9:30 am,<br>11:00 am,<br>12:30 pm Misa en Español            |
| <b>Holydays</b> | 6:00 pm (Vigil Mass)<br>12:00 pm, 6:00 pm,<br>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: fr.jozef63@divinemercyrahway.church*

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

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*March 14, 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, MARCH 13**

4:00 pm (V) † Camillo Jr. &amp; Sonia Gerbino

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14***Fourth Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am † Catherine M. Packard  
(Death Anniversary)

9:30 am † Deogenes P. Olandria (Special Intention)

11:00 am (FBL) † Antonio Rodrigues

12:30 pm (SP, FBL) † John Reitemeyer

**MONDAY, MARCH 15**

12:00 pm People of the Parish

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

12:00 pm † John K. Turk

7:00 pm (SP) † Deogenes P Olandria (Death Anniv.)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17**

12:00 pm † William J. Daniel

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18**

12:00 pm † Ben Alcantara

7:00 pm (SP) † William Perez (Deceased/Birthday)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19**

12:00 pm † Graziano &amp; Yuhás Family

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

9:00 am Anthonie Gallego (Birthday Blessing)

4:00 pm (V) Sotomayor Family (Special Intention)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

8:00 am † Nicholis Alfano

9:30 am † Jose Luis Nogales

11:00 am (FBL) † Kitty McGuire

12:30 pm (SP, FBL) † Carlos Fernandez

5:00 pm (F) † Albino Santos

**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 MARCH**

*"Intention for Evangelization: Sacrament of reconciliation"  
Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.*

**THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY****SUNDAY, MARCH 14**

12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)

**MONDAY, MARCH 15**

7:00 PM Parent Formation Workshop (Virtual)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

7:00 PM RCIA English (104)

7:00 PM Guadalupano (Church)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18**

7:00 PM John XXIII (Church)

7:30 PM Via Crucis (Church)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19**

12:30 PM Stations of the Cross (Church)

7:00 PM BLD (Church)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

12:00 PM Baptism Lucas S. Lopez

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)

*The parish schedule is also posted @ <https://divinemercyrahway.church/announcements>*

**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.*

## PRAYER FOR LENT

Jesus, dear Savior, during these days of Lent, I want to fast, to repent and to pray. Above all else I want to stay in the circle of Your love. Walk with me and surround me with Your light; lead me and guide me in Your steps. During this season of Lent help me to follow You and imitate Your love. May the cross remind me today and throughout Lent of your great love for me. Amen.

**Priest:** We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the



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.



## \* EATING MEAT ON THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

Cardinal Joseph Tobin has granted dispensation to all the faithful of the Archdiocese from abstinence from meat on Friday March 19, 2021 as part of the celebration of the Solemnity during the year of St. Joseph.

## \* 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 attends college in New Jersey. The app can be downloaded from Google play store or Apple App store.

## \* COVID-19 REMINDER

**Please follow safety instructions inside the church.**

**We are asking for full cooperation on 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 donations** 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 March 9, 2021 the **Total Collection** for this campaign is **\$7,526** & the **Total Pledge** is **\$7,600**. Thank you very much for your generosity and support for this campaign. God bless you all



## Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes to *Vicente Aguirre & Dolores Lucia Lopez*. 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.*

**Archdiocese of Newark  
Directives for Holy Week 2021**

- ◆ Parishes may livestream the liturgies of Holy Week for parishioners. Televised or livestreamed broadcast should be live (never prerecorded).
- ◆ The Evening **Mass of the Lord's Supper** takes place in the evening of Holy Thursday.
- ◆ **Good Friday Passion of the Lord** is ordinarily celebrated at about 3:00pm (unless a later hour is chosen for pastoral reasons)
- ◆ **2021 Easter Vigil** should not be celebrated before 8:15 pm.
- ◆ **Palm Sunday**, Palm branches maybe made available to the faithful before mass. Palm branches are place on tables where the faithful can help themselves without interaction, before the celebration. Ushers or greeters should **NOT** personally distribute palm to the faithful. Any palm taken must be brought home.
- ◆ **Holy Thursday**. The washing of the feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priest.
  - ◇ Holy Thursday Mass ( At the Evening Mass) must be celebrated in the evening.
  - ◇ To avoid contagion, the option of omitting the washing of the feet is mandated
- ◆ **Good Friday**. In the Universal Prayer, Bishops will arrange to have special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf Roman Missal) The adoration of the cross by kissing is limited to the celebrant only.
  - ◇ Adoration of the Holy Cross should be handled with great care. Social distancing should be observed and maintained.
  - ◇ **Mask should not be removed. Veneration of the cross by kissing is not permitted only by genuflection or bow is allowed.**
- ◆ **Easter Vigil** At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The "Liturgy of the Word" then takes place. For the Baptismal Liturgy" the Renewal of Baptismal Promises" alone is necessary . The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" then follows. Below are the notes for Easter Vigil;
  - ◇ The assembly must wear mask and be socially distant
  - ◇ The Paschal Candle, prepared privately is lit with dignity in the darkened church. There is no procession.
  - ◇ The lights are turned on before Easter proclamation
  - ◇ Easter Proclamation
- ◆ **Easter Sunday**, Masses may be celebrated outdoors. The renewal of Baptismal Promises is after the homily. No sprinkling of holy water.

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

**First Reading:** *2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*

The causes for the Israelites' captivity in Babylon are described.

**Second Reading:** *Ephesians 2:4-10*

In grace we have been saved, so that we may do the work of the Lord.

**Gospel Reading:** *John 3:14-21*

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

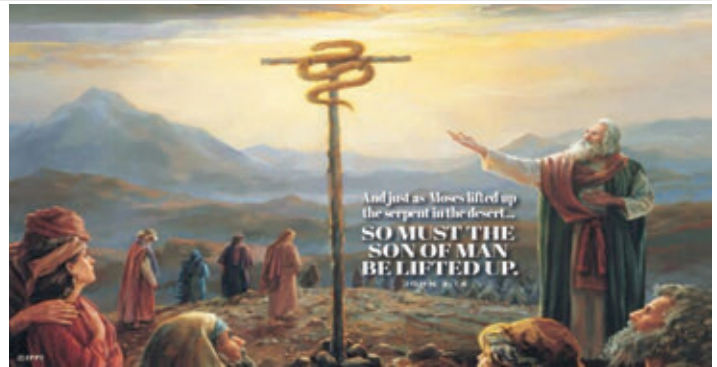
### Reflection

**Meditation:** Do you know the healing power of Christ's redeeming love and victory which he won for us on the cross? The Old Testament prophets never ceased to speak of God's faithfulness and compassion towards those who would turn away from sin and return to God with repentant hearts, trust, and obedience (2 Chronicles 36:15). When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus he prophesied that his death on the cross would bring healing and forgiveness and a "new birth in the Spirit" (John 3:3) and eternal life (John 3:15).

**The "lifting up" of the Son of Man.** Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the "Son of Man" must be "lifted up" to bring the power and authority of God's kingdom to bear on the earth. The title, "Son of Man," came from the prophet Daniel who describes a vision he received of the Anointed Messiah King who was sent from heaven to rule over the earth (Daniel 7:13-14). Traditionally when kings began to reign they were literally "lifted up" and enthroned above the people. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he will be recognized as the Anointed King when he is "lifted up" on the cross at Calvary. Jesus died for his claim to be the only begotten Son sent by the Father in heaven to redeem, heal, and reconcile his people with God.

Jesus points to a key prophetic sign which Moses performed in the wilderness right after the people of Israel were afflicted with poisonous serpents. Scripture tells us that many people died in the wilderness because of their sin of rebellion towards Moses and God. Through Moses' intervention, God showed mercy to the people and instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live" (Numbers 21:8). This miraculous sign was meant to foreshadow and point to the saving work which Jesus would perform to bring healing and salvation to the world.

**The cross defeats sin and death.** The bronze serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness points to the cross of Christ



which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe in Jesus Christ. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising from the dead, and his exaltation and ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only frees us from our sins and pardons us, he also fills us with his own divine life through the gift and working of his Spirit who dwells within us.

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual power and gifts, especially the seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (see Isaiah 11), to enable us to live in his strength as sons and daughters of God. Do you thirst for the *new life* which God offers you through the transforming power of his Holy Spirit?

**The proof of God's love for us.** How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world.

This passage tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, *God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love.* God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love.

Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, your death brought life for us. May your love consume and transform my life that I may desire you above all else. Help me to love what you love, to desire what you desire, and to reject what you reject. Amen

*Reflection excerpted from <https://www.dailyscripture.net/daily-meditation/>*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

*2 Chronicles 36 : 14 - 16, 19 - 23*

*Psalms 137 : 1 - 2, 3, 4 - 5, 6*

*Ephesians 2 : 4 - 10*

*Gospel from John 3 : 14 - 21*

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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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