

DIVINE MERCY PARISH
Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Established on January 6, 2020, and rooted in Catholic Tradition and Faith, Divine Mercy Parish, made up of the former parishioners of Saint Benedict the Moor, Church of the Epiphany and Saint Mary of Mercy, is located in the heart of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. As such, we aim to root ourselves as a Eucharistic Center, devoted to offering spiritual and physical nourishment to a diverse community, both parishioners and non-parishioners alike. In the coming months, we look forward to building a parish rooted in Christ that will offer an opportunity to encounter Jesus and one another in vibrant Liturgies, frequent confession times offered, time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Catholic Speaker Series, events for youth and young adults, encounters with and for the most vulnerable, outreach ministry, multicultural encounters, and so much more. We are very excited that the Lord has graced us with the protection of His Divine Mercy and look forward to serving you and serving alongside you in the coming weeks, months and years.

DIVINE MERCY PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

164 Washington Place Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.divinemercypgh.org

office@divinemercypgh.org

412-471-0257 or 412-281-3141

Office Hours 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday

CLERGY TEAM

Reverend Christopher Donley (Moderator)
cdonley@divinemercypgh.org

Reverend Joe Freedy
jfreedy@diopitt.org

Samuel Toney (Deacon)
stoney@diopitt.org

In Residence

Reverend Edward Bryce
Reverend Edward Muge
Monsignor Ronald Lengwin
Reverend Augustine Wayii

PARISH STAFF

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Sister Emily Lepage ZSJM (Assistant Coordinator)
thegate@divinemercypgh.org
Sister Pawla Witula ZSJM (Assistant Coordinator)

Mass Intentions

To request a Mass intention, please call or email the Parish Office at office@divinemercypgh.org or visit divinemercypgh.org to complete an online form.

Join our Parish Family

Visit our website at www.divinemercypgh.org or call the parish office.

Bulletin Requests

If you would like to have information included in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office at office@divinemercypgh.org.

Schedule a Meeting

To make an appointment with Fr. Chris contact Cindy at cagoetz@divinemercypgh.org

Join us on Flocknote



Stay up to date with announcements and news or receive weekly videos, by choosing a group to join on Flocknote! Sign up at www.divinemercypgh.org or text DivineMercyPgh to 84576 to join.

SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR CHURCH

91 Crawford Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

EPIPHANY CHURCH

164 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

SAINT MARY OF MERCY CHURCH

202 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

CONFESSIONS: CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY Monday and Friday 11:15 AM-11:45 AM
SAINT MARY OF MERCY CHURCH Monday through Friday 11:00 AM-11:45 AM
SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR CHURCH Sunday 10:00 AM

NOVENAS: CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY Saint Rita, Mondays after 12:05 PM Mass
CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY Sorrowful Mother, Fridays after 12:05 PM Mass
SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR CHURCH Saint Benedict, Begins 9 weeks prior to the Feast Day after
Sunday Mass
SAINT MARY OF MERCY CHURCH Miraculous Medal, Mondays after 12:00 Noon Mass

Although all public Masses have been suspended at this time, Masses will still be said for the following scheduled Mass intentions through the private prayer of our priests.

Frank Distazio + (Carole Clifford)
Patricia Ignezzi+ (6:30 mass group)
Jim and Millie Morgan + (Bud and Karen Burke)
Martin Suzina + (Carole Clifford)
Christopher Rugh + (Fitzgerald Family)
Francis P. Bronowicz + (Theresa Bronowicz)
For the Benefit of the Sellos Society + (Ben and Sharon Serratore)
Louis Schwartzmiller + (Donald Schwartzmiller)
Nicholas Manfredi+ (Sam and Madilyn Manfredi)
Dolly McKenzie + ("Derek and Rebecca Mousseau)
Bill Dixcon + (Derek and Rebecca Mousseau)
Dennis P. Murphy+ (Debbie and Dino Ciabattoni)

Historically associated with plagues, the Madonna of Monte Berico is the perfect intercessor for our current coronavirus outbreak. The following novena may be said and offered for the petition of a swift end to the spread and for a maternal protection for all .

Novena to Our Lady of Monte Berico

O Most Holy Virgin, Mother of God and my Mother Mary, I thank you that you have deigned to appear on Monte Berico and I thank you for all the graces you grant here to those who turn to you. Nobody ever prayed to you in vain. I, too, resort to you and beg you for the Passion and Death of Jesus and for your pains: welcome me, o' merciful Mother, under your mantle, which is a maternal mantle; grant me the particular grace that I ask of You [your petition here] and protect me from all evil and especially from sin which is the greatest evil.

Oh make, oh Mary, my Mother, that I always enjoy your loving protection in life and even more in death and then come to see you in heaven and to thank and bless you forever. Amen.

Madonna of Monte Berico, pray for us.

O sweet Virgin, pious mother of love,
Like this Ave rising from the heart.
Ave, ave, ave, Maria
Ave, ave, ave, Maria

O Virgin, shine as a star in the sky,
Motherly defend your faithful children.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave, Maria

*Prayer taken from the National Catholic Register

Coronavirus Update From Bishop David Zubik March 16, 2020

Bishop Zubik has announced that all weekday and weekend celebration of public Masses have been suspended until further notice.

“During this time it is necessary that we continue to provide for the spiritual welfare of the faithful when their faith needs to be strengthened. In this time of unknowns, concerns about access to the sacraments have created anxiety among the faithful. Please encourage and reassure your parishioners, helping them increase their understanding of other means for strengthening their spiritual life and obtaining grace during this time, including reading scripture and spiritual communions. Spiritual communions are a profound way of obtaining graces of union with the Lord when unable to attend Mass, and perfect contrition restores a person to the state of grace, while requiring them to make an individual confession as soon as circumstances permit. Those unable to receive communion, go to confession or receive the anointing of the sick are encouraged to make acts of personal repentance and spiritual communions. The faithful can rest assured that God will not abandon them in their time of need, but will respond to their sincere desire and grant them the grace they need. “

In addition to outreach to our people, Bishop Zubik has issued the follow guidelines for the celebration of the other Sacraments as well as updates on several issues of concern to the priests and deacons of the diocese.

Baptism: All parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are to observe the following practical norms concerning the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism until further notice. The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, outside of Mass, is permitted. In order to limit any potential spread of the virus to a vulnerable population, only a small private family baptism should be held. Multiple baptisms of several children from different families is not permitted. The use of “immersion” for baptism is not permitted. Instead, please use fresh new water for each baptism that has been blessed for the baptism and immediate drain it after use in the *sacrarium*.

RCIA and the Scrutinies: Bishop Zubik has dispensed from the scrutinies, if you have virtual capabilities, you are encouraged to bring your groups together to reflect on the gospel readings for the scrutinies.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Communion: All First Reconciliation groups and First Communions for the month of March are to be postponed and re-scheduled at another date. First Reconciliation must always precede first Holy Communion. Dates for First Reconciliation and First Communion after April 1, 2020 will be determined in the future depending on the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus.

Sacrament of Confirmation: All scheduled confirmations for the month of March are postponed and will be scheduled at a date in the future. Confirmation dates after April 1, 2020 will be determined in the future depending on the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: During Lent, we especially want to offer people the opportunity to experience the Sacrament of Penance. Providing this sacrament is an important and essential way in which we minister the healing and merciful love of God. Even though we are in a heightened health alert state, general absolution is not permitted. We will continue to offer the Sacrament of Penance on an individual basis only. The *Light is on for You*, scheduled for April 1, 2020 has been cancelled. However, there are to be specific times scheduled for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

- To help minimize the risk of exposure, we recommend that you consider the following actions should anyone be concerned about possible transmission of the coronavirus:
- Temporarily the confessional should not be used. It is recommended that confessions be heard in the nave of the church and that if possible, the penitent remain standing to avoid the need to sanitize kneelers or chairs following each penitent.
- A screen should be used to allow for the anonymity of the penitent and to block some of the airflow between the priest and penitent.
- Ensure at least six feet of space between the priest and penitent.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: In the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing of Sick three different circumstances exist that must be considered.

Communal celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is to be suspended until further notice. If one is called to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to a person who is homebound and manifesting possible symptoms of coronavirus, you must follow these guidelines:

- You must wash hands and use proper hand sanitizers and wear gloves.
- You must not linger in the room (less than 15 minutes)
- You should administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick by using cotton balls to administer the Holy Oil and should not touch the person who is being anointed.
- The gloves and cotton balls should be burned after use in the administration of the sacrament.
- Hospitals and nursing homes with contracted chaplains should provide the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, since those chaplains are prepared by the institution as to the requirements in dealing with patients.

Funerals and Weddings: Until further notice, weddings and funerals may proceed, but attendance should be limited to immediate family. Compliance with all state and local government-imposed restrictions on the number of people at public gatherings are to be obeyed.

Parish Events and Activities: In compliance with the requests of governmental leaders and sound medical practice, the parish must cancel all scheduled events until further notice.

Church Buildings: While churches should remain open for private prayer, including Adoration, there should be no scheduled “services” that would bring people together at a specific time. Social distancing must be maintained if people attend church for private prayer. Within churches, hand sanitizers are to be made available. During this period, churches should be cleaned and sanitized. The following should be observed:

- Please remove items that are in common areas and are regularly touched such as collections baskets, books, tapes and other such items.
- Please remove music books and worship aids from the pews.
- Please remove any other paper or cards that might be in the pews.
- Should you need further deep cleaning because of any possible exposure, please contact Paul Lurlano at 412-760-2374 for the next steps.

Holy Week: Holy Week will be upon us beginning on April 4, 2020. At this time, the diocese is preparing contingency plans should public Holy Week Liturgies be suspended. Further details will be forthcoming.

Priest or Deacon who becomes ill: Anyone who feels sick should self-isolate and immediately call their health care provider. Essential questions you should ask to assist your health care provider are: have you had any close contact with a person known to have COVID-19; have you been in a home of a sick parishioner even if they have not been reported as an individual who is known to have COVID-19; Do you have a fever or harsh cough? If you are sick or have been quarantined, refrain from any ministerial activity. Please notify Father Mark Eckman at 412-848-0354.

Dispensations/Permissions for Marriages: In the event that you are required to obtain a permission or dispensation for a proposed marriage, please contact your Regional Vicar who has the faculties to dispense and grant permissions for marriages.

PARISH NEWS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates:

- Sacraments and prayer can be live streamed. For links to access these live streaming's or for more information, please visit www.divinemercypgh.org
- Saint Mary of Mercy will be open for private prayer, every day from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- The Divine Mercy Parish Fish Fry will be closed this week. Please visit our website and/or our Facebook page for updates. The decision of whether or not the fish fry will open will be made on a week by week basis.

Information is subject to change daily. We will continue to provide information through our website, online platforms, and through parish emails.

Please note that there will not be a staff presence at the offices of Divine Mercy Parish for the time being. For any questions, please email office@divinemercypgh.org.

African American History

Chinua Achebe was one of the most famous 20th Century African writers. He published his first novel *Things Fall Apart* in 1958 and thereafter, published four more novels and a series of short stories, essays, and other literature. Much of Achebe's work focused on the themes of colonialism, post-colonialism, and the tumultuous political atmosphere in post colonial Nigeria. Albert Chinualumogu Achebe was born on November 16, 1930 to a father who was a Christian teacher and missionary. Throughout his schooling, Achebe was consistently at the top of his class and twice completed two grades within a year. He became the editor for the African Writers Series in 1962. Between 1967 and 1970, Achebe was active in publicizing the civil war in Nigeria, on an international level. After the rebellion, he became a Professor of English in the United States and later returned to Nigeria, where he was paralyzed from the waist down in a car accident. He died on March 22, 2013 at the age of 82.

DIVINE MERCY PARISH BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Deborah Gooden 3/22 | Jessica Gruber 3/26 |
| Paul Rizza 3/22 | Ryan Long 3/26 |
| Tina Consolo 3/23 | Christopher Mostowy 3/26 |
| Priscilla Davis 3/23 | Mary Ann Parrish 3/26 |
| Elie Ebo 3/24 | David Bowen 3/27 |
| Josephine O'Connor 3/24 | Gabriel Mulbah 3/27 |
| Genevieve Sandford 3/24 | Marcelin Nshimyumukiza 3/28 |
| Stephanie Dangel 3/26 | Kim Taylor-Adam 3/28 |

To be included in the weekly parishioner birthday list, please email your birthday to office@divinemercypgh.org

Welcome to Our Divine Mercy Parish Family

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. and Renee Konias

Mass Intentions

We are still taking Mass intentions. All priests in our parish will continue to celebrate private Masses and offering them up for a particular Mass intentions. To request a Mass, visit our website, request by mail, or email office@divinemercypgh.org

*Videos of encouragement and prayer from Father Joe Freedy and Father Chris Donley can be found on Flocknotes, Facebook, and through our website.

ATTENTION!

Please be aware of emails claiming to be from Father Chris Donley and Father Joe Freedy. These are scammers. If you receive such an email, for your safety, please do not give your information or comply with their requests.

Divine Mercy Parish Prayer Board

Betty Bell, Edward Davis, Dolores Denton, Carol Derewcz, Grace Dixon-Kizzie, Patricia Ellis, Debra Foster, Woody Frazier, Ann Fultz, Richard Gazzam, Janet Glass, Brenda Glenn, Mary Graham, Helena Harris, Harold G. Heim, Jr., Osaruyi Osasere Igbineweka, Billy Jenkins, Sandra Johnson, Sean Kraus, Tiffany Livsey, Aisha Lado, Toni Long, Andrew Lyke, Ruth McCartney, Sager McDill FMM, DMK, Sherry McGinnis, Todd Mattei, Betty Muse, Josephine O'Connor, Ira Ritter, Sr. Mary Samuels, Genevieve Sanford, Debbie Sturm, Vincent Tucker, Lyle Williams, Margaret, Leslie Wilson, Regina Zelik, Jerry Barry, Laurie Bozik, Robert Dougherty, William Egger, Richard Gazzam, Katherine Gross, Margaret Hurney, Marva Josie, D.M.K., Barbara Kuhn, F.M.M., Jessie Marsh, Patricia Morra, Daniel Murphy, Dennis Murphy, Justin Murphy, Jean O'Hanlon, Mary Ann Pacini, Clara Jane Roy, Marianne Wisdom Oines, C.Z.R., Sr. Mary Ann Troup, Elsie Urban, Bill Vergot, Derrick Gardener, Leah Lindenfelser, Diane and Jim Foley, Elizabeth Kochin Donna Bradley, Larry Sobek Mary Jane Metz and victims of abuse.

To add a name to our prayer board, please email office@divinemercypgh.org



The North Hills Ebony Women, Inc., announces the annual scholarship awards for 2020. The Norma Jean Ware Duncan Scholarship provides (1) \$1,500 award to a graduating African American or Black high school senior who exhibits excellence in academics, service in their community, and is enrolled in a school in one of the North Hills school districts. Additionally, the North Hills Ebony Women, Inc., scholarship application is available for an academically excellent and community service minded African American or Black high school senior attending a Pittsburgh Public School aspiring to attend college in the Fall. A \$750 minimum will be awarded.

The DEADLINE for completed applications is **April 15, 2020**. For information and complete scholarship packets for download, visit our website: <https://nhewinc.tripod.com> or for questions, contact parishioner, Janice Simmons, at (724) 443-5589 or forbears@consolidated.net (SBTM)

New Welcome Center: Divine Mercy Parish at Saint Mary of Mercy Church



"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." -Jesus to St. Faustina- (Diary 300)

For many years, Divine Mercy Parish has been zealously promoting the message of Divine Mercy in so many different ways! Some of the many ways is through the Sacrament of Confession, the daily receiving of the Eucharist, the food pantry at Saint Benedict the Moor Church, and the Red Door ministry at Saint Mary of Mercy Church. Now we have a new opportunity to meet daily with the God of Infinite Mercy Himself through the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 am to 11:45 am.

"My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy." Jesus' words to St. Faustina (D. #699)

We are now pleased to be a "very little tiny" channel of God's mercy to everyone who enters the church of Saint Mary of Mercy through the opening of the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center, with Divine Mercy materials and having one of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus from the congregation desired by Jesus Himself, has already been an amazing source of hope, consolation, and blessing to so many people! Please come and visit our new facility at the entrance of Saint Mary of Mercy Church.



During these times of uncertainty, the Mass can still be viewed through our television ministry.

The daily Noon Mass at Saint Mary of Mercy Church is televised and can be viewed seven days a week on Comcast channel 95 in the Greater Pittsburgh area or at www.christianassociatestv.org. Pittsburgh's Faith and Family channel 40.9 also carries it Monday-Saturday.

God is ever present in our lives and a refuge for us in times such as these. Please be assured of our prayers and presence.

Visit www.divinemercuryph.org for more live streaming options of Mass and prayer.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

Red Door Ministry: Those in need can receive a bagged lunch Monday through Saturday from **10:30 AM-11:30 AM**

The actual Red Door is located on the Boulevard of the Allies. New Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mother Teresa Conference: Please contact us at 412-204-7446 or svdpstteresaPGH@gmail.com for assistance in the Pittsburgh 15219 & 15222 areas with available social services and other resources. **VOLUNTEERS:** Hearts ready to serve the Lord by aiding our Friends in Need are urgently needed. Please join us as we pray and learn together how to be the face of Christ to those in need through home visits and available social services .