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232 Central Avenue, Rahway NJ 07065

<https://www.divinemercyrahway.church>

*"A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
For today a great light has come upon the earth."*



New Mass Schedule

Weekday	12:00 pm Monday to Friday
Martes	7:00 pm Misa en Español
Saturday	9:00 am, 4:00 pm (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm Misa en Español
Holydays	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 & Hospital Chaplain,
extn 104 and 732-877-6835

Joseph Keefe (Trustee)

Arlene Mione (Trustee)

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 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

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

CCD (732)382-0004

Fax (732) 382-4784

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- 4:00 pm (V) People of the Parish &
† Lucyann Gerbino
7:00 pm (F) Stephen Morales (Conversion & Blessing)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00 am † Mildred Alfano
9:30 am † Mary, William & Bill Disney
11:00 am (FBL) † Jose Luis Nogales
12:30 pm (SP, FBL) † John Reitemeyer
5:00 pm † Estela & Aurora Perez

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 12:00 pm People of the Parish
7:00 pm † Elizabeth Dunn

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21*Feast of Saint Peter Canisius*

- 12:00 pm † Patricia Coughlin
6:00 pm (F) Socorro Cruz and family (Thanksgiving)
7:00 pm (SP) † Margaret Reitemeyer

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 12:00 pm † Eleanor Polini
7:00 pm † Adonis Causing (Eternal Repose)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23*Feast of Saint John of Kanty*

- 12:00 pm † Frank and Laura Velsor
7:00 pm † Albert Reitemeyer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 12:00 pm Peyton & Ava Hope (Birthday)
4:00 pm † De Paolo and Cutro Families
7:00 pm † Arline T. Rooney
10:00 pm † Joseph & Eleanor Rotondo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25*Christmas*

- 8:00 am † Jose Luis Nogales
10:00 pm (V) † Rev. Joseph M Quinlan &
John & Ethel Fech
12:00 pm † Arline T. Rooney
4:00 pm † Rev Thaddeus Zuber

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 8:00 am † Joseph & Helen Hudzik
9:30 am † Richard Tobin
11:00 am (FBL) † Vincent Badalis Jr.
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://divinemercyrahway.church/announcements)

**THIS WEEK AT DIVINE MERCY****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19**

- 9:30 AM CCD Regular (all rooms)
10:30 AM RCIA Spanish (101)
12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)
1:30 PM BLD Solo & DCS (Library, 202)
5:00 PM Simbang Gabi
6:00 PM Sto. Nino Novena

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:00 PM Simbang Gabi (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 6:00 PM Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:00 PM Guadalupano (Church)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 7:00 PM RCIA English (104)
7:00 PM Simbang Gabi (Church)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 1:00 PM Flamenco (103)
7:00 PM Simbang Gabi (Church)
7:30 PM John XXIII (203)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO CCD

- 12:00 PM Food Pantry (Annex Building)
1:30 PM BLD Solo Praise (Library)
2:00 PM Parish Christmas Party (Auditorium)

Posted @ <https://divinemercyrahway.church/announcements>

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021**

Confessions

Monday to Friday @ 12:30 pm

Saturdays @ 3:00 pm

Masses

December 24

- Vigil Mass - 4:00 pm
Misa de Vigilia - 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Birth of Jesus - 10:00 pm

December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

December 31 (New Year's Eve)

6:00 pm

January 1 (New Year's Day)

9:00 am, 12:00 pm (Spanish)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2021**

Our parish will have a *Giving Tree* for Christmas. It will have tag/cards as décor and each card will have information of a child/adult such as age, gender, size & request. Feel free to take a card and sponsor a gift for someone in need. Place your gifts with the tag attached under the tree uncovered or in an open bag until December 22. Let's make at least 1 person or a child happy this Christmas. Please contact Josephine 732-2591882 or Diana 732-5350278 for any questions.

**DIVINE MERCY PARISH
(Fundraising Raffle 2021)**

1st Prize: 65" Flat Screen TV	\$520.00
2nd Prize: GE Refrigerator Haler 4.5 cu	\$210.00
3rd Prize: Barbeque Grill	\$195.00
4th Prize: Vacuum Bissell Power Force Bagless	\$45.00
5th Prize: Portable Heater	\$25.00

Drawing: Dec. 26, 2021 | 2:00 PM | Auditorium

Winners need not be present, will be notified by phone.

No substitution of the offered prize will be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

Tickets: \$5.00 each

All proceeds will go directly to DM building repair. Look for Mar-ion (Mickey) Andreko @ the 8 am mass on Sundays, in all week-day masses. Email: mandreko1@comcast.net.

Checks should be made out to DIVINE MERCY PARISH

**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021**

Our Parish Christmas party will be on *December 26, 2021, 12:00 pm* at the Parish Auditorium.

**SIMBANG GABI 2021**

Our parish will have Simbang Gabi or 9 Novena Masses before Christmas day. It's a Filipino tradition in preparation for Christmas Day. The schedule is also posted at our webpage <https://divinemercyrahway.church/announcements>. The Novena Mass will start on December 15, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.

**NOVENA MASS SCHEDULE**

December 15, 2021 (Wednesday)	7:00 pm (T)
December 16, 2021 (Thursday)	7:00 pm (E)
December 17, 2021 (Friday)	6:00 pm (T)
December 18, 2021 (Saturday)	7:00 pm (E)
December 19, 2021 (Sunday)	5:00 pm (T)
December 20, 2021 (Monday)	7:00 pm (E)
December 21, 2021 (Tuesday)	6:00 pm (T)
December 22, 2021 (Wednesday)	7:00 pm (E)
December 23, 2021 (Thursday)	7:00 pm (T)

Legend: (T) Tagalog, (E) English

**SYNOD ON SYNODALITY****Communion, Participation, and Mission**

On May 21, 2021, Pope Francis surprised the Church by announcing that the Synod of Bishops, postponed due to the pandemic, will be preceded by a synodal process that includes "listening to all of the baptized" in every local diocese before the bishops gather again in 2023.

The Archdiocese of Newark joined dioceses throughout the world in celebrating a special Opening Mass on Oct. 17 to launch "Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church," a two-year re-examination of the way the Catholic Church is listening to and walking with its parishioners.

Like other dioceses worldwide, the opening Mass was the Archdiocese's first significant step in participating in the worldwide "synod on synodality" initiated by Pope Francis on Oct. 10. Next, as part of its synodal journey, the Archdiocese will coordinate listening sessions for its 212 parishes, at which Catholics will be encouraged to share their opinions on what is expected of today's Church. Sessions will be guided by universal questions for dioceses worldwide examining the perceptions of today's Catholics.

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."

In April, the Archdiocese will gather, analyze, and synthesize information from all parish listening sessions into one report that will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Similarly, dioceses across the U.S. and globally will submit their local findings, which will ultimately be consolidated into reports for discussion among the world's bishops and the Vatican to help guide Pope Francis on decisions about how the Church should proceed in the future.

During his homily on Oct. 17 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., explained that a "synod" is a global process of discussion and reflection on a topic of particular importance to the Church. He cautioned that the synodal process "is not simply a series of meetings," but "an effort to open ourselves to a permanent conversion of heart."

"The synod will shine a light on the cracks of our church" and is an opportunity for a "change of a culture of our Church at all levels," he said.

"The synod recognizes that the people of God – those who have been called out of darkness into light by virtue of their baptism — is called to walk the same road. And sometimes it means they realize they're going the wrong way," Cardinal Tobin said.

Learn more about the synodal process by clicking on the resources at the rcan website <https://www.rcan.org/synod2023>, or by visiting the Vatican Synod website.

Vatican Synod Website – www.synod.va/en.html

USCCB Synod Website – www.usccb.org/synod

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace!

Reflecting upon the past year, we noticed the many blessings we received as a parish: the small projects we did, to fix this and that, the return to Mass inside our church for many of our parishioners, as well as the return of our parish apostolates for both English and Spanish groups. These are indications of God's never failing spiritual guidance to our parish. Truly, the Lord provides through the dedication, prayers and generosity of our parishioners.

The heart of Christmas is the gift of Jesus Christ. He is the gift who overwhelms us with his love and peace. I am very grateful for your assistance and support to our parish.

Together with Fr. Jozef, we wish you all a Blessed and Joyful Christmas. You are always in our prayers. Please pray for us and our parish family.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Very Rev. Alexander T Cruz*

**Christmas Day Reflection**

(Jn 1:1-5, 9-14 ; Lk 2:1-14 ; Lk 2:15-20)

Meditation: Have you read the news today - the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and son of Mary who was born for us and for our salvation. The word *gospel* literally means *good news*! Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would descend from David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2-4).

The first to hear the good news of the savior's birth were not the rulers and religious leaders of Israel who were robed in riches and power. The angels first came to those who were humble and ready to receive the newborn king who was born in poverty and was now lying in a manger made for animals. Just as God had chosen and anointed David, a lowly shepherd of Bethlehem to become the shepherd king of Israel, so Jesus, likewise chose the path of humility and lowliness in coming to Israel as the good shepherd king who would lay down his life for their sake and salvation. After the angels had sung their hymn of glory in the presence of the shepherds, the shepherds made haste to adore the newborn king and sing their hymn of glory as well.

God wants to fill our hearts anew with joy and gratitude for the greatest gift he could possibly give us - his beloved Son Jesus. What can we give thanks for in this great feast of the Incarnation? We can praise and thank God our Father for the fact that the Son of God freely and joyfully assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus came to release the captives from slavery to sin and to open the gates of paradise once again. This day the Holy Spirit invites us to make haste - as the shepherds of Bethlehem did - to adore Jesus our King and Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ is our eternal good shepherd who guides and cares for us unceasingly and who gives us abundant everlasting life and union with the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us because it is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us (see Romans 5:2-5). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which no pain nor sorrow can diminish, and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of your salvation in Jesus Christ?

PRAYER

Lord our God, with the birth of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, your glory breaks on the world. As we celebrate his first coming, give us a foretaste of the joy that you will grant us when the fulness of his glory has filled the earth. Amen

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

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

**For the Recently Deceased of the Parish**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let's pray for the souls of *Todd Hoblitzell* & *Michel Souffrang*. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



SUNDAY REFLECTION

First Reading: *Micah 5:1-4*

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19*

A prayer for God's salvation

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45*

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

Reflection

Joyful Anticipation of the Messiah

Meditation: Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and un-touchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?



They were filled with the Holy Spirit

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Lord wants to fill each of us with his Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All.

Amen.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Micah 5 : 1 - 4a

Psalms 80 : 2 - 3, 15 - 16, 18 - 19

Hebrew 10 : 5 - 10

Gospel from Luke 1 : 39 - 45



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