

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday



DIVINE MERCY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Loving Mercifully, Living Marian.

4337 Sal Lentini Parkway • Kenner, Louisiana 70065

Church Office: (504) 466-5016 • Church Email: office@divinemercyparish.org

www.divinemercyparish.org

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Robert T. Cooper

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Paul Clark

Deacons:

Noel Martinsen, Drea Capaci,
Larry Oney, and David Caldero

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

Joan Kathmann, Principal
(504) 468-3524

Director of Religious Ed.:

Jacques Delouche

Youth Minister:

Ryan Foulon

Director of Music:

Garrett Fried

Administrative Staff:

Sherryl Clements
Antoinette Silver

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. &
7:00 p.m. (Español)

Sunday: 8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday:
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:
7:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation

See Inside the Bulletin for Schedule

Confession Times

Saturday: 3:00—3:45 p.m.

Sábado: 6:15—6:45 p.m. (Español)

Sunday: 30 minutes before Mass

Tuesday: Prior to 6:30 p.m. Mass
And by Appointment

Devotions

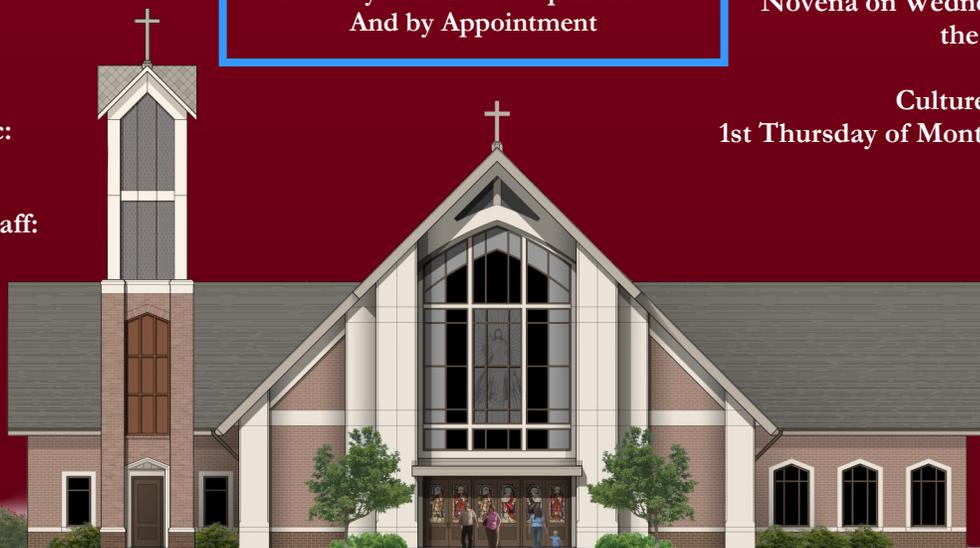
Eucharistic Adoration:
24/7 in the Adoration Chapel

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Thursday & Friday, 3 p.m. in
Adoration Chapel
and following
Weekday Morning Masses

Rosary:
Monday—Friday before Mass,
Sunday before 8:30 a.m. Mass, and
Sábados, 6:30 p.m. (Español)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help:
Novena on Wednesday following
the 7:30 a.m. Mass

Culture of Life Rosary
1st Thursday of Month following the
7:30 a.m. Mass





St. Joseph Sunday Missal

Today's Readings: p. 296
Next Sunday: p. 320

*To purchase a Sunday Missal for \$20,
please see an usher.*



The Sanctuary Candle
burns this week

In Memory of
Enrique D'Leon

The Adoration Chapel
Candles burn this week

All Affected by the
Corona Virus



Pray for the Repose of the
Souls of those who have died:

Blanche Sevenker



*May her soul and
the souls of all the
faithful departed,
through the mercy
of God, rest in
peace!*

Baptisms



Cooper Johnston
Ferrier

MASS INTENTIONS

*To schedule Mass intentions, please visit website
www.divinemercyparish.org. The link for the
Mass intentions page is under "Pray," then
"Prayer & Liturgy," then "Mass Intentions", or
contact the Parish Office.*



April 4 - 10, 2020

Saturday 4:00 pm

Anna Louise Powers, Bobby Jackson, Charles Kronlage,
DeeDee Zahn (Living), Dene & Maddox Culton (Living),
Dr. James Bohm, Fr. Seelos (In Thanksgiving), Gary Waguespack,
Gregory Gandolfi, James Bohm, MD, Joan Stoltz Preston,
Kai Piazza (Living), Lucienne D. Siragusa,
Lynda & Tom Walker (Living), Mike Lemmon, Mirian Chacon,
Nelson Guarin Campof, Pereda Family, Samuel John Sara III,
Stanley J. Adamcewicz, Sr.

Sábado-Misa de las 7:00 pm

Angel Castaneda, Angelita Padilla, Mirna Vasquez (Living),
Nicanor Casais, III, Tulia Valderrama Diez

Sunday 8:30 am

Anna Louise Powers, Dene & Maddox Culton (Living), Jo Penn,
Prayer Blanket Recipients-Living & Deceased

Sunday 10:30 am

Andres Albarado Flores

Sunday 6:00 pm Mass

All Parishioners

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 pm: Lucienne D. Siragusa

Tuesday 6:30 pm: Laura & David Melancon (Living)

Wednesday 7:30 am: Paul Vincent Burke

Thursday 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper:
John & Joanne Bourgeois



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5

- No Masses
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Monday, April 6

- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer
- No 6:30 pm Mass

Tuesday, April 7

- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer
- No 6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, April 8

- No 7:30 am Mass
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Thursday, April 9 - Holy Thursday

- No 7:30 am Mass
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Saturday, April 11-Holy Saturday

- Second Collection-Priestly Formation/
Easter Charities
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday

- Second Collection- Priestly Formation/
Easter Charities
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of March 22, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 3,272.00
Loose	\$ 88.00
Online Giving	\$ 4,977.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 6,053.00
Other Income	\$ 2,428.00
Totaling	\$16,818.00

St. Anthony Ministry \$ 709.00

“Let us focus on generosity, or returning God’s gifts with increase, through the generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure.”

~ Fr. Cooper

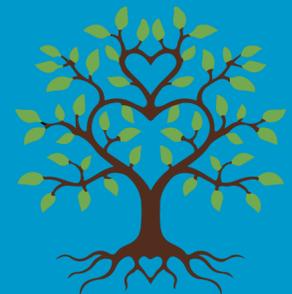


GRATEFUL & GENEROUS

April 5, 2020 - Palm Sunday

“As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.” (Matthew 27:32)

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him “carry his cross.” These opportunities aren’t usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person’s needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.



Golf Tournament

The Divine Mercy Men’s Club Annual Golf Tournament has been postponed.





Online Giving Welcome to Online Giving

Divine Mercy Parish would like to thank our families who are currently giving electronically. You may not see these fellow parishioners place an envelope in the basket every week, but their consistent giving does not go unnoticed. Each month our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from those donors who have made the commitment to give to God first by having a designated contribution automatically transferred to our parish through our Online Giving Program. If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe, and secure way of giving, please check out our website: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/dmp>



DIVINE MERCY YOUTH MINISTRY

Today, we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. We remember Jesus' suffering as we are presented with the Gospel (Matthew 26:14-27:66). A LIFETEEN author reminds us that "a life with Jesus does not mean we never suffer; rather, it means we never suffer alone." At LIFETEEN and Edge we agree with the LIFETEEN author's statement that, "When we suffer, we are meant to do so with Jesus through His glory on the cross." Come and join us as we learn about redemptive suffering with Jesus.

Prayer Intentions

Ruth Brown, Hunter Steudlein, Susan Hancock, The Family of Cody Breaux, Linda Spalitta, Paul Siragusa, Francis Brunett, Rosemary Cotham, The Schmidt Family, Jackie Reynolds, David Hode, Laura Melancon, Elvira Savery, Robert Reinhardt, Robert Santopadre, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Sybil Huesman, Melina Zabala, All Prayer Blanket Recipients, and All Prayer Intentions on the Divine Mercy website.



Names will remain on the list one month. Call 466-5016 to add a name.

Prayer Blanket Ministry



Relief to the suffering, peace to the fearful. May each Prayer Blanket Recipient know they are not alone. We are praying for their healing and comfort. This beautiful act of sacrifice

before the Lord transforms this blanket into a prayer blanket whose very threads become interwoven with pleas for healing on behalf of the recipient. To request a Prayer Blanket for someone who is ill or in need, contact Meryl Rooney at (504) 472-4383.

Divine Mercy Parish 2019 Seafood Festival October 11, 12, & 13, 2019

<u>Revenue</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Rides	\$56,508	Rides	\$32,208
Food Income	22,038	Food	13,963
Raffle Tickets	8,580	Raffle Expenses	2,452
Sponsorships	15,400	Misc Expenses **	25,532
Soft Drinks	4,228	Soft Drinks	1,939
Beer	5,165	Beer	1,819
T-Shirts	5,332	T-Shirts	4,899
Bomb Bags, Eggs	3,796	Bomb Bags, Eggs	4,711
Smoothie King	2,823	Smoothie King	2,260
Cherry Bells	2,148	Cherry Bells	1,252
Baked Goods	2,020		
Dunking Booth	1,106		
Kids Games	647		
Used Books	371		
Hair/Face Paint	304		
Total Revenue	\$130,464	Total Expenses	\$91,034
Net Income	\$39,430		

** Misc Exp - Insurance, Police/Fire Detail, Bands, Tent/Table Rental, Portable Restroom Rental, Site Cleanup, Dumpster, Portable Light Rental, Sound System Rental, NSF Charges, Permits



PALM SUNDAY

And when He entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matt.21:11)

Today as we reflect on this scene, we know that this will be the last time that Jesus will be honored by the people. In a few short days He will be jeered and spat on as He winds his weary way up to Calvary to be crucified. How often am I like those people? How often have I blamed Him for my failures and yet taken full recognition for my successes? It is always easy to see the faults and weaknesses of others and not acknowledge our own. Today let us take some time to meditate on our spiritual blindness, let us use this time of seclusion as a time to truly walk side by side with Jesus through His suffering and death. Yes, we know that resurrection will come, but death must come first. *"Father in heaven, help us today to put everything aside and focus on Your pain as You watch Your precious Son take on our burden of sin. Help us to acknowledge our weaknesses and beg for Your help. May Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Reflection by Anne-Marie Barrilleaux

Easter Triduum & Easter Sunday Schedule

At this time, we are uncertain of what services will be available for the Triduum and Easter Sunday. Please consult the parish website for the most current information.

<http://www.divinemercyparish.org/>

St. Anthony Ministry Food Pantry

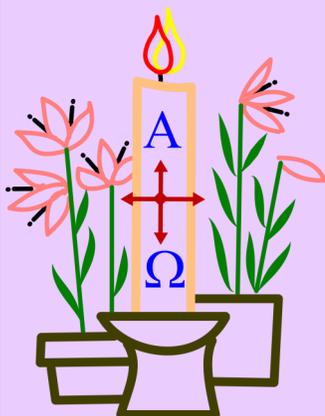
The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:



Canned Items (sizes 14 - 16 oz.):
 Carrots, Green Beans, Sweet Peas, Tomato Sauce, Tuna (5 oz), Mixed Vegetables, Soups, Beans, Peanut Butter (18 oz), Jelly (16-20 oz plastic bottle), Macaroni & Cheese (7.25 oz box), Pasta & Dry Beans (1 lb), Canned Meats (Chicken, Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti & Meatballs—14.5 oz), Instant Potatoes (14 oz), Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Dry Cereal, Grits, Juice (1/2 gal)

Please, No Glass, No Super-Sized or EXPIRED Items.

Thank You for your Support!



The Paschal Candle was donated in memory of

Alfonso Enrique Delgado Caldera

Special Second Collection



There will be a special Second Collection taken at all the Easter Masses to help support Priestly Formation at Notre Dame Seminary and to assist with the various Charitable Organizations of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Thank you for your generosity as we help our young men studying for the priesthood.



You can help us
during the COVID-19 pandemic.



During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to continue our ministry. Use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Plus, sign up is easy.

To sign up online, go to: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/dmp>

Or

From your smartphone, text "Give" to 504-500-4666.
You will receive a link to the Divine Mercy Online Giving website to complete a one-time registration.

Or

See Page 14 for an Online Giving Authorization Form. Complete the form, return to the Office and we will setup your Online Giving Account.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

We will celebrate the parish's Feast Day with Mass and Devotions on Sunday, April 19th, Divine Mercy Sunday. The principal Feast Day Mass will be celebrated at 10:30AM followed directly by Exposition, Procession, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Devotions from 11:30AM – 12Noon.

Confessions will be heard from 9 AM till Mass time.

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus, the Parish's Feast Day Celebration (planned to immediately follow Mass and Devotions) has been postponed.



HISPANIC MINISTRY

Triduo Pascual y Horario del Domingo de Pascua

En este momento, no estamos seguros de qué servicios estarán disponibles para el Triduo y el Domingo de Pascua. Consulte el sitio web de la parroquia para obtener la información más actualizada.

www.divinemerccyparish.org



DOMINGO DE PALMA

Y cuando entró en Jerusalén toda la ciudad se sacudido y se preguntaba: "¿Quién es este?" Y la multitud respondía: "Este es Jesús el profeta, de Nazaret en Galilea". (Mateo 21:11)

Hoy, al reflexionar sobre esta escena, sabemos que esta será la última vez que Jesús será honrado por la gente. En unos pocos días, Él será abucheado y escupido mientras Él se olvida de su cansancio camino al Calvario para ser crucificado. ¿Con qué frecuencia yo soy como esa gente? ¿Con qué frecuencia lo he culpado a Él por mis fracasos y, sin embargo, yo me doy pleno reconocimiento por mis éxitos? Siempre es fácil ver las faltas y debilidades de otros y no reconocer las nuestras. Hoy tomemos un poco de tiempo para meditar en nuestra ceguera espiritual, usemos este tiempo de aislamiento como un tiempo para caminar verdaderamente lado a lado con Jesús a través de Su sufrimiento y muerte. Sí, sabemos que vendrá la resurrección, pero la muerte debe venir primero. *"Padre celestial, ayúdanos hoy para dejar todo de lado y enfocarnos en Tu dolor cuando miras a Tu precioso Hijo asumir nuestra carga de pecado. Ayúdanos a reconocer nuestras debilidades y rogar por Tu ayuda. Que venga tu reino, que se haga tu voluntad en la tierra como es en el cielo".*

Reflexión de Anne-Marie Barrilleaux

EL Ministerio de San Antonio Despensa de Alimentos

Artículos enlatados (tamaños 14-16 oz.): Verduras mixtas, Zanahorias, Tomate, Judías Verdes, Guisantes dulces, Maíz, Sopas, Frijoles, Leche Evaporada, Frutas, Carnes Enlatadas 14.5 oz (Pollo, Chef Boyardee, Espaguetis y Albóndigas), Atún (5 oz.)

Mantequilla de Maní (18 oz.), Mermelada - (botella de plástico 16 a 20 onzas), Macarrones con queso (caja de 7.25 oz.), Pasta (1 lb), Frijoles Secos (1 lb), Papas Instantáneas (14 oz), Cereal de desayuno, Mezcla para Muffins o para Panqueques (12 a 16 oz)

Avena o Sémola (1 a 2 libras o paquetes individuales), Jugo - (1/2 galón)



Por favor no vidrio o comida vencida y de tamaño regular. ¡Muchas Gracias!

CELEBRACIÓN DEL DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

Celebraremos la Fiesta de la parroquia con misa y devociones el domingo 19 de abril, Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. La misa principal del Día de la Fiesta será celebrada a las 10:30 a.m. seguido directamente por Exposición, Proceción y Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento y Devociones de la Divina Misericordia de 11:30 a.m. a 12 del mediodía.

Se escucharán confesiones desde las 9 AM hasta la hora de misa.

Debido a la incertidumbre del corona virus, la Celebración del Día de Fiesta de la parroquia (planeada para seguir inmediatamente después de la misa y devociones) ha sido pospuesta.



FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Jesus' valedictory

No greater homily has ever been given than the one Jesus preaches today, nailed to his perpendicular pulpit. It consists of a mere seven sentences, spread over the span of three cold and dark hours. For Jesus to have spoken at all shows how important He considered every word. The human person speaks during exhalation, and for a crucified man to talk, he has to thrust himself upward by his legs to open his lungs sufficiently to exhale. Under ordinary circumstances, this would have been immensely painful, but for someone like Jesus with nails through the nerves of His feet, such an action would have also sent piercing bolts racing through His beaten body. Not only was He suffering while He said these words, but He was suffering anew precisely in order to say these words.

Well before the Roman soldier had pierced His heart with a lance to let forth a torrent of blood and water, Jesus Himself revealed its contents through His scabbed and parched lips. And in them, Jesus, like any great orator and teacher, summarized the most important parts of what He had spent His life trying to communicate.

The first word came when He was being hammered to His cruciform podium. While others would have naturally cried out in agony, Jesus cried, rather, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" These words of mercy were invoked not just for His executioners and mockers, but for everyone who has ever sinned. Little did His executioners realize they were killing the God-man; little have we known that by our sins we were doing the same. But in the midst of suffering the worst sin of all, Jesus was begging forgiveness for us all. The "friend of tax collectors and sinners" was a faithful friend to all such sinners to the end.

His second word was to one sinner in particular who, in the midst of his own pain, recognized Jesus not as a fellow crucified criminal about to die, but as a king about to conquer and reign. After defending Jesus, he did not ask to be saved from death, only to be remembered. And Jesus responded with words that have never been forgotten: "Today I tell you: you will be with me in paradise." The good thief knocked and the door of heaven was opened, and the Good Shepherd arrived in verdant pastures with one of His lost sheep.

His third word was to saints. Jesus had come from heaven to bring into being a new family. That family already had a father, but needed a mother. In a second annunciation, Jesus declared to Mary that she was to become a mother again: "Woman behold your son!" Then he turned to His beloved disciple and said, "Behold your mother." The new "mother of all the living," Mary repeated her "fiat!" and has ever since helped John and her other spiritual children to say the same.

In the fourth word, Jesus shows how He was fulfilling all the Old Testament prophecies. In the words of Psalm 22, He turned to his Father and prayed: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This psalm had predicted that He would be mocked and encircled by evildoers, that others would cast lots for His clothing, and that He would be able to count all His bones. But that is just a prelude to a message of great hope: that He would live in God and even those who "sleep in the earth" would bow before God. Despite contrary perceptions, God was shouting that He had never abandoned His beloved children and would call them back to life!

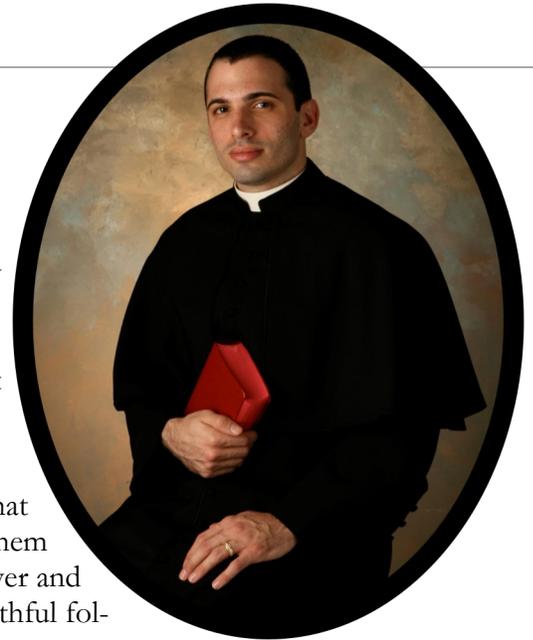
In the fifth word, He fulfilled Psalm 69, which foretold that He would be thirsty and given vinegar to drink. He who had created all the water in the world nevertheless clamored "I thirst!" As with the time He asked the Samaritan woman for a drink, however, His thirst was to give us Himself as "living water," to quench our thirsts and desires forever.

Jesus, I trust in You!



That fifth word leads to the sixth. Scripture scholars say that the wine mixed with gall given to Jesus constituted the fourth cup of the Jewish Passover rite, which brought to completion what Jesus had begun at the Last Supper the night before. As the new paschal victim, the Lamb of God was giving His body and shedding His blood to inaugurate the new and eternal covenant. He cried out in triumph “it is finished!” With His mission successfully accomplished, He could now turn to His heavenly Father and in his last word put an exclamation point on the infinite trust that characterized His entire life: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!”

Jesus had strained to speak these words aloud so that we could know what was in His heart as that heart was about to beat its last. He proclaimed them so that we could hear them and base our lives on them. Today their power and eloquence echo unabated in the contrite, contemplative hearts of His faithful followers.



Social distancing at home?
Take advantage of the time and

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Videos, Movies, Audio Resources, and more!

FORMED has everything you need to learn more and fall deeper in love with Jesus and our beautiful Catholic Church
And all for FREE for 40 DAYS!

www.FORMED.org/FaithAtHome



DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRED MUSIC

Palm Sunday

Memorare



REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Family Prayer



Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of war, disaster, epidemic and illness. We come to you, Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism. We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people. Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence. Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family.

1 **Make an act of faith**
Come up with your own prayer or use a traditional one to express to the Lord our faith in his real presence in the Eucharist.

2 **Make an act of love**
Say a prayer that expresses your love and gratitude to the Lord. Thank Him for his infinite love as well.

4 steps for Spiritual Communion

CatholicLink

3 **Express your desire to receive him**
As you are not able to physically receive the Lord, express your desire to receive Him in your heart.

4 **Invite Jesus to come into your heart**
With a humble and contrite heart we ask the Lord to come to us just as He would if we were able to receive the sacrament.

Let us pray,

Loving and faithful God, the coronavirus reminds us that we have no power and we are dependent on you. We place ourselves in your loving hands. Please give eternal rest to all who have died from the virus. Please put your healing hand on those who are ill, and give your protection to us in this time of fear and uncertainty. Please, calm our fears and help us to trust you as our faithful God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us in this time of need

ARCHBISHOP GREGORY AYMOND

Jesus, I trust in You!



Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:



Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



**From the Office of the Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish
Reverend Father Robert T. Cooper**

A Time of Farewells and New Beginnings

On behalf of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, I have been asked to communicate the following announcement:

1. Effective July 1st of this year, Fr. Paul Clark will be departing as the Parochial Vicar of Divine Mercy Parish in Kenner, Louisiana. The Archbishop has assigned Fr. Clark to become the new pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hahnville, Louisiana.
2. Deacon Luis Duarte, currently serving as a transitional Deacon at Divine Mercy Parish, will become our new Parochial Vicar after his ordination to the Priesthood. "Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Some people move our souls to dance. They awaken us to a new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom. Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same."
– Flavia Weedn

Flavia Weedn was a well-known illustrator, especially of children's books. But when she stated the above, she might have been talking about Fr. Paul Clark and his impact on our lives and the life of our Divine Mercy community. After serving as our Parochial Vicar for the past four years, Fr. Clark will depart July 1st for a new assignment – his first pastorate at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hahnville. As we bid him farewell, there is a bit of heaviness in our hearts, but that is a feeling that is shared in part by him. Farewells are never easy, and as Catholics, we fully understand that this type of farewell to a beloved parish priest who has served us and



ministered to our needs is the way of life in the Church. Farewells have an even deeper meaning for us as Catholics. In a homily given at the end of the Easter season last year, Pope Francis said, “The atmosphere in these final days of the Easter season is an atmosphere of farewell. Farewells can be dramatic, but our faith tells us they are never permanent. In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul bids farewell, and says, ‘If only I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord, which is to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God.’” Fr. Clark’s priesthood is a testament to that same grace.

And so, asking the Lord to bless Fr. Clark as he accepts his first pastorate, I offer this prayer composed by Pope St. Pius X, that great parish priest, for Fr. Clark’s reflection: “Lord, grant that I may realize what my Christian and priestly vocation demands of me, somewhat in the way in which I shall see it immediately after death...In your mercy, grant me the grace to fulfill with love whatever You expect of me for the salvation of those souls whom I ought to help, and to suffer with generosity whatever sorrow You have permitted from eternity for my Sanctification before I eventually reach You in heaven. I ask, in particular, that I may work with zeal for the salvation of all those souls whom, in accordance with Your will, I ought to help. For that purpose, I join the personal sacrifice of my life with the unbloody sacrifice of Your Son, superabundant and of infinite value, and with the immense merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.” Father Clark, we pray for you, and we thank you for being such a noble part of our lives.

As we prepare to bid Fr. Clark a very fond farewell, we welcome the announcement from Archbishop Aymond, that Deacon Luis Duarte, currently serving as a transitional Deacon at Divine Mercy Parish, will become our new Parochial Vicar after his ordination to the Holy Priesthood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have every confidence that the “future” Fr. Luis will be a great priest and a holy example of the Risen Christ to all of us. I also have every confidence that you will welcome his presence with open arms and with open hearts; I ask you to love him, to support him, and to work with him as he transitions into priestly life and ministry so that the Kingdom of God may continue to flourish in this beautiful parish family.

My prayer is that Our Lord will bless both of these men in great, hidden ways. I know that they will be men for others, for the salvation and sanctification of all mankind. And, I encourage them to pray often the words St. Teresa of Calcutta taught her Sisters for times of difficulty and struggle: “Mary, Mother of Jesus, be a mother to me now and always.”

While I had hoped to deliver these remarks in person, the current COVID-19 pandemic dictates that I correspond with you by means of this communiqué. Be assured of my prayers and spiritual solidarity as we walk this journey together.

Let us hold each other in prayer in this time of farewells, transition, and new beginnings.



AUTHORIZATION FORM for ONLINE GIVING

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish

Kenner, LA 70065



Last Name:		First Name(s):	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone: Mobile ()		Home ()	
Email Address:		Divine Mercy Envelope #:	
<i>(An Email address is required for Online Giving)</i>			
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____ / ____ / ____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <i>(check only one)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly - Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly on the 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	
FUNDS and AMOUNTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Offertory \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Campaign \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> St. Anthony \$ _____ Total \$ _____			
Checking	Please debit my donation from my Checking Account: Routing Number: _____ <i>(Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3)</i> Account Number: _____		
I authorize Divine Mercy Catholic Parish to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification in writing to terminate the authorization.			
Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____ <i>Please attach voided check if using checking account.</i>			
Credit Card	Please charge my donation to my Credit Card (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> DiscoverCard		
	Credit Card Number:		
	Expiration Date:		Security Code:
	Name on Card:		
	Billing Address (if different from above):		
I authorize Divine Mercy Catholic Parish to charge my credit card in accordance with the information above. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification in writing to terminate the authorization.			
Signature <i>(as it appears on the credit card)</i> : _____ Date: _____			
Mail completed Authorization Form to: Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, 4337 Sal Lentini Parkway, Kenner, LA 70065, Place in a Sealed Envelope marked "OLG Authorization" and place in Collection Basket or FAX to (504) 264-5394			

Loving Mercifully. Living Marian.