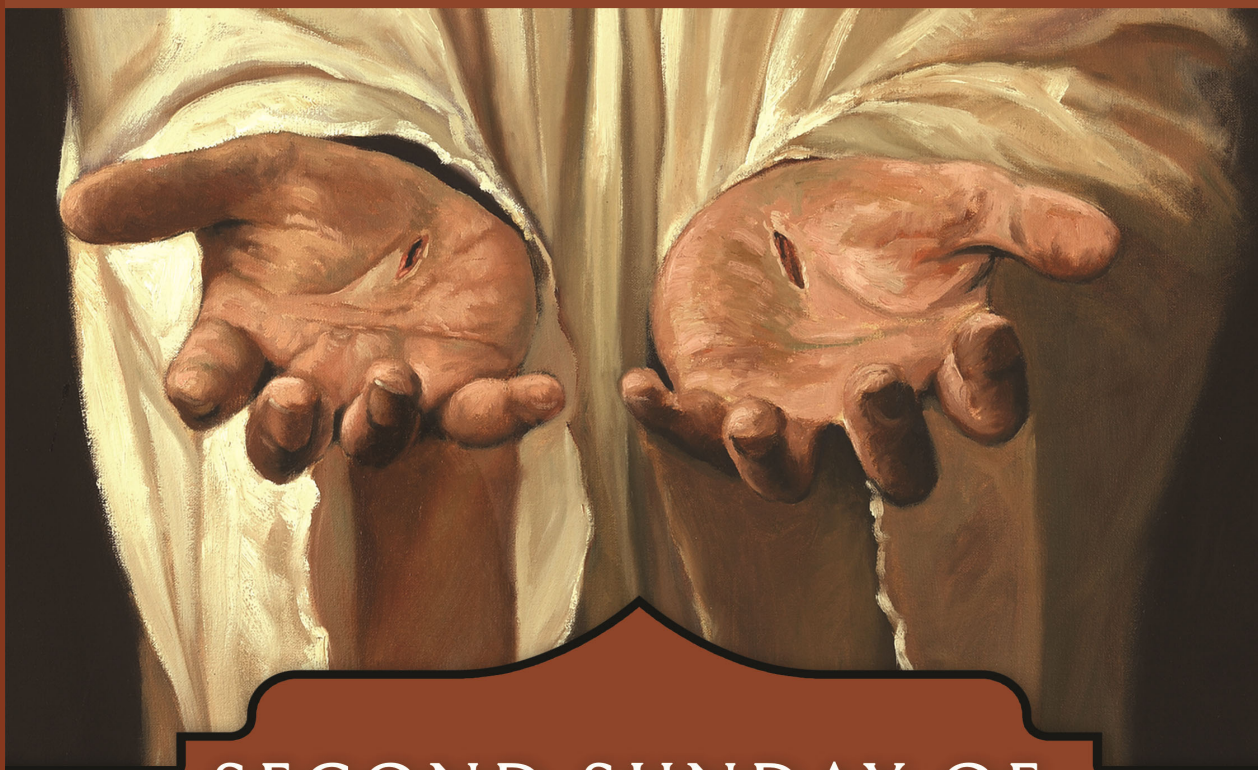


The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Norridge, IL



SECOND SUNDAY OF

Easter

(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 11, 2021

Jesus said to Thomas,
“Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:29

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We are in need of volunteer parishioners to assist the Re-opening Team with our weekday and Sunday Mass, and also Sacramental celebrations. Without the help of our volunteers we cannot continue to welcome our parishioners back to church. Please help us!

You can sign up by sending an E-mail to dsavior@aol.com or leaving a message at 708.456.9000. We will then contact you about training.

APRIL 2021

Dear DS Parishioners & Friends,

CELEBRATING EASTER JOY: Easter is the promise that death will visit each of us. But more important, it is the assurance that death is not the last word. The Resurrection of Jesus prompts us to recall, from the darkest moments of grief to life's smallest trials, how much God comforts us and gives us the strength to persevere. The Easter season gives us a renewed identity: we are saved, redeemed, enlightened; we have no more need for fear or despair. Through our baptism and faith, we are united with Jesus in a living relationship; he is the vine and we are the branches. We do not go through life unconnected and without purpose. We are part of God's great plan for the fulfillment of creation. Reflecting on this wondrous truth of our faith helps enliven us and uplift our confidence to attain our destiny. Good and bad, despair and hope, joy and suffering always exist side by side in this world. Jesus didn't avoid pain and suffering; he embraced his cross as fully part of God's will. We create sadness and frustration for ourselves by expecting, if not demanding, Easter without Good Friday, success without effort, better lives for ourselves without having to die to our old ways. We never live real life successfully until we can fully accept the ups and downs of life as part of normal living. Then we are significantly less immobilized by hardships or demoralized by reversals of fortune. Easter does not discount Good Friday, but it certainly outshines it, proving that there is no affliction, no setback, no misfortune we face that cannot serve as a stepping stone for something wonderful. The Resurrection of Jesus encourages us to look for the oasis in the desert, the silver lining in every cloud. We find power in meeting our problems and doing what we need to do by the assurance of eventual victory. Therefore, we should accept Jesus as a living Lord and welcome his life as our own. Embrace life in its fullness – with bad parts and good as all part of God's loving plan. Rejoice in Christ's victory over suffering and death, trust that we share that same victory. No matter what hardships we face, we will prevail! Refuse to be dominated by any negative or defeatist thinking. Rise from the dead. Our redeemer lives and invites us to do likewise. ALLELUIA!!!

RENEW MY CHURCH (RMC) UPDATE: Discussion from our March meeting concluded that St. Rosalie will join our grouping with St. Monica, Divine Savior, St. Eugene and Our Lady, Mother of the Church. As we embark upon the RMC strategy to look seriously at the viability of each of our parishes and creatively make decisions that will assure a strong Catholic presence in our area for the future, we will be analyzing Mass attendance, parishioner engagement, parish facilities, weekly financial support and other resources. At the core of the entire RMC process are three important focuses: The first is our goal as parish communities and as followers of Jesus Christ to assist in the process of making and forming true disciples. The second is to build and strengthen our faith community. The third is to inspire witness of our faith by putting it into action in our everyday lives. To do this well we will need creative leadership, greater financial resources, an engaged congregation, uplifting liturgies and space to facilitate these goals. To accomplish this new reality will require a hard look at what is the best way to achieve these goals. In other words, what decisions will be made as far as merging, consolidating and perhaps even the closing of parishes in our grouping. This is what the RMC process will enable us to figure out. There will obviously be much more engagement, discussion and involvement on all our parts in the months ahead. In May the pastors of our grouping will participate in a three-day retreat to prepare us to incorporate the RMC program in each parish. Each month I will give our parishioners a monthly update. Please remember us in your prayers.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA): Because of the pandemic guidelines, our community of faith is unable to celebrate and fundraise to meet the expenses of the parish operating budget as we did in past years. The ACA rebate is the only scheduled fundraiser for this active fiscal year. This means, that when our parish reaches the prescribed goal of \$23,667.00 in paid pledges, all additional funds contributed will be rebated to our parish. Our March archdiocesan contribution summary reports: Amount pledged: \$19,253.00 & Amount paid: \$13,853.00 with 93 donors. This report informs us that we have 81% pledged toward our parish goal. Last year our donor count was at 182 donors. I encourage those who have contributed in the past to continue their support to the Archdiocese and our parish by pledging to the active 2021 ACA. Also, I encourage new donors to participate. Relying on the future generosity of DS parishioners and friends, I am certain that more pledges and contributions will increase the present percentage and move us above the goal. Please continue your generosity to the 2021 ACA.

May our Divine Savior guide our way,

+Fr. Jim

Weekly Offerings

March 27/28	Easter (As of April 6, 2021)
Envelopes: \$ 3,522.00	Envelopes: \$ 18,803.13
GiveCentral: <u>\$ 1,192.00</u>	GiveCentral: <u>\$ 4,169.00</u>
Total: \$ 4,714.00	Total: \$ 22,972.13

We are grateful for all who continue to faithfully support our parish each week during these challenging times.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements for 2020 are available for those who specifically request them. Statements may be requested by calling the Parish Office at 708.456.9000 or by sending an email request to dsavior@aol.com.

Online Giving with GiveCentral

It's easy to participate in online giving!

GiveCentral was created with input from parishes as a customized online giving program.

GiveCentral is a secure online system where parishioners can create individual giving profiles with payment options ranging from direct debit (ACH) to credit cards.

Here's how to get setup:

1. Visit www.divinesaviornorridge.org and click the 'GiveCentral' button at the top of the page on the right. This will take you to our GiveCentral page.
2. Either select from one of the featured collections on our page, or click 'View More' to see all of our collections.
3. Select the fund(s) to which you would like to donate, and then specify the amount, frequency, start date, and end date.
4. Click 'Add to my Gift Basket'.
5. Review your donations in the Gift Basket, and then click 'Continue'.
6. Select the 'Complete Profile' option to setup an account and fill out the form to complete your donations.



To sign-up for Mass please click here.

Reservations for all Masses are required and can be made at www.divinesaviornorridge.org. Click on the Sign-Up Genius logo.

For more information and updates please go to www.divinesaviornorridge.org.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please remember Lillian Baureis, Maria Bordignon, John Bovard, Peggy A. Carolan, Marilee Cass, Annie Rose Cernick, Mary Ciliak, Biagio Cirrincione, Al Corrado, Dawn Crimmins, Josephine Davi, Virgie Dy, MaryAnn Entrup, Geraldine Fergus, Amalia Gaglianese, John Gaydos, MaryAnn Gaydos, Lucille Gibula, Lucille Gutowski, Gina Hess, Renee Holm, Richard Humanski, Jackie Kukielka, Gloria Lesniak, Erica Lursky, Maria Makos, Mickey Margelewski, Mary Ann Maro, Rosalie McAteer, Berniece Michna, Ernest Morris, William Murray, Ed Ochab, Edward Pasdiora, James Pastorino, Mary Ann Romito, Lillian Ross, Caterina Savarino, Alicia Schmitz, Matt Schoenbach, Maria Scimeca, Dominic Senese, Mickey Stefanski, Steve Strzelecki, and all parishioners, family members, and friends in your prayers.

Please pray as well for Charles Ghiloni, Jr. and all who have died. May they now rest in eternal peace.

Remember Divine Savior in your will!

Giving a legacy to your church is an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God for all that you have been given and enjoyed during your life. It is also a means of ensuring that your past can become part of the future of your church's life, through mission and ministry to all God's people.

Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees.

Please contact your Human Resource Office to learn more about your company's Matching gift policy and to determine if you are eligible for a matching gift.



SECOND SUNDAY OF Easter

(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 11, 2021

Jesus came and stood in their
midst and said to them,
"Peace be with you."

John 20:19

FAITH

What a difference faith makes! The faith of the early community of believers led them to rise beyond the selfishness that so many of us struggle with as they grew in communion with Christ and one another. Their selflessness was a living sign of the impact of their faith in Jesus Christ. They did not find the commandments burdensome, but rather centered their lives on the love of God and neighbor that Jesus taught through his life, death, and resurrection. It is good for us to remember that faith is a gift. The journey of faith is not always straightforward and is often marked by doubt and moments of weakness. The apostles' faith grew as they experienced the risen Jesus. Jesus surely knew they needed the peace he offered and the presence of the Holy Spirit, as do we who have not seen the Lord and yet have come to believe in him.

FROM DOUBT TO BELIEF

The apostle Thomas will forever be remembered as the one who doubted. It is good that his experience is recorded in the Gospel of John. We all doubt sometimes, and "Doubting Thomas" shows us how to move from doubt to belief, knowing that the risen Jesus will be with us through it all. Thomas did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus' time with them. Thomas' doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

LIVING FAITH

The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas' lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

1 John 5:1–6

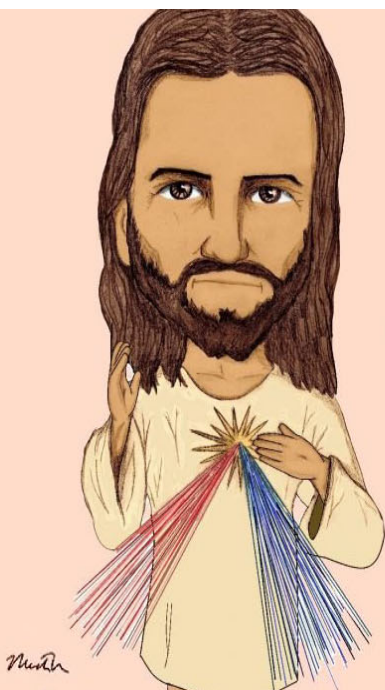
John 20:19–31

From RMD to QCD

The Problem: Don't let your age (being over 70 ½) and needing to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Traditional IRA each year mean higher taxes. It was that way for me until I finally got smart. For years, I deposited my RMD in my savings. I used some of it to live on and gifted other parts of that money to my Church and other charities. Then I realized that money **coming to me** was really driving up my taxes to Uncle Sam's IRS.

The Solution: Now I start each year by learning the size of my RMD. An RMD is the amount of money which **MUST BE WITHDRAWN** from a traditional IRA before December 31 of that year, or the owner of that IRA faces a 50% penalty tax to the IRS. Knowing the amount, I determine how much I will really need for my expenses. The balance I give to charitable organizations like Divine Savior, the Annual Catholic Appeal, other religious organizations, medical charities for heart disease, cancer, etc., and entertainment venues like museums, orchestras, operas, and so on. It is important to be certain or to verify whether such receiving organizations are truly an IRS charitable deduction (501(c)(3)). Be aware that if the IRS does not recognize the name on the check as a bona fide charitable organization, then that money is taxable to you. That done, tell your financial institution that you want to use your RMD to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Your financial institution will ask you for specific information concerning the amount and the name of the venue you want to go on the check, or you may be asked to complete a form giving that information. Once the name of the charity and amount are on the check, your financial institution will either mail it directly to the charity or mail it to you for you to send it to the charity.

The Benefit: That money is NOT taxable to the donor as income, thus lessening the amount of your taxes. Your charity is helped, so be generous. **However**, you (the donor) are NOT able to take that contribution as a charitable deduction on your taxes. It has been my experience that a regular charitable deduction compared to my QCD never resulted in lowering my taxes as much as NOT having that RMD amount charged as income in the first place. So I say it again: be generous to the charity.



I desire that the
Feast of Mercy be
a refuge and shelter
for all souls.

Divine Mercy Sunday

*A Feast celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of Easter.
Jesus promised an abundance of grace and mercy
on this day.*

Mass Intentions

Readings for the Week

Monday, April 12, 2021

Divine Savior Parishioners

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

7:30 AM Lawrence Porada

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Francis Li

Thursday, April 15, 2021

7:30 AM Divine Savior Parishioners

Friday, April 16, 2021

Divine Savior Parishioners

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM Albert Coban
Joseph & Josephine Derus
Special Intentions of Brian & Paula Cychosz
(on their 25th Wedding Anniversary)
Intentions of Intercessory Prayer Group
Intentions of Richard Horneck
Intentions of Jackie Leland

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM John Cyboran
Stanislaw Gawlik
Frances Nimietz
Leonard Stancy
Rosemary Wegner
In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony & St. Jude

All Mass intentions are remembered by Fr. Beath, Fr. Blazek, and Fr. Madigan during their private Masses and private prayer. We ask that you add these intentions to your prayers also.

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Did you know that our bulletin is completely subsidized by our advertisers? Please be sure to thank them by utilizing their products or services.

If you would like to advertise or know someone who is interested, please contact J.S. Paluch Company at 1-800-566-6170.

Monday: Acts 4:23-31
John 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7
John 6:16-21

Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 35-48



Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus appeared to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has ...

D	Y	E	S
O	N	E	S
U	N	E	I
T	M	O	S

S _ _ _ _ _

Answer: *As I send you, so I want you to go and tell the good news to all people.*

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Liturgical Ministry Schedule for April 17/18

	<i>Presider</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>
4:00 PM	Fr. Blazek	C. Giacalone	O. Giacalone
9:00 AM	Fr. Beath	M. Bratko	I. Petryszak

Mission Statement of The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

We are a faith community that seeks the fullest relationship with Jesus, by our communion with each other, through the Eucharist, Sacraments, Prayer, and Service.

Pastoral Staff

Administrator

Rev. James F. Blazek

Pastor

Rev. Richard J. Lo Bianco

Associate Pastor

Rev. James D. Beath

Director of Faith Formation/Business Manager

Ms. Mary E. Coban

Assisting Priests

Rev. William Holbrook

Rev. Michael Madigan

Music Director

Mrs. Mary Herman

Coordinator of Adult Formation **Mr. Frank Lizak**

7740 W. Montrose Avenue Norridge, IL 60706

(708) 456-9000 Fax: (708) 456-7838

E-mail: dsavior@aol.com

Website: www.divinesaviornorridge.org

This Week

Register for Mass
at divinesaviornorridge.org
or call 708.456.9000

Divine Savior Sunday Mass can be viewed at
www.divinesaviornorridge.org. Click on Sunday Mass
or follow us and view on our Facebook page

Holy Name Cathedral Mass
Saturday at 4:00 PM
radiotv.archchicago.org/television/broadcast-masses
Every Sunday at 9:30 AM on ABC7

Mercy Home Mass
Every Sunday at 9:30 AM on WGN Chicago or
mercyhome.org/sunday-mass

Daily Mass at 10:00 AM from St. James Chapel
<https://radiotv.archchicago.org/television/broadcast-masses>

WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday: 4:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 PM. Please call the rectory.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

One Sunday a Month. Please call the rectory.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the rectory.

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