



DIVINE MERCY
PARISH



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December 26, 2021

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

Father Adam Wilczak

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PARISH WEBSITE

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**For Sacramental Emergencies only

Church Office & Mailing address:

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Gardner, KS 66030

OFFICE PHONE & HOURS

(913) 856-7781

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Sacred Heart Church Assumption Church

555 West Main St.
Gardner

110 E Nelson St.
Edgerton

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 10:00am — 11:00am

Thursday 7:00am — 7:45am

Saturday 3:00pm — 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am—7:50am

Sunday 10:00am—10:20am

REGULAR MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY

Tuesday 6:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am

Thursday 8:00 am

Friday 8:00 am

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 6:30 am

8:00 am

10:30 am

The weekend after Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It is a great celebration that our Lord was born into a human family, and by extension sanctifies all families. I think that this is important for us to reclaim a proper understanding as it is in our families that our foundations are laid for our faith.

The domestic church (family) is where we learn to pray, serve, forgive, love and to sacrifice. These and the many other lessons learned are essential to living a life in pursuit of Christ. One thing I stress to parents at the beginning of Religious Education, as well as in marriage prep and any other chance I get, is that parents are the PRIMARY EDUCATORS of their children. Anything done at schools or at the church ought to be seen as purely supplemental to what is learned in the household. These home lessons can never be put off on anyone else, so please have those conversations and lessons at home. I will not go into all of the politics of this today. However, given our feast day, I think it is a good time to remind parents that a part of this is keeping an eye on what is being taught to kids at school. Not all approaches and philosophies out there are truly good for children, this may be a good time to prayerfully consider all of the ways we may enter into this role of education.

With all of this in mind, we should look to the Holy Family to be our example and model. What we understand to be the case for the childhood of Jesus is that the family lived like any other family. Jesus probably worked with Joseph as a man who worked with his hands. Mary did normal motherly duties. There would have been meals shared, miscommunication (remember they did briefly lose track of Jesus), changed diapers, fun stories and laughing. The takeaway is that they lived as a family, even if one of them was both God and Man, one was completely sinless and the other just a holy man. When God took on flesh this is how He chose to live. We should imitate this and strive to grow in holiness in our own households.

Father Adam



SAT DECEMBER 25

9:00am †Ralph King

SUN DECEMBER 26

6:30am People of the Parish

8:00am Jane Bollard

10:30am †Kimber Lane

TUES DECEMBER 28

6:00pm † Jo & Paul Carney

WED DECEMBER 29

6:00pm Sue & † Spank Lang

THURS DECEMBER 30

6:00pm Dr. Mary Lillig

FRI DECEMBER 31

5:00pm † Mayrene Norris

SAT JANUARY 1

4:30pm Rodolfo & Maria Martinez

SUN JANUARY 2

6:30am People of the Parish

8:00am † Rosemary Fergen

10:30am 6th Grade Intentions

Please contact the parish office for Mass intentions. The suggested offering is \$10 per Mass.

PARISH SUPPORT

Collections for Dec 5th		Budget Year to Date	
Regular Offertory		Income	
Budgeted	\$56,121	Budget July 1- Dec 5	\$501,313
Collection	\$15,591	Actual July 1- Dec 5	\$464,503
Difference	-\$40,530	Difference	-\$36,810
Towards Christ		Expenses	
Budgeted	\$2,141	Budget July 1 - Dec 5	\$153,489
Collection	\$1,156	Actual July 1 - Dec 5	\$367,523
Difference	-\$985	Difference	-\$214,034

50 / 50

There was not a winner for Dec 5th, # 1354 was drawn. The balance was \$ 7,145.26.

THANK YOU for your generosity! There's been a great response to Father's suggestion to increase giving. These donations are going to pay down the CFC debt. Please make sure to use the blue/white envelope or select "Towards Christ" online. These funds are not assessed by the diocese and **every dollar goes towards our debt reduction.** Thank you!

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."
(1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

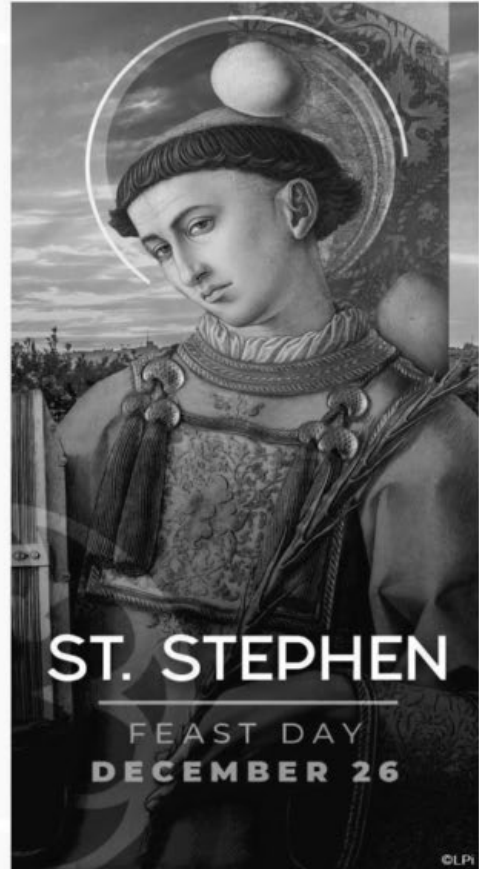
GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Sunday: The Holy Family
- Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church



Saint of the Week

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother

in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH FOR A FEW YEARS AND REALLY WANT TO GET ACTIVE AGAIN, NOT SO MUCH FOR ME, BUT FOR MY CHILDREN. IS THIS A BAD REASON TO COME BACK TO CHURCH?

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer.

But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is

we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of



any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able

to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

- Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

HELP NEEDED to DELIVER COMMUNION



Our Parish is in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to help visit the hospital once a month on a Friday of your convenience. Our goal is to have two Ministers visit each week and, with several Ministers available, our hope is that each Minister would need to visit only once a month. Contact paxmusician@yahoo.com.

Kids Corner

READ THE
GOSPEL &
COLOR



Imagine Jesus goes to your church today. After church, Mary and Joseph find him on the altar telling stories from the Old Testament to the priests and the Sunday School teachers. Mary and Joseph would be amazed. They would want Jesus to come home. Jesus would love his parents so much that he would go home with them. He will stay with them until he grows older, wiser, and stronger.

PRAYER

Lord, teach me your Bible stories so that I can teach them to others.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will always let my parents know where I am, so they won't worry.

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Tuesday

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday

10:00 am - 9:00 pm

7:00 - 8:00 pm Family

Holy Hour

Spend time with our Lord

CAROLERS OF NOTE

Sunday, Dec. 26th

7:00pm

Divine Mercy

Come and enjoy the music of Christmas!

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

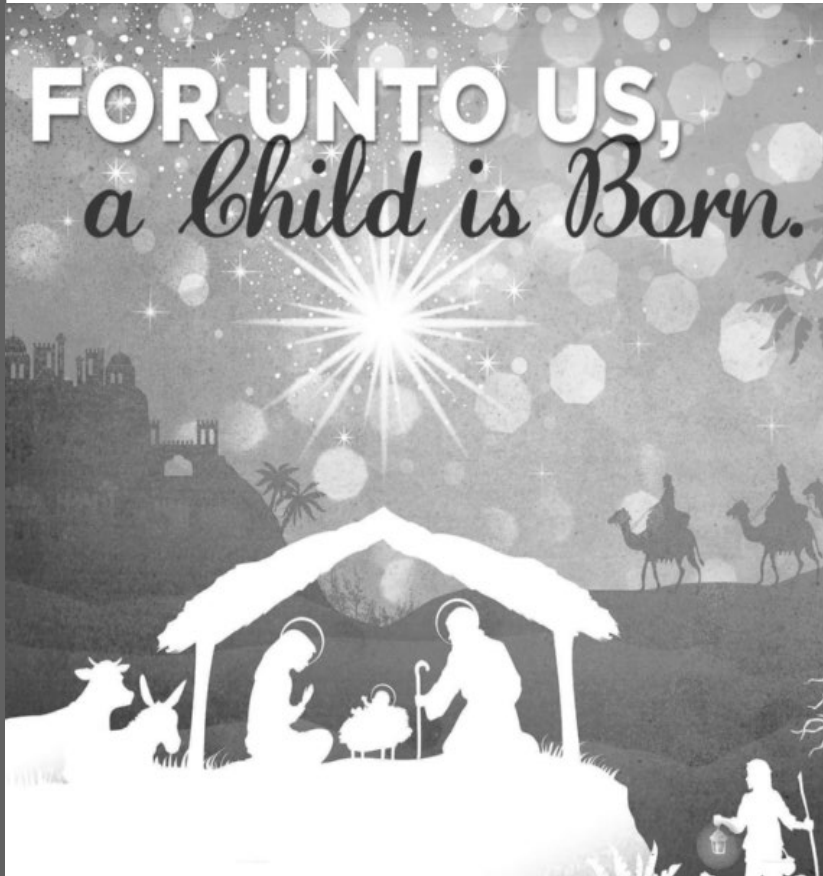
It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

Pints with Padre



Join us Saturday January 1st!

Start off the new year with an evening of fun and fellowship! Bring your own dinner and drinks. Childcare provided.



FOR UNTO US,
a child is Born.

STAFF

PASTOR: Father Adam Wilczak- fradam@divinemerckyks.org
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 communications@divinemerckyks.org

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

Office Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Office Closed

4-7pm Adoration

5:15pm Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

5:30pm Catholic Conversations

6:00pm Mass & evening prayer

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Office Closed

10am-9pm Adoration

5pm Legion of Mary meeting

6:00pm Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

Office Closed

6:00pm Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Office Closed

5:00pm Mass

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

3:00-4:00pm Confession

4:30pm Mass

6:00 Pints with Padre

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

6:30am Mass

7:30am Confession

8:00am Mass

10:00am Confession

10:30am Mass—Live Stream



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