



Sunday, January 18, 2026  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **THE MISSION STATEMENT**

*We, the members of Divine Savior Parish,  
called in Baptism by the Holy Spirit  
to be a people grounded in  
Word and Sacrament,  
strive to reach out to all peoples.  
Through collaboration and sharing of  
talents and gifts we are dedicated in  
prayer and in the works of justice  
to making the Kingdom of God present  
among all peoples, races and cultures.*

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD.

— JOHN 1:29 —



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

# Parish Information

## CONTACT US

**Website:** WWW.Divinesaviorparish.net

**Address:** 6700 Main Street,  
DownersGrove, IL 60516-2799

**Phone:** 630-969-1532

## STAFF

**Fr. Agustin Ortega**, Pastor, 630-574-9751

**Luis Gonzalez**, Business Manager, 630-574-9734  
*Luis@divinesavior.net*

**Bianca Jimenez**, Religious Education Coordinator  
*dre@divinesavior.net* 630-574-9740

**Lupita Plazola**, Parish Secretary, ext. 121  
*Lupita@divinesavior.net* 630-969-1532

**Linda Vicha**, Parish Secretary, ext. 121  
*Secretaryen@divinesavior.net*

**Paul Berardi**, Music Director  
*musicdirector@divinesavior.net* 630-574-9738

## JOIN THE CHURCH!

Are you interested in becoming a fully participating member of the Catholic faith? Contact the Religious Education office at 630-574-9740.

## JOIN THE PARISH!

Stop in the parish office during business hours to register.

## CONFESSIONS

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR CONFESSIONS. 630-969-1532**

## COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please call the parish office.

## BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please mail submissions to  
**bulletin@divinesavior.net** 10 days before the publication.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Weekdays:** 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**Saturday:** 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

**Holy days:** Check the bulletin or website

## BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Closed on Weekends and Holidays

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Phone:** 630-574-9740

**E-mail:** dre@divinesavior.net

**Office hours:** Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## BAPTISMS

Once a month a Baptism service. Arrangements must be made one month in advance. Parental preparation requires registration in the Parish, active Saturday or Sunday participation in Parish Worship and attendance at a Baptismal Preparation meeting. Please call the office to make arrangements.

## MARRIAGES

Arrangements for celebration of marriage must be made with the pastor at least six months to one year in advance and before all other arrangements are made. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays.

## QUINCEAÑERAS

Cualquier persona interesada en la celebración de una Quinceañera debe comunicarse con la Sra. Plazola al menos 6 meses antes la fecha deseada. Todas las familias debenser miembros activos dentro de la parroquia y las señoritas deben haber recibido el sacramento del Bautismo, la reconciliación, la primera comunión y el sacramento de la confirmación o estar asistiendo en nuestras clases/programa de Confirmación por lo menos antes de la Quinceañera. Horas de servicio y un retiro

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

*January 21st through January 25th*

Wednesday: 8:30am JP O'Connell  
 Thursday: 8:30am For the Parishioners  
 Friday: 8:30am Stanley & Victoria  
 Layman  
 Saturday: 4:00pm Angelo Caldarazzo  
 Sunday: 8:00am Frank & Margaret  
 Nessinger  
 10:00am Kimberly Smeltzer  
 12 noon Silvino Contreras



## Prayers for the sick:

Rafaela Botello	John Robinson
Maureen C.	Anthony Gnutek
Mark. C.	Norbert Wierzbicki
Terry R.	Besty
Sherry Toman	Pete Cushion
Steven G.	Bev. G
Joann Costa	Janice Sinnick
D. Woods	Emri R.
Fr. Bill Conway	Elsie Bestvina
Ellaine Gialogo Jimenez	Paul and Helen Czech
Jennifer Sinnick	Kathy S.
Grace P.	Carolyn Heinrich
Herb G.	Erna Eubanks

Please call the office at 630-969-1532  
 if you would like the parish to pray for someone. Please  
 secure his/her permission prior to being included in the  
 prayer request.



The Tabernacle Candle will be lit  
 in Thanksgiving for  
 Patrice Oragene





**Bishop Hicks' Column  
January 2026**

**One Last Column, Ever Grateful**



For more than five years, I have been blessed to share my thoughts with you in this monthly column. When I first began writing, it took me a very long time to craft each reflection. I often wondered if anyone was reading them or if they would make any difference at all.

But at parish visits and events, many of you told me that you read these reflections and that they helped you understand my mind and my heart. Some of you offered positive comments and others offered constructive suggestions. All of that feedback helped me grow in gratitude. I stopped seeing these columns as a task and started seeing them as a privilege. They became one of the ways we shared our faith journey together.

Now I write my final column. It is a bittersweet moment. I am excited for my next steps to New York. At the same time, I am going to miss this ongoing exchange with you.

As we come to the conclusion of this written dialogue, I would like to reflect with you on a few thoughts [I shared at my farewell Mass on January 11, 2026.](#)

In my homily, I expressed my sincere gratitude for the faith and love you have shown me throughout my years as your bishop. Together we have shared significant moments. We have celebrated the sacraments. We have strengthened our mission to be a vibrant and evangelizing Church. Through Confirmations, ordinations, graduations, the Chrism Mass, baptisms, funerals, community service, and our care for the most vulnerable, I saw Jesus Christ revealed in you. And each time we gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, you strengthened my faith and drew me closer to God. And I pray that I have done the same for you.

I am deeply grateful to our priests who faithfully serve with pastoral hearts and leadership. To our deacons, wives, and families, thank you for your steadfast ministry of charity and your service. To our religious women and men and consecrated virgins, your prayerful presence and collaborative ministry have been a constant blessing. I am grateful for every sacrifice and every quiet act of love that often goes unseen but never goes unnoticed by God.

I also want to thank our diocesan staff and all employees who work as a vocation to ensure that the Church continues its mission. Our administrators, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers form disciples in classrooms and parish halls. Our musicians, liturgical ministers, and countless volunteers give life and beauty to our worship and mission. And to every parishioner across our seven counties, please know how grateful I am for your generosity and witness to faith in your homes, parishes, and workplaces.

Through baptism, we are all called to continue living the mission of Jesus Christ. I now move forward to serve in New York, trusting that the good work we have begun together will continue to bear fruit here in the Diocese of Joliet.

Many have asked who will become the next bishop. Soon, an administrator will be appointed who will continue to guide and govern the diocese while the apostolic nuncio and the Dicastery of Bishops offer recommendations to our Holy Father, Pope Leo. In due time, he will appoint the seventh Bishop of Joliet. Please join me in prayer for that discernment process.

Even though my ministry will continue in another place, I believe that prayer keeps us close. Every time we pray for one another, we remain closely united in Christ. So let us keep lifting each other up before God. I will carry you with me in my heart and in my daily prayer, and I humbly ask you to remember me in yours.

I also encourage you to be disciples who make disciples. Please continue to embrace my pastoral letter entitled MAKE. Pray with it. Reflect on it. Share it. Put it into practice every day. The Church grows when every one of us answers the call to live the Gospel with conviction and joy.

You remain in my heart and in my prayers with great love and deep gratitude. May God bless you and bless us always with His Spirit of peace and all good things. Paz y bien.

*[Scan the QR code below to listen to the bishop's homily from his January 11<sup>th</sup> Mass of Thanksgiving.]*





## Bishop Hicks' Columna Enero de 2026



### Una última columna, eternamente agradecido

Durante más de cinco años, he sido bendecido al poder compartir con ustedes mis reflexiones en esta columna mensual. Cuando comencé a escribirla, me tomaba mucho tiempo preparar cada texto. A menudo me preguntaba si alguien los leía o si realmente hacían alguna diferencia.

Sin embargo, en mis visitas a las parroquias y en distintos eventos, muchos de ustedes me dijeron que leían estas reflexiones y que les ayudaban a conocer mejor mi mente y mi corazón. Algunos compartieron palabras de aliento y otros ofrecieron sugerencias constructivas. Todo ese diálogo me ayudó a crecer en gratitud. Dejé de ver esta columna como una tarea y comencé a verla como un verdadero privilegio. Se convirtió en una de las maneras en que caminamos juntos en la fe.

Hoy escribo mi última columna. Es un momento agri dulce. Me entusiasma el siguiente paso que Dios me pide al ir a Nueva York, pero al mismo tiempo voy a extrañar profundamente este intercambio continuo con ustedes.

Al llegar al final de este diálogo escrito, quisiera reflexionar con ustedes sobre algunas ideas que [compárti en mi Misa de despedida el 11 de enero de 2026.](#)

En mi homilía expresé mi sincero agradecimiento por la fe y el amor que me han mostrado durante mis años como su obispo. Juntos hemos vivido momentos muy significativos. Hemos celebrado los sacramentos. Hemos fortalecido nuestra misión de ser una Iglesia viva y evangelizadora. A través de las Confirmaciones, las ordenaciones, las graduaciones, la Misa Crismal, los bautismos, los funerales, el servicio comunitario y el cuidado de los más vulnerables, he visto a Jesucristo reflejado en ustedes. Y cada vez que nos reunimos para el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa, ustedes fortalecieron mi fe y me acercaron más a Dios. Y oro para que yo haya hecho lo mismo por ustedes.

Estoy profundamente agradecido con nuestros sacerdotes, que sirven fielmente con corazón pastoral y liderazgo generoso. A nuestros diáconos, a sus esposas y a sus familias, gracias por su constante ministerio de caridad y servicio. A nuestras religiosas, religiosos y vírgenes consagradas, su presencia orante y su ministerio colaborativo han sido una bendición constante. Doy gracias por cada sacrificio y por cada acto silencioso de amor que muchas veces pasa desapercibido, pero que nunca pasa inadvertido ante Dios.

Quiero agradecer también a nuestro personal diocesano y a todos los empleados que viven su trabajo como una verdadera vocación, asegurando que la Iglesia continúe su misión. Nuestros administradores, maestros, catequistas y ministros de pastoral juvenil forman discípulos en las aulas y en los salones parroquiales. Nuestros músicos, ministros litúrgicos y tantos voluntarios dan vida y belleza a nuestra oración y misión. Y a cada feligrés de nuestros siete condados, sepan cuánto agradezco su generosidad y su testimonio de fe en sus hogares, parroquias y lugares de trabajo.

Por el bautismo, todos estamos llamados a continuar viviendo la misión de Jesucristo. Yo avanzo ahora para servir en Nueva York, confiando en que la buena obra que hemos comenzado juntos seguirá dando frutos aquí en la Diócesis de Joliet.

Muchos me han preguntado quién será el próximo obispo. Pronto se nombrará a un administrador que continuará guiando y gobernando la diócesis mientras el nuncio apostólico y el Dicasterio para los Obispos presentan sus recomendaciones a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Leo. A su debido tiempo, él nombrará al séptimo Obispo de Joliet. Les pido que se unan a mí en oración por este proceso de discernimiento.

Aunque mi ministerio continuará en otro lugar, creo firmemente que la oración nos mantiene unidos. Cada vez que oramos unos por otros, permanecemos profundamente unidos en Cristo. Sigamos presentándonos mutuamente ante Dios. Los llevaré conmigo en mi corazón y en mi oración diaria, y humildemente les pido que también me recuerden en la suya.

Los animo además a ser discípulos que hacen discípulos. Por favor, continúen acogiendo mi carta pastoral titulada HACER (MAKE.) Oren con ella. Reflexionen sobre ella. Compártanla. Pónganla en práctica cada día. La Iglesia crece cuando cada uno de nosotros responde al llamado de vivir el Evangelio con convicción y alegría.

Permanecen en mi corazón y en mis oraciones con profundo cariño y sincera gratitud. Que Dios los bendiga y nos bendiga siempre. Paz y bien.

[Notar: El texto completo y la grabación en video de mi homilía de despedida pueden encontrarse a través de este enlace y código QR.]



**MAKE**A Pastoral Letter for the People  
of the **Diocese of Joliet**

## Learn How to MAKE Disciples!



Join us for a conversation with Bishop Ron Hicks as he unpacks the details of his pastoral letter, MAKE, and discusses how to make disciples for Jesus in the Diocese of Joliet.

MAKE is a call to action—rooted in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action—to follow Jesus' Great Commission: Go and make disciples

**Where:** Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 36 N. Ellsworth St., Naperville, IL (630) 355-1081

**When:** Tues., January 20th, 6:30-8:00 pm

Learn more about the bishop's pastoral letter, MAKE, by visiting: [make.diojoliet.org](https://make.diojoliet.org)



## BE FORMED

**SEASON 12: THE CREED (PART 2) – THE SON**

FEBRUARY 13 – MAY 13, 2026

Learn more about the Creed and the identity of Jesus Christ  
through this 90-Day Discipleship Ministry!  
For more information, visit our website at [beformed.net](https://beformed.net).

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 5, 2026**

Join us for this online

## Poetry Workshop Series

This series, our third poetry workshop, will invite you to read, write, and reflect on the topics of undoing, mindfulness, listen, and gratitude. Together we will read poems from the book *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems* to remind us to notice God at work in our busy lives, and journal and share about those moments in session. There will be 15-30 minutes of preparation needed for each session.

Presenter:

**Susan Amann, MA**  
Director of Spiritual Ministry,  
Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Sponsored by:

***Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary***

**WHEN: Thursday, January 22, 2026**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2026**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2026**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

For more information and to register,  
please follow this link:

[CLICK HERE](https://www.sscm-usa.org/Workshops-Retreats.html)

Click to register:

<https://www.sscm-usa.org/Workshops-Retreats.html>



### The Coldest Night of the Year

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly walk to support local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Join us on February 28, 2026 at 5:00PM in Villa Park as we raise funds for Catholic Charities' Kathy Paulsen Hope House Shelter.

Kathy Paulsen Hope House is an 18-bed homeless shelter in Villa Park, providing a temporary safe haven for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. During their stay, program participants work intensively with case managers to secure stable employment and permanent housing. Hope House empowers residents to rebuild their lives and achieve lasting stability.

To learn more, visit: <https://cnoy.com/location/villapark> or call 815-724-1140. It's FREE to participate, so team up, fundraise, walk, and take a moment to look closer... because it's cold out there.

## Worship & Meditation

### Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

#### Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/  
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

#### Monday:

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and  
23/Mk 2:18-22

#### Tuesday:

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28

#### Wednesday:

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

#### Thursday:

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-  
11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

#### Friday:

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19

#### Saturday:

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/  
Mk 3:20-21

#### Next Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13,  
17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



### Gospel Meditation

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34).** That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

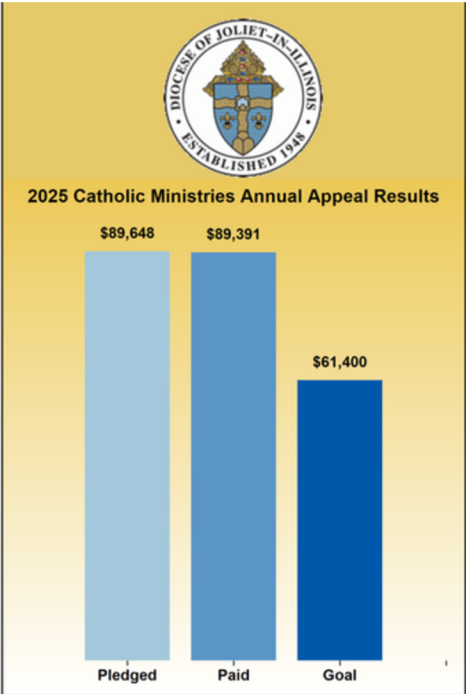
— *Father John Muir*

	2023	2024	11/2025	2024 (Final)
Parish Goal	\$61,400	\$56,800	\$4,600	\$56,800
Amount Pledged	\$89,648	\$70,294	\$19,354	\$70,294
Amount Paid	\$89,391	\$69,734	\$19,657	\$69,774
Balance Due	\$258	\$560	(\$303)	\$520
Donors	200	224	-24	224
2025 Rebate	\$19,593			

2025 Parishioners	
2,119	9%
# of Registered Parishioners	Participation Rate
\$448.24	1,919
Average Gift	Nonparticipants

Number of LYBUNTs (Last Year But Not This Year)
48
***For full LYBUNT listing view last page of report***

Giving Circles	2025 Donors	2024 Donors	Difference
Queen of Peace Circle (\$25,000+)	1	0	1
Xavier Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999.99)	0	1	-1
Bishop's Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999.99)	2	1	1
Patron Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999.99)	3	2	1
Sponsor Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499.99)	9	11	-2
Circle of Hope (\$0.01 - \$999.99)	185	209	-24
Total Donors	200	224	-24



Fr. Agustin and the staff of Divine Savior Parish thank you for your generosity.

January Stewardship							
2026	Envelopes	Loose Currency	E-Giving	Sub Total	Blue Envelopes	Special Collection	Total
4th	\$7,448.00	\$2,603.15	\$2,429.00	\$12,480.15	\$387.00	\$2,610.24	\$15,477.39
11th	\$6,423.00	\$2,257.20	\$2,439.00	\$11,119.20	\$385.00	\$1,399.03	\$12,903.23
18th							
25th							
Month Total	\$13,871.00	\$4,860.35	\$4,868.00	\$23,599.35	\$772.00	\$4,009.27	\$28,380.62
2025/26 Fiscal Year Total	\$175,563.61	\$54,772.14	\$68,028.84	\$298,364.59	\$18,733.00	\$78,106.89	\$395,204.48

If you have family members currently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces, we would like to include their names in our weekly bulletin so that parishioners may include them in their prayers. Please submit their names with branch of service to [Bulletin@divinesavior.net](mailto:Bulletin@divinesavior.net). Please notify us when the service person returns home.

### ***WE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS***

Jeremiah Curtis - Taji, Iraq

Elisabeth Carrillo - National Guard, Iraq

David Blazin - US Army, Qatar

Kevin Przybocki - US Army, Afghanistan

Anthony Vicha - National Guard, Springfield

Rachael Vicha - Navy

Madison Demos - US. Coast Guard, New York

Ray Roberto, Jr. - Navy

Lt. Jack O'Sullivan MD - Navy

Lynsey M. Gabrielson - Navy, San Antonio

Major JoseE. Perez - US Army, Chicago, IL

Eric Jones- Army Reserves Michal

Kazmierczak - US Navy Jon Black, US Army -

Okinawa, Japan Juanita Iris Mejia - Marines,

CA Christopher Bianchi - Army, Middle East

Capt. Brendan O'Sullivan, MD - Air Force



## Kids Corner

### Prayer

Lord, I will be a good disciple by learning and sharing your words.

### Mission for the Week

I will ask someone to read the Bible to me every day.

### Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist told everyone that Jesus was the Son of God. He told them the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus and remained on him as the Scriptures said. Jesus taught his disciples and others. He healed people to show his power as the Son of God. God wants you to be his disciple. He wants you to be a good example of a loving child of God.

Now color  
the picture! →

Which ball of yarn leads to the Lamb of God?

