



Sunday, March 22nd, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

I AM

THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.

JOHN 11:25

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

Marie Borowski, Pastoral Associate, 630-465-7044
pastorala@divinesavior.net

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

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

Ray Vicha, Maintenance
maintenance@divinesavior.net

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

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8a.m.,10:00a.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 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.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 8:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BAPTISMS

Once a month at 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 nuestra clases/programa de Confirmación por 1 año antes de la Quinceañera. Horas de servicio y un retiro

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



March 25th through March 29th

Wednesday: 8:30am John Zelenka
 Thursday: 8:30am Edward and Mildred Britt
 Friday: 8:30am Edward Szrama
 Saturday: 4:00pm For the Parishioners
 Sunday: 8:00am For the Parishioners
 10:00am For the Parishioners
 12:00pm For the Parishioners

PRAYER REQUEST



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	Emri R.
D. Woods	Elsie Bestvina
Fr. Bill Conway	Paul Czech
Ellaine Gialogo Jimenez	Kathy S.
Grace P.	Carolyn Heinrich
Herb G.	Erna Eubanks
Kelly M.	Kathy Hamilton
Justin Pratt	Angelica Collazos
	Melissa Weidner

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 will be lit for Alexander and Mary Bratuljevich

Announcements:

Lenten Reconciliations - Wednesday
 March 25th at 7:00PM

Every Friday during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:30PM followed by soup and bread in the parish center.



**WE ARE
HIRING!**
Join our team

Position Needed – Parish Secretary

Divine Savior Parish, 6700 Main St. Downers Grove IL, is seeking a Part-time Bilingual Parish Secretary (20 hours a week) to provide a variety of general administrative duties for the parish, including but not limited to:

- **coordinating arrangements for funerals, baptisms and weddings, sacramental record keeping,**
- **parish database record keeping,**
- **coordinating the parish calendar and assisting the needs of the pastor, parishioners and parish staff, as needed.**

This position requires one to be fluent in English and Spanish. Please send a resume to luis@divinesavior.net or call the Business Manager, Luis Gonzalez at 630-574-9734.

Divine Savior

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Every **Tuesday during Lent**, the church will be open from **noon to 6pm** for personal prayer and reflection. Come and spend some minutes with Christ during this holy season.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." – Psalm 150:6



LENTEN PRESENTATION:


Monday March 23 at 7:00 PM

Because of the inclement weather, a second presentation on Jesus' Last Days will be given this Monday, March 23, at 7:00 pm in the Church. Please come and prepare for the holiest of weeks by deepening your understanding of what Jesus did, and what happened to Jesus – and why – from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. We look forward to seeing you there!

JESUS' LAST DAYS

Are you interested in getting a deeper understanding of what Jesus did – and what happened to Jesus and why – during His final days on earth, from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday? For example...

- Why did Jesus ride a donkey, and not walk, into Jerusalem?
- Why did Jesus go on a rampage in the temple? (Money changers and animal sellers were commonplace)
- Why did a crowd praise Him on Palm Sunday and want Him crucified on Friday?
- Why was Jesus crucified anyway? (Blasphemy resulted in torture/stoning, not crucifixion)



Parishioner (and former Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister) Mark Hoffmeyer will once again answer these and other questions in a presentation on Jesus' Last Days on **Monday, March 23, at 7:00 pm in the Church**. Please come and spend a little time this Lent learning more about events surrounding Our Lord's Passion. We look forward to seeing you there!



MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday, April 2nd - 7pm
There will be no morning mass.

Good Friday Service, April 3rd- 3pm
There will be no morning mass.

Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 4th - 7pm
THERE IS NO 4PM MASS ON THIS DAY.

Easter Sunday - 8am, 10am, 12pm (Spanish)



Divine Savior Parish
Easter Egg Hunt

To make this celebration meaningful and fun for our kids, we are asking for your generous support through donations.

Save the date!
March 28th, 2026

Contact Bianca
If you would like to volunteer or have any questions
630-574-9740
dre@divinesavior.net

We Are Accepting Donations For:

- Easter eggs & nut free candy
- Children's prizes & small toys
- Refreshments
- Monetary donations to support children's activities



Exulting the Easter Vigil
Ken Erguiza, Music Minister

Since 2014, I've made a yearly pitch to social media friends, especially Catholics, to encourage them to attend the Easter Vigil Mass. I wrote a bulletin reflection on it in 2019, and I briefly mentioned it in reflections since. Completing 18 years in our parish's music ministry last October and just concluding the Jubilee of

Hope, I believe it is a good time to reflect again on the Easter Vigil, which will be my 16th here as a parishioner (for over 35 years) and music minister. (I previously attended twice in my high school and college years on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville.) This year, it is on Saturday, April 5 at 7pm.

The Easter Vigil gets a bad rap for its length and obscurity compared to Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. But to miss the Easter Vigil is to miss out on the best of our Catholic liturgies. (The liturgical rubrics proclaim it the greatest and most noble of all solemnities.) Why is it worth coming to then?

1. It is the first Mass of Easter, the Church's best feast, and counts for Sunday. You're likely to find a seat and free up your Easter Sunday schedule.
2. Combined with Holy Thursday Mass and the Good Friday liturgy, the Easter Vigil, the Church's best liturgy, completes the Triduum, the Church's best days of the year. (Easter Sunday is the best cherry on top, which you're welcome to return to attend.) Think about it this way: a tennis player wins Wimbledon, the sport's most prestigious tournament. Playing in Australian Open, French Open, and US Open, even without winning them, completes the experience of playing in tennis' best tournaments.
3. Music is sung and played with the greatest joy and all hands on deck. We sing Alleluia again for the first time since before Lent.
4. The Easter Vigil is steeped in ritual and tradition unlike any other devotion. We begin by lighting the Easter candle and listening to the sung Exsultet (more on this later). Next, we reflect on salvation history with readings from the Old and New Testaments, capped off by the Alleluia and Resurrection gospel. Then, we welcome new believers to the Church, who are baptized, confirmed, and receive their First Communion. Finally, we sing a double Alleluia before we go forth with joy.

For the abovementioned reasons at least, the Easter Vigil is my favorite liturgy of the year (you are still beloved, Christmas Mass), but there's another reason alluded to in point 4: the Exsultet. Aka the Easter Proclamation, it's a song of praise and thanks to God for His son's Resurrection and often deemed the crown jewel of church music. A deacon or priest usually sings it, but a cantor can do so with slight modifications. I'll be singing it for the 9th time, 7th in its traditional form (the other two times were a contemporary version, which also integrated choir parts). It's a fairly long (8-9 minutes on average) yet beautiful piece of music befitting of the Church's best feast and liturgy.

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ deserves our best prayer of thanksgiving and longing for hope, love, peace, and joy. We do this at the Easter Vigil Mass; I highly encourage you to come.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Movie night on Thursday, March 12th watching "The Passion of Christ"



Soup and bread were hosted by Cliff!



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday:

Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45

Monday:

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday:

Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:

Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday:

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday:

Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday:

Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-
24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or
27:11-54



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

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: **"Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)** The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, **"Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).**

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

Lenten challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

— *Father John Muir*

2025 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal Weekly Dashboard Parish Report

Results through 1/4/2026

152 - Divine Savior Parish - Downers Grove

	2025	2024	Inc/Dec	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

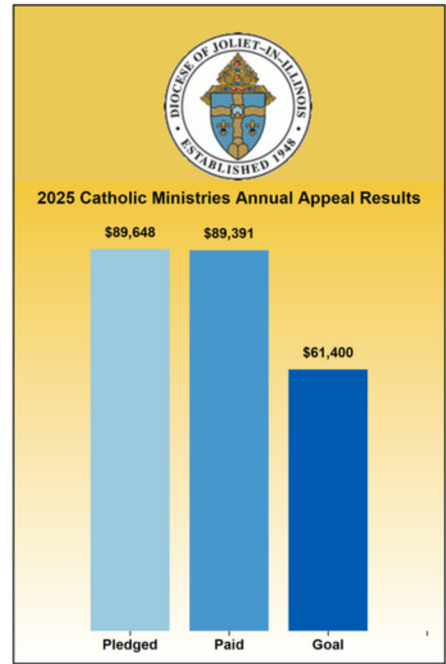
Number of LYBUNTs (Last Year But Not This Year)
48

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

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

March Stewardship							
2026	Envelopes	Loose Currency	E-Giving	Sub Total	Blue Envelopes	Special Collection	Total
1ST	\$14,318.00	\$2,236.77	\$2,405.14	\$18,959.91	\$285.00	\$585.85	\$19,830.76
8TH	\$5,534.00	\$2,269.00	\$2,809.00	\$10,612.00	\$415.00	\$533.75	\$11,560.75
15TH	\$5,755.00	\$2,315.00	\$1,789.00	\$9,859.00	\$1,526.00	\$360.65	\$11,745.65
22ND							
29th							
Month Total	\$5,755.00	\$2,315.00	\$1,789.00	\$9,859.00	\$1,526.00	\$360.65	\$11,745.65
2025/26 Fiscal Year Total	\$5,755.00	\$2,315.00	\$1,789.00	\$9,859.00	\$1,526.00	\$360.65	\$11,745.65

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. Please notify us when the service person returns home.

WE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Jeremiah Curtis - Taji
Elisabeth Carrillo - National Guard
David Blazin - US Army
Kevin Przybocki - US Army
Rachael Vicha - Navy
Madison Demos - US. Coast Guard
Ray Roberto, Jr. - Navy
Lt. Jack O’Sullivan, MD - Navy

Lynsey M. Gabrielson - Navy
Major Jose E. Perez - US Army
Eric Jones - Army Reserves
Michal Kazmierczak - US Navy
Jon Black - US Army
Juanita Iris Mejia - Marines
Christopher Bianchi - Army
Brendan O’Sullivan, MD - Air Force
Gabryel Barrera - Marine Corp



 **Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital**

Volunteers Needed
Catholic Communion Ministry
Good Samaritan Hospital – Downers Grove
Contact: Gail Miskowicz-Retz at
Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org
or
630-852-5347



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Scholarship Opportunities Available!
Ask about our Fr. Mark Scholarship & Tuition Transfer Grant!



CONTACT US NOW



7720 Janes Ave. Woodridge, IL
630-985-2515

Kids Corner

Prayer

Thank you for showing me that you are my Savior, Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.

Sharing the Gospel

Instead of telling people he was the Savior, Jesus showed them. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus sent a message loud and clear. Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for. He was filled with God's love and power, and many people believed in him.

Now color the picture!



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON
SICKNESS
RISE

LAZARUS
MARY
MARTHA

BELIEVES
WEEPING
WRAPPED

S A O E T R H I E T Y
T W R A P P E D H O N
O E K R W Y A O Y U T
B E L I E V E S T S H
H P T S A O M Y N I E
T I H E U N A J H C S
U N S V M A R Y L K O
O G K H E I T D W N U
T P A Y N O H S Y E A
I S D L A Z A R U S H
G O D S S O N F E S R

