



Sunday, September 27th, 2026
26th 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.

Habemos Episcopum
We have a new Bishop
Bishop Brendan Cahill, Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet.



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*

Alma Jimenez, Parish Secretary, ext. 121
secretaryes@divinesavior.net 630-969-1532

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

Lauretta Sterner, Music Director
630-574-9738

Ray Vicha, Maintenance
maintenance@divinesavior.net

JOIN THE PARISH!

Stop in the parish office during business hours to register.

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.

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., 10:00a.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



September 30th through October 4th

Wednesday: 8:30am For the Parishioners

Thursday: 8:30am For the Parishioners

Friday: 8:30am Ray Walters

Saturday: 4:00pm Nora Ortanez

Sunday: 8:00am Joan Ritzert

10:00am Tom Herold

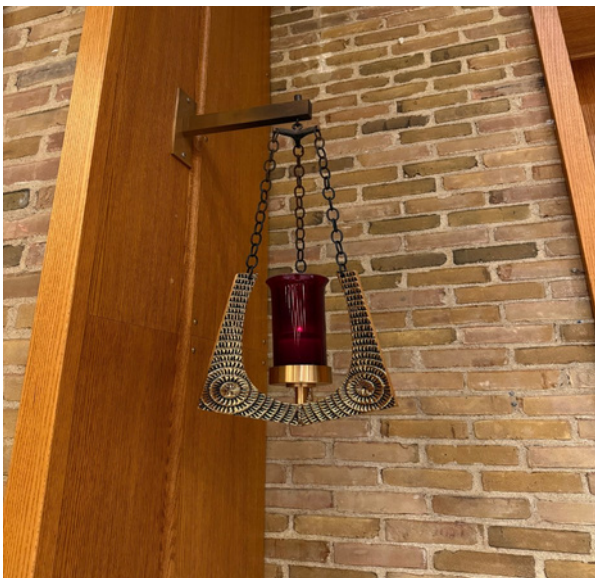
12:00pm In memory of Mercedes Selvarajan



Prayers for the sick:

Rafaela Botello	John Robinson	Joann Costa
Maureen C.	Anthony Gnutek	Frederick Costa
Mark. C.	Norbert Wierzbicki	Janice Sinnick
Terry R.	Besty	Cynthia Jara
Sherry Toman	Pete Cushion	Rachel Vicha
Steven G.	Bev. G	Bernetta Kolar
Joann Costa	Emri R.	Geri Parker
D. Woods	Elsie Bestvina	Donna Bratuljevich
Ellaine Gialogo Jimenez	Paul Czech	Bob J.
Grace P.	Kathy S.	Rosa Plazola
Herb G.	Erna Eubanks	
Justin Pratt	Kathy Hamilton	
Friar Johnpaul Cafiero	Angelica Collazos	
Rose Kraemer	Louise Casillas	

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 for the Lectors.

We are looking for an individual to clean the church facilities twice a week. Please call Luis Gonzalez 630-574-9734 for more information.

THOUGHTS ON 55 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

The date was Saturday, September 18, 1971. The place was Saint Mary of Gostyn Church in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Bishop Romeo R. Blanchette, in full episcopal regalia, sat before a young man on his knees seeking ordination to the priesthood. The bishop looked down upon the balding young man, with long sideburns and wearing a Mickey Mouse watch. He sighed and mumbled to himself, "there's a shortage," and ordained me a priest of Jesus Christ according to the order of Melchizedek. And the rest, as they say, is history. And what a history it has been.

I was, of course, that young man. And now, at 82, I'm an old man. Tempus fugit, time really does fly. In two blinks of an eye, I went from being a baby priest to an old one. If there is anything that I need to make clear, not only to myself, but to all of us, it is this: Life is short. Very short. And it goes by very, very fast. We are obliged to make the most of it. If we are here, we are here for a reason. And we have work to do.

When I taught in our seminary, after every class, I would sing to the students an old Pete Seeger song, "What did you learn in school today, dear little child of mine? What did you learn in school today, dear little child of mine." And they would answer what they had learned in that last hour of class. They would respond by saying, I learned statements, "I learned that..." (And then fill in the blank). It is a good question and for me; it is one that I need to ask myself from time to time. So, what did I learn? How has this last 55 years formed and changed me? Let me count the ways.

If I can borrow from old blue eyes, Frank Sinatra, "it was a very good year," all of them. Even the hard, painful and difficult years were very good. Truth be told, we learn much more from our difficult years than our easy ones. It is then that we understand that we really are not in control and have to turn it over to a "higher power" a.k.a, God. It is part of the great paradox of life that when we lose, we gain, when we're last, we're first, if you want to find your life, you need to lose your life.

When I was 25 in graduate school, I walked around with a sign on my shirt that read, "serving the public for a quarter of a century. "Ah, the arrogance of innocence. But the world was my oyster, and all I needed to do was crack it open. And crack it, I did.

At the age of 27, I was ordained to the priesthood. I was ready. I have doubted many things in my life... what I have never doubted was my vocation. I have never doubted the fact that I truly have been called by God to do what I do. What an incredible gift. This is the path God has put me on. If there is anything I have learned in the past 55 years, it is ...stay on the path. It will have many twists and turns and seeming dead ends. But don't leave the labyrinth, it will always lead you into the fullness of life. For this insight at a young age, I am so incredibly grateful.

At the age of 32, my life fell apart. I was teaching in the seminary, doing everything right, but nothing meant anything. I was going through the motions. And I thought I was losing my faith. Is all this really real? Is this just a story that I was told to cling to? Are you really there, Lord? And my prayer for at least six months, maybe more, was this, "if you're real, I want to know". Nothing is more real than the presence of God in our lives, and He showed it to me in spades.

At the depth of my despair, God sent me the only person who could break through my hard core persona into the heart of the matter. It was my blood brother, Joe. He sat me down one night and said, "Tony, you're phony. You work your rear end off trying to get people to love you, and try to get God to love you as well. Can I tell you something? You're already loved, you don't need to earn it. You're working way too hard to win people's affection and God's."

It was like scales that dropped from my eyes. And I saw, maybe for the first time in my life, clearly God's plan for me. You do not have to save the world. My brother's killer line was, "When did God retire and you take over?" He assured me that God had not retired. But I needed to collapse into his mercy and loving arms. And I did. It is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

Tennis players reach their prime at 18 to 20 years old. Priest don't reach their prime until their 50s. By that time, we have some idea of what you are supposed to do and still have the energy to do it. In my 50s, I was at Saint Theresa in Kankakee, and it became evident that I didn't have to run the show. I just had to follow the lead of the Lord. I simply had to stay on the path that he had set for me. One of my great joys during that period was when a young girl altar server said to her cohort, "That's Father Tony. He's really old... but he's cool!" Best compliment ever.

In my 60s I was working at the largest parish in the Diocese of Joliet, Saint Isidore in Bloomingdale. 6000 families, 22,000 individuals. Administration is not my gift. I have only one administrative gift. One incredible talent, and that is ...I am not afraid of talent. My first pastor, Father Stanley Orlikiewicz once told me something I will never forget, "son, if you look good... I look good." At that time, I learned that if my staff is happy, my parish is happy. And I love a happy parish.

In 2014, I retired at 70. It really was one of the best things I could've ever done, having my vulnerability as an administrator. For the first several months after retirement, I went to live with the hermits in Big Sur, California, with the Camaldolies monks. It was there that I began to truly practice contemplative prayer. Being one with the Source, listening, observing, being. I did not have to run anything. I simply needed to learn how to listen, to hear that small quiet voice of the Divine in me.

And now, by any standard, I can be considered old. In my 70s, I thought, ah, the youth of old age. In my 80s, I can't rationalize that anymore. I'm old. But here's what I have learned. Every day is a gift. There are no guarantees. How do you want to live this day? What do you want to do with this short period that we are here? Who can you love? Who can you serve?

I love being old, I would not want to go back to my teens (I pray for our teens). The overwhelming emotion that I feel is that of gratitude. God has been so good to me, and giving me the gift to be able to touch lives in a way that I never could have imagined.

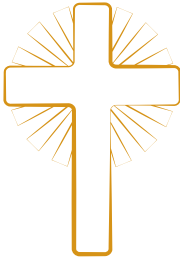
55 years of priesthood has been one incredible gift. And what you receive as gift, you must give as gift.

In Jesus, the master teacher, Fr. Tony

Congratulations Jaime Alegria on your Rite of Deacon Candidacy!



Congratulations on your baptism Valerie Torres and Madelene Naranjo.





In Sympathy

Donald Siedleck
October, 1939 – August, 2026

Donald and his family were original Divine Savior members. He felt the three important things for happiness were Faith, Family and Friends.

He worked to serve others and was a happy man.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

Please join us to pray and be in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during First Friday Holy Hour on Friday afternoon, October 2, 2026, in the Church from **2:30 PM to 3:30 PM**. There will be time for silent meditation; then at 3:00, the Hour of Mercy, together we'll pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Litany and Prayers. Bring your personal intentions to Jesus, give thanks for all the goodness and love God has given us, pray for poor and homeless people, and for the end of violence in our world.

"Oh Merciful Jesus, open my heart to receive Your love at all times, but especially in Holy Communion and while visiting with you in the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus, I Trust in You!"



Gospel Meditation

STEP INTO THE

Father's Will



Readings for the Week of September 27, 2026

Sunday

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/
Mt 21:28-32

Monday

Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday

Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday

Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Lk 10:1-12

Friday

Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/
Mt 18:1-5, 10

Saturday

Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/
Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday

Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/
Mt 21:33-43

This Sunday, Jesus tells a short, uncomfortable story. A father asks two sons to go work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other says yes, but never shows up. It is a parable so simple, we almost miss how sharp it is. Jesus is clear about who it is for. This is not aimed at pagans or outsiders. It is aimed squarely at religious people, people who know the right words and sound obedient.

Jesus is not condemning unbelief so much as disobedience. The polite hypocrisy that says the right things while quietly resisting the Father's will. St. John Chrysostom put it bluntly, "Not words, but deeds, are what God requires. Nothing so exasperates Him as insincere obedience, while nothing so delights Him as repentance."

Every disciple must face that mirror. Do I publicly profess faith in Christ while privately resisting what

He asks of me? It is easy to say, I believe in God in my heart. But if faith never becomes action, it slowly becomes an illusion.

Jesus does not expose hypocrisy to shame us. He reveals it to heal us. He wants our hearts and our deeds to speak the same word, to let our yes truly mean yes. Like the second son who initially refused but afterwards changed his mind and went, Jesus invites us to step into the Father's will, however late, however imperfectly.

Challenge: Where are your public faith and private obedience divided? Where do you say, I will go, but never enter the vineyard? Go, get to work, even if it is late. The Father's vineyard is still open.

— Father John Muir

2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal Weekly Dashboard Parish Report

Results through 9/20/2026

152 - Divine Savior Parish - Downers Grove

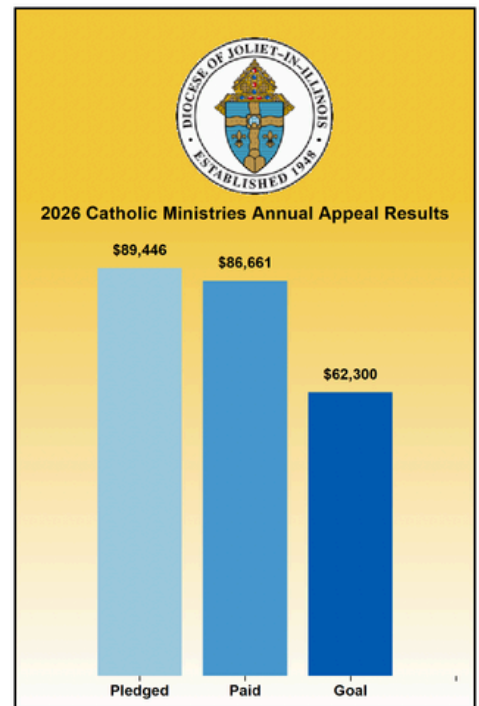
	2026	2025	Inc/Dec	2025 (Final)
Parish Goal	\$62,300	\$61,400	\$900	\$61,400
Amount Pledged	\$89,446	\$84,650	\$4,796	\$90,123
Amount Paid	\$86,661	\$82,759	\$3,902	\$89,923
Balance Due	\$2,785	\$1,892	\$894	\$200
Donors	163	191	-28	202
2026 Rebate	\$17,052			

2026 Parishioners	
2,119	8%
# of Registered Parishioners	Participation Rate
\$548.75	1,956
Average Gift	Nonparticipants

Number of LYBUNTs (Last Year But Not This Year)
57

For full LYBUNT listing view last page of report

Giving Circles	2026 Donors	2025 Donors	Difference
Queen of Peace Circle (\$25,000+)	1	1	0
Xavier Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999.99)	0	0	0
Bishop's Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999.99)	2	2	0
Patron Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999.99)	2	3	-1
Sponsor Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499.99)	11	9	2
Circle of Hope (\$0.01 - \$999.99)	147	187	-40
Total Donors	163	202	-39



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

September Stewardship



2026	Envelopes	Loose Currency	E-Giving	Sub Total	Blue Envelopes	Special Collection	Total
6th	\$5,938.00	\$2,314.01	\$2,904.00	\$11,156.01	\$473.00	\$279.90	\$11,908.91
13th	\$4,811.00	\$2,366.00	\$2,026.50	\$9,203.50	\$275.00	\$239.00	\$9,717.50
20th	\$6,560.00	\$2,259.43	\$2,399.00	\$11,218.43	\$1,693.00	\$246.50	\$13,157.93
27th							
Month Total	\$17,309.00	\$6,939.44	\$7,329.50	\$31,577.94	\$2,441.00	\$765.40	\$34,784.34
2026/27 Fiscal Year Total	\$70,451.00	\$25,073.87	\$27,609.46	\$123,134.33	\$8,596.00	\$4,459.04	\$136,189.37

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
 Morgan Demos - US Navy
 Ray Roberto, Jr. - Navy
 Lt. Jack O'Sullivan, MD - Navy
 Edgar Nava Lopez - Marine



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
 Jesus Garcia - Marines

Annual Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 3rd at 10am in the West Parking lot.
 If you would like to help with the event, please contact Marie Borowski at msborows@sbcglobal.net or 630-465-7044.

TRUNK or TREAT

Get ready for a joyful evening of faith, family, saints, costumes, decorated trunks, and lots of treats!

This year, we're bringing a Catholic twist to Trunk or Treat! Think saints, angels, Bible stories, and fun family-friendly themes — keeping the celebration joyful and welcoming for our children.

More details coming soon!
 Would you like to help organize this special parish event?
 We would love to have you on our team!

Friday, October 30th

Contact Bianca Jimenez
dre@divinesavior.net
 630-574-9740
 Divine Savior Parish

Kids Corner

Sharing the Gospel

God wants you to change your way of behaving after you hear his words. He wants you to say you are sorry and believe in him. He wants you to be a better person. He wants you to choose good over evil. Write your favorite Bible verse. Stick it on your mirror or your lunch box. When you know it by heart and do what it says, then get a new verse. That will make God smile.



Now color the picture!

Prayer

God, I want to listen to your words.

Mission for the Week

I will ask my parents to read the Bible to me every day.



Circle the picture that is the **same** as the **first** one. Then color in all the pictures.

