



DIVINE MERCY

Catholic Church

September 21, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and yours.

It has come to my attention that there are questions and some confusion about the replacement of the air conditioning system in the church. I hope the below Questions and Answers will clarify the situation for you.

Q: What happened to the A/C system?

A: The system is well over 20 years old. Approximately a year ago, the church was not being cooled effectively. At that time, our A/C maintenance contractor was called in and determined that our refrigerant level was too low. There was suspicion that perhaps there was a leak somewhere. However, no leak was detected in testing the piping and connections that were accessible. The system was recharged with additional refrigerant and returned to acceptable operating conditions.

Q: Why did it stop working again a couple of months ago?

A: The refrigerant again was low which led our A/C contractor to believe that there was a leak most likely underground. Because the last recharge got the church cooled for 8 months, the decision was made to recharge it one more time to hopefully get us through the summer and into the cooler months while we begin to gather designs and estimates for the replacement project. This time, the recharge only lasted two months which pointed to either an additional leak(s) or the original leak was getting larger. In addition, a controller board failed in the system making it completely inoperable.

Q: Why is the replacement project going to take so long?

A: We cannot replace the system as is. Unfortunately, a completely new design needs to be done because we also have to replace all the ductwork in the church. If you recall a couple of years ago when the church was flooded because of a hurricane, that flooding was caused by the current ductwork being underground. The water seeped up into the ducts and started blowing out of the vents. We had to move to the Dome for several weeks until it subsided, and we were able to sanitize the church. The church will need to go through major construction to rework the ducting and decommission the existing ducting. We are adding a second smaller A/C system to cool the sanctuary and the choir area. We also have to re-pipe the connection between the air handler and

the condenser so it is no longer underground. On top of that, the fabrication time for the new large unit is estimated to be 4 months.

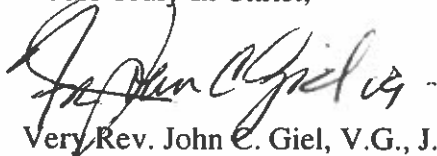
Q: Why is the new system costing \$500,000?

A: This is a major project which requires an architect, an engineer and a general contractor along with the contractors for installation and construction. The Diocese last week approved the loan to Divine Mercy for \$249,000 – we have the additional \$251,000 for the completion. The diocesan Ecclesiastical Properties group will be overseeing the project. The contractors that are approved for the project have already been vetted by the Diocese since they have recently done A/C installations at other churches. The Diocese has approved the project for \$450,000 with a contingency of \$50,000 for a total of \$500,000. Ecclesiastical Properties has already given the green light to start the fabrication of the units. Comparatively speaking, Divine Mercy has fared better than other churches who have had to spend over \$1,000,000 for their A/C projects.

As Carol Knouse, Operations Manager, and Dale Cicirelli, Maintenance Manager, explained to all parishioners at every Mass a couple of weeks ago, we will keep you posted with our progress. I will shortly be sending you a letter requesting your support to help us repay the loan.

I hope this answers any remaining questions and clears up confusion. Please be patient and flexible as we go through this process. I thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and love for Divine Mercy. May God reward you abundantly for your goodness.

Yours Truly In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John C. Giel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Very Rev. John C. Giel, V.G., J.C.L.
Pastor