



# Divine Mercy Parish

## Mass Schedule for the Week of January 7, 2024

### *Monday, January 8, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Joseph Sims Jr. by Nephew, Thomas Venusti  
2:00 - 4 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### *Tuesday, January 9, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Matunis & Elliott Families by Mary Ellen Matunis

### *Wednesday, January 10, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Diane Donovan by Aunt, Nikki  
5:30 - 7 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### *Thursday, January 11, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Gerry Wagner

### *Friday, January 12, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Rose Marie Daly – Anniv. of Death by Sister Patricia  
2:00 - 4 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### *Saturday, January 13, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Good Health & God's Blessings for Patricia Ravinsky by Family

3:45 PM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
4:00 PM DM Julius & Helen Venusti by Son, Thomas

### *Sunday, January 14, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Mary & Joseph Vatalare by Children  
9:40 AM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
10:00 AM DM Florence Filozof by Raymond & Marilyn Filozof  
12:30 PM DM Living & Deceased Priests – Diocese of Allentown  
*En Espanol*

“The clergy and religious of the Diocese of Allentown continue to stand ready to provide steadfast support and prayers during this difficult time,” said Bishop Schlert. “Just as St. Joseph protected the Holy Family, we turn to St. Joseph to protect us at this time of uncertainty and pandemic.” We invite all the faithful who are quarantined during this time and unable to receive Holy Communion, to offer their prayers for healing throughout the world. Pray the Holy Rosary, on [www.EWTN.com/tv/shows/sunday-Mass-live](http://www.EWTN.com/tv/shows/sunday-Mass-live). Pray this prayer for spiritual communion and set aside time for prayer with the Sacred Scriptures of the day – go to [www.wordamongus.org](http://www.wordamongus.org).

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

### **Prayer to Your Guardian Angel**

Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love  
Commits me here,  
Ever this day,  
be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
Rule and guide.

### **Prayer for Our Country**

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of America, please help our country. Help us to return to what is decent, right and proper. Help us to return to respect for ourselves and others, into truth in dealing with ourselves and others, to self-control and self-discipline and, especially, to a deep love for your Son and his teachings. Protect us from those who would destroy us from within. Our Lady, we place ourselves and our country under your mantel. Pray for us and help us. Amen.

### **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

When: Every 1st Sunday of the month  
Time: 3:00 PM  
Where: St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Mahanoy City

**Divine Mercy Collections will be announced in a later bulletin!  
Christmas Collection will be announced at a later date!**

OFFICE CLOSED

On Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 16th at 8:30 AM.

**Thank You** to Divine Mercy Parish Choirs & Sue Prohibition for their musical performances. All parishioners & friends who attended the services in honor of our Savior's birth and their generosity to our parish.

**Divine Mercy Memorial Fund**

**Nina McGroarty**  
 \$10 Anonymous

**Brian Rooney Jr.**  
 \$20 M/M David Kayes & Abby  
 \$20 Andrew Szczyglak  
 \$10 Peggy McGuire  
 \$10 John & Catherine Toborowski  
 \$10 Irene Kudel

**Anthony Bobbin**  
 \$50 Cathy, Al & Alfie Bronk  
 \$20 Rose Malinoski  
 \$20 John & Kathy Sinkiewicz  
 \$20 Sister, Susan Bobbin  
 \$5 Joe & Donna Gawrylik

**Special intentions**  
 \$5 Anonymous

**Lighten Up With the Good News**

If we spread the Gospel and are always deadly serious and anxious, wouldn't our appearance seem to imply that the Good News isn't very good? Even the saints had a laugh now and then.

**Humor can give us a new perspective.** St. Phillip Neri was a holy priest with a knack for bringing people to God in unusual ways. When a penitent asked permission to wear a hairshirt – an irritating garment worn next to the skin – as a penance St. Philip agreed but ordered the man to wear it over his clothes. The penance was to bear the jokes and ridicule that resulted.

**Humor heals.** St. Teresa of Avila is said to have complained to God of the rough road he had chosen for her. She was said to have scolded him by saying that if asked his friends to endure so much suffering, “No wonder you have so few.” Joking with God didn't make St. Teresa's road any smoother, but it may have made her feel a little better.

**The Face of God**

God doesn't want us to sacrifice our own wellbeing, but does want us to willingly bring his love to other people. It can be uncomfortable being his loving face to others. This means being patient with those who annoy us, kind to those who are demanding, and forgiving to those who haven't asked.

*“Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips” (Proverbs 27:2).*

**Divine Mercy**

**Sanctuary** In memory of my beloved Parents & Sister, Angelo & Enrica & Jean Romano by Ann Romano

**St. Ann** Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family

**St. Ann** Good health & God's blessings for Gert Pitts by Jennie & Murph

**St. Ann** Good health & God's blessings for Mary Ann Pronio by Jennie & Murph

**Sacred Heart** Special intentions by Mary Kufro

**St. Casimir**

**Sanctuary** In loving memory of my Dad, George Rittle by Daughter, Maria

**Divine Mercy** In loving memory of Frank Macus by Fran & Maria

**Divine Mercy** Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski

**Blessed Mother** In loving memory of Joe & Joestelle by Wife/Mother

**Blessed Mother** In loving memory of John McGuire by Wife, Peg

**Chapel**

**Sanctuary** Special intentions by Msgr. B

**Blessed Mother** Prayers & good health for Emily Seigel by Uncle Ed & Aunt Kerri

**St. Joseph** Special intentions by Msgr. B



**Blessing of the candles** will take place during Mass on Friday, February 2nd at 7:30 AM at Divine Mercy. Candles will then be available after Mass, available on weekends and also at the parish office. Candles are for home use – **All Blessed Candles \$ 4.00 – two candles per box.**

**St. Blaisé – Blessing of Throats** will take place on the following days:  
**Saturday, February 3rd – 7:30 AM Mass – there will be individual blessing**  
 4:00 PM Mass – there will be a general blessing  
**Sunday, February 4th – 7:30 AM Mass & 10:00 AM – there will be a general blessing**

**Other Than Attend Mass, What Else Must I Do?**

We are also called to perform works of mercy. “The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2447).

There are seven spiritual works of mercy: to admonish the sinner, to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to comfort the sorrowful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive all injuries, to pray for the living and the dead.

There are also seven corporal works of mercy. They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, bury the dead.

How important is it for us to perform these acts? Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me” (Mt 25:35-36). That makes it very important.

**Marian Catholic High School -- Open House**

Sunday, January 28th - 2:00-4:00 PM

Come learn how to make a Marian education possible.

To RSVP, please contact Mary Milosh at [mmilosh@mariancatholic.org](mailto:mmilosh@mariancatholic.org) or 467-3335 ext. 117.

**“The Epiphany of the Lord”**

The Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the epiphany (manifestation) of Christ to the Gentiles, symbolized by Christ's manifestation to the Magi (Wise Men). The feast originally was more closely connected to Jesus' baptism, the primary theme of the feast in Eastern Churches to this day. In addition, other manifestations of Christ were often commemorated during Epiphany, including the miracle at Cana. In fact, it has been asserted that the Baptism of the Lord, the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Magi, and the miracle at Cana all historically occurred on January 6. Whether this is true is contested, but either way, the Epiphany [solemnity](#) is celebrated on January 6, which falls within [Christmastide](#). In some Catholic regions, the feast is translated to a Sunday. The Eastern Churches often call the holiday *Theophany*, which means "manifestation of God." Eastern Christians also refer to the Epiphany as "Holy Lights" because they baptize on this day, and baptism brings about illumination. Traditionally, Epiphany marked the end of the [Twelve Days of Christmas](#).

The story of the Magi traveling from the East to see the Christ child appears only in the Gospel According to St. Matthew. The word Magi, in Greek *magoi*, comes from the Latin word meaning "sage." These particular sages were possibly Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia. Upon seeing a star rising in the East (the Star of Bethlehem), they realized it was a sign that the king of the Jews had been born. According to St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. AD 107), the star shone with an inexpressible brilliance, and the sun, moon, and other stars all formed a chorus around the special star ([Letter to the Ephesians](#), 19). The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem of Judea, and to Jesus' dwelling there. Having arrived, they worshipped the infant Jesus, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



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**Tax Time** is approaching us very quickly. Need a copy of your contribution sheet? Again, this year we will not be mailing out the contribution sheets to every parishioner of our parish. Therefore, if you would like a copy for tax purposes, it is necessary for you to call the parish office at 462-1968 in a request for your contribution sheet for 2023. We will mail this sheet directly to you.



**What is a “Holy Hour?”**

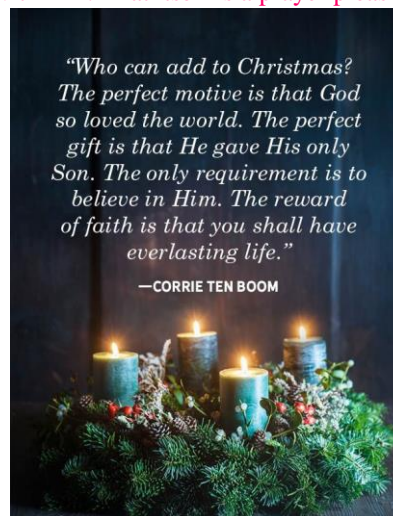
A “holy hour” is a devotion during which one sets aside an hour for prayer and meditation before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Try these ideas to make a holy hour:

**Find a tabernacle with a lit sanctuary lamp.** The lamp signifies the presence of Christ. Silence yourself both interiorly and exteriorly. Clear your mind of daily stresses or outside distractions.

**Start the conversation.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you, then make acts of faith, hope and charity. Tell God how you believe, trust and love him. Ask for more faith, hope and love.

**Adore God.** Rather than recite prayers, focus on adoration. God is all powerful, all good, more beautiful than we can imagine, and more real than the distractions on which we focus.

**Imagine Christ sitting with you.** It’s not your love for God, but his for you that saves. God delights in the company of his children (Proverbs 8:31). If you can’t pray, then just be with him. That itself is a prayer pleasing to God.



**What Will You Do For A Friend In Need?**

Most of us will do anything we can to save a friend who we observe is heading for trouble. However, taking indirect action may be the best thing we can do in many situations. Consider these three ways to help.

**Pray.** Bring God in right from the start – not as the last resort. Who can handle it better than he can? Plus, praying for others brings grace to us and to those for whom we pray.

**Set an example.** The best way to tell someone what to do is to do it ourselves. You can help others live a holier and happier life by showing them how. After all, your first task is to save your own soul.

**Keep silent.** Learn to hold your tongue unless your duty obliges you to speak. Keeping silent prevents the flaring of tempers or the spreading of gossip. Also, it is in the silence of the soul that we hear God’s voice, but we can’t hear him if we’re doing all the talking.



**Bautismos Todos** están invitados a bautizar a sus hijos. Aún si usted no está casado en la Iglesia se puede bautizar a su bebé. Sin embargo, le pedimos que seleccione una pareja que se casó en la Iglesia Católica para ser sus padrinos. Si un padrino / madrina es una persona soltera, él / ella puede convertirse en una condición de que, esa persona ha recibido el bautismo. Por favor, tenga en cuenta que una pareja, civilmente casada o una persona que vive junto a otra persona como una pareja no está calificada para ser un padrino/madrina. Si son de fuera de nuestra parroquia, por favor, díles de obtener un certificado de elegibilidad de su pastor al menos dos semanas de anticipación. Padre llevará a cabo clases de bautismo, tanto para los padres y padrinos y administrar el rito del bautismo. Por favor, visite la oficina parroquial (108 W.Cherry St., Sheandoah. Teléfono 570 (4621968) para reservar fechas y rellenar formularios. El proceso es muy fácil.

### Diocesan Information

**If a Prenatal Diagnosis is Poor... You are not alone. There is help.** The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. For support, contact: Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, [Johnson@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:Johnson@allentowndiocese.org) or 610-289-8900 x 245.

**Victim Assistance Coordinator** The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. Victim Assistance Coordinator—**Direct Telephone Number:** 1-800-791-9209. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit [www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right hand- corner of the page.

**Parish Dues for 2024 for Divine Mercy Parish** are now payable for any registered parishioner 21 years of age and older at the parish office, 108 West Cherry St. If dues are paid by January 31, 2024, dues are \$ 50.00 per individual. If paid after January 31, 2024, dues are \$ 60.00 per individual.

## You may schedule additional Masses for 2024

and book is open to non-parishioners.

The Diocesan Mass Stipend is set at \$10.00.

### Three Tips to Boost Your Prayer

Prayer fuels our spiritual life, but praying effectively can be challenging. Even the saints had dry spells. Among these was the mystic and Carmelite reformer, St. Teresa of Avila. Try these suggestions from her to enliven your prayer:

**Become aware of God's presence.** It may feel as if God is distant, but He is so close. St. Teresa began by enjoying God's nearness. Know that He is with you and wants your company.

**Bring a good book.** St. Teresa, who struggled with dryness in prayer, kept a book with her. Scripture, *Lives of the Saints*, or a book about the Faith can help us focus and spark conversation with Him.

**Be honest.** It is said that St. Teresa once fell into the mud and told God bluntly, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" God wants to you to share all your experiences with Him – good and bad. Entrust your cares to Him and "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).



### Can You Suggest a New Year's Resolution to Grow in Holiness?

All Christians are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.

**Daily prayer.** God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day.

**Weekly Mass.** The Mass is a sacrifice and a meal. We receive Jesus' body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:55-56). That's why we call it, "Communion."

**Monthly Confession.** Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Frequent participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying.

### Match the Daily Number!

The Marian Catholic High School Blue & Gold Club is selling Lottery Calendars for the 2024 year.

Match the daily number on the 7:00 PM drawing. The cost is \$25.00.

To purchase a calendar please contact a school volunteer: Janis Dvorak at 929-2921; Kathy Goff at 610-704-8037; Maria McGinley at 484-629-4997; or Erin Marek at Marian 467-3335; or even visit the facebook page; Blue and Gold Club.

The Blue & Gold Club raises funds for the school throughout the year and every child that attends Marian Catholic benefits from the work of the Blue & Gold Club.

**Attention all Safe Environment Coordinators!**

Mandated reporter trainings and Protecting God’s Children Workshops will now be available virtually. If you are interested, please contact Pam Russo Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services  
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
610-871-5200 ext. 2204  
[prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service**

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

**Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos**

Si tiene una denuncia de abuso contra un obispo, comuníquese con el Servicio de Denuncias de Abuso de Obispos Católicos en [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) o llamando al 800-276-1562

**Adopt a Three-Point Plan for Holiness in the New Year**

All Christians are called to holiness. “*Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect*” (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.

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**WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 13TH & 14TH – ALL MASSES AT DIVINE MERCY**

Mas Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 PM	Elchisak,Michele	Brophy, Marty	Blank,Name
7:30 AM	Daynorowicz,Nolan	Grochowski,Jennifer	Daynorowicz,Nolan
10:00 AM	Twardzik,Joann	Domkus,Frances	Rakus,Evan

**Nativity Happenings:**

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development office with any enrollment questions.

**OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION:**

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-8110 with any questions.

**Nativity BVM High School**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK- 2024 Schedule**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024 – Celebrating Our Future**

We celebrate the future of our school with our Open House and Registration for the 2024-2025 school year. School tours, presentations and displays will begin at 1 PM. Members of the entire Nativity community will be available to answer questions. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome!

**Monday, January 29, 2024 - Celebrating Our School Community**

We celebrate our community by bringing it together to celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass as we open the week. There will be doughnuts distributed to bus drivers, van drivers, and parents to thank them for their help with our students during the school year. (AM SCHEDULE)

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024 - Celebrating Our Wonderful Students**

We will be celebrating the gift of our wonderful students by treating them to a free dress down day. There will be activities scheduled for the students in the afternoon including games and a movie. (SPECIAL SCHEDULE)

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 - Celebrating Our Nation**

We will be celebrating the United States and our Nativity Nation by having a special flag raising ceremony with our new flag donated by Student Council and singing of our National Anthem. There will be a free dress down day themed with the colors of your country for all students, faculty and staff. In the morning, we will unite as a school family to watch a basketball game between our Nativity Hilltoppers and St. Joseph Center students. (AM SCHEDULE)

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 - Celebrating the Gift of Vocations**

We will celebrate vocations with a special gift of thanks to our chaplain, Fr. Kevin Bobbin. There will be visiting religious speaking to the theology classes about the gifts of their vocations. We will join together in the afternoon for Nativity’s version of Family Feud (PM ASSEMBLY)

**Friday, February 2, 2024 - Celebrating our Faculty and Staff**

We will be treating all of our devoted faculty and staff to donuts and coffee in the morning and to lunch during their lunch periods to thank them for their hard work and dedication to Nativity. Faculty and staff will also be able to have a dress down day and a have a good day sticker. Throughout the day there will be an ongoing Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament with the finals of the tournament being held in the afternoon. (directions will be given prior) (SPECIAL SCHEDULE)

Next Prayer Group will meet at the Father Ciszek Center on Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 PM.  
Next Bible Group: Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM at the Father Ciszek Center.  
Next Franciscan Group: Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 PM at the Father Ciszek Center.  
For more information, call Sr. Marietta 590-0435 or the parish office 462-1968.

Redner's "Save – A- Tape" Receipts Divine Mercy Parish is still collecting the "Save-A-Tape" from Redner's Markets. Please drop off your receipts in the collection or mail box or bring them to the parish office during regular office hours. The parish will receive a check for 1% of what is collected. Please support your parish and collect the receipts. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated. **Please do not cut any of the receipt away.**

**A Little Reminder For Cemetery Lot Owners** in order to keep bringing all our Parish Cemeteries in line with the guidelines and regulations of the Diocese the following will still be enforced: all bricks, fine & crushed stone, plants, fresh & plastic flowers not in containers, fences, borders of all types will be removed & discarded immediately due to the fact that they cause a problem for maintenance of your lot. Again, anything that interferes with the mowing & trimming of grass will be removed at the family's expense. Containers should not interfere with the care of the cemetery grounds. If they do, the containers will be removed immediately. No planting of flowers, trees, or shrubs allowed. Plastic flowers must be in containers also.

**Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (1<sup>st</sup> Century).** Setting out for Damascus to carry on the persecution of the Christians, he encountered Christ (Acts 9:1-19; 22:5-16; 26:12-18) while on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind from the experience until he was baptized by Ananias three days later. He converted and began preaching the faith as he travelled around the Mediterranean.

**Financial Report --November**

Net November Income	\$ 29,797.67	Expenses	\$ 47,578.40
		Insurance	\$ 7,422.00
		Assessments	\$ 4,023.00
Total Income	\$ 29,797.67	Total Expenses	\$ 59,023.40
Expenses over income	\$ 29,225.73	This shows a loss of	\$ 29,225.73



**Our parish is in need of Lectors, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in any of these ministries, we ask that you please call the parish office at 462-1968.**



Many parishioners have asked about having past bulletins on our website: www.dmparish.com. Good news, we now have past bulletins on our website. All you have to do is to our website, www. dmparish.com and click on About Us and Bulletin Archive and you can click on whichever one you would like to read.

**Forgiveness Makes Good Sense**

“My best friend hurt me terribly, hasn’t apologized and doesn’t act sorry. I refuse to forgive her.” “When my parents died, my brother took more than his share of their estate. I’ll never speak to him again.”  
Refusing to forgive merely prolongs the hurt feelings and traps us in the past. It forces us to dwell on bad feelings and keep them alive. That feels awful. Forgiving is something we do for ourselves.  
But when we forgive, the energy that sustained the anger and hurt is now available for better purposes. That feels better.  
Need another reason? Jesus taught us that to receive forgiveness of our own sins we must forgive those who have hurt us. If we can’t or won’t – how can we obtain it for ourselves?  
Instead, pray for those who hurt you and ask God to bless them. Not only will you find the pain start to lessen, you’ll be saying one of God’s favorite kinds of prayers. It’s exactly how Jesus prayed while on the Cross.

