



# Divine Mercy Parish

## Mass Schedule for the Week of September 8, 2024

### *Monday, September 9, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Living & Deceased Members of Divine Mercy Parish  
6-6:30 PM DM Confessions

### *Tuesday, September 10, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Charlotte Litwak by Granddaughter, Charlene & Family

### *Wednesday, September 11, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Deceased Members of the Connor Family by Maloney Family  
1-4:00 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### *Thursday, September 12, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Deceased Members of the Maloney Family by Maloney Family

### *Friday, September 13, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Margaret Mary Domin by Sr. Helene

### *Saturday, September 14, 2024*

7:30 AM DM Mary Cudo by Dan & Diane Monlish & Family

3:40PM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
4:00 PM DM Bernadine Kamel by Tom & Sherry Squierdo

### *Sunday, September 15, 2024*

7:30 AM SC George Kosar by Bob & Joan Matta  
9:40 AM SC Divine Mercy Chaplet  
10:00 AM SC SrA Kohl John Paul Reed by Grammy, Ginny  
12:30 PM DM Living & Deceased Priests – Diocese of Allentown

*En Espanol*

### **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. Amen.

### **Remember ...**

Jesus gave us a great gift when he created the Sacrament of Confession (John 20:23). He knew we would want to hear the words of absolution to know he forgives us. Remember that no matter what happens, you are just one Confession away from coming home.

### **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.

### **Important Phone Numbers**

Divine Mercy Pre K  
Sister Patricia Maureen Mount, IHM  
570-462-3927

Divine Mercy PREP  
Sister Mary Glackin, IHM  
1-484-888-1358

### **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 September 1st - \$5,436.00**

### **New Chapel Hours**

Due to the lack of attendance in our Chapel on a Monday and Friday, we are setting a new time for adoration.

Every Wednesday Only from  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

### **Date for Confirmation:**

**Thursday, October 10, 2024**  
at 4:30 PM @ Divine Mercy Parish

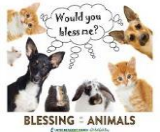


**Divine Mercy Memorial Fund**  
**Loving memory of Diane M. Kalyan**  
 \$10 Ron Kalyan & family  
**Hannah Marie Bennett**  
 \$50 Father, Jim Bennett, Uncle Joey & Uncle Cody  
 \$50 Nana, Pappy, Madison, Otto & Malcom  
 \$25 Sal Schweigert  
 \$10 Walukiewicz Oravitz Fell Funeral Home Inc.  
**Martin Cuff**  
 \$100 John & Kathy Sinkiewicz  
**Kathryn Boris**  
 \$10 Husband & Children  
**Edward Opanel**  
 \$5 Kate Tedesco  
**Gerald (Jerry) Selinka**  
 \$20 Joanne Koles  
**Irene Shuckavage**  
 \$10 Joanne Koles  
**Anna & Charles Steele, Florence & William Steele, Anna Marie & Edward Kowalski, Walter & Loretta Skubel & Mary & Joseph Kowalski**  
 \$1000 Mary, Nancy & Eddie  
**Frances Lesko**  
 \$10 Rittle family  
**Special intentions**  
 \$5 Anonymous

**Father Walter Ciszek Chapel Memorial Fund**  
**Bill & Lois Racis (Happy Birthday Bill) Love Ya Both ..Always!!!**  
 \$50 Joan & Bobby Racis  
**In Memory of our classmate Boris Popoff JW Cooper Class of 1965**  
 \$10 Joan & Bobby Racis  
**Marian Catholic High School** is looking for families willing to host International Students. 24/7 Support, Monthly Stipend, and students come with their own health insurance and spending money. If interested, please contact Nicole Dunn at 467-3335 ext. 113, or [ndunn@mariancatholics.org](mailto:ndunn@mariancatholics.org)

**On Thursday, September 19th**, the parish office will be closed due to our Fall Festival. The office will reopen on Monday, September 23rd at 9:30 AM.

**Blessing of Animals** will take place in St. Casimir Church parking lot on Sunday, October 6th at 11:15 AM.



**Devotional Candles**  
**Divine Mercy**  
**Sanctuary** In memory of my beloved Parents & Sister, Angelo & Enrica & Jean Romano by Ann Romano  
**Divine Mercy** In thanksgiving for prayers answered by Jackie Webb  
**Divine Mercy** God's blessings & continued good health for Hunter Zellin by Maria Rittle  
**Blessed Mother** In loving memory of Granny & Grampy Buchinsky by family  
**Blessed Mother** Special intentions by Joan Madaffari  
**Blessed Mother** In loving memory of Donald Rusesky on his 22nd anniversary of death by Maloney family  
**St. Ann** Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family  
**St. Joseph** In honor, praise & thanksgiving  
**St. Joseph** In loving memory of Hank Faleski by Wife, Julie  
**St. Joseph** In memory of Joseph Hardy by Daughter, Barbara  
**St. Joseph** In memory of my Parents, Frank & Jean Jarzinko by Daughter, Judy James  
**St. Ann** In memory of Son/Brother, Paul Pecunas... miss & love you very much by Mom & Heather  
**OLMC** Special intentions by Ann Marnell Lehman  
**St. Casimir**  
**Sanctuary** In loving memory of my Dad, George Rittle by Daughter, Maria  
**Czestochowa** In memory of our Parents, Kitty & John F. Baginski by Baginski family  
**Divine Mercy** Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski  
**Divine Mercy** Special intentions for Christopher, Marc & Christa  
**Divine Mercy** God's blessings for a speedy recovery for Steve Toth by Peg McGuire  
**Divine Mercy** Special intentions for Christopher, Hope, Benjamin, Morgan, Marc, Donna, Aubree, Eleanor, Owen, Oliver & Reni  
**Divine Mercy** In memory of John & Helen Pukavige by children  
**Divine Mercy** In loving memory of Theresa Michalik on her birthday 9/3 by Uncle Mickey & Aunt Cookie  
**Divine Mercy** In loving memory of my Brother, Edward on his birthday 9/4 by Brother, Michael & Wife, Marie  
**Divine Mercy** Prayers & good health for J.M., S.M., M.S., A.M., Z. S., T.S., R.G., G.M., L.B. & J. B.  
**Blessed Mother** In memory of John McGuire by Wife, Peg  
**Blessed Mother** In memory of Joan Majewski on her birthday by Brother, Albert  
**Blessed Mother** Special intentions by Mary Kufro  
**Blessed Mother** God's blessings to the Anczarski family for being such a positive part of our community... from a forever friend, Susan Bobbin  
**Blessed Mother** To my great Wife & Daughter, Trish & Angie.... Thank you for love & peace... love, Gene  
**Blessed Mother** Special intentions, in thanksgiving & good health for Msgr. Bocian, Stephen Bocian, George Huss, Estelle McLaren, Joann Pribish, Mrs. Buchinsky, Scarlet Henry, Frankie Pettinato & Christa  
**Blessed Mother** Happy birthday & God's blessings for Paul Straka by a friend  
**Blessed Mother** To my Brother, Jules.... Thank you for everything you have done for me when I needed you. You never said no. From the bottom of my heart... love, Gene  
**St. Ann** In memory of Theodore, Catherine & Catherine Mary Guzinski by Barbara Guzinski  
**St. Ann** In memory of our Wife & Mom, Kathryn Boris by Husband & Children  
**St. Anthony** Special intentions for Christopher, Marc & Christa  
**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

**Padre Pio Pilgrimage** For those interested in attending the 1st Local Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio on Friday, September 20th, bus transportation will be available for a cost of \$25. The bus will depart from St. Clare of Assisi in Saint Clair at 7:00 AM and from St. Ambrose in Schuylkill Haven at 7:30AM. You must bring your own brown bag lunch. We will be leaving the Shrine as soon as the Pilgrimage concludes. To register or for more information, please contact Barbara at St. Ambrose church (570-385-1031, [stambroseoffice@comcast.net](mailto:stambroseoffice@comcast.net)).



**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 parroquia(108 W.Cherry St., Shenandoah. Teléfono 570 (4621968) para reservar fechas y rellenar formularios. El proceso es muy fácil.

**Rosary -- Our Lady of Fatima** will be held on Friday, September 13th at 7:00 PM in Our Lady of Fatima Cemetery at the Grotto. Fatima Rosary will be said on the 13th of every month until October.



**2025 Mass Book for Divine Mercy Parish will open on Tuesday, October 22nd.** The **Diocesan Mass Stipend is set at \$ 10.00.** When requesting a Mass for 2025, the stipend must be paid before it can be written in the Mass Book. Each parishioner will be allowed **one weekday Mass and one weekend Mass.** **Please note: For every Mass for 2025 we will be asking for a contact name, address and phone number. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter! Remember, the Mass Book fills up quickly!** Candles will also be taken for 2025 at this time. If you would like to have a candle lit on a special day in any of the parishes, it is important that you notify us as soon as possible. The dates fill quickly.

### Annual Father Ciszek Mass

The annual Father Walter Ciszek Day will be held on Sunday, October 20th. It is a day to celebrate Father Ciszek's extraordinary faith in God and commitment to his priestly vows and vocation. The Mass will be at St. Casimir Church, 229 North Jardin Street, Shenandoah, PA at 2:00 PM. Rev. Brian M. Miller, Pastor of St. Catharine of Siena Parish, Reading, PA will be the homilist. Light refreshments will be available in the church hall after Mass. Also, related items concerning Fr. Walter will be available for purchase. The new Prayer League Center at 218 West Cherry Street, Shenandoah will be opened from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM showing video of Fr. Ciszek.



### Important Notice

The annual Priests' Convocation will be held this year from Tuesday, October 22nd, Wednesday, October 23rd, Thursday, October 24th and Friday, October 25th. Instead of two sessions as in the past, there will be only one general session this year. As a result, all priests will be attending the Convocation at this time. **However, there will be NO Mass from Wednesday, October 23rd through Friday, October 25th.** And there will be **NO funerals** scheduled from October 23rd through October 25th. All Funeral Masses will be scheduled beginning on Monday, October 28th. They will be scheduled as they come in. Burials will be able to take place as long as no priest is needed for prayers at the cemetery.

**Anointing of the sick** will be done if a priest can be found to do it. Both nursing homes have been notified.

## Information Regarding Opening of Divine Mercy Church & Closing of St. Casimir

**Beginning Monday, October 21st, all Masses will be held at Divine Mercy Church due to high cost of oil. All Masses include: Saturday, Sunday, Weekday Masses, Funerals, Weddings & Spanish Mass.**

**Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Javier Sanchez Cardona** who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 31st. Mrs. Cardona is the former Norma Vazquez Cortes. May God bless them with good health & many years of happiness.

**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 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.

**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

**WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 14TH & 15TH**

Mass Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 PM @ DM	Lombard, Gina	Heckard, Louise	Hernandez, Omar & Paco Jesus Arias
7:30 AM @ SC	Bronk, Cathy	Grochowski, Jennifer	Snitzer, Isabella
10:00 AM @ SC	Twardzik, Joann	Engle, Lillian	Rakus, Evan

**Payments for Parish Funerals**

Funeral fees must be paid 24 hours prior to the burial. We ask that the family of the deceased come to the parish office and pay directly to the church. Please make no payment to the funeral directors. If payment is not received within 24 hours of burial, there cannot be any burial in the parish cemetery. Also, all Lot Care (Perpetual Care/Cemetery Care) must be current including current burial.

**Information for PREP Registration**



**Registration for Divine Mercy Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) 2024-2025**

**Divine Mercy Parish Religious Education Program**

Registration for Divine Mercy Parish Religious Education Program was held during the week of July 22 – 28, 2024.

If you have not registered and want your child to receive religious instruction this year, please call Sister Mary at 1-484-888-1358 to set up an appointment.

Classes begin in September. You need to be registered **before September 1, 2024.**

Thank you,  
Sr. Mary

**Classes** will take place on the following evenings from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Grades 1 to 6** – Thursdays beginning on **September 12th**  
**Grade 7** – Sundays beginning on **September 8th**  
**Grade 8** - Confirmation Class – Tuesdays from September 10th to October 8th

**Divine Mercy Parish – Fall Food Sale  
Divine Mercy Church Parking Lot,  
West Cherry St.**

**Friday, September 20th – Noon to 6:00 PM**  
**Saturday, September 21st – Noon to 6:00 PM**  
**Sunday, September 22nd – Noon to 6:00 PM or until sellout**



**Our Menu will consist of:**  
**BBQ, Bleenies, Chicken Noodle Soup,  
Chicken Parmesan Sandwich, Homemade  
Pierogies, Meatball Hoagies, Porketta, Pasta  
Fagioli Soup and Baked Goods**



Raffle tickets have been mailed.  
Rip Offs & 50/50 will be available at the Fall Food Sale

**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.

**BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC DAILY MASSES**

**Masses Celebrated by The Most Reverend**

**Alfred A. Schlert D.D.**

**Monday, September 9th**

Our Lady of Mercy, Easton – 8:00 am  
132 S. Fifth Street, Easton

**Thursday, September 12th**

Holy Guardian Angels, Reading – 8:00 am

3121 Kutztown Road, Reading

**Monday, October 28th**

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City – 6:00 pm  
600 W. Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City

*Followed by light refreshments in the Parish Center*

**Financial Report --July**

Net July Income	\$ 36,938.73	Expenses	\$ 36,175.83
		Insurance	\$ 7,422.00
		Assessments	\$ 4,023.00
Total Income	\$ 36,938.73	Total Expenses	\$ 47,620.83
		<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>\$ 10,682.10</b>



**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..**

**Works of Mercy**

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need.

**The Corporal Works of Mercy** are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Feed the hungry           | Visit the sick       |
| Give drink to the thirsty | Visit the imprisoned |
| Clothe the naked          | Bury the dead        |
| Shelter the homeless      |                      |

**The Spiritual Works of Mercy** are acts of compassion, as listed below by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Counsel the doubtful  | Forgive offenses                 |
| Instruct the ignorant | Bear wrongs patiently            |
| Admonish sinners      | Pray for the living and the dead |



**Did You Change Your Address Lately?** The parish office would like to ask our parishioners, if they have a change in their address, to please notify the parish office as soon as possible. Every time we send mail out and the address is incorrect, the parish must pay for this piece of mail. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Food Truck Again at Divine Mercy Parish.....**

Catholic Charities’ Community Café Food Truck will be on site at the Divine Mercy Church Parish parking lot on Thursday, September 26th from Noon to 1:30 PM. All are welcome to join us for a complimentary hot lunch! Meet Catholic Charities’ staff and volunteers and enjoy a delicious meal! The food truck will be visiting Divine Mercy each month, so keep an eye out for further dates. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the food truck ministry, please contact Pam Russo at [prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org) or 610-871-5200, ext. 2204. Anyone is welcome to come and receive a free meal .... No questions asked or no payment or donation is requested.

**Catholic Charities** is looking for one or two part time drivers for its food truck mission. Hours are Monday through Thursday, approximately 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The truck is loaded and unloaded at Holy Family Parish Hall, located in Minersville, PA and the truck serves various communities each day in Schuylkill County. A standard PA Drivers license, a clean driving record and background clearances are required. Basic truck maintenance experience is also helpful. Anyone interested in the position should contact Andrea Kochan Neagle, Catholic Charities Managing Director, at [aneagle@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:aneagle@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-435-1541 ext. 5334.

**Divine Mercy Fall Food Sale Donations**

- \$150 Janet Richie
- \$100 Joe & Sharon Sadusky
- \$100 Gerald Sadusky
- \$50 Brian Bozylinski
- \$50 Edward & Kay Zuber
- \$50 Al Majewski
- \$50 Robert & Mary Bozylinski
- \$50 Mary Matunis
- \$30 Robert & Virginia Stanziola
- \$30 George & Jessica McKay
- \$30 Gino & Justine Monahan
- \$20 Maryann Budd
- \$20 Joseph Moyer
- \$20 Anthony Blaschak
- \$20 Romolo & Dorothy Laureti
- \$20 Judy & James Ross
- \$20 Joanne M. Koles
- \$20 Susan Supreme
- \$20 Margaret McAndrew
- \$10 James Burke
- \$10 M/M William Koons
- \$10 Nikki Zarcufsky

**God Loves Us As We Are**

Most of us care about how we come across to other people. Choices about how we live, work, or dress can be influenced by a desire for others' approval. While it is only human to want to be liked, it's important to remember that God's opinion matters most. The best part? God always loves us. **His love never changes.** Human standards change over time. Someone considered "in" today, can be "out" in no time. God's love is unchanging and unending. **Friends come and go.** Sooner or later, friendships change or friends may move on. But Jesus said, "... *behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*" (Matthew 28:20). God never leaves. **He loves us for who we really are.** There's nothing God doesn't know about us, and he adores us anyway. Go figure. **If God likes you, others may, too.** To please God, we have to fill ourselves with love for him and other people, and that makes us even nicer to be around.

**Help Catholics Come Home**

Do you know someone who was baptized Catholic but has stopped attending Mass, is questioning the faith, or hasn't found a parish home? Why not help your friend to come home? Perhaps you can act as a resource or offer to attend Mass together. If you aren't sure how to help, ask your pastor or priest for advice.

**Bulletin News...** our bulletin is sent out on a Monday by noon. If you would like a candle or memorial or any type of information placed in the bulletin, our office needs the information by 11:00 AM on a Monday. **The bulletin company prints the bulletin as soon as it is sent to them.**

**St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair -- Breakfast** – Sunday, September 8th from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM at ICC Social Hall, Diener's Hill – Cost: Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00 ... Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange Juice, Apple Juice, Coffee and Tea.

**St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair... Meat Bingo** – Date: Sunday, September 22nd  
Place: St. Clair Lions Club, 259 McCord Avenue, St. Clair  
Doors Open @ 12:00 Noon; Bingo Starts @ 2:00 PM  
\$20.00 pre-sale or \$25.00 at the Door... Call 429-0370

**How Can I "Love" People I Don't Like?**

In fact, Jesus addressed this very question in Matthew 22. The Jewish leaders didn't like Jesus. Jesus made them angry when he accused them of hypocrisy and insincerity. They knew he was right, of course. So some of the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus into saying something illegal in public. They asked Jesus which of the Jewish laws was most important. If he encouraged people to disregard any law, he could be harshly punished. This was an old debate, so the lawyer who challenged Jesus only asked hoping that Jesus would trip himself up. Instead Jesus said everything starts and ends with love – love for God and each other. To love God is to love one another. They are as inseparable as the beams of the cross. True love of neighbor is measured by how we treat those outside our circle. It means including people we may prefer to exclude or avoid. Jesus loved prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even Pharisees. This is how God loves and we are to do no less.

**Let God Love You**

Have you ever seen a parent scoop up a child and hug him closely as if he couldn't get enough of that beloved child? That's how God feels about you. He loves you dearly and shows you each day. Open your heart to him. He longs to embrace you and tell you that he loves you. Let God love you through the people around you. When you need help, support, or healthy love, don't refuse those whom God sends to you. God wants our safety and shows us the surest path for us to walk. Jesus walked it first to show us how. Follow His steps to stay safe. Our Father lets us make our own choices but gives advice to guide us. All we need to know to make smart decisions is contained in Scripture. Refer to it often to find out what God thinks is best. He is always ready to forgive. We are the ones who forget to ask. Meet him in Confession regularly. As a loving Father, he waits for our next visit and longs for our love. Don't miss a chance to meet him at Mass and in daily prayer. And, as a good Father, he waits for the day when all His children will come home to him and rest forever in His arms.

**Parish Dues for 2025 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, 2025, dues are \$ 50.00 per individual. If paid after January 31, 2025, dues are \$ 60.00 per individual.

