



Divine Mercy Parish

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 1, 2024

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:30 AM DM Sr. Marian Vincent by Sr. Helene
5-6:00 PM DM Confessions & Adoration
6-7:00 PM DM Rosary/Benediction

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:30 AM DM Mary Anne Toth & Vivian Burcin by Toth & Burcin Families
5-6:00 PM DM Confessions & Adoration
6-7:00 PM DM Rosary/Benediction

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:30 AM DM Loving Memory of My Parents, Albin & Helen Zancusky by Daughter, Joan
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Chapel Advent Day of Prayer

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:30 AM DM Dolores Halabura by Charlotte & Dave Kriner

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:30 AM DM Living & Deceased Members of Divine Mercy Parish

Saturday, December 7, 2024

7:30 AM DM Edward Kleha by Family
3:40 PM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet
4:00 PM DM Edward Michalik by Wife, Catherine & Children

Sunday, December 8, 2024

7:30 AM DM Paul Squierdo by Tom & Sherry Squierdo
9:40 AM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet
10:00 AM DM James Priga by Carol
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.



Divine Mercy Parish Homemade Pierogies
are now available. Cost: \$ 8.00 per dozen.

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

Due to the holidays, the collection will be announced at a later time!



Holiday Parish Office Hours

The office will be closed
Monday, December 2nd for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 3rd at 8:30 AM.



Immaculate Conception

The Parish Office will be **closed** on Monday, December 9th for the Holy Day as per Diocesan guide lines. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 10th at 8:30 AM.

**Divine Mercy Memorial Fund
Loving memory of Diane M. Kalyan**

\$20 Ron Kalyan & family

Dr. Richard Bindie

\$20 Ed, Cindi & Ed Jr. Shafransky

Elaine Faia

\$20 Ed, Cindi & Ed Jr. Shafransky

Raymond Guers

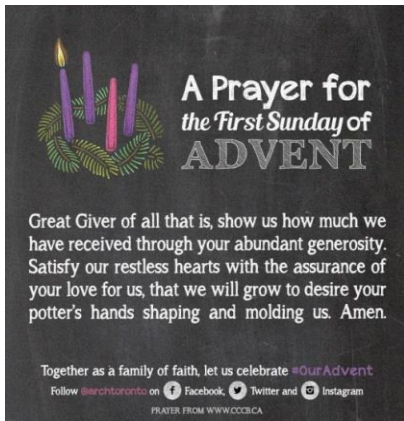
\$20 Ray Wisniewski

Special intentions

\$5 Anonymous

Home Blessings for the Advent Wreath Tradition

The word “Advent” means coming. Each year we enter into four weeks of Advent to prepare prepare again for the coming of Jesus. We long to know Him with greater intimacy and closeness. So we prepare through doing penance, reflection and expressions of our longing for God. A traditional symbol and help for us in focusing on the theme of this season is the **Advent Wreath**. Four candles are placed in a circle of evergreen. **Three purple candles** remind us of the themes of “*conversion, repentance, and sorrow for sin.*” A **rose colored candle** emphasizes the theme of the **third week** of Advent when the focus is the joyful expectation of the coming of Christ. Each evening we say a seasonal prayer and light a candle or candles. The *flame proclaims that Jesus, the light of the world, will soon come.*



Devotional Candles

Divine Mercy

- Sanctuary In memory of my beloved Parents & Sister, Angelo & Enrica & Jean Romano by Ann Romano
- Blessed Mother Our special intention by Karen & Leo Kayes
- Blessed Mother In loving memory of Anna Jankaitas on her birthday by Sister, Nikki
- Blessed Mother Good health & God’s blessings for Hunter Zellin by family
- Sacred Heart Our special intention by Karen & Leo Kayes
- St. Ann Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family
- St. Joseph In honor, praise & thanksgiving

St. Casimir

- Sanctuary In memory of Anna Majewski by Son, Albert
- Divine Mercy Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski
- Blessed Mother In memory of John T. McGuire by Wife, Peg
- Blessed Mother To my Brother, Jules for being a great brother to me all my life... love, Gene & many more trips together
- Blessed Mother To my loving daughter, Angie... happy birthday and many more... love, Gene
- Blessed Mother To my loving wife, Trish, thank you for 45 years of love & happiness... love, Gene
- Blessed Mother To my arch enemy friend, Chris K... I thank God for having you as a friend... love, Gene
- Blessed Mother In loving memory of Joe & Joestelle by wife/mother
- Blessed Mother In memory of Regina Brown by Brother, Albert
- Sacred Heart In loving memory of my Dad, George Rittle by Daughter, Maria

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

You may schedule additional Masses for 2025
and book is open to non-parishioners.
The Diocesan Mass Stipend is set at \$10.00.

Divine Mercy Parish Religion Education Program...Come and Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas With Us! “The First Christmas”



On Thursday evening, December 19th, at 7:00 PM in Divine Mercy Church, the students in our Parish Religious Education Program will be celebrating in word and song the story, “The First Christmas” . Please come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us. All are welcome.

December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked to have a chapel built for her, and had him carry roses in his tilma (cape) to the bishop as a sign. When he emptied his tilma before the bishop, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.
December 27 – St. John (1st century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to come down on the Samaritans.



ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER

During the secular holiday season, we are bombarded with messages on TV, on the internet, in stores, in magazines and other sources that blare out the commercialism of the holidays. What a perfect time to escape from the cacophony, go to our quiet and beautiful chapel to pray, reflect and discover the true meaning of Christmas – the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ

Our Advent Day of Prayer will be held on Wednesday, December 4th with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in the Chapel from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

“Keep Christ in Christmas”

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.

OPLATKI/CHRISTMAS WAFERS



Are now available before & after all the Masses at Divine Mercy or at the Parish Office, 108 West Cherry St. during office hours. **Donation for a 6 piece pack will be \$ 5.00.**



Christmas Memorial & Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are placed in your December envelopes. You may place your Christmas Memorial & Christmas Flower Memorial in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. The memorials will be published for Christmas. **The deadline will be Monday, December 9th.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Christmas Eve Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th 4:00 PM Divine Mercy
 Tuesday, December 24th 9:00 PM Divine Mercy

Christmas Day Schedule

Wednesday, December 25th 7:30 AM Divine Mercy
 Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 AM Divine Mercy
 Wednesday, December 25th 12:30 PM Divine Mercy Spanish

Misa En Espanol

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 31st 4:00 PM Divine Mercy
 Wednesday, January 1st 7:30 AM Divine Mercy
 Wednesday, January 1st 10:00 AM Divine Mercy

Catholic Charities – Pregnancy & Parenting Support Program - Diocese of Allentown - Christmas Giving Tree

This year during Advent, our parish will participate in the Christmas Giving Tree sponsored by the Catholic Charities – Diocese of Allentown. Catholic Charities focuses its Christmas giving on respect life efforts by providing counseling and material assistance to expectant and new mothers and their children. This year, the current administration in Harrisburg decided to not renew the annual government contract with Real Alternatives, the non-profit organization that funds our program. Because of this, your support is more needed than ever. Donations include: diapers sizes 3 and up, infant wipes, infant/toddler clothing, bottles and small infant safe toys. Additionally, parishioners may opt to provide a gift card to area stores at which Catholic Charities’ staff may pick up specific items to stock the baby closets. These items will be used to support pregnant and new mothers throughout the five counties of the Diocese of Allentown. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated. Items may be dropped off at church in the vestibule or at the parish office. **Deadline: Sunday December 15th.**

Monday, December 9, 2024: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

In a memo to the U.S. Bishops, the Vatican confirmed that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception usually celebrated on the 8th day of December must be transferred and observed as a Holy Day of Obligation on the 9th day of December since the 8th day of December in 2024 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. In light of this new directive, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass Schedule will be as follows:

Monday	December 9th	7:30 AM	DM
Monday	December 9th	5:00 PM	DM

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 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

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 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 o llamando al 800-276-1562

SCENTED CANDLE ORDERS

Date of Pick Up: Friday, December 6th from 1 PM to 3 PM @ Trinity School

**WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR
DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH & MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

Mass Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 PM @ DM	Elchisak,Michele	Brophy,Marty	Hernandez,Omar Arias,Paco Jesus
7:30 AM @ DM	Grochowski,Jennifer	Bronk,Cathy	Snitzer,Isabella
10:00 AM @ DM	Nowak,Cynthia	Engle,Lillian	Donovan,Joseph
5:00 PM @ DM Immaculate Conception	Marguerite Oravitz Fell	Engle,Lillian	Rakus, Evan

Bulletin Deadline Dates

Below you will find a listing of when bulletin information is due. The holidays are very busy, so I ask that you please use this as a reference guide as to when bulletin information is due. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Bulletin for Sunday....	Bulletin Information is due on ...
Sunday, December 8th	Monday, December 2nd
Sunday, December 15th	Monday, December 9th
Sunday, December 22nd	Monday, December 9th
Sunday, December 29th	Monday, December 16th
Sunday, January 5th	Wednesday, December 18th

Please support the Retired & Infirm Priests of the Diocese of Allentown

Thank you to those who have given so generously to the “Chosen, Blessed, Shared” annual fund. If you haven’t given, it isn’t too late to support the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift to the Endowment Fund for the Care of Retired Priests. This special fund is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance, housing and sustenance. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail. These envelopes may be returned in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. For more information, visit the website www.weloveourpriests.org. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese!

Looking for God During Advent

The Season of Advent can be a stressful time of holiday frenzy, or we can use the four weeks before Christmas to refocus on God’s presence in our lives. “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8) **Clear the air:** Sometimes God seems distant. He never leaves us but we may get lured away by sin, or we avoid Him because we are ashamed of having done wrong. Our connection becomes faulty. Visit the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to clear the air. **Replay your conversations:** Scripture is God speaking to us. Start the day by reading aloud from the Bible so you can hear His “voice.” Repeat it to yourself during the day so you remember it. **Find His friends:** Ever notice how people in a long-term relationship resemble one another in manner or appearance? The same is true of those close to God. Surround yourself with people who remind you of Him. **Come into His presence:** Encountering God’s presence is not just an experience for saints and mystics. He wants to change us, to lout us from the distractions and addictions of a troubled world. During Advent, find time each day to block everything out and focus on God exclusively. Be warned, genuine encounters with God’s presence will change your life.

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.

All Summer flowers must be removed!

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.



Financial Report --September

Net September Income	\$ 28,327.22	Expenses	\$ 21,824.41
		Insurance	\$ 7,422.00
		Assessments	\$ 4,023.00
Total Income	\$ 28,327.22	Total Expenses	\$ 33,269.41
		Net Loss	\$ 4,942.19



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 |

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 **Friday, December 20th** 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 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.

Begin A Nativity Scene

A Nativity Scene is a visual reminder that “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). Also known as a crèche, we think the custom of displaying the Nativity Scene began with St. Francis of Assisi as a way to illustrate the humility of Jesus’ birth. To imitate his lesson, set out an empty stable and manger and each week add figures: livestock, Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angels. On Christmas morning, place the Baby in the manger.

“God Bless You”

When you sneeze, think of Pope St. Gregory, the Great. In 590AD, the bubonic plague was spreading to Rome. To combat the disease, the pope requested unceasing prayer. “God bless you!” in response to a sneeze was part of that effort

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.

The Tree of Life has been placed in the vestibule of Divine Mercy Parish in the corridor leading to the former crying room. Take a moment and stop by to look at it. If anyone is still interested in making a donation to the new chapel in memory of someone or a special intention that you may have, please contact the parish office at 462-1968 as soon as possible. Your choices are: Leaf \$ 300.00, Acorn \$ 500.00, Foundation Stone \$ 1,000.00 and Mini-Tree \$ 1,500.00. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the chapel.



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.

Hope Always *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope”* (Romans 15:13).

Listen for God’s Voice

Scripture is God speaking to us. During Advent, try reading an entire Gospel or two. Short on time? Read the Gospel of St. Mark – the shortest of the four Gospels. Or, read a few lines each night and meditate on them. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how God is speaking to you through what you read.

Upcoming Event

Eat In or Take Out Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, December 8th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (or sell out) 313 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville. Spaghetti platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread - \$11.00. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

Marian Catholic Volleyball Team is having a \$1000.00 Cash Jackpot Bingo! Sunday, December 8th @ Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville...Doors Open at 12 noon-Games Start at 1:00 PM. \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at door...10 Regular Games, Specials, Tricky Trays, 50/50 and more! Food and Drink available for purchase! Contact Angela at 582-5980 for reservations/payment.

Shenandoah Area Free Public Library is hosting a Book Bingo on Friday, December 6th from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Free for all ages.

Shenandoah Area Free Public Library... Book Signing: Andrea Mallick Pytak... Saturday, December 14th from Noon to 2:00 PM. “Hard Coal & Onion Domes” remembering three generations of the Mallick family in America, and the forces of nature that helped them survive.

Marian Catholic HS is looking for a PT Night Custodian. Interested applicants can send their cover letter and resume to Pete Sanfilippo. psanfilippo@mariancatholichs.org

Become New During Advent

During the Advent season, the Church offers us the chance to prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas. It’s our opportunity to become the people God intended us to be.

Be mindful. Fulfilling our responsibilities well is how we glorify God. Yet, it can be easy to get lost in the routine of daily life. St. Josemaria said, “Carry out the little duties of each moment: do what you ought and concentrate on what you are doing.”

Resolve to do better. “I want to be more considerate,” is a great start. Specifics will make it happen. “I’ll give others my full attention when they’re speaking to me,” or “I will be on time to respect others’ schedules.”

Be flexible. If you struggle to find 20 minutes to pray each day, try two 10-minute sessions morning and evening. If you lack time for an entire Rosary, pray one decade at a time throughout the day. Don’t miss this chance to prepare well for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Patience Makes Sense

Don’t be tempted to compare yourself to others. God’s plan for each of us is unique. *“Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way”* (Psalm 37:7).

