



Divine Mercy Parish

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 15, 2024

Monday, December 16, 2024

7:30 AM DM Casimir Puza by Bob
 5-6:00 PM DM Confessions & Adoration
 6-7:00 PM DM Rosary/Benediction

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:30 AM DM Albert Sterner by Wife & Son
 5-6:00 PM DM Confessions & Adoration
 6-7:00 PM DM Rosary/Benediction

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:30 AM DM Cousins, Charles Frye, Michael, Joyce & Anthony Bobbin,
 Anthony Gawrylik & Diane Cook by Family
 1-4 PM Chapel Adoration

Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:30 AM DM John Slatick by Family

Friday, December 20, 2024

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

Saturday, December 21, 2024

7:30 AM DM Joseph & Anna Savakinas by Daughter

3:40PM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet
 4:00 PM DM William Webb - 5th Anniversary of Death - Love & Miss
 You by Wife, Jackie

Sunday, December 22, 2024

7:30 AM DM Jack Kilker by Francis Caulfield
 9:40 AM DM Divine Mercy Chaplet
 10:00 AM DM For All Those Remembered In Our Memorial Fund
 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 December 1st - \$5,410.00



The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th through Friday, December 27th.
 The office will reopen on Monday, December 30th at 9:30 AM.

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st.
 The office will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd at 8:30 AM.

Living in the Present Sometimes, we get so bogged down by worries about the future or regrets of the past, we forget to live in the present. Instead of worrying about what you can't control, entrust those worries to God knowing that he will help you through them all. Trust that his grace is enough.

Divine Mercy Memorial Fund
Loving memory of Diane M. Kalyan
 \$20 Ron Kalyan & family
Rita Boczkowsky
 \$20 Jack & Louise Kelly
 \$10 Leo & Pat Treshock
 \$10 Charles & Denise Sincavage
 \$10 Mary Rose Masternack
 \$5 Maria Rittle
Happy anniversary in heaven, Leo Breznik, Sr., rest in peace... love & miss you
 \$10 Son, Frank, Lisa & families
Happy anniversary in heaven, Rita Karlavage, rest in peace... love & miss you
 \$10 Sister, Lisa, Frank & families
Happy birthday in heaven, John J. Stanczyk, rest in peace... love & miss you
 \$10 Daughter, Lisa, Frank & families
Special intentions
 \$5 Anonymous

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

Thank You

To those who purchased Scented Candles. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

What to Do This Christmas

- Mend a quarrel.
- Seek out a forgotten friend.
- Share some treasure.
- Give a soft answer.
- Encourage youth.
- Keep a promise.
- Find the time.
- Listen.
- Apologize if you were wrong.
- Be gentle.
- Laugh a little more.
- Express your gratitude.
- Welcome a stranger.
- Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty & wonder of the earth.
- Speak your love. Speak it again.

Devotional Candles

Divine Mercy

Sanctuary In memory of my beloved Parents & Sister, Angelo & Enrica & Jean Romano by Ann Romano
Blessed Mother In loving memory of Joann Aponick on her birthday by Sister, Nikki
Blessed Mother Good health & God's blessings for Hunter Zellin by family
Blessed Mother In loving memory of Rose & William Norris by Daughter, Cathy & family
St. Ann Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family
St. Joseph In honor, praise & thanksgiving
St. Joseph Good health & God's blessings for a successful surgery for Dan Monlish
St. Joseph Good health & God's blessings for Joseph "Murph" Navitsky
St. Joseph In loving memory of our dear "Pop" Buchinsky by family
OLMC In loving memory & happy birthday in heaven to our Son, John Kelly by Mom, Dad & Sister
OLMC In loving memory of John Kelly by Denise & Charlie Sincavage
OLMC Special intention for John Kelly family
OLMC Special intentions by Ann Marnell Lehman

St. Casimir

Sanctuary In memory of Dorothy Karpovich on her birthday by Brother, Albert
Czestochowa Good health & God's blessings for family by Terry & Joe Richardson
Czestochowa Special intentions by Michael & Marie Michalik
Divine Mercy Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski
Divine Mercy Special intentions by Joan Madaffari
Divine Mercy Prayers & good health for J.M., S.M., M.S., Z.S., T.S., G.M., A.M. J.B., L.B. & R.G.
Divine Mercy In memory of John McGuire by Wife, Peg
Divine Mercy Healthy recovery from surgery for Joyce Frantz by Ed & Fran Domkus
Blessed Mother In loving memory of Joe & Joestelle by wife/mother
Blessed Mother In loving memory of Leo & Kitty Breznik by Son, Mickey
Blessed Mother Our special intention by Karen & Leo Kayes
Sacred Heart In memory of Bernard Majewski on his birthday by brother, Albert
Sacred Heart Our special intention by Karen & Leo Kayes
Sacred Heart In loving memory of my Dad, George Rittle by Daughter, Maria
Sacred Heart Special intentions by Mary Kufro

Chapel

Sanctuary Our special intention by Karen & Leo Kayes
Blessed Mother Prayers & good health for Emily Seigel by Uncle Ed & Aunt Kerri
St. Joseph Special intentions by Msgr. B



To an anonymous parishioner for their generous donation to Divine Mercy Parish. Your generosity and support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Gratitude and Generosity

Gratitude and generosity often go hand in hand. God is generous in his blessings to us, and often gives us more than we need. Our gratitude inspires us to "give back" to God. Gratitude is the attitude of a generous heart.

Christmas Unity Christmas is a wonderful time to forgive anyone who hurt or disappointed us. After all, Jesus came to repair our broken relationship with God. He will give us the strength and power to forgive others if we ask.



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).



What Makes Christmas?

The Creator made Christmas possible.
 Friends make Christmas beautiful.
 Music makes Christmas festive.
 Giving makes Christmas joyous.
 Love makes Christmas complete.

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 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

Who Was That Baby in the Manger?

At this time of year, we tell a charming tale of a long ago journey on a donkey, a baby born in a cave, and a visit by kings. In truth, the real event was not just charming, it was awesome. That baby was more than a child ... **He was proof that God always keeps his promises.** That baby was the fulfillment of an amazing promise made to generations of faithful assured a savior to heal the rift created by the sin of our first parents. God spoke his word *“(a)nd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father”* (John 1:14). God always keeps his word. Trust him. **He was love in the flesh.** *“For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him”* (John 3:16). Out of love for us, Jesus willingly took on the indignity of a human body and its frailty to share our nature. Love him back. **He is God.** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). God came to free us from sin and open the way to everlasting life. Follow him.



Nativity Happenings

Members of the Interact Club collected winter clothing during the month of November. Members of the club also collected diapers and all items were donated to Catholic Charities. The Interact Club sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on November 4, 2024. We met our goal and collected 35 units of blood. The club will sponsor this event again in the spring. The next event will be the writing of Christmas cards to the students in Pre-K through 2nd grade in our partner schools.

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jenifer Daubert in the Development office with any enrollment questions.

OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION:

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025 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 @ 622-8110 with any questions.

Nativity’s Annual Band & Chorus Christmas Concert will be held on December 19th at 7:00 PM at the school. Please join us for this special event!

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

**WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR
 DECEMBER 21ST & 22ND**

| Mass Time | Lector | Eucharistic Minister | Altar Server |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4:00 PM @ DM | Maskornick, Sherri | Elchisak, Michele | Arias, Paco Jesus Hernandez, Omar |
| 7:30 AM @ DM | Grochowski, Jennifer | Grochowski, Jennifer | Snitzer, Isabella |
| 10:00 AM @ DM | Twardzik, Joann | Sadusky, Joseph | 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 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!

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.

Celebrate Birth

December is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the infant King. This has become a time to reaffirm our respect for life from conception to natural death. We pray that all babies are given the gift of 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.

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.**

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.

Develop an Advent Frame of Mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father’s eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to humanity, but the spectacular product of God’s divine love and the reflection of his glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love he has for you. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

What is advent?

* Advent is a term from the Latin word 'adventus' which means 'arrival'.

It is a time of waiting for the arrival of Christmas, the coming of Jesus to earth when he was born as a baby at Bethlehem about two thousand years ago.

The Perfect Prayer

The Our Father is actually four prayers in one. First, it is a prayer of praise and gives God the glory that he is due. Second, it is a prayer of petition in which we ask God to provide what we need. Third, it is a prayer asking for forgiveness and the strength to be forgiving. And last, it is a prayer of acknowledgement. It forces us to admit that God knows what is best for us and reminds us to submit to his will rather than our own. That’s what makes it the perfect prayer model. God hears all prayers, but He wants to know that we are committed to that for which we are asking. Is it a real need or just a momentary thought? Like the neighbor in this Gospel reading, Jesus encourages us to be persistent and continue to ask for God’s help, seek God’s will, and open the door to God’s grace in our lives.

Have A Real Merry Christmas!

Do you wish for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, the celebration comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebrating: **Be realistic.** It isn’t the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don’t overspend and over extend before Christmas, you’ll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives. **Soothe the beast.** Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas mood. **Reach out.** Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else’s. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy. **Seek the eternal.** Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent.



Share the Christmas Gift of Love

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that Jesus came to us out of love and wants us to find ways to share his love with others. *“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you”* (John 15:12). Ultimately, Christmas is about love. **Comfort those who suffer.** This time of year highlights financial struggles and hardships. Offer the gift of love by calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to learn how you can help others in need.

Offer the gift of yourself. The holidays can be sad for those who are alone. Spending time with someone else – especially when you don’t have much to spare – is one of the most precious ways to show you care. **Forgive.** There is no better time to offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or to ask it of someone you may have hurt. Forgiveness is a powerful form of love in action.

The Peacemakers Are Children of God

This is the season during which we become our better selves. Peace reins in our hearts while we exchange gifts and pleasant thoughts. The best gift we can offer the King of Peace, however, is to be peacemakers throughout the year.

Bring harmony. It isn’t enough to avoid conflict. Peacemaking means admitting wrongdoing and accepting responsibility immediately. Peacemakers give up ground even if they are entitled to it. **Allow small things to remain small.** It can be easy to find opportunities take offense or find others in the wrong. Peacemakers don’t accept every opportunity they are offered for a fight. **Catch others at their best.** Gratitude and graciousness are the best remedies for conflict and anxiety. Share respect freely. Bring goodwill to every situation. **Watch for opportunities to spread peace.** Daily you will face situations in which you will have to make a choice, take a stand, defend a position, or seek a peaceful resolution. Be prepared to be a peacemaker even when it won’t be popular, pleasant or easy.