

Divine Mercy Parish

Mass Schedule for the Week of January 12, 2025

A Party	3	Monday, January 13, 2025		
7:30 AM DM		Living & Deceased Members of Divine Mercy Parish		
6-6:30 PM	DM	Confessions		
0-0:30 F M	DNI	Concessions		
		Tuesday, January 14, 2025		
7:30 AM	DM	Elizabeth Tabone by Sister Helene		
		Wednesday, January 15, 2025		
7:30 AM	DM	Georgette Moyer by Family		
1-4 PM	Chapel	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
		Thursday, January 16, 2025		
7:30 AM	DM	Diane Donovan by Aunt Nikki		
		Friday, January 17, 2025		
7:30 AM	DM	Mary & Joseph Vatalare by Children		
		Saturday, January 18, 2025		
3:40PM	DM	Divine Mercy Chaplet		
4:00 PM	DM	Albert & Patricia Drumblusky by Family		
		Sunday, January 19, 2025		
7:30 AM	DM	Stella & Alexander Gawrylik by Family		
9:40 AM	DM	Divine Mercy Chaplet		
10:00 AM	DM	Frank Muraczewski & Tina Young by Pat & Leo Treshock		
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.

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 ChapletWhen:Every 1st Sunday of the
monthTime:3:00 PMWhere:St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish,
Mahanoy City

Divine Mercy Collection 12/29 - \$20,456.00 1/5 - \$8,681.00

OFFICE CLOSED....

Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 21st at 8:30 AM.

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 2024. We will mail this sheet directly to you.

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.



Baptism of the Lord – January 12, 2025

	Baptism of the L	ord – January 12, 2025		
Divine Mercy Memorial Fund	Devotional Candles			
Diane M. Kalyan		Divine Mercy		
\$20 Husband, Ron & family	Sanctuary	In memory of my beloved Parents & Sister, Angelo & Enrica &		
Carol Higgins		Jean Romano by Ann Romano		
\$10 Madeline & Julie	Divine Mercy	Good health & God's blessings for Janice Blew by Pat & Leo		
Sam Currelli	Divine Mercy	Living & deceased members of the Knights of Columbus Council		
\$10 Madeline Buchinsky & family		618 by M/M John M. Thomas		
\$10 Stephanie Oshman	Divine Mercy	Special intention for Catherine Michalik by Ann Romano		
Rita Boczkowski	Blessed Mother	Good health & God's blessings for Hunter Zellin by family		
\$25 Christine & Brian Gasser	Blessed Mother	Good health & God's blessings for Paul Straka in the New Year by		
Anthony Joseph Kulpowicz		Theresa & Diane		
\$10 Ed & Fran Domkus	Blessed Mother	In loving memory of Rose & William Norris by Daughter, Cathy &		
My brother, Thomas P. Lazur Jr.		family		
\$500 Dianna Lazur	St. Ann	Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family		
Trudy Dougherty	St. Joseph	In honor, praise & thanksgiving		
\$10 Denise Boris	OLMC	Special intention for John Kelly family		
Barry Boyer	OLMC	Deceased of the Marnell & Lehman families & Sue Probition by		
\$10 Walukiewicz Oravitz Fell F. H.		Ann Marnell Lehman		
Inc.		St. Casimir		
\$10 Peter Ulicny	Sanctuary	In loving memory of my Dad, George Rittle by Daughter, Maria		
\$10 Stephanie Oshman	Divine Mercy	Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski		
Patricia Ann Grasso	Divine Mercy	Prayers & good health for J.M., S.M., M.S., A.M., Z.S., T.S., C.M.,		
\$10 Peter Ulicny		G.M., J.B., L.B., R.G. and G.S.		
Birthday blessings for Karen Kurtz	Divine Mercy	Prayers & good health for J.M., S.M., M.S., A.M., Z.S., T.S., C.M.,		
(Krol)		G.M., J.B., L.B., R.G. and G.S.		
\$10 Friend, Diane Keim	Divine Mercy	Special intentions for Christopher, Hope, Marc, Gen, Benjamin,		
Good health, God's blessings & happy		Morgan, Aubree, Eleanor, Owen, Oliver & Reni		
& healthy New Year to: Madeline,	Divine Mercy	In memory of John & Helen Pukavige by children		
Julie & Joann Buchinsky, Larry &	Divine Mercy	In loving memory of John McGuire by Wife, Peg		
Karen Chesla, Louise Gervalis, Dan &	Divine Mercy			
Diane Monlish, John & Cindy	Divine Mercy	Health for Joan Wallace by Ed & Fran Domkus		
Sewastynowicz, Bob Shustack, Dan &	Blessed Mother	In loving memory of Joe & Joestelle by wife & mother		
Joanie Shustack & Gene & Pat	Blessed Mother	Special intentions, in thanksgiving & good health for Msgr. Bocian,		
Stremba		Stephen Bocian, Estelle McLaren, Joanne Demko, Joann Pribish,		
\$20 Pav & Diane		Mrs. Buchinsky, Scarlet Henry, Frankie Pettinato, Christa Beecroft,		
Prayers & God's blessings for my		Joe & Chris		
friend, Joan Wallace	Blessed Mother	In loving memory of Leo & Kitty Breznik by Son, Mickey		
\$5 Dolores Micko		In memory of John & Helen Pukavige by children		
Special intentions	Blessed Mother	In memory of John & Helen Pukavige by children		
\$5 Anonymous	Blessed Mother	Our special intentions by Karen & Leo Kayes		
37	Sacred Heart	Our special intentions by Karen & Leo Kayes		
You may schedule additional Masses	Sacred Heart	Special intentions by Mary Kufro		
for 2025	Sacred Heart	Special intentions by Mary Kufro		
and book is open to non-parishioners.	Sacred Heart	Special intentions for Christopher, Marc & Christa		
The Diocesan Mass Stipend is set at	St. Anthony	Special intentions for Christopher, Marc & Christa		
\$10.00.	Compton	Chapel		
	Sanctuary	Our special intentions by Karen & Leo Kayes		

Blessed Mother

St. Joseph

Baptisms

Welcome **to Bridgid Suzanne Dexter**, daughter of Vincent Dexter & Mary Bennett and **Viola Autumn Kowalski**, daughter of Kevin & Mary Kowalski. Both children were baptized the weekend of December 21-22nd. May God bless them and keep them in His care.



Feast of the Presentation Blessing of the candles will take place on Saturday, February 1st at 4:00 PM Mass and Sunday, February 2nd at 7:30 AM Mass and

10:00 AM Mass 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

Special intentions by Msgr. B

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

Feast of St. Blaisé - Blessing of Throats will only take place on Monday, February 3rd at 7:30 AM Mass.



God is Always Present

Although the world around is changing, God stays the same. He can be trusted to provide love, support, strength, patience, wisdom, insight, and creativity when we ask. "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed"(Malachi 3:6).

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 in incorrect, the parish must pay for this piece of mail. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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, diles 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.

Marian Catholic High School

Open House, Sunday, January 26th, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.... Tour the school, meet faculty and administration, and learn how to make a Marian education possible. For more information, contact Mary Milosh at 570-467-3335 ext. 117 or mmilosh@mariancatholichs.org

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, January 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

<u>prusso@allentowndiocese.org</u> 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.

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.

Intercessory Prayer – A Double Blessing

When we pray for others, we offer powerful help for someone in need. It's the best action we can take for others. Intercessory prayer is also a gift for the one who prays. **Prayers of friends can save.** Remember when a group of friends lowered a paralyzed man through a roof so Jesus could cure him (Mark2:1-12)? Jesus was clearly touched by their devotion. His usual response when asked for healing was, "your faith has saved you." This time he said, "The faith of your friends has saved you."

Place friends' needs before Jesus. In the Gospel story, Jesus changed the man's life and amazed all who watched. Imagine the kind of difference we can each make when we ask Jesus to help our friends.

Prayer blesses both the one who prays and the one prayed for. Those for whom we pray are blessed by the positive effect of our prayers. We are also blessed by the connection prayer gives us to God and by seeing the results of our prayers.

Tough Times?

Throughout history, God has proven his faithfulness and care over and over again. He promises that He will help you through whatever tough times you face. "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on Him.

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 MarieJohnson,. Johnson@allentown diocese.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. Allantour, PA 18105 1528

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 <u>www.ReportBishopAbuse.org</u> or by calling 800-276-1562

Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos

Si tiene una denuncia de abuso contra un 5bispo, 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 JANUARY 18TH & 19TH

			1
Mass Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 PM @	Lombard,Gina	Heckard,Louise	Arias,Paco Jesus
DM			Hernandez,Omar
			,
7:30 AM @	Selvocki,Joseph	Grochowski, Jennifer	Snitzer,Isabella
DM			
10:00 AM @	Grochowski, Anne	Twardzik, Thomas	Rakus,Evan
DM			

Who Needs Jesus?

Many today say that they don't have a need for Jesus. They go to work, have homes, put food on their tables, raise families without His help. In fact, daily activities go on but the world can't really make sense without Him.

Truth. The truth is in Christ, "*in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Colossians 2:3). We cannot understand the truth without Him. To make sense of the world, we need Jesus to lead us.

Life. The life we have will eventually end. To keep living, we need Jesus. "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6). Eternal life comes through Him.

Death. None of us escapes death. Yet, in the Resurrection, Jesus defeated death for us. It didn't hold Him and He offers the gift of life to each of us if we live in Him.

Sin. Even the holiest of us sins. Without Jesus, what becomes of us? He "gave himself as a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6). If we don't accept His price, our sins come back to us for eternity.

Suffering. Modern science can alleviate but not eliminate some of the world's suffering. Jesus provides comfort and healing to those who trust Him and surrender to Him.

God's Promise isn't that He'll keep bad 67 things from happening; it's that He'll be there if they do.

Can You Trust Your Conscience?

"It felt just right." "I try to follow my conscience but it's not always right." A conscience helps us tell right from wrong. A well-formed conscience keeps us out of trouble but a poorly-formed conscience can lead us astray. More than a feeling, a conscience is the voice of God calling us to do what is good. A firm foundation. It's possible to have an ill-formed conscience and not even know it especially if it looks like everyone else's. For example, did we learn right and wrong from TV, movies, and popular culture? Instead, a Catholic conscience is informed through Church teaching about truths revealed by God. Feelings vs. conscience. Just because we don't feel like doing something bad doesn't mean we follow our conscience. A conscience isn't based on feelings. Instead, following our conscience means using reason to consult Church teaching for guidance. We change our feelings to match our conscience. Church teaching is not subject to the whims of any individual pope, bishop, or priest. Church teaching is found in the Bible and the Catechism. Prudence helps, too. Prudence is a virtue that helps us choose our true good in each situation. At some point, prayer, study, and deliberation must give way to action. Prudence and our well-formed conscience combine to help us make the right choice.



Baptism of the Lord – January 12, 2025

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.



Saptish of the Lord – January 12, 2023							
	Financial Report - Nove	mber					
Net November Income	\$ 32,632.84 Expenses	\$ 31,752.16					
	Insurance	\$ 7,422.00					
	Assessments	\$ 4,023.00					
Total Income \$ 32,632.84 Total Expenses \$ 43,197.16							
	Net Loss \$10,50	<mark>54.32</mark>					
Lectors Needed		Eucharistic Ministers					
G1 .	MINISTRY						

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 Give drink to the thirsty Clothe the naked

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick Visit the imprisoned Bury the dead

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 Instruct the ignorant Admonish sinners Forgive offenses Bear wrongs patiently Pray for the living and the dead

Is There a Right Way to Ask Someone for Forgiveness?

Jesus thought asking for and granting forgiveness was so important, He included it in the Our Father, a prayer we say regularly. There is no one right way to ask for forgiveness. What is important is to make a start. Take responsibility for what happened between you. Tell your friend that you are sorry and you want to be back on good terms. Detail steps you can take together to be sure that a breach won't happen again. Key to real contrition is amending your life. Give some sign that you are sorry. Shake hands or hug. Such an action will start the healing of your relationship. In order to be in friendship with God, we have to be at peace with each other. Jesus said, *"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift"* (Matthew 5:23-24).

Additional Christmas Memorials Cichocki & Jakubowski families by M/M Edward Conrad

\$10 Anna & Clarence "Hank" Dietrick by Rita Dietrick

Additional Christmas Flower Memorial

\$10 Anna Dietrick, Helen Stanell, Mary Lou Whalen & Eileen Wylonis by Rita Dietrick

Mailing of Bulletins



\$20

If anyone would like the bulletin mailed to their home, we ask that you please contact the office. However, bulletins will be sent to only **shut-ins free of charge.** All **others** will need to **send a check or cash** to the parish office **for the postage**. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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.

Give the Gift of Friendship in the New Year

When times are tough, it can be our family and friends who help us through. There wasn't much Jesus wouldn't do for His friends. In fact, He was more concerned with being a good friend than with having one. In our current pandemic situation, we can care for our loved ones as Jesus would: Make spending time together a priority. Connections between loved ones are critical now. When meeting in person isn't possible, phone calls, letters, and emails can keep us connected. Video conferencing has become a staple of daily life; consider organizing regular get togethers with friends and family using your favorite conferencing program. Help other people feel important. No matter how you interact, give the other person your full attention in conversation, and show appreciation and understanding for what he is saying. Celebrate your friends' successes. A true friend is genuinely happy when something good happens in the other's life. Value **differences.** Don't try to change your loved ones. Celebrate their diversity. Be willing to apologize. You may let each other down but a sincere apology can bring friends closer together. **Don't** forget old friends. Call someone you haven't been in touch with for a long time. Don't know what to say? Try, "I don't want another moment to go by without being in touch. I've missed you."

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.



Many parishioners have asked about having past bulletins on our website: www.dmparish.com. Good news, we now have the past 6 months of bulletins on our website. All you have to do is go 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.

Can I Be Forgiven for the Bad Things I Have Done?

God loves us so much that he is ready to forgive anything we have done. Jesus said, "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:13). He knew we would sin and need forgiveness. The key is to ask.

As difficult as offering forgiveness to others can be, forgiving ourselves may be even harder. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God. But second to that is to "... love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). That means he wants us to behave in a loving way toward all people God created – including ourselves. Forgiveness is critical.

The first step is to ask God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Don't worry that you may shock the priest by what you tell him. If he has been a priest for any length of time, he won't shock easily. When you finish the penance he gives you, resolve to avoid sin and start fresh. If God is ready to forgive you, can you do any less?

What is the Anointing of the Sick?

Once known as "Last Rites" this sacrament was given at the moment of death. So that we can access Christ's healing and comfort when we need it, the Church revised it as, "Anointing of the Sick."

When informed of a serious illness or necessary surgery, the Church encourages us to call our rectory or local priest to ask for the Sacrament. It may be repeated for additional illnesses or surgeries. Don't delay needlessly. This Sacrament is only for the living.

