



Divine Mercy Parish

Mass Schedule for the Week of November 6, 2022

Monday, November 7, 2022

6:45 AM DM **Living & Deceased Members of Divine Mercy Parish**
 2-4 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 PM DM Confessions

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

6:45 AM DM **Anna Jankaitis** by Sister, Nikki

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

6:45 AM DM **No Mass**
 2-4 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, November 10, 2022

6:45 AM DM **No Mass**

Friday, November 11, 2022

6:45 AM DM **No Mass**
 2-4 PM Chapel Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, November 12, 2022

8:00 AM DM **Joseph P. Savakinas** by Sister
 Noon DM San Diego Mass

3:45 PM DM **Divine Mercy Chaplet**
 4:00 PM DM **Alberta & Joseph Zarcufsky** by Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, November 13, 2022

7:30 AM DM **Albert Sterner** by Wife & Son
 9:40 AM DM **Divine Mercy Chaplet**
 10:00 AM DM **Catherine & Joe Navitsky** by Son, Joseph & Family
 12:30 PM DM **Living & Deceased Priests – Diocese of Allentown**
En espanol

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

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

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

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



Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

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

Prayer for Our Country

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

Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Divine Mercy Collection

10/30 - \$4,488.00



Holiday Parish Office Hours

The office will be closed from noon on Wednesday, November 23rd, Thursday November 24th, Friday November 25th and Monday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, November 29th at 8:30 AM.

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).

Divine Mercy Church Memorial Fund

Suzanne Finneran
 \$10 Buchinsky family
Dorothy Wisniewski
 \$50 Kowalonek family
 \$20 Butchey Logan
 \$20 St. Cecelia Choir
 \$20 Ann & Jenn Grochowski
 \$10 Michael & Marie Michalik
 \$10 Walukiewicz Oravitz Fell F. H.
 \$10 Elaine M. Fell
 \$10 Rosanne Hall
 \$10 Tom & Pauline Onuschak
 \$10 Fran & Maria Macus
 \$10 Fred & Diane Keim
 \$10 Catizone family
 \$10 Dan & Joan Shustack
 \$10 Robert & Deana Shustack
 \$10 Ann Romano
 \$10 Barbara Shatalsky
 \$10 Cindy & Dennis Loughlin
 \$10 Tom O'Neill
 \$10 Lisa Arant & Tom Nause
 \$10 Parker family
 \$10 M/M John Morris
 \$10 Bernie Morris
 \$10 Anonymous
 \$10 Kim Major & Nicole Stauffer
 \$10 Joanne Koles
 \$10 Pat & Leo Treshock
 \$10 Peter Ulicny
 \$5 Gino & Justine Monahan
 \$5 Joann Pribish
 \$5 Michael & Patti Burns

David Vale

\$10 Tom & Pauline Onuschak

John Beacher

\$20 Keith Harkins, MD
 \$20 John & Elaine Harkins

Loving memory of Daniel Lesko - 10th anniversary of death forever loved & missed

\$10 Wife, Joann

Joanne Kutchinsky

\$10 Pat & Leo Treshock

Good health & God's blessings for

Michael Gualtier

\$10 Buchinsky family

Father Walter Ciszek Chapel

Memorial Fund

Dorothy Wisniewski

\$50 JR & Donna Kowalski
 \$20 Paul & Karen Gavala
 \$20 Judy & Jim Ross
 \$10 Val Sajone
 \$10 Charlotte Kowalski
 \$10 Mary Ann Bruni
 \$10 Dorothy & Romolo
 \$10 Carol Pukavage
 \$10 Susan Bobbin

Devotional Lamps

Divine Mercy

Sanctuary In memory of my beloved parents & sister, Angelo & Enrica & Jean Romano by Ann Romano
 Divine Mercy In memory of Stan & Ginny Makarczyk by Julie
 Divine Mercy Prayers & good health for S.M., J.M., M.S., A.M., T.S., G.M., R.G., J.B. & L.B. by M/M John Maskornick
 Divine Mercy In loving memory of Donald & Lucille by wife & mother
 Divine Mercy Continued blessings for Msgr. Bocian by Gina & Jim Lombard
 Divine Mercy Special intention for Ed Domkus by Ann Romano
 Divine Mercy In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 Divine Mercy In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 Blessed Mother In memory of Albert Jr. Albert Sr., Anna, George & Regina Discavage by Irene
 Blessed Mother Special intentions by John & Marlene Rudisill
 Blessed Mother In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 Blessed Mother In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 Blessed Mother For Christina A. Thomas by M/M John M. Thomas
 Blessed Mother Special intentions by Jackie Webb
 St. Ann Special intentions by Marguerite Oravitz Fell & family
 St. Joseph In memory of Karvois & Connell families by Marilyn Connell
 St. Joseph In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 St. Joseph In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 St. Joseph In memory of all deceased family members of Fr. Charles Dene
 OLMC Special intention for Gina Lombard by Maria Rittle
 OLMC In memory of Virginia Bell – 2nd anniversary of death by Gina & Jim Lombard
 OLMC Special intentions for John Kelly family
 OLMC Special intentions by Ann Marnell Lehman
 OLMC In loving memory of Richard Masternack on his 3rd anniversary in heaven, 11/9 by wife, daughter & family
 Sacred Heart In memory of Rose & William Norris by daughter, Cathy & family
 Altar God's choicest blessings for Dorti & Romolo Laureti on their 51st wedding anniversary by Ann
 Altar God's choicest blessings for Dorti & Romolo Laureti on their 51st wedding anniversary by Ann
 Guadalupe Agustin macaria Emanuel Relles Eduardo gollo Domingo by familia Barcenas Barrientos

St. Casimir

Sanctuary Birthday blessings for Guzinski/Richardson families by Terry & Joe Richardson
 Czestochowa In memory of our dad, John F. Baginski by Baginski family
 Divine Mercy In loving memory of Frank Macus by Fran & Maria
 Divine Mercy In loving memory of John T. McGuire by wife, Peg
 Divine Mercy In memory of John & Helen Pukavige by children
 Divine Mercy Successful surgery & healing for Dave Wilkenson by Pat & Leo
 Divine Mercy Special intentions by Louis & Donna Kowalski
 Divine Mercy Special intentions for Christopher, Hope, Marc, Benjamin & Morgan
 Divine Mercy In memory of SrA Kohl John Paul Reed by "Gram", Virginia McAndrew
 Divine Mercy Good health & God's blessings for Ed Domkus by Barb Hardy
 Blessed Mother In memory of Dorothy Wisniewski by Nikki Zarcufsky
 Blessed Mother Special intentions by Pat
 Blessed Mother Special intentions, in thanksgiving & good health for Msgr. Bocian, Fr. Dene, Brian Rooney, Marc, George Huss & Estelle McLaren
 Blessed Mother Special intentions by Joan Madaffari
 Blessed Mother For all the Ramirez Perez families by Ignacia Perez

Dorothy Wisniewski
 \$10 Bob & Alberta Pukavage
 \$5 Tricia Palubinsky

Bible Group will meet at the Fr. Ciszek Center on Friday, November 18th at 9:30 AM

For more information, call Sr. Marietta 590-0435 or the parish office 462-1968. Our next Prayer Group will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 6:30 PM at the Father Ciszek Center. Franciscan Group will meet on Thursday, November 17th at 6:30 PM at the Father Ciszek Center.

Parish Dues for 2023 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, 2023, dues are \$ 50.00 per individual. If paid after January 31, 2023, dues are \$ 60.00 per individual.

Poverty Relief Collection
 Envelopes have been placed in your monthly packet for this collection on November 19th and 20th. Your generosity helps those who are in need locally in the Diocese of Allentown. The 2021 Poverty Relief Collection funded 24 projects across five counties.

Nativity High School will host a new student information night for potential students for the 2023-2024 school year on Sunday, November 20th beginning at 5:00 PM at the school. Nativity BVM High School administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and board members will be on hand to discuss specific information about academics, financial aid, guidance services and opportunities for students. This information will be particularly helpful for incoming freshmen, transfer students, new students and potential host families. We invite you and your family to join us for this event. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome! Please contact the school at 622-8110 or jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions. Thank you for your continued support!

St. Joseph Best wishes & God's blessings for my daughter, Janet & husband, Joe on their 50th wedding anniversary by Theresa Tunilla
 St. Ann Special intentions by Mary Kufro
 St. Ann In memory of Marion Discavage by family
 Sacred Heart Successful surgery & healing for Dave Wilkenson by Pat & Leo
 Sacred Heart In loving memory of my dad, George Rittle by daughter, Maria
 St. Anthony Special intentions for Marc & Christopher

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

Mass Book for 2023



2023 Mass Book for Divine Mercy Parish is now open. The **Diocesan Mass Stipend is set at \$ 10.00.** When requesting a Mass for 2023, the stipend must be paid before it can be written in the Mass Book. Candles will also be taken for 2023 at this time.

WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 12TH & 13TH /ALL MASSES AT DIVINE MERCY

Mass Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 PM	Lombard, Gina	Toborowsky, Robert	_____
7:30 AM	Bronk, Cathy	Grochowski, Jennifer	Daynorowicz, Nolan
10:00 AM	Twardzik, Pam	Twardzik, Thomas	Estrada, Caesar Estrada, Jose

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, November 20th	Thursday, November 10th
Sunday, November 27th	Monday, November 14th
Sunday, December 4th	Monday, November 21st
Sunday, December 11th	Tuesday, November 29th
Sunday, December 18th	Monday, December 5th
Sunday, December 25th	Wednesday, December 7th
Sunday, January 1st	Monday, December 12th
Sunday, January 8th	Tuesday, December 27th

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Christmas Eve Schedule

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

Christmas Day Schedule

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

Misa En Espanol

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE

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

The Schuylkill County Knights of Columbus Councils will be delivering a Turkey Dinner complete with turkey, filling, yams, gravy, vegetable & dessert to all residents of Schuylkill County who are in need of a meal for this Thanksgiving Day, 11/24/22. If you know of a person who is in need of a meal, or if you are a person who is in need of a meal, please call 628-3333 or 516-9514 and leave the following information if no one answers the phone (Name & phone number) and we will get back to you. You can also contact us at KofC431@yahoo.com. The only requirement we have for the meal is that the person be at home. Closing date to order is Nov. 17th at 5:00 PM in order for us to order the required items for the meal. Also, any who can give us a hand delivering the meals is asked to come to St. Patrick's social hall in Pottsville on Thanksgiving Day by 8:00 AM. You can sign up for an area you know in order to deliver the meals or for any area. We are usually finished by 1:00 PM.

Is Purgatory a Real Place?

Purgatory is imagined as a place, but it refers to the state and process by which a soul is purified before going to Heaven. Someone who dies in God's grace, but who still needs purification before he or she can see God is in Purgatory. "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified ... undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC #1030).

Church tradition has described Purgatory as a purifying fire that purges us of any venial sin on our souls for which we have not repented. "If someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:15). Another comparison can be the pain of St. Peter's repentance after he denied our Lord. When we see God we will experience shame and remorse for having denied him in others. Only after this purifying pain will we be able to see God face to face.



OPLATKI/CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Will be available beginning Saturday, November 26th and Sunday, November 27th 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 12th.**

Financial Report -- September

Net September	Income	\$ 22,300.22	Expenses	\$ 27,540.21
			Insurance	\$ 7,422.00
			Assessments	\$ 4,023.00
	Total Income	\$ 22,300.22	Total Expenses	\$ 38,985.21
	Expenses over income	\$ 16,684.99	This shows a loss of	\$ 16,684.99

Important Notice

The annual Priests' Convocation will be held this year from Tuesday, November 8th, Wednesday, November 9th, Thursday, November 10th and Friday, November 11th. 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, November 9th through Friday, November 11th.** And there will be **NO** funerals scheduled from November 9th through November 11th. All Funeral Masses will be scheduled beginning on Saturday, November 12th. They will be scheduled as they come in and more than likely two each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. 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

Below is a listing of where Mass will be said during this time:
 St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City: **Thursday – Nov. 10th - 6:00 PM**
Friday – Nov. 11th – 6:45 AM

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 570-462-1968 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.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

- Parish Goal: \$ 12,893.00
- Total Committed: \$ 12,477.00
- Total Collected: \$ 12,477.00
- Number of Donors: 121
- Average Gift: \$ 103.12
- # of Registered Families: 954

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

Diocesan Information

If a Prenatal Diagnosis is Poor... You are not alone. There is help. The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. For support, contact: Sr. Janice 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- corn-er of the page.

Yes, We Are Doing the Cookie Sale Again!

2021 Cookie Sale Helped Feed 2.2 Million

Last year's Cookie Sale raised enough money to help Cross Catholic Outreach (crosscatholic.org), Cross International (crossinternational.org) and Blessings of Hope (blessingsofhope.com) feed more than 2.2 million people. Since we are selling cookie trays this year, our goal is to feed over 4.2 million people! 100% of the proceeds from the Annual Cookie Sale goes to Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach's Hunger Relief Program in Haiti & to Blessings of Hope's U.S. feeding programs!

This year's "sale" weekend for The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger is Dec. 10th & 11th.

Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach is an organization dedicated to feeding starving people and helping those in need around the world. Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach is efficient with an amazing 97.3% of all the money raised from the sale going directly to the starving people of Haiti. Last year's sale helped feed more than 4.2 million people in need in Haiti. This year's goal is to match or exceed 4.2 million in spite of the rising food costs. For more information on Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach, check out their website crossinternational.org & crosscatholic.org. This is sponsored through the Allentown Diocese. All proceeds go to Haiti.

Absolutely 100% of the proceeds from The Cookie Sale go to Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach. Less than 3% of the proceeds will be used by Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach for administrative costs.

There are no local administrative costs. Amazingly, the cost of printing the order forms, hall rental, trucking, printing the thank you cards, all labor, meeting space, radio air time on WJTL, artwork, and even the candy and cookies for the gift trays are all donated. There are no salaries and the groups selling these cookies do not benefit in any way. That is why the purchase of 1 cookie tray provides hunger relief for 375 people.

The cookie trays are only \$15 each and have 24 cookies; 8 chocolate chip, 8 peanut butter & 8 snickerdoodle, chocolates and are beautifully gift wrapped. **Please make check payable to The Cookie Sale.**

Cookies will be baked and delivered to the parish office, late in the week of December 6th. If you forget to order your trays of cookies, they will also be available at all Masses the weekend of December 10th and 11th.

If you are interested in placing an order, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. See form below:

Please use the following order form for the Cookie Tray

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Cookie Trays: _____



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@allentowndioocese.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

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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.

Assumption BVM School is seeking a full-time or part-time maintenance person and seeking substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Mrs. Teresa Keating at 622-0106 for more information or to apply.

Marian Catholic High School Information Session will be held on Wednesday, November 30th, from 5:00 PM -6:00 PM. Come take a tour of the school and learn how to make a Marian education possible. For more information, please call or email Mary Milosh at 467-3335 ext. 116 or mmilosh@mariancatholic.org

We Never Lose God’s Love

Have you ever had someone end a relationship with you because of a mistake you made or something you did wrong? It’s a terrible feeling to lose someone’s love. Fortunately, God’s love doesn’t depend on how good we are. Remember the parable Jesus told of the prodigal son (Luke 15)? No matter what the son’s transgressions, the father received him in complete love. That’s how God feels about us.

Think of God’s love as the light from the sun – it’s so bright we can’t comprehend it. Sometimes we close our eyes or pull the curtains to keep the light from coming in. It is still there, but we can’t experience it because we have shut it out. Sin shuts our hearts to God’s love.

To help, Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Receiving absolution and being assured of God’s forgiveness opens our shuttered hearts so we can feel God’s love again. So whether or not we feel loved by God is up to us. All we have to do is ask.

How Does the Church Decide Who is a Saint?

There are many people in Heaven who are saints but whose names we may never know. They are uncanonized saints. Canonization is the formal process by which the Church identifies and determines whether someone has become a saint.

In its simplest form, official Church procedures detail three steps to recognizing a saint. First, the bishop of the diocese where the person died begins an extensive investigation. The results are passed to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. If the Congregation approves, the prefect presents the cause to the pope. With the pope’s approval, the petitioner becomes “venerable” and is called “Servant of God.”

Next, “beatification,” may come after further investigation and a miracle has proven to be attributed to the Servant of God’s intercession after his or her death. Then the person can be called “Blessed.”

Finally, canonization may follow additional investigation and a second miracle also proven to have occurred after the beatification and as a result of the candidate’s intercession. After canonization, the “Blessed” is called “Saint.”