

DIVINE MERCY PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

**Divine Mercy Parish Center
233 West Cherry St., Shenandoah, PA 17976
Parish Website: www.dmparish.com**

MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH

Divine Mercy Parish is a Eucharistic Community, a people diverse in background united together as Catholic Christians around the altar of the Lord. We are nurtured by the Sacraments and sustained by prayer. Our mission is to fulfill our Baptismal promises by proclaiming the message of the Gospel in our lives by our commitment to faithfully love and serve the Lord and one another.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP):

- provides a quality program of formal religious instruction for the children and youth of our parish. Catechists and aides volunteer their time to minister to all students from grades 1- 8.
- supports parents in their role as primary educators of their children and helps youth discover the richness and challenges of Scripture, and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- strives to understand and embrace our parish mission to fulfill our Baptismal promises by proclaiming the message of the Gospel in our lives by our commitment to faithfully love and serve the Lord and one another. Such endeavors demand our best efforts of time, talent and treasure.

The specific objectives of the program are:

- to teach the Catholic faith in a loving atmosphere
- to develop a personal relationship with God, others, and oneself
- to help students worship God through prayer, sacraments, and sacred liturgy
- to help students to serve the needs of others
- to develop Christ-like attitudes in facing all aspects of life

ADMISSION POLICY

This program is open to all the children of Divine Mercy Parish in Grades 1 to 8. No child will be denied access to our program because of race, national origin, or physical/mental challenges.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the PREP takes place each year during the beginning days of August. Refer to the weekly Church Bulletin and the parish website for details. The registration fee is \$40.00 for one child and \$75.00 dollars for two or more children. The fee for the Confirmation Class is \$30.00, which covers the cost for the Confirmation Robe and other materials needed for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you are not able to pay the fee at the time of registration, register anyway. The parish never refuses religious education due to the inability to pay. A parent merely needs to talk with the Director of Religious Education, Sister Mary Glackin, to make arrangements for payment.

A Baptismal Certificate is required at the time of registration for all new students.

CLASS DAY AND TIME

Classes for grades 1 to 7 will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the cafeteria of Divine Mercy Parish located at 233 West Cherry Street.

Confirmation classes and practices for grade 8 will take place on Sunday evenings in September and October from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of Divine Mercy Parish.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all weekly sessions. Refer to the calendar in this Handbook for dates. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please call the Parish Religious Education Office at 570-462- 3927 extension 5. Leave a voice message if Sister Mary does not answer the phone. Attendance will be taken at each class period. If a child misses more than four classes, special arrangements will need to be made to make up the work.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

During this time of the Corona Virus Epidemic, we ask parents to check your child(ren)'s temperature prior to leaving home. If the child has an elevated teperature of 100.4 or higher, the child is to remain at home.

The PREP program will follow the directives of the Diocese of Allentown. Presently, masks are required by the Diocese of Allentown. Therefore, everyone who enters the Divine Mercy Parish Center will be required to wear a mask.

When the majority of the students have arrived for class the main door of the building will be locked for security reasons. If you are late, ring the bell and the door monitor will open it for you. Have your child check in and report to class.

DISCIPLINE

All students are expected to treat each other with respect. If an occasion occurs where a child is not being respected the teacher is to be notified. He/she will meet with the student and strive to resolve the issue. If this approach is ineffective the teacher will notify the Director of the Religious Ed Program who will meet with the child and with the child's parents, if necessary. If a student disrupts a class, he/she will be removed from the class, and the parent will be notified. After two disruptions, the student will be removed from the class and arrangements will be made for the child to receive private instructions.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Each week parents are encouraged to review the work that their child learned. Have your child read and explain what they learned. Your interest in the material that your child is learning will help your child and you learn and grow in your Catholic faith.

GRADING POLICY

Progress reports will be issued two times a year. Parents are asked to sign the first report and return it to the teacher. If you have any questions please schedule a meeting with your child's teacher.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Each year the *Protecting God's Children Program* will be presented to all grades in October. . Parents are welcome to come for the 6:15 PM presentation in your child's classroom. Please notify the Coordinator, Sister Mary, if you do not want your child to attend this class.

SPORTS

Sports play an important role in the lives of young people. We want to collaborate and not compete for our students time. Please meet with your child's coach and encourage him/her to avoid scheduling practices or games on Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM from September to May. Young people need to see the adults in their lives working together for the good of all. There are 365 days in the year. We are asking for 31 of them to have your child attend classes to learn about God's love and the importance of God in their lives. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

HOLY DAYS

Everyone who has received their First Holy Communion is to keep the Third Commandment, which is, Keep holy the Lord's Day. There are 52 Sundays and 6 other Holy Days. We are expected to attend Mass 58 days out of 365 days. That means 303 days we are not obligated to attend Mass, but we are invited every day.

The six Holy Days are:	November 1	All Saints Day
	December 8	Immaculate Conception of Our Lady
	December 25	Christmas Day – the Birth of Jesus
	January 1	Mary, the Mother of God
	40 days after Easter	Ascension Thursday
	August 15	The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

**** Remember to bring your Faith Building Block to Mass each week and put it in the basket.***

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

The sacrament of Reconciliation will be made available at least two times on Thursday nights during the school year. Parents are encouraged to take their child/children to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least 4 other times a year. The best example you can give your child is to receive the Sacrament and help them prepare to receive it.

DISMISSAL

Older students will exit the building first. All students will leave at 7:30 PM. Parents please show your child where he/she will be picked up.

BAD WEATHER CLOSING OR EMERGENCY

In case of bad weather or emergency, we will follow the public school policy. If Shenandoah Valley School is closed, our program will be closed. Listen to your local radio program.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Special preparation will be provided for students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, and Holy Eucharist for the first time. These students will be required to attend TWO full years of religious instruction. They will receive these sacraments during the second year of instruction.

First Reconciliation: Saturday, December 4, 2021 10 AM in Divine Mercy Church

First Communion: Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10 AM Mass in Divine Mercy Church.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is administered by the Bishop every year. Along with the immediate preparation for Confirmation, candidates must have participated in all the previous religious education classes from grades 3 to 7. This year Confirmation will be held on Thursday, October 21st at 4:30 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Mahanoy City, PA.

Sponsor

Confirmation students are to have a sponsor who is at least 16 years old and a practicing Catholic. The sponsor is required to have a written letter from the pastor of the parish he/she attends.

Parent Meetings

There will be parent meetings for those parents who have a child receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Notifications will be sent home.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Pastor.....Monsignor Bocian: 570-462-1968 ext.7
Coordinator.....Sister Mary Glackin, IHM: 570-462-3927 ext. 5
Liaison for Hispanic Community.....Sister Helene Therese, IHM: 570-462-3868

GRADE.....TEACHERS

1.....Mrs.Michelle Daynorowicz.....daynorowiczm@gmail.com
Miss Mary Minor.....marym6256@gmail.com
2.....Sister Patricia Mount.....pmount229@gmail.com
3.....Mrs. Angie Babatsky.....babatsky@ptd.net
4.....Mrs. Cathy Bronakowski.....bronk@verizon.net
5.....Mrs. Kay Hornberger.....kazberger78@aim.com
6.....Mrs. Dolores Sadusky.....djhstchr@hotmail.com
7.....Mrs. Peterine Wojcik.....peterinec@comcast.net
8.....Mrs.Peterine Wojcik.....peterinec@comcast.net

FAITH FORMATION

GRADE.....COURSE OF STUDY

1.....We Believe: God Loves Us - Sadlier Publication
2.....God’s Gift: Reconciliation & Eucharist - Loyola Press
3.....We Believe: We Are The Church - Sadlier Publication
4.....We Believe: God's Law Guides Us - Sadlier Publication
5.....We Believe: We Meet Jesus In The Sacraments - Sadlier Publication
6.....Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation - Ascension Press
7.....Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation - Ascension Press
8.....Preparation for Confirmation - Class and Practices

CALENDAR for PREP Classes 2021—2022 Thursday Evenings 6:00 PM—7:30 PM

September 2	FIRST CLASS
September 9	
September 16	
September 23	
September 30	
October 7	Lessons on Protecting God's Children
October 14	
October 21	NO CLASS Confirmation 4:30 PM St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahanoy City,
October 28	
November 4	
November 11	
November 18	
November 25th	NO CLASS Happy Thanksgiving
December 2	
December 9	
December 16	
December 23	NO CLASS
December 30	NO CLASS
January 6	
January 13	
January 20	
January 27	
February 3	
February 10	
February 17	
February 24	
March 3	
March 10	
March 17	
March 24	
March 31	
April 7	
April 14	NO CLASS ... Holy Thursday
April 21	
April 28	
May 5	LAST CLASS STRIVE TO ATTEND ALL 31 CLASSES!