

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians;

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and healthy. The months behind us have been strange and unusual. We continue to move forward in an ever changing and confusing world. During these occasions it is a great time to turn to the Lord for peace and guidance. Many of us have been away from the Mass physically. We have watched the Mass on our phones, computers, and televisions. Hopefully, this has brought more reverence and spirituality into your homes.

Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church. Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith.

This year is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each of us plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. In the interests of keeping our children safe and healthy our religious education program is undergoing major changes. Our children will have 7 in person classes a year that will focus on faith, saints, and the church holidays/calendar. Each grade will meet once every 4 weeks on the assigned weekends. Their book work will be done at home online or via a workbook if you do not have internet access. Classes will take place in the Parish Hall to allow for proper social distancing and mask will be required to be worn. There will be a morning session from 9:00 AM to 9:55 AM for grade 1 to 4. Then there will be an even session from 6:05 PM to 7:00 PM for grades 5-8. This will allow for proper sanitization between the classes.

I would like to present to you this year's Catechetical Program. The times and sessions remain the same as in the past years. I invite you to review the following information:

- **Classes for Grades 1 to 4 will meet on Sunday mornings for a 55 minute session. Classes will be once every 4 weeks with only one class meeting a weekend. (Please see the calendar for specific dates.)**
- **Classes for Grades 5 to 8 will meet on Sunday evenings for a 55 minute session. Classes will be once every 4 weeks with only one class meeting a weekend. (Please see the calendar for specific dates.)**
- **In most cases there will not be classes on holiday weekends. Please refer to the Religious Education Calendar for specific dates.**
- **Classes for Grades 1 to 4 begin at 9:00 AM to 9:55 AM**
- **Classes for Grades 5 to 8 begin at 6:05 PM to 7:00 PM**

The other critical part of your child's formation is regular attendance at Sunday Mass either in person or online. We will make every effort to encourage your child's participation at Mass every weekend. Encircled by the parish community, we together can awaken, strengthen, and encourage faith in our children. **Your participation and example at Sunday Mass is crucial.**

If you understand our schedule, please return the enclosed registration form to the Parish Office by September 13th. If you would like to volunteer to teach, aide or volunteer your time to any of our programs please let me know.

This is our plan under the current restrictions from the diocese and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Modifications may have to be made if future restrictions or lessening of restrictions takes place. On behalf of the entire parish, we welcome all our students and look forward to a great start in September.

Sincerely, Rev. Francis L. Pauselli & Brittain Banull, DRE

Catechesis Within the Family

While the catechesis offered within the family is ordinarily informal, unstructured, and spontaneous, it is no less crucial for the development of the child's faith. In a certain sense nothing replaces family catechesis, especially for its positive and receptive environment, for the example of adults, and for its first explicit experience and practice of the faith. The catechesis of infants and young children nourishes the beginnings of the life of faith.

Parents have shared the gift of human life with their children and, through Baptism, have enriched them with a share in God's own life. They have the duty to nourish it. Their faith, their attitude toward other human beings, and their trust in a loving God strongly influence the development of the child's faith. Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents. Their role in the formation of Christian values in their children is irreplaceable. They should speak naturally and simply about God and their faith, as they do about other matters, they want their children to understand and appreciate. Parents are also the most effective catechists of prayer for their young children. They know what their children are capable of understanding and can easily teach their children basic prayers and the fundamental attitude of prayer. By praying frequently with their children at special moments during the day and especially by praying with them at the Sunday Eucharist, parents introduce children into the prayer life of the Church. By incorporating prayer into everyday family experiences, parents teach their children by example. Their witness encourages their children to call upon God as their Father who loves and protects them; to look to Jesus, their Savior and brother, who leads them to the Father; and to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within their hearts.

Children ordinarily enjoy listening to their parents read to them and tell them stories. Reading stories from Sacred Scripture combines both these simple activities. Just as children learn their family histories through stories told by their parents, they learn about the Catholic faith as their parents introduce them to the person of Jesus and the beauty of the word of God and tell them the story of Mary, the Mother of God, as well as of the lives of the saints.

Having introduced them to the person of Jesus Christ within the family, catechesis for school-age children presents his teachings, his ministry, and the major events of his life. Children can begin to appreciate the parables of Jesus and capture glimpses of the Kingdom of God; they can learn more formal prayers; and they can commit brief passages of Sacred Scripture to memory. The most important task of the catechesis of children is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith

---from the *National Directory for Catechesis*

Divine Mercy Parish Confirmation Registration

Label _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 School Attending _____
 Grade _____ Birth Date _____

New Students Only
or Updated Information

Grade: _____

SACRAMENTS	YES/NO	CHURCH	CITY/STATE
Baptism			
Penance			
Eucharist			
Confirmation			

Family Information

Parent Email for Class Registration: _____ (please print)

Father's Name : _____ Religion _____

Mother's Name (Maiden): _____ Religion _____

Parents are: (Please check) Single Married Remarried Separated Divorced

Who is responsible for full-time care? _____

In case of emergency, please contact: _____ Phone _____

Is the child on any medications/or are there any health needs that we should be made aware of?

Are there any special learning needs of your child which should be communicated to the classroom teacher?



2020-2021 Student Fees		
First Child	\$40.00	
Additional Children (each)	\$20.00	
Special Donation/Late Fee after November 8	\$10.00 pp	
Total	\$	

Please fill out **one** Student Registration Form for **each** child with separate fees listed!
 Make one total check payable to Divine Mercy Parish—Thank You!

Divine Mercy Parish

312 Davis St Scranton, PA 18505 (570) 344-1724

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

GRADES 1 to 8 for 2020-2021

Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 begin at 9:00 AM to 9:55 AM

Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 begin at 6:05 PM to 7:00 PM

Grades 1 & 5

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 20

January 31

March 7

April 11

Grades 2 & 6

September 20

October 25

November 22

January 10

February 7

March 14

April 18

Grades 3 & 5

September 27

November 1

December 6

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 25

Grades 4 & 8

October 4

November 8

December 13

January 24

February 28

March 28

May 2

Important Dates:

March 27 First Penance 10:00 AM

May 16 First Eucharist 1:00 PM

May 23 May Crowning/First Eucharist Party 11:00 AM