

Divine Mercy Parish Office of Religious Education

1620 Whitney Ave
Hamden, CT 06517
203-433-2809 (call or text)
divine.mercy.ore@gmail.com

January: Diving into the Bible

This month we will learn more about the Bible and spend some time exploring Bible stories and reflecting on how they fit into our lives today. Please see the family and student activities below.

Family Activities

Complete a family activity from the list below and submit the Family Activity Reflection [here](#).



1. Favorite Bible Stories: Talk together about some of your favorite Bible stories. Then, find these stories in the Bible and read through them. Talk about what you like about them, what questions you have, and what they mean in your life today.

2. Bible Story Fun: Pick a Bible story as a family. Read through the Scripture together. Then put together a reenactment and record your family performing it. You can act it out, make up a song, do a stop motion LEGO movie, make a flipbook, do animation, or any form of expression you want! Let your imaginations run wild and have fun!!

3. Music Video: Together as a family watch this music video of the song [The Way \(New Horizon\) by Pat Barrett](#). The song is based off this verse from Scripture: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6-7). How might this play out in your own lives? How do you see Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life? What stood out to you? Discuss together as a family.

4. Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina is a beautiful practice of prayer that teaches us to listen for God's voice through reading Scripture. Watch a video about Lectio Divina [here](#). Try it out together. Start with the Sign of the Cross and then sit in silence for a short period. Read [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#). Reference [this sheet](#) while praying. Did this form or prayer bring you closer to God? What spoke to you from the reading? Discuss together.

Student Activities

Children complete one of the activities from the list below and submit their activity [here](#).

- 1. Parable of the Prodigal Son:** This parable talks about how God's forgiveness is never ending. Read the parable [here](#). Then complete the worksheet about a time that you forgave someone. (Grades K-3)
- 2. Parable of the Talents:** This parable talks about how we are all given talents and that God wants us to use them! Read the parable [here](#). Then complete [this](#) worksheet. (Grades K-5)
- 3. The Bible App for Kids:** This is a free app for children where they can explore the big stories of the Bible through interactive adventures and beautiful animations. Download the app on a device of your choice (for example [Google play](#) or the [Apple app store](#)). Share some comments about the app. What are some things that you learned from this experience? (Grades K-5)
- 4. Books of the Bible Bookmark:** Head to the Catholic Icing website [here](#) and print out the free bookmark printable. Color and decorate your bookmark and then put it together. It has all the books of the Bible on the back to help you. Use your bookmark when you read your Bible. (Grades K-5)
- 5. Bible Journaling:** Through Bible journaling, you can spend some time each day opening your heart to the Word of God and his love for you in a creative way. Grab a notebook, journal, or piece of paper, along with your favorite art supplies. Read the daily Scripture readings [here](#). As you read and reflect, write down your favorite verses or any thoughts that come to your mind. Add color, pictures, designs, or anything else you want to make it your own. Do this for at least 3 days. Did you enjoy this? Did you find that journaling brought you closer to God? (Grades 5-8)

6. Fr. Mike's Bible in a Year Podcast: You can head [here](#) to sign up for the podcast, or download it directly to your phone or device. Listen to the podcast each day and write down some thoughts- what stood out to you, what questions you have, and whether you enjoyed it or not. (Grades 5-8)

7. The Ten Commandments: The Ten Commandments are God's instructions on how to live a faithful and happy life, with Him and others. Read the Ten Commandments [here](#) (Exodus 20:2-17). Notice how the first 3 commandments help us love God, and the next 7 help us love ourselves and others. They are not rules to take away our fun, but guides to help us live our best life. You can also watch this video [here](#). Then, make a project (poster, collage, etc.) displaying the Ten Commandments. Be creative!! (Grades K-8)

8. Kindness Box: Reading and knowing the Bible isn't enough! It is more than just words on a page. We need to meditate on the message of Scripture and put it into action in our lives. Watch [this video](#) to see how far just one small act of kindness can go. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and make a list of ways that you can help others, using the gifts and talents that God has given you. Then create and decorate a kindness box or jar. Every time you help someone or do something kind, put a small token in your jar (a coin, a stone, a gem, a popsicle stick, etc.) You will continue to spread God's love as your jar fills up. (Grades K-8)

Extra Activities

Some other things you can do with your family this month:

1. The best Catholic children's Bibles [here](#).
2. Learn how to find a Bible verse [here](#).
3. More facts about the Bible [here](#).
4. Tips on how to understand the Bible better [here](#).
5. A list of all parables told by Jesus [here](#).
6. How to share the Word of God at home [here](#).
7. Reading the Bible Together as a Family: [5 steps to get started](#)