

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish  
Paulding County, OH

Parish School of Religion  
2015—2016

# PSR Calendar

2015—2016

Sept 16:	Confirmation Parent Meeting 7 PM at Paulding Ed Center for Students and parents
Sept 23:	Class 1
Sept 30:	Class 2
Oct 7:	Class 3
Oct 14:	Class 4
Oct 21:	Class 5
Oct 28:	Class 6
Nov 4:	Class 7
Nov 11:	Class 8
Nov 18:	Class 9
Nov 25:	NO CLASS — Thanksgiving break
Dec 2:	Class 10
Dec 9:	Class 11
Dec 16:	Class 12
Dec 23:	NO CLASS — Christmas break
Dec 30:	NO CLASS — Christmas break
Jan 6:	Class 13
Jan 13:	Class 14
Jan 20:	Class 15
Jan 27:	Class 16
Feb 3:	Class 17
Feb 10:	NO CLASS — Ash Wednesday
Feb 17:	Class 18
Feb 24:	Class 19
Mar 2:	Class 20
Mar 9:	Class 21
Mar 16:	Class 22
Mar 23:	NO CLASS — Holy Week
Mar 30:	Class 23
April 6:	Class 24
April 13:	Class 25
April 20:	Class 26
April 27:	Class 27
May 4:	Class 28



## PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All classes meet on Wednesdays  
K-5 in Paulding.....4-5 PM  
K-5 in Antwerp.....6:30-7:30 PM  
6-8 in Paulding.....7-8 PM  
7-8 in Payne.....7-8 PM  
6-8 in Antwerp.....7:45-8:45 PM

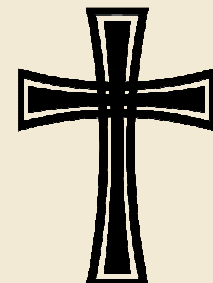
## THERESA CONLEY COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## WELCOME TO A NEW AND EXCITING YEAR!

Dear PSR Families,

+JMJ

May Jesus Christ be praised! I hope that your summer vacation has been restful and fruitful. Having my first year in the parish behind me, I am eager to approach this next year with a bit more understanding and vision. I appreciate all of the patience my parishioners have exercised as I continue to learn the Paulding County way of doing things!

In this issue of our PSR newsletter, you will notice several quotes from the Church's various documents on catechesis. In the decades since the Vatican II Council (in the 1960's), the Church has tried to formalize for us what the content and method of catechesis ought to be. This is helpful, in light of some of the post-Vatican II confusion that has occurred. "Catechesis" simply means teaching; and this phrase is used in the context of the Faith to speak about handing over to the next generation the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Church. The Church is always very careful in these documents to remind us that the primary duty of handing on the Faith—even the very specific moral

*"Parents and other family members awaken in the child a sense of God.  
This religious awakening within the family is irreplaceable"*

*— General Directory for Catechesis #226*

### **HOMESCHOOLING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and this is certainly true for religious education as well. If you are interested in homeschooling your child in religious education, please contact Theresa Conley for information about textbooks and homeschooling guidelines.

and doctrinal teachings—belongs to parents. We have the luxury of being able to employ in our parish a full-time CRE who coordinates teachers and classes and materials to help parents in this duty. But we do not intend in the slightest to usurp the privilege and duty of the parents to hand on the Faith. Our PSR program is only a supplement to what you do at home.

And in our era in the United States, I suggest that for a generation or two we have assumed it could suffice to send our children to Catholic schools or to PSR programs and expect them to survive, holding on to the faith, without having a very intentional complement to these programs in the home. I believe we were mistaken to assume in the last couple generations that a home faith-life was not necessary; and now, moreso than ever, parents must become "intentional disciples", if they expect their children truly to learn how to be in a relationship with God and follow His ways. If you would like to read more about our current dilemma, whereby the Faith is so challenged in our age – thus requiring a home-based faith, if our youth are to carry on – I recommend the following books, which are sweeping the Catholic pastoral network of the United States: [The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic](#), by Matthew Kelly; or [Forming Intentional Disciples](#), by Sherry Weddell.

I wish you all the best of God's blessings in this upcoming academic year. If Theresa Conley or I can be of any help regarding our parish program of catechesis for your children, or even if we could help somehow provide materials and inspiration for your family faith-life, please do not hesitate to contact us. And as you pray together as a family, please recommend to the Lord all of your fellow parishioners, and the clergy and staff of Divine Mercy of Paulding County.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Fr. Poggemeyer



*Middle School students from Antwerp and Payne got together to learn about the missions from guest speaker Ruthanne VandenBosch, October 22, 2014*

## CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

We will begin our catechetical year with a **Confirmation Parent meeting on Wednesday, September 16 from 7–8 PM at the Educational Center in Paulding.** Any student in grades 7 and 8 who has not yet been Confirmed is required to attend with at least one parent.

This evening will include prayer and an informational session in which we will cover all of our requirements for the Confirmation year, such as sponsor expectations, community service requirements, etc. Families are encouraged to bring any questions that they have.

Any family that cannot make it to this parent meeting will need to contact Theresa Conley directly and set up a make-up meeting.

Find out more about our Confirmation program on page 5.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FEES



Due to rising textbook costs, **we will be raising the cost of our classes to \$20 per student this year.** This is still far below other parishes in our area. We work hard to keep religious education affordable!

Checks can be made out to Divine Mercy with “PSR” and your child’s name in the memo line. Payment can be submitted in one of three ways:

1. Mail it or drop it off to the parish office
2. Drop it in the weekend collection basket in an envelop marked “PSR”
3. Bring payment with you to the Kickoff on Sept 16

Families who are unable to pay should contact Dianne Jones or Theresa Conley at the parish office.



## Divine Mercy Youth Choir

Divine Mercy Youth Choir is open to all students in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students sing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month from September through May at the 10:30 Mass in Paulding. Children practice the music before Mass at 9 AM in the church in Paulding.

For more information, contact Carmen St. John at 419-399-2286



## FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children are prepared for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in second grade (or above). Preparation is a two year process beginning in the first grade. Parents are required to attend one parent meeting for First Reconciliation and at least one parent must attend the mandatory First Communion Retreat with their child. It is expected that students attend Mass weekly with their families.

This year, the **Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Sunday, October 18, at 2 PM in the Educational Center in Paulding** (located one block North of the Catholic Church in Paulding). At least one parent is required to attend and students do not have to come.

As usual, we will celebrate First Reconciliation on two different dates so families can chose the date or location that works best for their families.

**Monday January 11 at 7 PM in the church in Antwerp  
OR**

**Tuesday January 12 at 7 PM in the church in Payne.**



The First Communion Retreat is mandatory for First Communion students and at least one parent. Sports practices and games are not adequate reasons for absence or tardiness on the day of the retreat. **The retreat will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 9 – 12 in the Educational Center in Paulding.**

**First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on the weekend of April 23rd and 24th.** Each First Communion family will be able to chose which Mass their child will attend that weekend for First Communion.

Any questions about First Reconciliation or First Communion can be directed to Theresa Conley.

## VOLUNTEER!

We are always looking for volunteers for our programs. Please consider helping out in one of the following ways:

- ◆ Helping out in a classroom as a teacher's aide
- ◆ Helping out as a substitute catechist
- ◆ Being a Hall Monitor at any of our 3 locations during class time since the doors are now locked for safety reasons
- ◆ Providing a snack for the afternoon PSR classes in Paulding that meet immediately after school
- ◆ Volunteering as a Liturgy of the Word teacher on Sundays



***“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.”– Pope John Paul II***

## CONFIRMATION 2016

The Sacrament of Confirmation is offered once every two years for students in grades 7 and 8 and for any older students who have not yet received the sacrament. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the parish school of religion or the Catholic school in the year prior to preparing for the sacrament and they must participate in all classes, retreats, service hours as well as attend weekly Mass.

A Confirmation Retreat is held before the Celebration of Confirmation and is **mandatory** for all Confirmation students and their sponsors. If a sponsor cannot be there on the day of the retreat, a parent or grandparent can stand in for the sponsor. Our **Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 9 AM until noon in Paulding.**

**Our 7th and 8th grader students will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this year on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 2 PM in the church in Paulding. Bishop Daniel Thomas will be here for Confirmation this year.**

More information will be given to parents of Confirmation students at the kickoff celebration. Any questions can be directed to Theresa Conley.

## Liturgy of the Word for Children

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held from September through May during the first 3 weeks of the month during the 10:30 Mass for children in grades K – 2. Students learn about the readings of the day and how the scripture message applies to their lives. Volunteers are always welcome! Contact Kayla Miller at 419-587-3452 if you are interested in helping out with this Children's Ministry!



## DIVINE MERCY CATECHETICAL POLICIES

**Attendance Policy** – Families should make every effort to see that their children attend religion classes. Parents are expected to have their children there on time and to pick them up promptly. Since all sessions are offered on Wednesday “Church Nights,” no school or sports activity will be accepted as an excuse to miss class. “Church Night” is respected by all three school districts in the county. If a conflict arises on Wednesday nights, parents should contact Theresa Conley.

**Arrival Policies** – Students need to be at class on time. However, no student should be in the building more than 10 minutes before class without a parent present since there is not adequate adult supervision while teachers are preparing their classrooms for that week’s lesson.

Younger students should be escorted into the building. Older students who are dropped off are required to come directly into the building and into their classroom. Students are not allowed to play outside before or after class unless their parent is present.

**Elementary students at the Paulding Location will need to provide the school with a note that they are walking over for PSR.** Students are expected to walk – not run – on the way from school, to wait for the crossing guard to tell them to cross the street, and to come directly into the building. Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 are walked over from school.

*The goal of religious education at Divine Mercy is to help turn hearts and minds to Jesus so that we may know, love, and serve God more every day.*



**Dismissal Policies** – Parents (grandparents, babysitters, etc) need to be on time to pick up their children. **Those picking up students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade should come into the building to pick up their children**

Care should be taken not to schedule appointments or other conflicts on Wednesdays during class time. However, should you need to pick up your child from class early, you will need to come into the building and pick up your child directly from class. If someone other than a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of the child is coming to pick them up from class, they will need a signed note from the parent.

**Cancellations** – If school is canceled for any reason in the school district where classes meet, there will be no religious education classes that day. Classes in Payne go by the Wayne Trace schedule, Antwerp goes

by the Antwerp school district, and Paulding classes go by the Paulding school district. If you are unsure about whether or not your child has class, please call the parish office at 419-399-2576.

**Field Trip and Off-Site Activities** – Field trips and off-site activities such as service projects and retreats are occasionally scheduled with the permission of the catechetical leader. No student will be allowed to participate in any off-site activities unless a completed permission slip signed by a parent/guardian is turned in.

**Health Concerns** – Health information is collected on registration forms. The catechists, volunteers, and staff at Divine Mercy are not allowed to dispense or administer medication to students.





*2nd grade students and their parents participate in an activity at the First Communion retreat, April 18, 2015*

**Discipline Policies** Our main concern is to maintain a safe environment in which our youth can form a community, share faith, and enjoy the best possible learning environment. Therefore, our students must meet the following expectations:

- Behave respectfully and courteously toward catechists, adults, and other students. Inappropriate behavior includes disrespectful verbal and body language.
- Participate positively and be attentive in class.
- Respect parish property and the property of others.
- Follow the rules of the program and the class.

Parents will be contacted if their child repeatedly disrupts class. The catechetical leader, in consultation with the pastor, has the final say in all disciplinary situations.

**Safe Environment Policies**

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish abides by all policies of the Diocese of Toledo designed to provide a safe environment for youth. Copies of “To Protect and to Heal: Policy on Sexual Abuse of Minors” is available in the parish office.

All priests, deacons, school administrators, teachers, youth ministers, parish catechists, support personnel, coaches, and other volunteers who have contact with youth must comply with fingerprinting and background requirements as well as attend the “Protecting Youth And Those Who Serve Them” workshop.

As per the law, we are required to report suspected child abuse and we follow all diocesan policies on such matters.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

The Junior High Youth Group is open to any student in grades 6 – 8. The group meets monthly on Sunday afternoons in the Church Basement in Paulding and students participate in a variety of social events, educational discussions, service projects, prayer experiences, and fundraisers.

Bringing Christ into our daily lives through prayer, service and fellowship is a major goal of youth ministry.

If you are interested in getting involved or if you have questions about the Junior High Youth Group, please contact Mari Ivan at 419-581-1582.



**CATECHESIS:**

*The object of catechesis is communion with Jesus Christ. Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter him, and to discover themselves and the meaning of their lives in him. "At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth... The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ..."*

*National Directory for Catechesis (NDC), p 55*

**STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR PROGRAMS BY USING TECHNOLOGY!**

You can get the most up to date information about religious education events, schedule changes, and last minute weather cancellations by taking advantage of technology!

We encourage you to **"Like"** our parish Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/DivineMercyCatholicParish](http://www.facebook.com/DivineMercyCatholicParish)) and **download our parish**

**App** today (at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's App store for myparish).

Information about last minute cancellations can also be found on channel 21 Alive from Fort Wayne or by calling the parish office.



To download our app, visit [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE