

PARIH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH

KNOW • LOVE • SERVE

PSR 2017—2018

PSR Calendar 2017—2018

Sept 6	Confirmation Parent Mtg 7 PM @ Pldg Ed Center	Jan 3	Class 13
Sept 13	Class 1	Jan 10	Class 14
Sept 20	Class 2	Jan 17	Class 15
Sept 27	Class 3	Jan 24	Class 16
Oct 4	Class 4	Jan 31	Class 17
Oct 11	Class 5	Feb 7	Class 18
Oct 18	Touching Safety Presentation TBA	Feb 14	NO CLASS Ash Wednesday
Oct 25	Class 6	Feb 21	Class 19
Nov 1	Class 7	Feb 28	Class 20
Nov 8	Class 8	Mar 7	Class 21
Nov 15	Class 9	Mar 14	Class 22
Nov 22	NO CLASS Thanksgiving break	Mar 21	Class 23
Nov 29	Class 10	Mar 28	NO CLASS Holy Week
Dec 6	Class 11	Apr 4	Class 24
Dec 13	Class 12	Apr 11	Class 25
Dec 20	NO CLASS Christmas break	Apr 18	Class 26
Dec 27	NO CLASS Christmas break	Apr 25	Class 27
		May 2	Class 28



PSR Times and Locations

All classes meet on Wednesdays. Families can choose the time and location that works best for them.

Please contact Theresa Conley with any questions or concerns.

Grades K-5 in Paulding.....	4:00—5:00 PM at the Ed Center
Grades K-5 in Antwerp.....	6:30—7:30 PM at the Antwerp Center
Grades 6—8 in Paulding	7:00—8:00 PM at the Ed Center
Grades 7—8 in Payne.....	7:00—8:00 PM at the Catholic School
Grades 6—8 in Antwerp.....	7:45—8:45 PM at the Antwerp Center

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Contact Information

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From the Pastor:



Fr. Poggemeyer joins in a game of football with some Payne students.

**“To form the body
is a good thing.
To Form the mind
is a noble thing.
To form the spirit
is a Holy thing.”**

— Bishop Thomas
speaking to
Catechetical
leaders 8/7/17

Dear PSR Families,

Greetings in Jesus Christ! It's hard to believe another summer has passed, and another school year is beginning! I hope for all of you that the summer was both refreshing and fruitful.

This year's PSR theme is "Know-Love-Serve". In other words, it's about the very basis of our children's lives. Header #1 in the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church reads: "The Life of Man – To Know and Love God". The first paragraph under that header describes how God created the human person for blessedness. And to accomplish this blessedness, God calls the human person near to Himself: "He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength."

All of this is a very close reflection of what the old Baltimore Catechism used to teach us in question #6: **“Question. Why did God make you? Answer. God made me to know Him, to**

love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven.”

That's a pretty helpful question and answer to have in your back pocket, isn't it? One of the marriage prep talks I have with couples is entitled "human purpose". The conversation starts out by imagining little Johnny or Susie coming to these soon-to-be parents and asking, "Why did God make me?" Or "Why do I exist?" You and I both know from experience that even our little children can ask such big questions! What will you answer? Well, you pull out the answer from the Catechism! Tell little Johnny or Susie that God ultimately made him or her to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him. [This, by the way, can only mean great love for all other persons as well!]

This is not just helpful info for getting out of a difficult spot that your little child's question has created. It's helpful information also, so

that you direct the character formation and education in your home to be in accord with little Johnny or Susie's actual purpose. How can you raise a child, if you don't even know why the child exists? You want to build into home life for your children everything that enhances the goal of knowledge, love and service for God. And you want to eliminate anything from your home life that is contrary to this goal. Thank the Lord that he revealed so explicitly to us this big and foundational purpose for human life!

We hope that our PSR program once again this year can be of great assistance to you, as you help your children step still more fully into God's purpose for them. Please contact Theresa Conley or me for any help we can offer throughout the year.

Have a blessed year in PSR!
In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,
Fr. Poggemeyer

Religious Education Fees

PSR fees for the 2017-2018 year will be \$25 per student.

Elementary students in Paulding will also have a \$10 snack fee to help offset the additional cost of providing snacks each week after school.

Each family will receive an invoice from the parish. Checks can be

made out to Divine Mercy with "PSR" and your child's name in the memo line. Payment can be made in 3 ways:

- 1) Mail it to the parish office (417 N Main St, Paulding OH 45879)
- 2) Drop it off to the church office any time Monday—Friday 9 AM—4 PM or Wednesdays 9 AM—8 PM.

- 3) Drop it in the weekend collection basket in an envelope marked "PSR"

Families who are unable to pay should contact Dianne Jones at the parish office: 419-399-2576.

Payment needs to be received by Wednesday September 27.



3rd grade PSR students in Paulding learned about the Holy Spirit and made these Holy Spirit doves!

Confirmation Information

The Sacrament of Confirmation is offered once every two years for students in grades 7 and 8. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the PSR program (or other parish's religion program) or the Catholic School in the year prior to preparing for the sacrament. Students must participate in all classes, retreats, and attend weekly Mass.

We will begin our catechetical year with a **Confirmation meeting on Wednesday, September 6 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, performing Works of Mercy (formerly called community service hours), attendance, etc. Families are encouraged to bring any questions they have.

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

A Confirmation Retreat is held before the celebration of Confirmation and is mandatory for all Confirmation students and their sponsors. If a sponsor cannot attend on the day of the retreat, a parent or grandparent can stand in for their sponsor. **Our Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, March 3, 2018 beginning at 9 AM.**

The celebration of the

Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Sunday, March 4, 2018, at 3 PM at the Cathedral of Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Toledo.** Bishop Daniel Thomas will be the celebrant.

Because this is the first time our parish has had the opportunity to celebrate Confirmation at the cathedral, we anticipate a lot of questions. We will be happy to answer them at the meeting on September 6, or you can call Theresa Conley at the parish office.

Bishop Thomas greets Emily Sanders after the Confirmation Mass in 2016



“The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.”

— CCC 1302

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Practicing the Works of Mercy are essential to living a healthy Christian life. Therefore, we ask that students preparing for

the Sacrament of Confirmation show that they practice these works of Mercy in their daily lives.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Shelter the Homeless

- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Prisoners
- Bury the Dead
- Give Alms to the Poor

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Counseling the Doubtful
- Instructing the

Ignorant

- Admonishing the Sinner
- Comforting the Sorrowful
- Forgiving Injuries
- Bearing Wrongs Patiently
- Praying for the Living and the Dead

First Reconciliation & First 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 22, at 7 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. If this date does not work for you, contact Theresa Conley as soon as possible to set up a private meeting.

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 8 at 7 PM in the church in Antwerp OR

Tuesday January 9 at 7 PM in the church in Payne.

Our parish also offers a beautiful First Communion Retreat for our First Communion families. The First Communion Retreat is mandatory for First Communion students and at least one parent

(please note that 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 21, 2018 from 9am - 12pm in the Educational Center in Paulding.

First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on the weekend of April 21 and 22, 2018. Each First Communion family will be able to chose which Mass their child will attend that weekend for First Communion. Each family will have 1 reserved pew at their chosen Mass.

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



Middle School Youth Group

We are very blessed at our parish to have an active Middle School Youth Group that meets monthly during the school year. All our Middle School youth group activities are open to all students in grades 6—8, whether they attend our parish or not.

The major goal of our youth ministry is to bring Jesus Christ into our daily lives through prayer, service and fellowship.

The Youth Group meets monthly on Sunday afternoons

and students participate in a variety of social events, educational discussions, service projects, prayer experiences, and fundraisers.

Our Youth Group also utilizes Alpha for Youth, an excellent resource that encourages students to think about the big faith questions in their lives. Parents are encouraged to learn more about Alpha for Youth by going to alpha.org/alpha-youth-series/

Our first Youth Group meeting will be held on

Sunday, September 24 after the 10:30 Mass in Paulding. We will gather in the church basement at Paulding. Lunch is provided.

A complete Youth Group calendar for the year will be sent home with all Middle School PSR students at the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions about the Divine Mercy Middle School Youth Group, or if you are an adult who would like to help out with the youth group, please contact Theresa Conley.

Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.
 — Declaration on Christian Education #3



Know, Love, Serve: Our PSR Theme

Sr. Pat McCormack is an international formation-education consultant. Her practical experience in education includes both classroom and administration experience at the elementary, secondary, and college levels.

This summer, Sr. Pat led

a conference for the diocese in which she said she was lucky to know the meaning of life at the age of 5. On her very first day of school, her teacher handed her a copy of the Baltimore Catechism and had her memorize the first lesson: **“God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him**

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for ever in heaven.”

Many people in our world today need the sense of clarity and security that this one simple sentence can provide. Therefore, we chose our theme for our PSR classes this year so that every child will know the purpose of the Christian life.

Stay Connected!!!



Middle school students from Payne and Antwerp bake cookies for prisoners as they learn about the Corporal Works of Mercy.

There are many ways to stay in touch with what is going on in our programs in the parish, including the weekly parish bulletin and parish mailings, but technology allows us instant updates which is helpful in the event of a cancellation.

You can get the most up to date information about religious education events,

schedule changes, and last-minute weather cancellations by taking advantage of this technology!

We encourage you to “Like” our parish Facebook page

(www.facebook.com/DivineMercyCatholicParish) and **download our parish App today** (at myparishapp.com or search your phone’s App store for myparish).

In the event of a cancellation or special event, our parish app will send a notification to your phone instantly!

Information can also be found on our parish website:

www.divinemerccatholic.com
If you are ever unsure about any class or program, you can always call the parish office at 419-399-2576.

Is there more to life than this

Alpha is coming this Fall to Divine Mercy Parish. Watch for information in the bulletin and on our parish Facebook page

Homeschooling in Religious Education



4th grade PSR students in Antwerp put on a play about Adam and Eve for the other classes.

A time-honored tradition within the Catholic Church is the “handing on” of the faith in the home by the example and instruction of parents to their children. Catholic schools and parish schools of religion came into existence to assist families in their responsibility for the education of their children. Some parents, however, choose neither

Catholic schools nor parish schools of religion, and thus provide religious instruction and sacramental preparation at home. 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 (of any age!) in religious education, please contact Theresa Conley for

information about textbooks and homeschooling guidelines. Our parish is happy to help you obtain the resources you need.

More information can also be found on our parish website:

divinemerccatholic.com

Just click on the “Religious Education” tab at the top of the page.

Divine Mercy Catechetical Policies

Attendance — Families should make every effort to see that their children attend religion classes. Parents are expected to have their children at class on time and to pick students 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 school conflict arises on Wednesday nights, parents should contact Theresa Conley.

Arrival — 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.

Dismissal – Parents (grandparents, babysitters, etc) need to be on time to pick up their children. **Those picking up students in Kindergarten and 1st 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.

Discipline — 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.



1st grade PSR students in Paulding pray a decade of the Rosary in the Prayer Garden using rosaries they made in class

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

- 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.

Registrations are required for new students or for those whose information has changed.
Please return to the parish office by mail, collection basket, email or fax.

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish Parish School of Religion Registration

Parent(s) _____ Primary Phone _____
Mailing Address _____ Secondary Phone _____
Email _____

Would you like to receive PSR emails at this address? Yes No

Student _____ Birthday _____ Grade _____
Attending at (circle one): Antwerp Paulding Payne
Allergies or special needs? _____

Student _____ Birthday _____ Grade _____
Attending at (circle one): Antwerp Paulding Payne
Allergies or special needs? _____

Student _____ Birthday _____ Grade _____
Attending at (circle one): Antwerp Paulding Payne
Allergies or special needs? _____

I hereby authorize Divine Mercy Catholic Parish of Paulding County to publish photographs and video taken of me and/or my minor children for use in promotional material in print form, on the parish website, or on the parish Facebook page.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish
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Website:
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