

Strive to be
Saints
2019—2020



PSR Calendar

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Sept 4:	Confirmation Meeting for 7 & 8 graders and parents	Jan 1:	NO CLASS: Christmas break
Sept 11:	Class 1	Jan 8:	Class 13
Sept 18:	Class 2	Jan 15:	Class 14
Sept 25:	Class 3	Jan 22:	Class 15
Oct 2:	Class 4	Jan 29:	Class 16
Oct 9:	Class 5	Feb 5:	Class 17
Oct 16:	Class 6	Feb 12:	Class 18
Oct 23:	Class 7	Feb 19:	Class 19
Nov 6:	The Culture Project "Social Media" talk for grades 6-12; 6:30 - 8 pm Paulding basement; dinner is provided; no elementary classes today	Feb 26:	NO CLASS: Ash Wednesday
Nov 14:	Class 8	Mar 4:	Class 20
Nov 20:	Class 9	Mar 11:	Class 21
Nov 27:	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	Mar 18:	Class 22
Dec 4:	Class 10		The Culture Project "Sexual Integrity" talk for students in grades 7&8
Dec 11:	Class 11	Mar 25:	Class 23
Dec 18:	NO CLASS: Christmas break	Apr 1:	Class 24
Dec 25:	NO CLASS: Christmas break	Apr 8:	NO CLASS: Holy Week
		Apr 15:	Class 25
		Apr 22:	Class 26
		Apr 29:	Class 27
		May 6:	Class 28

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PSR Times and Locations

All classes meet on Wednesdays. Families can choose the time and location that works best for them. Please see page 2 for PSR fees.

Contact Theresa Conley with any questions or concerns.

Grades K—5 in Paulding:	4:00—5:00 pm at the Paulding 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 Paulding 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 Center in Antwerp



Fr. Poggemeyer meets with Antwerp PSR students at the beginning of the year

“Sometimes we Catholics have not always realized that *each one of us is called to holiness. Each one of us is called to be a saint.*”

- Fr. Poggemeyer



Elementary students at Paulding were proud when they got all these floor puzzles together!

From the Pastor

Dear PSR Families, +JMJ

I hope your summer has been restful and fruitful! This past July I had the privilege of going on pilgrimage to Poland – in the footsteps of Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina. Why go on pilgrimage to visit saints' sites and learn about their lives? Because those saints to whom we draw near, by means of their familiar culture and practices and shrines, can inspire us to be saints!

Why should we want to be saints? Well, saints are the freest people who ever lived! Saints are the most loving people who have ever lived! Saints are the greatest influencers of good in the world! And, saints are the ones getting to heaven the quickest! And, heaven is the most important goal. The time spent on earth – rich as it is (yet short) – pales in light of the experience of heaven.

PSR Fees

PSR fees for the 2019-2020 year will be \$30 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. Families who wish to provide a snack for one week will not be required to pay the snack

Parents, do you think about the formation you are giving to your children as an attempt to collaborate with God in making them saints? Children, do you consider sainthood to be a primary goal for your life?

Although in the Catholic Tradition the veneration of saints has been constant, sometimes we Catholics have not always realized that *each one of us is called to holiness. Each one of us is called to be a saint.* That was emphasized in the Vatican II Council documents. Here is an excerpt from *Lumen Gentium* 39, “The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church”:

The Church, whose mystery is being set forth by this Sacred Synod, is believed to be indefectibly holy. Indeed Christ, the Son of God, who with the Father and the Spirit is praised as “uniquely holy,” loved the Church as His bride, delivering Him-

self up for her. He did this that He might sanctify her (Eph 5:25f). He united her to Himself as His own body and brought it to perfection by the gift of the Holy Spirit for God’s glory. ... Therefore in the Church, everyone whether belonging to the hierarchy, or being cared for by it, is called to holiness, according to the saying of the Apostle: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification” (1 Thes. 4:3; cf. Eph. 1:4).

May sainthood be a goal for each family and each individual in Divine Mercy Parish! May all of your work this year to grow in the Faith be richly rewarded by the Lord Jesus with a greater knowledge of Him! If you have any Faith needs or questions as we enter into this new year, please do not hesitate to contact Theresa Conley or me.

In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,
Father Poggemeyer

fee for their child(ren).

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 Mon—Fri 9 AM—4 PM or Wed

10 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 25.

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 4 from 7—8:30 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. We will also complete our first session of the Confirmation preparation. 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 7, from 9 AM to 2 PM.**

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Sunday, March 8, at 3 PM at the Cathedral of Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Toledo.** Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will be the celebrant.

Please do not hesitate to contact Theresa Conley at the parish office with any questions.



PSR students in Payne work on a service project for Confirmation.

“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

Middle School Youth Group

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 after-

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

This year, we will be attending the Holy Fire Great Lakes retreat on Sunday, October 13 from 9 am—4 pm. We hope that all parents will mark this date on their calendar and make

plans to send their children! As Fr. Poggemeyer said in a recent bulletin, “We all need those mountaintop experiences in the Faith... Experiences to which we can look back in more troubled times... experiences that add to the Faith foundation already built in our life.”

Drivers will be needed to make this event successful.

Please let us know if you can help!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our Youth Ministry team. **If you are an adult who would like to help out with the youth group,** please contact Theresa Conley.



First Reconciliation and 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. **Students must attend Mass weekly with their families.**

This year, the **Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Sunday, October 20, 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 13 at 7 PM in the church in Antwerp OR

Tuesday January 14 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, May 2, from 9am – 12pm in the Educational Center in Paulding.

First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on the weekend of May 2 and 3.

Each First Communion family will be able to chose which Mass their child will attend that weekend for First Communion. Each family will have one reserved pew at their chosen Mass.

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

Teaching Safety

“Teaching Safety—Empowering God’s Children” formerly known as the “Touching Safety Program” is a requirement for every Catholic parish and every Catholic school in the United States.

This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Toledo, and is a part of our

ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

Through age-appropriate lessons, we give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm.

Parents will have the opportunity to opt out if they do not want their children to participate.

The Teaching Safety program will be presented at all PSR classes on Wednesday, Oct 3. More information will be sent home before this date.

The Culture Project is BACK!

Last year, parents who attended The Culture Project's parent session were thrilled with what they heard. After the fall presentation on Human Dignity to students in grades 6—12, it was YOU PARENTS who asked if we could have them back. We scheduled them again in the spring to present on Sexual Integrity to our high school students and this time, it was the students who gave the loudest praise. One high school senior told Fr. Poggemeyer that it was the best talk he had heard in his high school career.

The Culture Project is an

initiative of young people set out to restore culture through the experience of virtue. These young adults proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity, inviting our culture to become fully alive.

This year, we have scheduled them for 2 sessions. The Fall session on Wed Nov 6 will be for all students in grades 6—12 and will talk to students about Social Media.

In this talk, students will learn how their use of media can either contribute to or endanger our personal

happiness, our relationships, and the type of person we will ultimately become. They will also learn how to avoid some of the biggest downfalls of media.

The parish will provide supper for free before this talk and elementary classes will be cancelled this day to make it easier for families to get their middle school and high school students to the Paulding church.

On March 18, The Culture Project will come to present their Sexual Integrity talk to students in grades 7 and 8. All other grades will have class as usual that evening.



Middle School students learn about Human Dignity from Culture Project missionaries in Fall of 2018.

PSR Theme

Inspired by the Disciple Maker Index survey that parishioners were encouraged to participate in this past spring, we have

chosen our PSR theme for the year to be "Strive to be Saints." We hope to encourage the students of our parish to constantly grow

in holiness and to remember that God is our ultimate goal.

Strive to be
Saints

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

— General Directory for Catechesis #226

Homeschooling in Religious Education

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 nei-

ther 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: divinemercycatholic.com

Just click on "Religious Education for children".



PSR students in Paulding pause for a selfie with Mrs. Conley before classes start.

Catechesis Regarding Human Dignity & Gender Related Matters



Students have the chance to celebrate Reconciliation during PSR classes.

Our bodies teach us profound truths about ourselves and our purpose in life. Our bodies signify that we are called to and gifted for relationships that are complementary in nature, open to new life, and destined for eternal happiness and joy.



Kindergarten PSR students in Paulding learn about the sign of the cross with this fun craft!

The Catholic Church has always and everywhere affirmed her belief that each and every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. As such, every person deserves respect, dignity, and freedom from discrimination. Indeed, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbor of all people, no matter who they are. Further, the Church is obligated to hand on to every generation all that she has received from Jesus Christ, her divine founder, especially as it relates to our understanding of the human person in these present times.

The witness of Sacred Scripture is clear: God created human beings male and female (Genesis 1:27). From the dawn of creation as depicted in the Book of Genesis to the closing pages of the Apocalypse, Scripture presents the human race as consisting of only two (2) sexes. Both sexes, male and female, are created in the image of God and are equal in dignity and destiny (Genesis 2:21-24). God created Adam and Eve out of love and for love. One's gender is therefore determined by one's biological sex.

The entirety of divinely inspired Scripture affirms the male and female forms of human nature *as reality*. They are not mere cultural phenomena or subjective constructs. Although wound-

ed by the entrance of sin into human experience and its far-reaching effects on our bodily nature, man and woman continue to image God in both their uniqueness and complementarity. Scripture is clear on the necessity of respecting God's order and commands for human beings to experience the fullness of life he intends.

As articulated by Pope Francis, the clear and constant moral teachings of the Catholic Church have always envisioned a connection between our highest human happiness and our willingness to embrace the biological sex given us at birth. Our bodies teach us profound truths about ourselves and our purpose in life. Our bodies signify that we are called to and gifted for relationships that are complementary in nature, open to new life, and destined for eternal happiness and joy. Our bodies are God-given means of deepening our human generosity and communion with both God and each other.

Pope Saint John Paul II affirmed in his teaching known as the *Theology of the Body* that in our given biological complementarity, *as distinctly male and female*, God clearly intended us to live in loving communion with him and with each other. Through mutual self-giving and interdependence, he invites us to share in his own act of creation, as well as his

own eternal happiness and joy. Therefore, our God-given maleness and femaleness clearly make visible our calling to love and co-create with God in bringing new life into the world. This is what Pope Saint John Paul II called the "sacramentality of the body." Our bodies are "icons" that reveal the deepest essence of who we are in the moral, spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions of life.

Catholic teachings envision biological sex as neither a politically defined nor socially constructed reality. It is an objective reality, a cornerstone of our createdness, and an invitation to enter joyfully and generously into what we believe to be the central mystery of the Christian faith, namely, that God is himself an eternal exchange of love emanating from the love shared between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit³.

The Catholic Church recognizes that there is much confusion regarding human sexuality and gender in today's society. Knowing that this confusion touches the lives of many people very personally, the Catholic Church is committed to walking with each individual on the path towards a more integral understanding of their human dignity and their unique vocation in the Creator's plan for salvation history.

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.
- 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.



5th grade PSR students from Antwerp bring in donations and help sort and fold clothes at the TGIF giveaway in Paulding.

“Families must have the courage to set before young people the radical decision to follow Christ, showing them how deeply rewarding it is.”

— Pope Benedict XVI



4th grade PSR students in Antwerp complete an activity on the 10 Commandments.

**We are asking all families to complete a registration form.
Please return to the parish office by mail, collection basket, email or fax.**

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish—Parish School of Religion Registration

Parent(s) _____ Mother's Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ Father's 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? _____

Please initial:

_____ I have read through the Catechesis Regarding Human Dignity and Gender Related Matters

_____ I have read through the Divine Mercy Catechetical Policies

_____ I authorize Divine Mercy Catholic Parish 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 _____

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