

# Parish School of Religion

## CALENDAR

Sept 8: Confirmation Meeting for  
7&8 graders and parents

Sept 15: Class 1

Sept 22: Class 2

Sept 29: Class 3

Oct 6: Class 4

Oct 13: Class 5

Oct 20: Class 6

Oct 27: Class 7

Nov 3: Class 8

Nov 10: Class 9

Nov 17: Class 10

Nov 24: NO CLASS

Thanksgiving break

Dec 1: Class 11

Dec 8: Class 12

Dec 15: NO CLASS Christmas Break

Dec 22: NO CLASS Christmas Break

Dec 29: NO CLASS Christmas Break

Jan 5: Class 13

Jan 12: Class 14

Jan 19: Class 15

Jan 26: Class 16

Feb 2: Class 17

Feb 9: Class 18

Feb 16: Class 19

Feb 23: Class 20

Mar 2: NO CLASS

Ash Wednesday

Mar 9: Class 21

Mar 16: Class 22

Mar 23: Class 23

Mar 30: Class 24

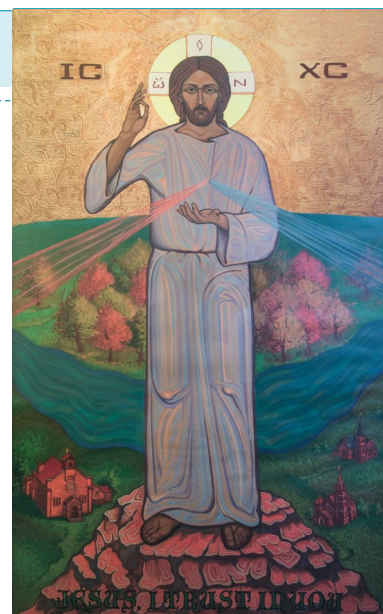
Apr 6: Class 25

Apr 13: NO CLASS Holy Week

Apr 20: Class 26

Apr 27: Class 27

May 4: Class 28



I am the **Way** **Truth** **Life**  
John 14:6

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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

Grades K—5 in Antwerp

Grades 6—8 in Paulding

Grades 7—8 in Payne

Grades 6—8 in Antwerp

4:00—5:00 pm at the Paulding Ed Center

6:30—7:30 pm at the Antwerp Center

7:00—8:00 pm at the Paulding Ed Center

7:00—8:00 pm at the Catholic School

7:45—8:45 pm at the Antwerp Center

**THERESA CONLEY**  
COORDINATOR OF  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Work: 419-399-2576

Cell: 205-641-1624

(call or text)

Fax: 419-399-2577

Email: tconley@dmcp parish.com



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to another year of learning and of growing closer to Christ in our Parish School of Religion! We are excited to once again hold our classes in-person and we look forward to seeing all of you!

Thank you for making our Catholic faith a high priority in your children's lives by making the commitment to have them attend PSR. We realize that being dedicated to these weekly classes sometimes forces families to make sacrifices of their time, but we also believe in the tremendous benefits that our students receive from being part of our program. Whether preparing for First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation, or learning more about Scripture, or growing in a deeper appreciation for what the Church has done through history, what our students receive in our PSR program is

information that is meant to stay with them for more than an academic year. In fact, what they receive is meant to help them live our Catholic faith as they continue to grow older and make their way through life. As our students continue through our PSR classes, we hope that they come to appreciate the reality that living our Catholic faith is more than learning information in a book- it is ultimately encountering Christ himself and is a lifelong process of remaining close to him.

Know of my prayers for you as we kick off this new year of learning and encountering Christ, who is the "way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). If there is any way we can help you throughout this year, please feel free to contact Theresa Conley or myself.

Blessings to you all!

Fr. Ammanniti

*"As our students continue through our PSR classes, we hope that they come to appreciate the reality that living our Catholic faith is more than learning information in a book- it is ultimately encountering Christ himself and is a lifelong process of remaining close to him."*



## PSR FEES

**PSR fees for the 2021-2022 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 fee for their child(ren).

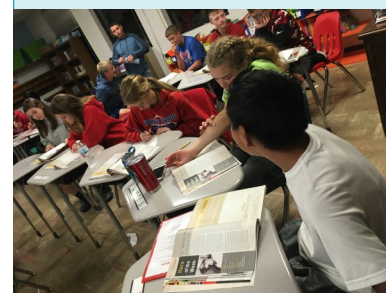
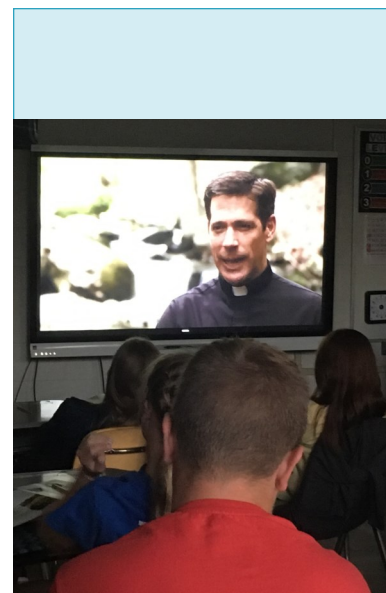
Checks can be made out to Divine Mercy with "PSR" and your child's name in the memo line and mailed to the parish office, dropped off to the parish office, or dropped in the weekend collection in an enveloped marked "PSR". **You may also choose to submit your payment through myEoffering** at <https://members.myeoffering.com/>

If you have any questions about the fees or need financial assistance to pay them, please contact Dianne Jones at the parish office at 419-399-2576. **Payment needs to be received by Wednesday September 29.**





*Divine Mercy Confirmation class from 2020*



## 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 a formal religious education program at a parish or 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 8 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/guardian.

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 Sunday March 27 from 11:30 am—4pm in Paulding.**

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Sunday, April 24, 2022, 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.



## 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.

**It is VERY important that children preparing for First Communion be attending Mass weekly with their families.**

This year, the **Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Sunday, October 24, 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 you can chose the date or location that works best for your family.

**Monday January 10 at 7 PM in the church in Antwerp OR**

**Tuesday January 11 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 30, from 9am – 12pm in the Educational Center in Paulding.**

**First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on April 30—May 1.**

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.





## PSR THEME

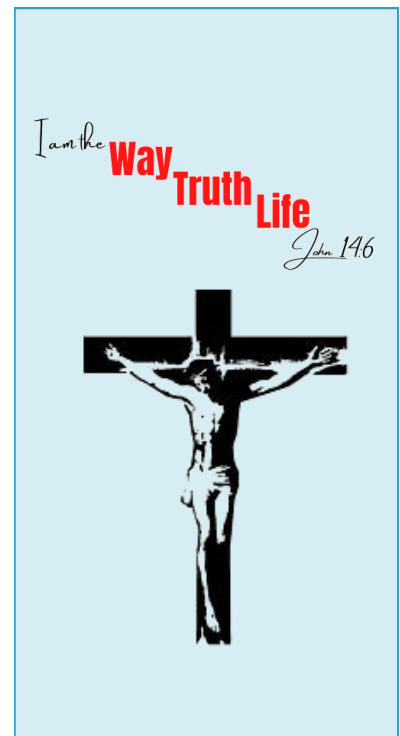
Our PSR theme this year is “Way, Truth, Life” based on John 14:6. In John chapter 14, Jesus is telling his disciples that he will go prepare a place for them in heaven. Thomas says “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Then Jesus gives us this great line: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me.”

Jesus is the reason for ALL that we do at PSR. Our relationship with Him should affect everything we do.

And when we ask life’s big questions — “Am I on the right track in my life?” or “How can I know God?” — the answer Jesus gives here will always fit, because He is the answer to our deepest longing.



*“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

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.

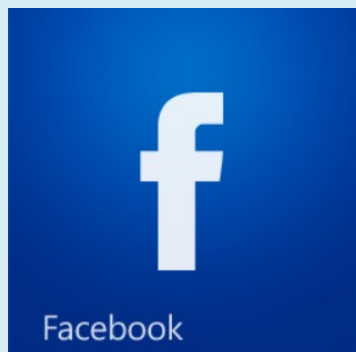
If you are interested in homeschooling your child (of any age!) in religious education, please contact Theresa Conley for information about textbooks and homeschooling guidelines. Our parish is happy to help you obtain the resources you need.

More information can also be found on our parish website:

[divinemercycatholic.com](http://divinemercycatholic.com)

Just click on “Religious Education for children”.





## STAY CONNECTED

You can get the most up to date information about religious education by taking advantage of technology.

Our newest tool for reaching parishioners is Evangelus. With Evangelus, you get to decide whether you receive communication from the parish by email, text, or myParish app. To sign up for Evangelus, visit [eva.us/divine](http://eva.us/divine) or text divine to 55321.

We also encourage anyone who uses Facebook or Instagram to like our parish on

those platforms.

Religious Education events, schedule changes, and last-minute weather cancellations will be posted on all these platforms. You can also call the parish office 419-399-2576 or contact Theresa Conley directly if you ever need clarification on something.

Information about our programs and program calendars can always be found on our parish website: [www.divinemercycatholic.com](http://www.divinemercycatholic.com).

*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.*



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

All children in grades 1—8 are invited to join the Divine Mercy Children's Choir! No prior experience is required. By participating in the choir, children will...

**Sing** beautiful hymns and songs that help them to learn, delight in, pray, and remember the truths of our Catholic Faith and the prayers of the Mass!

**Develop** foundational musical skills!

**Serve** the Divine Mercy Parish community and the Church as a whole!

**Participate** at Mass with greater attention and understanding!

**Offer** gifts of time and talent to Jesus!

The Children's Choir will sing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of every month, at the 10:30am Mass in Paulding beginning in October.

Jessica Schuster will lead a short practice with the Paulding elementary PSR children on Wednesdays at 3:15pm in the Ed Center, before classes begin at 4pm. Children who do not attend PSR at this time will be invited to practice on Wednesdays at 7:15 pm once or twice a month in the Paulding Church. There will also be a practice at 10 am at the Ed Center on the Sundays when the children's choir will be singing at Mass.

**Questions? Contact Jessica Schuster:**  
[jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com)

## 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 or in the hallways 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 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 and allergy 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.

**Registrations are only 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)/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other emergency # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Attending at (circle one):                      Antwerp                      Paulding                      Payne

Allergies or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Attending at (circle one):                      Antwerp                      Paulding                      Payne

Allergies or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ 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 parish social media.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Divine Mercy Catholic Parish**  
417 N Main St  
Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-2576

Fax: 419-399-2577

Website:

[www.divinemercycatholic.com](http://www.divinemercycatholic.com)

