

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish

2020—2021

Sharing Jesus

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
2020 - 2021

Parish School of Religion

**“God has shown His mercy,
and we are compelled to share His love.”**

Mailing Address: 417 North Main Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879

Parish Office Phone: 419-399-2576

Parish Office Fax: 419-399-2577

Web Site: divinemercycatholic.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Friday: 9 AM – 12 PM

Pastor: Fr. Austin Ammanniti

Office Assistant: Darlene Herber – dherber@dmcp parish.com

Financial Manager: Dianne Jones – djones@dmcp parish.com

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Theresa Conley – tconley@dmcp parish.com

Divine Mercy Catholic School Principal: Joseph Linder

School Office - 419-263-2114 – jlinder@dmcschool.com

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4PM in Payne

Sunday: 8:30AM in Antwerp & 10:30AM in Paulding



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COORDINATOR OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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OPTIONS FOR K—8 LEARNING THIS YEAR

Classes for grades Kindergarten through grade 8 will not meet in person for the first half of the school year. This decision was not taken lightly.

At the end of November, the Parish Leadership Team will reevaluate the situation and see if we might be able to pick up in person classes in January. Families will be notified of this situation before Christmas break.

Please read through the two options carefully and pick which one will work best for your family. If you are unsure, please contact Theresa Conley for more information.

Once you have made your selection, **you can register for religious education over the phone at 419-399-2576 or at <https://forms.gle/Xk3BWT67C9mL6A5g6>**

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.

OUR PSR THEME: SHARING JESUS

Sharing Jesus and the Good News of Salvation isn't just a job for the priest. All Christians are called to share Jesus and his message with others. This is most important in the home! Parents are called to share Jesus with their children in a very special way because "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).

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (Grades K – 8)

There will be two options for families to choose from. In developing these two options, we tried to make this as easy for families as possible and not a burden.

Families can choose to do the traditional homeschool option – taking the student book home and working through a chapter a week.

A second option will be family catechesis. Families will learn about some aspect of the faith together through video lessons.

Both of these options will have routine ways of reporting progress to the parish. Students who do not participate in any religious education this year will not be promoted to the next grade level and will not be eligible for sacramental preparation (First Communion or Confirmation) for the 2021-2022 school year.





DIVINE MERCY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The children's choir will not meet for the first half of this school year. If we are able to return to in person PSR classes in January, we will see if we can safely meet as a Children's Choir.

TRADITIONAL HOMESCHOOL OPTION

If you choose the traditional homeschooling option for your family, we will provide your family with the textbook and online resources from the textbook publisher. We currently use "Finding God" (2013 edition) from Loyola Press for grades K—5 and "Christ Our Life" from Loyola Press for grades 6—8.

As a family, you will work through the student book (or, if you have more than one child in grades K—8, each student book). We encourage families to do one chapter every week so that they don't get behind. However, you would have the flexibility to skip a week if your family is very busy and complete two chapters the following week.

This option may be a good fit for your family if:

- You only have one or two children in grades K—8
- You do not have a good internet connection at home and may not be able to access the video content we will be presenting for the family catechesis option
- You or your children are tired of everything being online and feel you would do better with traditional textbooks as learning tools
- You want to learn more about your faith while you teach your child!

Reporting Progress:

To report your family's progress, we will only ask that you take a picture of and bookwork in the chapter and text or email it to Theresa Conley. If you do not have the ability to take a picture and send it, you can just email updates or tear out those workbook pages and drop them off in the collection or our office drop box.

Homeschooling families should begin their work no later than September 27, 2020.



FAMILY CATECHESIS OPTION

If you choose the Family Catechesis option for your family you would select this on your registration form and also include a valid email address. We will email out directions on how to access the video content each week which may include videos on EdPuzzle, YouTube, and FORMED.org.

Videos will be created with families in mind. They will be short and engaging. At the end of each video, there will be a question to answer or a discussion question. Please do this together as a family — parents should be watching and discussing along with children! You can even include any older or younger children as you watch the videos.

We will also try to include a worksheet or additional reading each week for students in grades 6—8 so that they also get a little more age-appropriate catechesis. Each lesson will also include guidance on praying together as a family which should be done together to end the lesson. We hope the whole lesson will take about 30—40 minutes each week.

Just like the homeschooling option, we ask that you make time for the lesson each week. However, your family would still have the flexibility to skip a week if you are very busy and complete two lessons the following week.

This option may be a good fit for your family if:

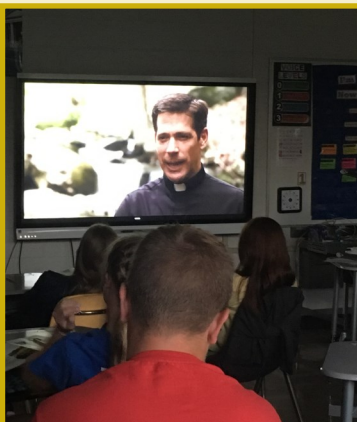
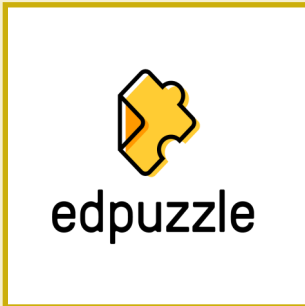
- You have multiple children in grades K—8 and may not have the time to devote to individual book work for each child
- Your family has a good internet connection and is willing to sit down together once a week to watch a video together
- You might be unsure about how to share your faith with your children
- You want to learn more about your faith while you teach your child!

Reporting progress:

Instructions for each video lesson will be sent weekly by email. Some of our video lessons will offer a chance to answer a question within the video. This participation will be recorded automatically. With other videos (such as videos we may ask you to pull up on FORMED.org) we may ask you to submit an answer to a question via email or text to Theresa Conley.

Worksheets for middle schoolers can be printed out and filled in or answers can just be written on a blank sheet of paper. Parents can take a picture of the completed work and email or text it to Theresa Conley.

Our first video lesson will be emailed out no later than September 27.



PSR FEES

PSR fees for the 2020—2021 school year will be \$30 per student. Checks can be made out to Divine Mercy with “PSR” and your child’s name in the memo line OR if you choose to do online registration, you can submit your payment through myEoffering at <https://members.myeoffering.com/>

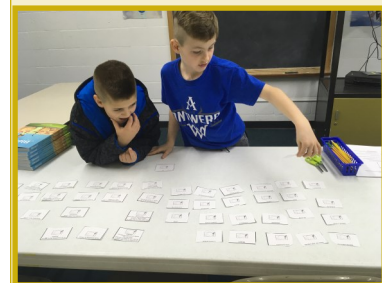
For those choosing the homeschooling option, these fees cover the textbook. For those selecting the virtual option, these fees help us to cover technology, subscription, and mailing costs. We also plan to send out additional resources to families throughout the fall such as Advent booklets which we feel will enhance the family learning experience.

We also hope to purchase and send out additional print resources throughout the year that we feel will benefit families sharing and living the faith at home.

If you have any questions about the fees or need financial assistance to pay them, please contact the parish office at 419-399-2576.



“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



FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION



In this unusual year, we would still like to hold in person First Reconciliation and First Communion classes since so much material is covered in this sacramental year. We will hold classes approximately every 2 weeks, with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and each class will be offered at two different times. Families can choose which time works for them for each class. If a family is unable to attend one of the classes, they must check in with Theresa Conley to see what make up work needs to be completed. If there are two absences with no attempt to make up missed work, your child may be unable to celebrate their sacraments this year.

Our first class will meet on Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 am at the Ed Center in Paulding and will be repeated on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm at the Center in Antwerp. A full schedule will be available at those classes. A parent should attend each class with their child since some work for sacramental preparation will also be completed at home. In the event that a parent cannot attend, please contact Theresa Conley.

It is VERY important that children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion be **attending Mass weekly with their families**. If you have a serious reason for avoiding public Mass during Covid-19, please make sure you are watching Mass *and participating* at Mass at home every weekend. We mail the MagnifiKid booklets to your house to help with this!

We will celebrate First Reconciliation on two different dates so families can choose the date or location that works best for them. Our dates for First Reconciliation are

Monday, January 11 at 7 pm in the Antwerp Church OR

Tuesday, January 12 at 7 pm in the Payne Church.

We are hoping to be able to offer our regular First Communion Retreat for our First Communion families. Typically, this retreat is considered mandatory for our students and at least on parent. We will make that determination as we get closer to the date, but we want you to get it on your calendar now.

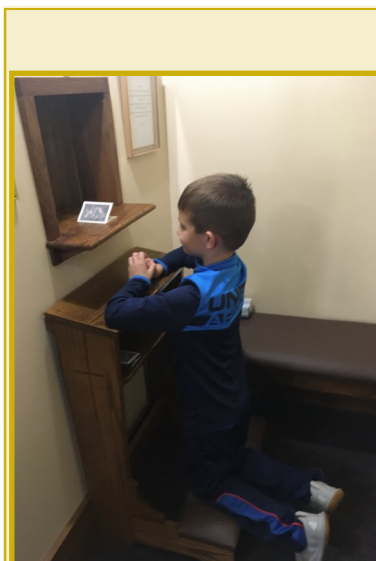
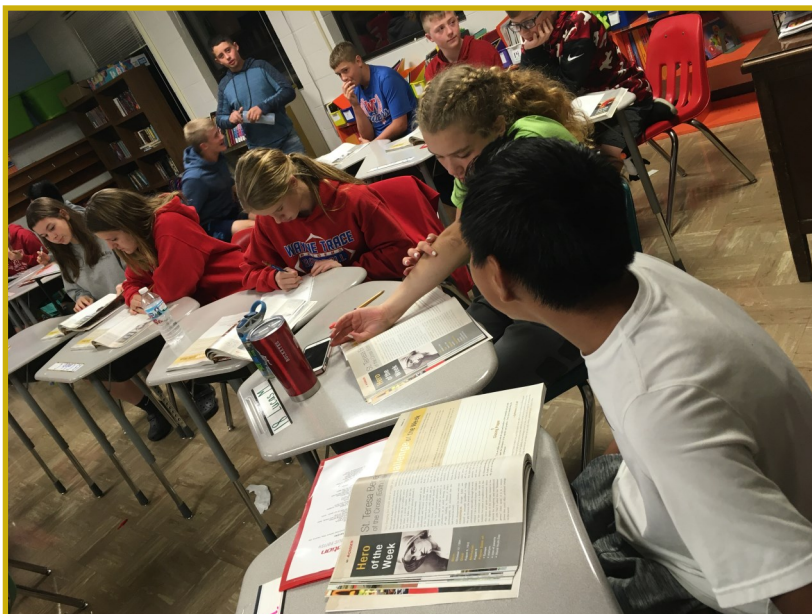
Our First Communion Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 from 9am—12 pm in the Educational Center in Paulding.

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

First Communion will be celebrated on May 1st and 2nd at all weekend Masses.

If social distancing is still required at Mass in April, we may decide to offer the Masses on April 24 and 25 as additional First Communion Masses. We hope to make this decision by March 29th.

As always, families have the option to prepare for sacraments entirely at home. Please contact Theresa Conley if you would like to pursue this option.



“Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children . . . They catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love for the faith.”

— National Directory for Catechesis pg 234

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES — GRADES 6-8

Students in grades 6—8 may be invited by their catechist to participate in a zoom call with their class once a month until we are able to meet in person again.

In addition to that, we will be trying to find opportunities for this years’ 6th and 7th graders (and we’ll invite the 8th graders, too!) to complete some of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. Students will be expected to complete each of these before Confirmation and they can start now!

We will give easy ideas throughout this year of easy ways students can complete one of the Works of Mercy and we’ll give instructions for parents to report back to us so that we can record it for you!

These Works of Mercy can also be done by the whole family together!

THINGS TO DO:

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- give alms to the poor
- shelter the homeless
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- instruct the ignorant
- counsel the doubtful
- admonish the sinner
- forgive injuries
- comfort the sorrowful
- bear wrongs patiently
- pray for the living and the dead



DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH

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 CONNECTED!

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

We are also launching a new messaging system at the parish called Evangelus. By signing up with Evangelus, you can get the latest information on the parish either by email or by text. You pick the way you want to be notified! Watch for more information coming soon on Evangelus!



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