

Parish School of Religion

CALENDAR

Sept 14: Class 1	Jan 4: Class 12
Sept 21: Class 2	Jan 11: Class 13
Sept 28: Class 3	Jan 18: Class 14
Oct 5: Class 4	Jan 25: Class 15
Oct 12: Class 5	Feb 1: Class 16
Oct 19: Class 6	Feb 8: Class 17
Oct 26: Class 7	Feb 15: Class 18
Nov 2: NO CLASS	Feb 22: NO CLASS
All Souls Day Mass	Ash Wednesday Mass
Nov 9: Class 8	Mar 1: Class 19
Nov 16: Class 9	Mar 8: Class 20
Nov 23: NO CLASS	Mar 15: Class 21
Thanksgiving Break	Mar 22: Class 22
Nov 30: Class 10	Mar 29: Class 23
Dec 7: Class 11	Apr 5: NO CLASS Holy Week
Dec 14: NO CLASS Christmas Break	Apr 12: Class 24
Dec 21: NO CLASS Christmas Break	Apr 19: Class 25
Dec 28: NO CLASS Christmas Break	Apr 26: Class 26
	May 3: Class 27

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 Antwerp Center



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**FR. AUSTIN
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NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



DID YOU KNOW:
Our textbooks cost between \$20 and \$22 each, depending on the grade level, before shipping? Most of our PSR fees simply cover the books we use!

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL?

This year for PSR, we will be focusing on the theme of Eucharistic Revival which was initiated by the US Bishops.

The Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative of the Bishops of the United States that aims to inspire, educate, and unite the faithful. The revival is meant to show everyone what wonders the True Presence of Jesus can do to heal the soul. The goal is to change the lives of many Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

According to the bishops, this is “**a time for the church to be renewed at her core**—for all of us to be renewed in and through the Eucharist and thereby in and through Jesus himself. Authentic renewal in the church ‘passes through the Eucharist’ (St. John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, no. 60).”

Our world is hurting and our

culture is straying from God. Recent studies from the Pew Research Center show that only 31% of Catholics in the United States believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Over the next three years, **Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith — his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.**”

This coming year is the Year of Diocesan Renewal. From now through June of 2023, each diocese will offer events to promote and inspire understanding of the Eucharist. The following year will be a Year of Parish Revival, and the summer of 2024 will culminate with a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. This event is expected to bring together more than 100,000 people!

To learn more, go to www.eucharisticrevival.org/

PSR FEES

PSR fees for the 2022-2023 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 envelope 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 28.**



Pictures are from our last Family Spirituality Fair in February 2020

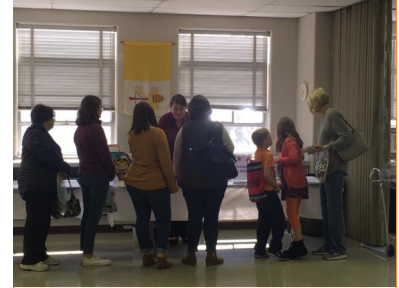
FAMILY SPIRITUALITY FAIR—OCTOBER 16

You will not want to miss our Family Spirituality Fair coming up on Sunday, October 16! This event is for ALL families, grandparents, godparents, and anyone who cares about passing on the faith to others. Families from other Catholic parishes or other churches are also welcome to participate.

The event will begin with lunch for a free will donation in the church basement in Paulding at 11:30 am. After lunch, children will stay in the church basement for activities and crafts, while the adults head upstairs for the main speaker.

Our featured speaker will be Mary Jo Parrish, executive director of Kingdom Builders in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mary Jo will be speaking on the topic “Making Prayer Come Alive.” This is a topic that will benefit parishioners of any age! She will also include tips on how to pray with your children.

Following the speaker, families will be invited to head over to the Educational Center from 1 to 2 pm for the “fair.” There will be door prizes and free giveaways, and lots of easy hands-on ideas of how to share the faith with the children and teens in your life. Some of the topics we will share will include “How to take young children to Mass,” “How to use FORMED for a movie night,” “Make your own Advent wreath” and more! We hope to see you there!



Family Spirituality Fair Sunday, October 16 Schedule

10:30 am Mass in Paulding

11:30 am lunch in church basement

12:15 pm kids activities in basement and Mary Jo Parrish speaking in the church

1:00 pm fair in Educational Center

2:00 pm drawing raffle prizes

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.

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 23, at 7 PM in the Educational Center in Paulding.** At least one parent is required to attend (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 9 at 7 PM in the church in Antwerp OR Tuesday January 10 at 7 PM in the church in Payne.

First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on May 6 and 7.

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. We will also address some common questions at the parent meeting on Oct 23.

For our First Communion Retreat, we are doing something new this year! To help you and your child prepare for First Communion, we have an exciting **retreat scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at the St. Patrick Gym in Bryan, OH** (610 S. Portland Street Bryan, OH). The retreat will go from 11:45 am to 3:45 pm and will be led by Catholic author/speaker John Wood and his wife Kristin. You might remember

Dr. John Wood from when he spoke at our parish in early 2020.

Please note: **This retreat is for PARENTS AND CHILDREN.** It will begin with lunch and a Dragon Slayer Presentation. John and Kristin present this fun presentation all over the country, and we are confident you and your child will love this experience!

Then, while the kids are having their own session, John Wood will be offering a presentation specifically for the parents. We promise it will be worth your time and help you prepare with your son or daughter for this important sacrament.

While at least one parent is required to attend the retreat with the child, we hope BOTH parents can attend.

Please note that sports practices and games are not adequate reasons for absence or tardiness on the day of the retreat. We will share more information about this Dragon Slayers retreat at our parent meeting on October 23.



THE CULTURE PROJECT FOR GRADES 7 AND 8

We are excited to bring The Culture Project back to Divine Mercy parish this year! In addition to speaking to our high school students, they will be giving two presentations to our 7th and 8th grade students!

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.

These young adult missionaries will be coming on **Wednesday, October 19 from 7—8 pm at the Ed Center in Paulding to**

present on Human Dignity.

Their presentation is crafted to engage students' minds and hearts toward the inherent dignity of the human person. We address modern-day violations of human dignity and ask the question: How do we reverse this? We empower students to understand that personal virtue has the power to humanize. And we close with an inspiring story, inviting each student to join us in restoring our culture.

The missionaries will return on **Wednesday, March 1 from 7—8 pm at the Ed Center in Paulding to present their Sexual Integrity talk to our 7th**

and 8th graders.

In this presentation, the missionaries will introduce the benefits of a life of virtue—particularly, the virtue of chastity. More than an old-world list of rules and restraints, we illuminate the freedom a lifestyle of chastity brings. We address the deeper meaning of sex, the purpose of sexual desire, and our sexual identity as male and female. We share practical tips about how to channel our natural desires towards authentic love.

More information will be coming home to parents about The Culture Project. Please direct any questions to Theresa Conley.

THE 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 1st and 2nd 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 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





HOMESCHOOLING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A time-honored tradition within the Catholic Church is handing on of the faith at 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.

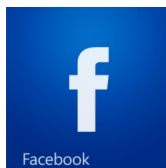
More information can also be found on our parish website:

divinemercycatholic.com

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 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.

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 by a staff member.

Dismissal – Parents (grandparents, babysitters, etc) need to be on time to pick up their children. **Those picking up students in Kindergarten and 1st grade must 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. We also try to post all closings on our parish social media and as an evangelus message.

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. Walking over to the church is on-site and does not require permission slips.

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

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