

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish

2023—2024

Parish School of Religion

CALENDAR

Sept 6: Confirmation meeting for 7th & 8th graders and parents

Sept 13: Class 1	Jan 10: Class 13
Sept 20: Class 2	Jan 17: Class 14
Sept 27: Class 3	Jan 24: Class 15
Oct 4: Class 4	Jan 31: Class 16
Oct 11: Class 5	Feb 7: Class 17
Oct 18: Class 6	Feb 14: NO CLASS Ash Wednesday
Oct 25: Class 7	Feb 21: Class 18
Nov 1: All Saints Day Mass	Feb 28: Class 19
Nov 8: Class 8	Mar 6: Class 20
Nov 15: Class 9	Mar 13: Class 21
Nov 22: NO CLASS Thanksgiving	Mar 20: Class 22
Nov 29: Class 10	Mar 27: NO CLASS Holy Week
Dec 6: Class 11	Apr 3: Class 23
Dec 13: Class 12	Apr 10: Class 24
Dec 20: NO CLASS Christmas Break	Apr 17: Class 25
Dec 27: NO CLASS Christmas Break	Apr 24: Class 26
Jan 3: NO CLASS Christmas Break	May 1: Class 27

PSR TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All classes meet on Wednesdays. Please see page 2 for PSR fees.
Contact Theresa Conley with any questions or concerns.

Grades K—8 in Paulding	6:45—7:45 pm at the Paulding Ed Center
Grades 7—8 in Payne	7:00—8:00 pm at the Catholic School

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**FR. AUSTIN
AMMANNITI**
Pastor

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Coordinator of
Religious Education

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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!



PSR FEES

PSR fees for the 2023-2024 year will be \$30 per student.

You can pay with cash, check, or electronically.

To pay electronically, go to <https://members.myeoffering.com/> and select the fund “religious education fees.”

Cash can be brought to the parish office the first few weeks of classes. Checks can be made out to Divine Mercy with “PSR” and your child’s name in the memo line and mailed or dropped off to the parish office, or dropped in the weekend collection in an envelope marked “PSR”.

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 27.**

THE CHILDREN’S CHOIR—NEW PRACTICE TIME!

ALL children in grades 1—8 are invited to join the Divine Mercy Children’s Choir! No prior experience is required. We are changing our practice time to line up with the new PSR schedule. Students will meet in the Paulding church once or twice a month beginning September 27. Practice will begin with Benediction at 6 pm and then go until 6:40 when students will then walk down for PSR classes.

Practice dates will be September 27, October 4 and 25, November 8 and 29, and December 6 and 20.

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

Students will be singing at Mass October 1 and 8, November 5 and

12, December 3 and 10. Students are also invited to sing on Christmas Morning at a 9 am Mass in Paulding. Rehearsal will be at 8:30 am.

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!

Questions? Contact Jessica Schuster:
jessica.schuster.155@gmail.com



THE RESCUE PROJECT: A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS

Our parish is excited to present The Rescue Project this fall! Join us for snacks, video, and discussion — all while your child is in their PSR class!

The Rescue Project is for anyone and everyone. It appeals to those who have been walking with Jesus for years, as well as those for whom Jesus is only a figure in ancient history. We will be discussing some of life's big questions with other parents and parishioners in a casual atmosphere. Grab a friend and join us!

It's FREE and you don't need to register ahead of time! Just show up!

Wednesdays beginning September 13

from 6:45—7:45 pm in the Paulding Church Basement

All adults are welcome! You don't need to be Catholic or a member of our parish to attend.

Can't make it every week? No problem. Come when you can and we'll show you how to watch the videos you miss if you are interested in catching up.

For more information, contact Theresa Conley at the parish office.

Learn more about The Rescue Project here:

We are still accepting



volunteers to help The Rescue Project run smoothly. If you would like to help out, please



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 22, 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 separate time to meet.

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, but we are pushing the date up to November to try to avoid winter weather: **Monday, November 27 at 7 PM in the church in**

**Paulding OR
Tuesday, November 28 at 7 PM in the church in Payne.**

First Communion will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses on May 4 and 5.

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.

This will be our second year participating in the Dragon Slayers First Communion Retreat with Dr. John Wood! The **retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 2 at the St. Patrick Gym in Bryan, OH** (610 S. Portland Street Bryan, OH). The retreat will go from 11:45 am to 3:30 pm and will begin with a pizza party. Parents and students who attended last year really enjoyed the retreat.

Please note: **This retreat is for PARENTS AND CHILDREN.**

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, but if you know you cannot attend on March 2, please let me know and we can sign you up for a Dragon Slayers retreat on a different date. We will share more information about this Dragon Slayers retreat at our parent meeting on October 22.



CONFIRMATION

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 6 from 7—8:30 pm in the church basement at Paulding.** Any student in grades 7 and 8 should attend with at least one parent or guardian.

This meeting 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 also hope to complete our first Confirmation lesson. 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. This information will be available at the meeting.

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Sunday, March 3, 2024, 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. Students will need to arrive at the cathedral *at least 45 minutes* before Mass begins.

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





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

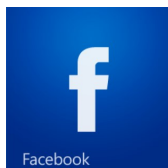
this is certainly true for religious education as well.

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: www.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.

One of the best tools we use 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 and follow 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 — Please do not drop your child off more than 10 minutes before class. 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.

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.**

When arranged with the parish staff or the classroom teacher, a responsible older sibling or cousin can pick up a

kindergarten or 1st grade child from class and walk them out of the building.

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 a student up from class, they will need a signed note from the parent.



Cancellations — **If school is canceled for fog, classes will still meet in the evening. If school is cancelled for other inclement weather, religious education classes will be cancelled that day.** 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 or contact Theresa Conley directly.

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 needs updated. Please scan the QR code or return the paper form to the parish office.

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): _____ Paulding _____ Payne _____

Allergies or special needs? _____

Student _____ Birth date _____ Grade _____

Attending at (circle one): _____ Paulding _____ Payne _____

Allergies or special needs? _____

Student _____ Birth date _____ Grade _____

Attending at (circle one): _____ 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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