August 1, 2021

Dear Parents:

I welcome you and invite you to register your children in the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church Religious Education Program for 2021-22. Our program is designed to support you in your responsibility as parents to explain the faith in a clear and engaging manner. Wednesday night class times are as follows. Gr. K-8 6:00-7:00 PM & Gr. 9 (2nd year Confirmation students) also meet on Wed. nights & six Sunday nights (with sponsors). Please see schedule for times allocated.

St. Al’s has a vibrant, fulfilling program of instruction in the Catholic Faith for children from Kindergarten through 9th grade. Kindergarten will be using the “Image of God Series” & Grades 1-8 will be learning from the “Faith and Life Series”. This series presents the fullness and tradition of the Catholic faith. Each class includes prayer, catechesis, stories about the saints, and activities which reinforce the lesson of the day, all tailored to your child’s grade level. Families are encouraged to purchase a Family Guide to the F&L Series to help you learn the faith with your children at home. We will also be using the online version of *“My Catholic Faith Delivered”.* The on-line course helps the students process the information according to what they are accustomed to and to meet them where they learn. This program has proven to have a higher rate of retention. The classroom time will be used to engage in deeper conversations about the content learned at home and to build on the Catholic Community.

We provide preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in second grade; if your student has yet to receive either of these sacraments, this program is an excellent way to put them on the path to holiness. Parents will be expected to work with their children at home and attend 2 retreats with the child in order to better prepare for these important sacraments. The parents will be asked to attend eight informative sessions throughout the year as a resourceful tool for them to help educate their children in the home about such important sacraments. The students will be using the *“Signs of Grace”* by Augustine Institute to help prepare the students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. <http://thesignsofgrace.org/your-are-loved/>

We provide a two-year preparation for Confirmation beginning in 8th grade with Confirmation being in the spring of 9th grade. In 8th - 9th grade we will provide a program that provides everything the students need both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. This *Powerful* approach will be done thru a strong understanding of our Catholic faith. The first year using the Faith and Life Series Second year Confirmation students will continue with a series called Chosen. Chosen seeks to reverse the trend of teens drifting from the Church after Confirmation by winning over their hearts at a critical time in their lives and keeping them firmly planted within the faith community of the Church. Chosen’s carefully designed methodology features highly effective and engaging material conveyed through videos, student workbooks, and classroom experience. Second year Confirmation students will be **required** to attend a weekend retreat. The additional Confirmation fee of $125 covers the retreat and other expenses for Confirmation prep. 8th grade students will be encouraged to attend retreat/s that are offered. Second year (9th grade) students and sponsors are required to attend 6 – 2 hour Sunday night sessions. If sponsors cannot be here then a parent must attend with the student preparing for Confirmation.

Post Confirmation students will meet a couple times a month in a casual setting. We will be utilizing engaging video’s by Catholic presentors specifically developed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the genius of Catholicism. Through the conversations & example of our young adult leaders these students are taught to respond to God’s grace. There will be opportunities for retreats and a mission trip & other fun youth events. Please register online at Divine Mercy Parish website under Sacraments. We will not exclude anyone from the program due to financial hardship. Contact the office with special requests or needs/accommodations and we will work with you. I hope your family will join us to draw your children closer to the Church through catechesis.

In Him I Place My Trust,

Father Miguel Galvez, SJCP (Pastor) & Karen Merline (DRE Divine Mercy Parish)

**Religious Education Schedule 2021-22**

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church Sauk City, WI 53583

**Grades K through 8** Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:00 pm

1. **September 8, 2021: K-8th Gr.  *Parents/families***  PLEASE JOIN US for a chance to meet your  **child’s teacher/s & to welcome the new families that will be joining us this year. (School Gym)**
2. September 15th
3. September 22 *(2nd grade parent Session #1 “Forgiven” 6:00- 7:00 PM in church basement – St. Aloysius Hall)*
4. September 29 \*\*Sept.26th, Sunday, Confirmation class, 5th & 6th graders lead the mass at 10:30AM\*\*
5. October 6 *(2nd grade parent Session #2 “Forgiven” 6:00- 7:00 PM in church basement – St. Aloysius Hall)*

*\*\*Oct. 10th, Sunday, 8th, 3rd & 4th grade lead the 8:00AM Youth Mass\**

1. October 13 (Bonfire Rosary 6:00 entire family to attend) Rain date is Oct. 20th
2. October 20 *\*\*Oct. 24th, Sunday, Confirmation Class, Kindergarten & 1st Graders lead the 8:00AM Youth Mass\**

**\*\*\*No class Oct. 27th~No School Oct. 28-29\*\*\***

**Grades 5-8 welcome to attend Matinee 12:30-4:00PM Thursday, Oct. 28th**

**\*\*6:8 SPAH food pack event oct. 28-30, 2021\*\* nov. 1st all saints day: attend mass**

1. November 3 *(2nd grade parent Session #3 “Forgiven” 6:00 -7:00 PM in church basement – St. Aloysius Hall)*

*\*\*Nov. 7th, Sunday, Gr. 7, 3, & 4 lead the 8:00 AM Youth Mass*\*\*

1. November 10
2. November 17 “Circle of Grace” Safe Environment for students

**Thanksgiving Break No Class Nov. 24th**

1. December 1 *(2nd grade parent Session #4 “Forgiven” 6:00- 7:00 PM in church basement – St. Aloysius Hall~Church Basement)*

*\*\*December 5th, Sunday, Gr. 9 & 2 lead the 10:30 AM Mass Youth Mass\*\**

1. December 8 *Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation (Attend Mass)*
2. December 15 (Confession for Gr. 3-8) *\*\*December 19th, Sunday, Gr. 8, 1, & K lead the 10:30 AM \**

**Christmas & New Years Break-No Class December 22nd or Dec. 29th**

1. January 5, 2022 *(Saturday, January 8th First Penance Retreat 8:00 – noon, Parent/s must attend with child~Location: Church)*
2. January 12 *\*\*Jan. 9, 2022, Sunday, Gr. 5th & 6th lead the 8:00 AM Youth Mass \**
3. January 19\*\**Jan. 23rd, Sun., Gr. 8 & 3 & 4 lead the 10:30 AM Youth Mass\*\**
4. January 26 *(2nd grade parent Session #1 “Presence” 6:00- 7:00 PM in St. Aloysius Hall-Church Basement)*

*\*\*Catholic School Week kick off Mass Jan. 30th~ Catholic school Students in K–8th Gr. lead the 10:30 AM Mass*

*(St. Als & SLSW) ~Chili Cook off~in the gym after mass.*

1. February 2

19. February 9

20. February 16 \*\**Feb. 20*, *Sun., Gr. 5,6,2 lead the 8:00 AM Youth* Mass*\*\**

21 February 23 *(2nd grade Parent Session #2 “Presence” 6:00 -7:00 PM in St. Aloysius Hall-Church Basement)*

22. March 2 (Ash Wednesday Mass together at 6:30)

*Saturday, March 5th: First Communion Retreat, 8:00 to Noon (beginning with mass). A parent/s must attend with child* *\*\*March 6th, Sun., Confirmation Students Kind. & 1st Gr. lead the 10:30 AM Youth Mass\*\**

23. March 9(Stations of the Cross 6:30-7:00 PM)

**Spring break – no class March 16th**

24. March 23 *(2nd grade Parent Session #3 “Presence” 6:00-7:00 PM in St. Aloysius Hall-Church Basement) \*\*March 27th, Sun., Veritas Students (Post Confirmation Students) & 8th Gr. Lead the 10:30 AM Youth Mass\*\**

25. March 30(Confession, Gr. 2-9)

26. April 6

27. April 13

28. April 20

29. April 27

*First Communion Rehearsal: Sat, April 30th, 9-10:30AM, a parent/grandparent must attend with child) and are all are encouraged to attend mass at 8:00AM (before rehearsal/confession).*

***First Holy Communion May 1st at 10:30 AM Mass (pictures begin at 9:15)***

30. May 4 Last Class(Family Gathering/Recognition Awards/Dinner)

**Religious Education Schedule 2021-22**

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church Sauk City, WI 53583

**Confirmation students (Gr. 9)**

1. September 8, Wed. (6:00-7:00PM)
2. September 15, Wed. (6:00-8:00PM)

**Sept. 15th Meeting for parents with students in Confirmation class, 6:00 – 8:00 PM Parents must attend. (church basement)**

1. September 22, Wed. (6:00 – 8:00 PM)

*\*\*Sept. 26th, Sunday, Confirmation class, 5th & 6th Gr. lead the 10:30 AM Youth Mass\*\**

1. September 29, Wed, (6:00 -8:00 PM)
2. October 10 (Sunday) (6:00 -8:00 PM) Potential Sponsors & parents must attend with Student to the first Sunday night
3. October 13, Wed. (***6:00-7:00 PM***) Bonfire Rosary lead by Confirmation students
4. October 20, Wed. (6:00 – 8:00 PM) *\*\*Oct. 24th, Sunday, Confirmation Class, Kindergarten & 1st Graders lead the 8:00AM Youth Mass\**

*6:8 SPAH Food Pack event Oct. 28-30th*

*High Schoolers encouraged to participate*

*Nov. 1st All Saints Day (Attend Mass)*

1. November 3, Wed. (6:00 – 8:00 PM)
2. November 10, Wed. (6:00 -8:00PM)
3. November 14 (Sunday) (6:00 – 8:00 PM) Sponsors must attend with student
4. November 17 (6:00 -8:00PM) “Circle of Grace” Safe Environment for students
5. December 1, Wed. **(*6:00 – 7:30 PM*)**

**\* \*Note time change going forward\*\***

*\*\*Dec. 5th, Sunday, Confirmation Class & 2nd Graders lead the 10:30AM Youth Mass\**

1. December 8, Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM) *\*\*Dec. 8th -Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation\*\**
2. December 15, Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM) (Confession)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

1. January 5, 2022 Wed. 2021 (6:00 -7:30 PM)
2. January 9, (Sunday) (6:00 -8:00 PM) Sponsors must attend with student
3. January 19, Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM)
4. January 23 (Sunday) (6:00 – 8:00)Sponsors must attend with Student

*One on one interviews with the Candidate & Fr. Miguel should take place the month of February to schedule visit: Divine Mercy Parish website under “contact us” tab*

1. February 2 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM) Frassati Fest Feb. 4-6, 2022 offered **for grades 9-12 (optional but highly recommended)**
2. February 9 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM)
3. February 16 Wed. (6:00-7:30PM) Class & Ash Wednesday Mass
4. February 20 (Sunday) (6:00 – 8:00)Sponsors must attend with Student
5. March 2 Wed. (6:00-7:30PM) (Ash Wednesday Mass 6:30 PM) *\*\*March 6th, Sun., Confirmation Class, Kind. & 1st Gr. Lead the 10:30 AM Youth Mass\*\**
6. March 9 Wed. (6:00-7:30) Stations of the Cross 6:30-7:00

***Confirmation Retreat at Camp Gray DTBD***

**Spring Break~No Class March 16th**

1. March 23 Wed. (6:00-7:30PM)
2. March 27 (Sunday) (6:00 -8:00 PM)

*One on one interviews with the Candidate & Fr. Miguel should take place before April 10th. Please schedule your appointment at* <https://www.divinemercy-parish.org/contact-us>

1. March 30 Wed. (6:00-7:30PM) (Confession)
2. April 6 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30PM) )

**April 12th 7:30 PM (Tuesday)Chrism Mass for all grades @ St. Maria Goretti, 5313 Flad Ave., Madison. Confirmation families encouraged to attend one of these masses before Confirmation** (Maybe teachers could attend this mass with the students instead of having class on April 13th.)

1. April 13 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM) Holy Week

**Easter April 17, 2022**

1. April 20 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM)
2. April 27 Wed. (6:00 – 7:30 PM)
3. May 4 Wed. (6:00-7:30PM) **Last Class** *Confirmation Rehearsal/Confession DTBD will be for 1.5 hours*

C*onfirmation Ceremony DTBD*