

St. Gabriel and St. Francis Xavier PSR

September 1, 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year of Parish Religious Education (PSR). Like all other aspects of our lives today we will encounter some different procedures due to the pandemic. However, with your help and God's blessings, we feel confident that working together we will help our children grow in their understanding and appreciation of our Catholic faith into which they have been baptized.

We believe that God is part of our everyday life and concerned about the challenges we all face. We believe too that both adults and children are invited to find comfort and meaning in all of life's events through our relationship with God and our life of prayer. Let us, through PSR, help you as the primary educators of your children, to share our faith.

The Plan for Opening

This year we are planning to hold *both* in-person classes on Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 AM. following the directives listed in this packet, as well as streaming the class online for those who are ill or uncomfortable being present. You will be contacted to determine your choice for classes—in person, or a combination of both. Your child's catechist or aide will reach out to you in the near future to gather this as well as contact information (email addresses). They will give you the class code for your child/children so that they will be able to join their class online when/if necessary. I realize this is a new challenge for many of us but I am confident we can all master the skills necessary!

The Calendar

We will begin classes on **Sunday, October 4** for both in person and online learning at 9 AM. Here is the calendar for the remainder of 2020. Specific notifications will be shared if/when they become scheduled.

October

Oct. 4
Oct. 11
Oct. 18
Oct. 25 – NO Class

November

Nov. 1
Nov. 8
Nov. 15
Nov. 22
Nov. 29 - NO Class
Thanksgiving

December

Dec. 6
Dec. 13 –Parent Mtg/Rec.
Dec. 20
Dec. 27 – NO Class
Christmas

Directives for Opening

Please read carefully the enclosed sheet with the directives. We will be strictly following these guidelines as laid out by the CDC, our governor, the bishop and our parish. Please help us keep each other safe and healthy so we can continue to live life as normal as possible!

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Kindergarten and NEW Registrations

If you have a child entering Kindergarten, or will have a student **new** to our PSR program, please call Linda Shaw at 330.495.6395 as soon as possible to register. If you have any friends or neighbors that would need this information please pass it along as well so that we can have enough materials for everyone who will be joining us. Thank you!

Sacraments

Children in Grade 2 preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist this year will try to meet most regularly in person since much of their preparation is hands-on. Due to COVID 19, Confirmation preparation will be delayed until next year but students are reminded that two years of preparation for this sacrament is *required* so regular attendance this year is very important for those in Grades 6,7,and 8.



Help Needed

We are in still in need of Catechists/Aides for the classroom. If you feel called to this ministry and could help the children of our parish family *please* call Linda Shaw at 330.495.6350. for more information as soon as possible!

Conclusion

This year we face many new challenges but that also means that we face many new opportunities! Let's put our heads and our hearts together trusting in God's loving presence that we can bring about many good things, with and for, all of our families and children. Before us is the potential of a year of exciting new things that we can learn and share. The possibilities are endless and are only limited if we allow our fear of growth and change to keep us from stretching. I invite you to catch our enthusiasm and share it in your family! God is doing great things among us, despite this virus, and this is our chance to make a lasting difference in our own lives and the lives of our children. Let us allow God to fan the burning ember of our faith! Let us then see our faith grow and flourish within our hearts, within our families, within our parish, within our community and ultimately within the world! YOU are invited! Come! Join us!

Prayerfully,

Linda Shaw
Director of Faith
Development

Michele Fescemyer
PSR Co-Director

Karla Bolanz
PSR Co-Director

Fr. Victor Cinson
Pastor

PSR Opening Directives

Opening date for PSR – Sunday, October 4, 2020

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Learning Options Available

1. In person format on Sunday mornings from 9 AM-10:15 AM
2. Online Learning option for families who choose not to send their child to PSR. The online format we'll be through Google Classroom. Students who choose the online option are welcome to come to the in person sessions on any Sunday.
3. If, in the future we are directed to close due to the virus, all PSR sessions will be conducted online.
4. A parent of any student opting for the Online Learning Model needs to contact Michele Fescamyer at 330.771.0442 no later than Wednesday, September 16.

Face Coverings

All students from K-Grade 8 will be required to wear face coverings - cloth masks, when entering, exiting, or moving around the building; while working directly with staff; while working with other students and when directed to do so by a staff member.

All Catechists and Aides are required to wear face coverings.

Disposable masks will be available for anyone needing one.

Health Checks

Parents are expected to perform a health check each morning before coming to PSR. Please ensure that your child is feeling well and not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms. Students with temperatures over 100 degrees or who exhibit any other symptoms are expected to stay home.

If a child is showing any symptoms at PSR the student will be sent home immediately and only allowed to return after being symptom-free for 72 hours without medication.

Parents are expected to inform us as soon as possible if your child has been diagnosed with, or has come in to close contact with, Covid-19 so that appropriate measures can be taken to protect others in there classroom and environment.

Food and Drink

Snacks will no longer be served during PSR. NO shared classroom treats will be permitted. Your child/children may bring a water bottle to class, as drinking fountains will be closed.

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Cleaning

Classrooms and high-touch areas, such as door handles, hand rails, toilets and sinks, will be sanitized before and after classes are held.

Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and children will be encouraged to use it especially when moving around the classroom or using materials.

Student should have their own supplies of pens, pencils, markers and whatever else is necessary to limit sharing of materials. Catechists/Aides will formulate a list that is needed for each class.

Physical Distancing

Students and catechists/aides will be spaced at least 6 feet apart as much as possible.

Arrival and Dismissal

- **Arrival-** students are asked to arrive by 8:55 AM so that classes can begin at 9 AM promptly. **Students should enter the building and go directly to their classroom area and take their seat. There should be no congregating** in the gathering space, classroom area, restrooms, or any other space. Doors will be propped open where possible to avoid touching these surfaces.
- **Dismissal** – students will be dismissed at 10:15 AM. Those attending Mass at 10:30 AM should go directly to the church and be seated. If leaving the premises, parents should meet them outside to avoid as much gathering and contact as possible. **We ask parents or older siblings to come to the classroom to pick up students in kindergarten through Grade 4.** We still are extremely concerned about protecting the safety of each child as they are in our care. With diligence and paying attention to our surroundings we can hopefully do both things at once for while maintaining safe practices during this unprecedented time.

** Special Note: Please be aware that we have had to make some classroom changes in order to comply with the physical distancing that is necessary. Note the signs both in the Gathering Space and the Common Area in the learning center.