

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2019-2020

Parents are, through the witness of their lives , the first heralds of
the Gospel for their children...

by passing on the Faith through the family,
“parents become fully parents”.

Familiaris Consortio 39



**“How precious is the family as the privileged
place for transmitting the Faith!”**

Pope Francis

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer! Amen.
(Taken from the *Instrumentum Laboris*)



“The family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world; it is the leaven of society.”

Pope Francis, October 27, 2013



SALVATION HISTORY

Salvation history is the story of God’s plan of love and mercy beginning with creation and ending in eternal life. Students will see their own story of life as part of God’s story. They will see that Jesus Christ is not only the center of salvation history, but the center of their lives. Students will come to know and love Jesus Christ and his Church. They learn that the Church and the sacraments are a precious gift from God to help them in their journey to heaven. Through an understanding of salvation history students will come to know not only what the Church teaches, but why. Salvation history is the key to understanding doctrine, the liturgy and the key to understanding life.



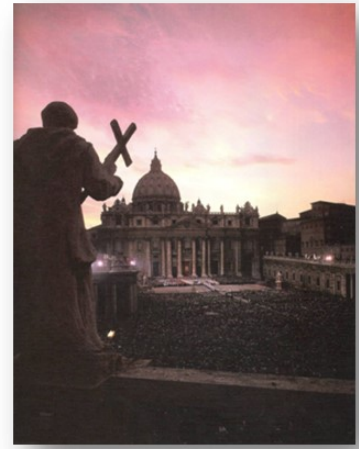
THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life...For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.” CCC 1324

The curriculum at St. John’s focuses on God’s saving plan of love and mercy which culminates in his gift of himself, the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

THE FAMILY

Pope Francis stated “how precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the Faith!” At St. John the Baptist PSR, we will equip families to transmit the faith through various activities. Through prayer, reinforcement of what students have learned, life application, and specific activities to live out their faith, families will share their faith together and increase their Catholic identity.



PARENTS AS THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

“By virtue of their ministry of educating, parents are, through the witness of their lives, the first heralds of the Gospel for their children. Furthermore, by praying with their children, by reading the word of God with them and by introducing them deeply through Christian initiation into the Body of Christ-both the Eucharistic and the ecclesial Body-**they become fully parents**, in that they are begetters not only of bodily life but also of the life that through the Spirit's renewal flows from the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.”

Familiaris Consortio 39

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones."³¹ Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2223*

WAYS TO GUIDE YOUR CHILDREN TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH:

As primary educators of your children's faith, guide your children to:

- Pray daily.
- Consistently attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- See that PSR classes are a priority in your family schedule...not sports.
- Have consistent attendance and arrive promptly. Classes begin promptly at 6:30 PM.
- Students complete all assignments that your catechist assigns.
- Students are memorizing their Catholic prayers...see Prayer Honor Roll.
- Prepare for worthy reception of the Eucharist by fasting one hour before receiving Holy Communion.
- Be reverent in church.
- Attend all parent meetings and other activities. See calendar. Check: sjgpsr.org for updates.
- If possible, please volunteer to help in the PSR program.

WELCOME to Saint John the Baptist Parish School of Religion for the 2019-2020 school year.

CLASS TIME: Wednesdays 6:30—7:45 PM. Students should arrive no earlier than 6:15 PM unless a parent is on site to supervise. Doors will be locked promptly at 6:30 PM. All parents are requested to join in prayer and a brief presentation on various topics involving our faith with your child(ren) at the end of class in church at approximately 7:30, so class can be dismissed at 7:45 PM from church.

SAFETY: For your children's safety please comply with the traffic regulations. Students K through grade 2 must be accompanied by an adult into the school. Please park in the designated area, not in the line of drop-off traffic. All other students must be **dropped off** at the front entrance to the school door no earlier than 6:15 pm. All students must be **picked up** in the parking lot in front of church. Since dismissal means crossing Gildehaus Road, it is strongly recommended that you join us in church for prayer and a presentation at 7:30 so you can safely escort your children across Gildehaus Road. We request cars wait until dismissed prior to leaving for student safety.

ATTENDANCE: Students are required to attend all scheduled PSR classes and events. All absences should be excused, that is, absent because of sickness or unusual circumstances. Please let your child's teacher know via their email: first initial last name @sjgpsr.org (e.g. aweber@sjgpsr.org). If classes are missed, students are still expected to complete all class assignments. If students miss more than 2 classes that are not excused, students and their parent(s) may be asked to discuss the reason(s). Please speak with Adam Weber with these types of conflicts. *Please notify Adam Weber if there are any unusual family circumstances that may affect attendance. Sports practice teams do not constitute an excused absence

ASSIGNMENTS: Weekly assignments consist of the activity book for grades 1-7 and the student book (grade 8), and participation in the Prayer Honor Roll. Parents are expected to be involved in the faith formation of their children. The catechist may also assign other assignments.

FAMILY GUIDE: Each week students may be asked to share in class what follow up activity they did as a family as assigned by their catechist. Please keep family prayers and faith sharing as a priority in your families! Remember...YOU are the primary educators of your children.

BOOKS: Each child in grades 1-7 will receive an Activity Guide that is designed to supplement each chapter of the Faith and Life books. Any Faith and Life book (exclusive of the Activity Guide) not returned or deemed unusable will have to pay a fee of \$15.00 per book.

SACRAMENT PARENTS: Grade 2 (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) and Grade 8 (Confirmation)

- Baptismal certificates of students must be on file. It must be provided if the Baptism was not at St. John's.
- Sacramental preparation at St. John's is a 2 year process.
 - First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion Preparation: 1st and 2nd Grade
 - Confirmation Preparation: 7th and 8th Grade
- Parents are required to attend Sacrament Parent meetings. Students must complete all assignments.
- Students are expected to attend any and all retreats.

THANK YOU for entrusting St. John's Parish School of Religion in the faith formation of your children. We appreciate your support. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Prayer Honor Roll

Students will receive a prayer booklet containing the prayers of the Prayer Honor Roll (PHR). This booklet is also available online at: sjgpsr.org under "Forms". This is a series of age appropriate prayers and other articles of doctrine (such as the Ten Commandments) for each grade level. In Sacramental years, it is required that students know all of their prayers based on their grade level. All students are expected to participate.

How it works:

Each week, an available adult will hear students who are ready to recite a prayer(s) as a **Prayer Honor Roll Volunteer**. Students must recite prayers from start to finish from memory. Adult volunteers will hear prayers individually outside of the classroom. Adult volunteers will not be available to hear prayers on weeks of special events such as Mass or Confessions etc.

Students should learn their prayers at home as part of their family prayers. Catechists may also use these prayers as part of PSR class. When a student has mastered all of the prayers designated for their grade level, he or she will be included on the "Prayer Honor Roll". The names of these students will be published in the bulletin. Each student who completes the Prayer Honor Roll will also receive a certificate.

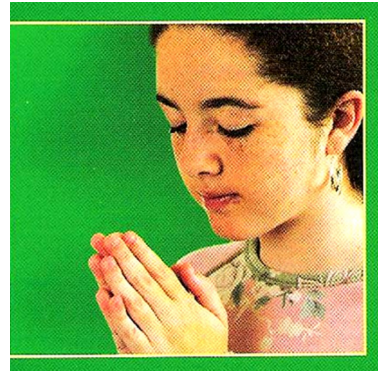
****All prayers must be memorized by Wednesday, April 15, 2020 to be eligible for the Prayer Honor Roll.**

If you have any questions, or would like to be an adult volunteer to hear prayers, please call/text Adam Weber at 314-330-0599 or email aweber@sjgpsr.org

Prayers for the Prayer Honor Roll

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Our Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Glory Be
5. Prayer Before Meals (traditional)
6. Prayer to My Guardian Angel
7. Act of Contrition
8. Seven Sacraments
9. Ten Commandments
10. Apostle's Creed
11. Prayer to St. Michael
12. Explain how to pray the Rosary
13. Mysteries of the Rosary
14. The Beatitudes
15. Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
16. Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Bonus: All grades (for Honors) Hail, Holy Queen;
Fatima Prayer; Rosary Prayer; and, Memorare



Each grade is responsible for the following prayers:

Kindergarten:	#1 thru 3
Grade <u>1</u> :	#1 thru 5
Grade <u>2</u> :	#1 thru 7
Grade <u>3</u> :	#1 thru 9
Grade <u>4</u> :	#1 thru 11
Grade <u>5</u> :	#1 thru 12
Grade <u>6</u> :	#1 thru 14
Grade <u>7</u> :	# 1 thru 15
Grade <u>8</u> :	# 1 thru 16

VOLUNTEERS

All parents or other guardians are invited to participate in one or more of the following volunteer positions: (please fill out form) Your parish needs you! Your PSR needs you!

- Prayer Honor Roll Parent/Class: Once a week, hear memorized prayers and log in prayers on chart.
- Activity Support: BBQ—end of year.
- Substitute Catechist: substitute for classes. (All you need is to have completed Protecting God's Children workshop. Plans will be provided by the regular catechist.)
- Office Assistant: Maintain and file information requested by CRE (Coordinator of Religious Education)



DISCIPLINE

Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This commitment includes student acknowledgement and acceptance of their responsibility for their conduct and actions on church and school property, in and out of the classroom, and in their demonstration of respect for the rights and property of others.

Normal PSR class discipline issues will be handled by the catechist. If an issue becomes a persistent problem, the student will be referred to the CRE at which time a phone call or conference with the parent may be initiated. If the problem occurs again, the pastor will be notified. Further disciplinary action could include a parent conference with the pastor or dismissal from the classroom program.

Behavior causing disciplinary actions include any behavior, actions, or words that are in opposition to Christian values. These include but are not limited to: disrespect to any adult, a catechist, or other student; abusive or foul language, fighting, vandalism, stealing, cheating, inappropriate physical conduct, leaving parish, school, or site of activity before appropriate dismissal time or to leave the absence of a responsible adult. Students are expected to respect others and all school and parish property. No use or possession of illegal substances is permitted. (See "Search & Seizure Policy" form.)

Additional regulations: Cell phones or electronic devices are allowed as by the catechist. (See "Acceptable Use Policy" form.) If the catechist has requested they not be seen or heard and the student does not comply, the device may be taken during the class period. No gum. All dress must exemplify Christian values. No symbols on clothing that is in opposition to Christian beliefs and values. No drawing on black or white boards unless asked by your catechist. NO roller blades or skateboards.

THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS FOR DISCUSSING DISCIPLINARY EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

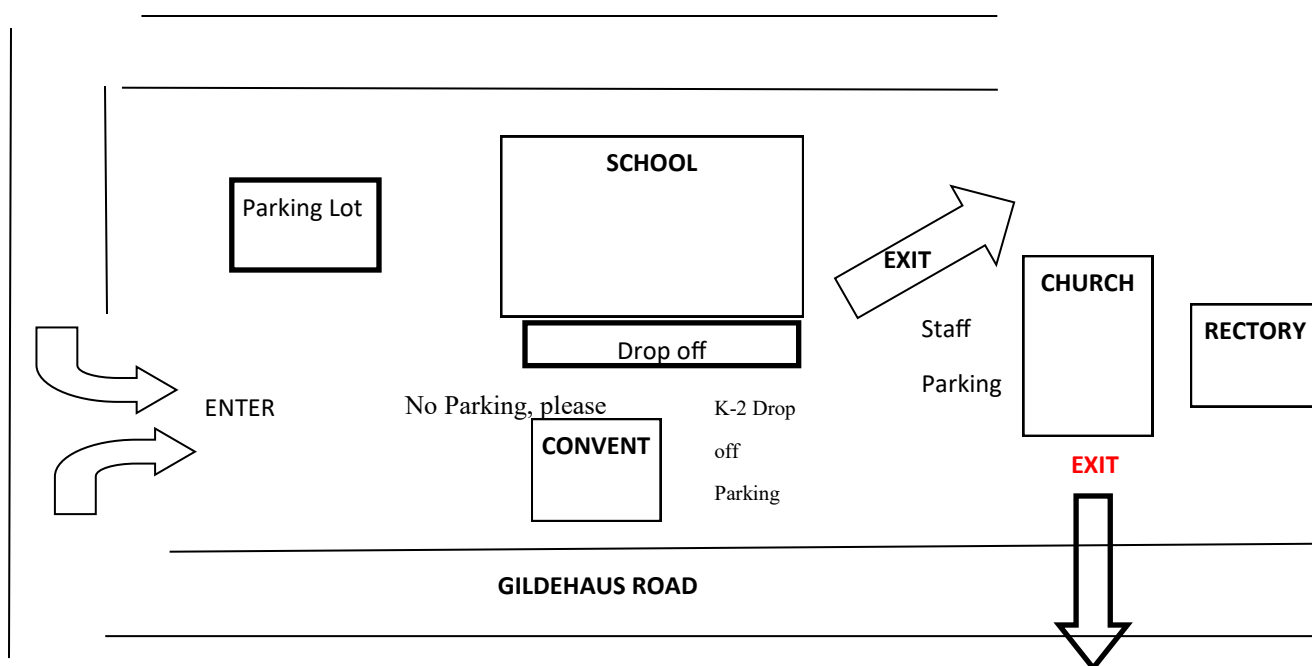
WEATHER

If Washington School District cancels school due to bad weather, St. John PSR classes may be canceled also (exceptions apply). Please listen to KLPW (101.7) FM, channels 2/4/5 local news for cancellation announcements. Questions? Call or text Adam Weber 314-330-0599 or email: aweber@sjgpsr.org or call Joan Knight (day school secretary) 314-520-6495. Messages and/or phone calls may also be sent via School Messenger. Please complete the School Messenger form.

DROP OFF Grades 3-8: PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE FRONT DOOR TO SCHOOL AND PICK UP IN CHURCH.

Grades K-2: PLEASE ENTER THE PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AND WALK YOUR CHILD(REN) INTO THE BUILDING.

STUDENTS K THROUGH GRADE 2 MUST BE PICKED UP IN CHURCH.



***** Since crossing Gildehaus Road, please use caution and cross with your child and leave only when dismissed by designated adult teacher/leader**

Please park with headlights towards Gildehaus Road (so cars don't have to back out of spaces)



CONTACT INFORMATION

Adam Weber	314-330-0599	aweber@sjgpsr.org
School Office	636-583-2392	
Emergency Number	636-583-2392 EXT 22	
Father Foy	636-583-2488	fathertimfoy@gmail.com

Checklist: (Please return forms by **Sept 25th, 2019**)

Please make sure all applicable forms are checked and attached.

- PSR Emergency Information Card (Required)
- School Messenger Form (Required)
- Media Authorization Form (Required)
- Physician Consent for Medication Administration * _____ N/A
- Parental Consent for Medication Administration to their Child * ___ N/A
- Parental Consent for Student to Administer Dose Inhaler * ___ N/A
- Witness Statement (Required)
- Volunteer Availability Form (Required)
- Other Disciplinary Policies (Required)

Name of Parent (please print)

Signature of Parent

Date: _____

* Optional