

## About St. Joseph PSR

St. Joseph PSR (Parish School of Religion) is a religious education program for children from preschool/ kindergarten through the eighth grade. Our curriculum and policies are determined by the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Religious Education and locally by our Pastor in conjunction with the Pastoral Council. The program is administered by the Director of Religious Education with the help of parish volunteers.

## Our Philosophy

*Catechesis* is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.\*

Our Faith is not a private affair. Faith is a discipline that is continually altered, shaped and deepened through its practice within our Catholic community and beyond. All students, out of necessity, must grow in the knowledge of Catholicism, in the love of Christ, and in the life of the Church. Catechesis enables students to become adult Catholics rather than adults with primary notions about the Church and our Faith.

The Church community and family unit must work together in the endeavor of catechizing our children, supporting one another and respecting everyone involved.

## Our Program

The policies and information contained in this handbook have the sole purpose of moving us closer to our common goal of a truly well-formed Christian Community, which includes people of all ages. Our program offers a variety of opportunities for the students to grow, including formal religious and sacramental instruction, planning and participating in communal prayer experiences and parish and community-based service projects.

The task of St. Joseph PSR is to help the individual to think and act as Jesus did. As our students become young adults and enter society, it is our hope that their faith and witness will help to bring about a more just, peaceful and loving world.

## 2017-18 Catechists

Our program is fortunate to have adult volunteers from our parish community who are committed to sharing their faith with our children.

- Grade 8: Ruth Skodocpole and Dan Safko
- Grade 7: Don Englehart
- Grade 6: Tom Smith and Joe Duriak
- Grade 5: Barb Colin
- Grade 4: Lonn and Debbie Safko
- Grade 3: Kathy Greenwald
- Grade 2: Kathy Maretka and Jan Herman
- Grade 1: Shannon Lesnak
- PreK-K: Barb Kasubick, Tina Pagano and Eileen Haney

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\*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 5 (quoting John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation Catechesi tradendae* 18)

## Basic Concepts of the Curriculum

PreK-K	To develop a positive sense of self worth and Christian attitudes.
Grade 1	God loves me, Creation, Jesus, the holy Roman Catholic Church, Baptism
Grade 2	Reconciliation and First Eucharist
Grade 3	The Church, Catholic Saints and Traditions
Grade 4	The Beatitudes and the Commandments, Altar Serving
Grade 5	The Sacraments & the Liturgical Seasons, Stations of the Cross
Grade 6	The Old Testament, Rosary
Grade 7-8	The New Testament: Prepare students for Confirmation: Social justice actions and life skills.

In addition to the curricular offerings, students and families regularly participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist during Sunday Mass. Students and families are also encouraged to participate in community service projects that are organized throughout the school year.

## Registration and Fees

Kindergarten - Children who are not yet in school or attend preschool are welcome to register for the Kindergarten class.

Grades 1-8 St. Joseph Parish students who attend public schools are expected to attend PSR classes each year until their Confirmation is completed. **New students may enroll at any time by contacting the Religious Education Office 330-274-2268.**

**Enrollment** for new PSR students begins the first week of August and continues until the Friday before Opening Day. If your child was baptized somewhere other than St. Joseph Church, a copy of his/her baptismal certificate is required.

**Registration** for ALL PSR students will be held on the Opening Day of PSR beginning at 9:30am in Hughes Hall.

The fee for PSR is \$30 per child, up to \$80 per family. This fee is due at the beginning of the year, but no later than October 25<sup>th</sup>. The fee is used to defray the cost of weekly Gospel pages, workbooks and other educational materials.

There is a \$25 additional fee Sacramental Instruction: First Reconciliation, First Communion (only one fee for both if taken together in the same year) & Confirmation.

Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Church and include on the envelope the child's name and grade.

Individuals having difficulty with fees should contact the Director of Religious Education to make arrangements. Inability to pay the fee will not exclude or negatively affect any student. **No child will be kept from PSR class because of an inability to pay.**

## Fundraising

St. Joseph PSR fundraises to defray programming costs of activities like the Christmas Pageant, Winter Games, Confirmation Retreat, Jesus Day and other special events. Additionally, individual classes may do fundraising for the missions or special projects. This year we will be participating in 3 fundraising programs as a school:

**Garden Club Craft Fair** - Contact Peg Haney for more information 330-274-2268.

**Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast** – Contact Peg Haney for more information 330-274-2268

# Basic Responsibilities of Students

At St. Joseph's PSR, students will:

- \* Attend classes regularly.
- \* Be prompt.
- \* Attend Mass regularly.
- \* Participate fully.
- \* Complete all assignments, both inside and outside of class.
- \* Conduct themselves in a Christian manner.
- \* Exhibit Christian manner towards fellow students and catechists.
- \* Demonstrate understanding of the content presented during the school year.

# Basic Responsibilities of Parents

Parents of St. Joseph's PSR students will:

- \* Attend Mass with your children regularly.
- \* Regularly participate at the Eucharist.
- \* Make certain your children are prompt to PSR classes.
- \* Nurture a prayer life in their home.
- \* Get involved in parish activities.
- \* Strive to live daily by gospel values.
- \* Volunteer for PSR or Children's Liturgy of the Word.

# Code of Conduct

- \* If a child causes disruption during class, the catechist will meet with the child after class to discuss his/her behavior.
- \* If the disruption occurs again, the child will be sent to the DRE for resolution.
- \* If the disruption occurs again, a conference with the parents will be requested.
- \* Disrespectful behavior of any kind toward other students or teachers will not be tolerated.
- \* Replacement for any damage done by a student to the building, general facilities, or materials is the responsibility of the students and/or parent/guardian.
- \* Chewing gum is prohibited in the building.
- \* Hats-ball caps are not to be worn in the school or the church.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word is designed for PSR students in grades preK-K through 2 to help them better understand the Sunday readings and the homily on their own level. This weekly offering heightens the liturgical experience for children but is not a substitution for regular attendance at Mass. CLOW activities will begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the 11:15am Mass.

***Volunteers are needed for this program. If you are a parent of a regular participant in CLOW, please consider helping us by volunteering to lead a CLOW session. Training and materials are provided.***

Any one who is interested in volunteering for this program may contact Peg Haney at (330) 274-2268 or [phaney@stjosephmantua.com](mailto:phaney@stjosephmantua.com).

# Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

PSR classes are offered in between the 8:30am & 11:15am Masses. The actual class times are from 9:40 – 11am.

## Arrival

DO NOT ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 9:30am

All children from grades pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are to be delivered to their classrooms accompanied by a parent or sibling. If an adult catechist or aide isn't present, please wait until one arrives.

All children from grades 2-8 who attend 8:30am Mass may proceed directly to their classroom.

All children from grades 2 – 8 may arrive after 9:30am, being dropped off at the school entrance nearest the church. A catechist and/or aide will be on hand to greet the children and direct them to their rooms.

## Dismissal

All children from Grades pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are to be picked up in their classrooms by a parent or sibling after the 11am dismissal time.

All children from grades 2 – 8 are to be met by a parent or sibling in the St. Joseph School Main Hallway after the 11am dismissal time.

### **NEW!!! Stay and Pray Program**

Most of our students like to stay for the Mass, especially after studying the Sunday Gospel and learning about Mass during PSR. This year, we will be offering a program that will enable the students to do just that. **Stay and Pray** is a program for PSR children who would like to stay for 11:15 Mass, but are unable to do so because of parental and other family commitments. More information on how to participate is included in the back of the handbook.

## Communication

- \* The PSR Office is open on Tuesday through Thursday 11am – 7pm and Friday 9am – 4pm. You can call the office anytime at (330) 274-2268.
- \* The entire 2017-18 PSR schedule may also be found on the St. Joseph Parish Website: [www.stjosephmantua.com](http://www.stjosephmantua.com).
- \* At the beginning of each month, you will receive an **updated monthly calendar** of PSR and Parish activities. Please check this calendar to check for any revised dates.
- \* You will receive regular e-mail announcements regarding events, schedule changes, calendar reminders and activities that you can do with your children at home. Please make sure that your e-mail is up to date in our records.
- \* You can also look for the latest information on **Facebook**. Please like us on Facebook (St. Joseph Parish, Mantua, OH) and get the latest news about PSR and your parish.
- \* If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail Peg Haney, 330-274-2268 or [phaney@stjosephmantua.com](mailto:phaney@stjosephmantua.com). Please be aware that there is no secretary during the week. I may be in the building, but away from the phone. If you are calling, be sure to leave a message.

# Sacramental Education

## Sacrament Dates

### FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion Parent Meeting	October 15th, 9:45-11am, Hughes Hall
First Communion Parent Meeting	November 19th, 9:45-11am, Hughes Hall
First Reconciliation Rehearsal	January 14th, 10-11am, Church
First Reconciliation	January 23rd, 2018 @ 6:30pm, St. Joseph Church
First Communion Parents	March 18th, 9:45-11am, Hughes Hall
Jesus Day	April 21, 9:30am-1pm, Hughes Hall, Church
<b>First Communion</b>	<b>May 6th, 2018 @ 11:15 Mass</b>
May Crowning date	May 8, 2016@ 11:15 Mass

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Parents Meeting	October 1st, 9:45-11am, Hughes Hall
Confirmation Blessing of Bibles	October 22nd, 2017 @ 11:15 Mass
Confirmation Sponsor Meeting**	November 19th, 9:45-11am, All Purpose Room
Confirmation Retreat	January 28th, 1-6pm (Includes 5pm Mass), Parish Center
Confirmation Rehearsal	March 4th , 9:45-11am, Church
<b>Sacrament of Confirmation</b>	<b>March 10th, 2018 @ St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown</b>
Recognition of Confirmands	March 11, 11:15 Mass, Church

\*\* For Candidates and sponsors only

Parents of children in **grade 2** are required to attend parent meetings to reacquaint themselves with the sacraments and help them to catechize their child in preparation for these sacraments. After attending classes, parents work one on one in association with the PSR program to prepare their child for the celebrations of the First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Children will participate in our annual May Crowning held the week after First Communion.

Parents and sponsors of children in **Grade 8** are required to attend special meetings to facilitate efforts to catechize their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Both parents and sponsors will work one on one with the Candidates in addition to the time spent in class. Confirmation candidates will be presented to the congregation for the Rite of Election on Sunday, October 22nd at the 11:15am Mass, will make reconciliation before Confirmation, attend a Confirmation Retreat and perform regular community service throughout the year.

The Diocese of Youngstown requires that any child receiving sacraments will have completed one year of our PSR program, one year of PSR elsewhere, or attended a Catholic school during the year **for one year prior** to entering sacramental instruction.

**All activities related to Sacramental Education are included on the PSR calendar.**

# Sacramental Education for Adults

## RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a series of classes for teens and adults interested in either joining or completing their sacraments in the Catholic Faith. These classes are held throughout the year on Sundays beginning on September 17th at 9:45am in the Parish Center.

Our parish also offers an adaptation of RCIA for unbaptized children who have obtained the age of reason and are of catechetical age (approximately 7 yrs. old). Anyone interested in this program may contact Sr. Joyce Schreiber, SND at the parish office 330-274-2253 or [jschreiber@stjosephmanta.com](mailto:jschreiber@stjosephmanta.com).

## Adult Confirmation

For any baptized Catholic adult who has made First Communion but has never been confirmed. 4 sessions at St. Joseph. Confirmation at St. Columba Cathedral with Bishop Murry in November.

### **When You Thought I Wasn't Looking by David Walls**

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another one.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I saw you feed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I saw you make my favorite cake just for me, and I knew that little things are special things.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I heard you say a prayer and I believed there is a God I could always talk to.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I felt you kiss me goodnight, and I felt loved.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.*

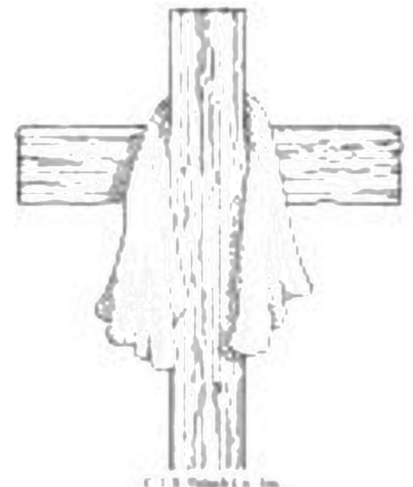
*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I saw that you care, I wanted to be everything that I could be.*

*When you thought I wasn't looking,*

*I looked....and wanted to say thanks for all the things I saw when  
you thought I wasn't looking.*

*Do they see Christ when you think they aren't looking?*





## Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation Programs

Fall 2017

**New Rosary Prayer Group** - Thursday mornings after 8am Mass

**Bible Study** – Beginning on September 12th, Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30am in the Parish Center

**Book Study** – Beginning on September 19th, Tuesday afternoons from 1:30-3pm in the Parish Center

**Seasons of Hope**—Grief Ministry meets beginning on Wednesday, September 29th from 2-3:30pm in Church

**On Care for our Common Home** - Beginning on Monday, September 25 from 1:30-3pm in Parish Center

## Stay and Pray

The staff of PSR wants to make it possible for all children in our program to attend Mass on a regular basis. Most of our lessons are based on the weekly Mass readings and on the sense of community we experience when we pray together with our family and our friends.

To that end, we are beginning the Stay and Pray program. The program provides group seating and chaperones for students who want to attend the 11:15am Mass on PSR days when their parents can't. Essentially, this expands the PSR morning from 9:40 – 11am, to 9:40am – 12:15pm. Students participating in Stay and Pray will go from class to church and will be dismissed from the narthex at the end of Mass.

To participate in Stay and Pray you simply:

Fill out the form on the following page.

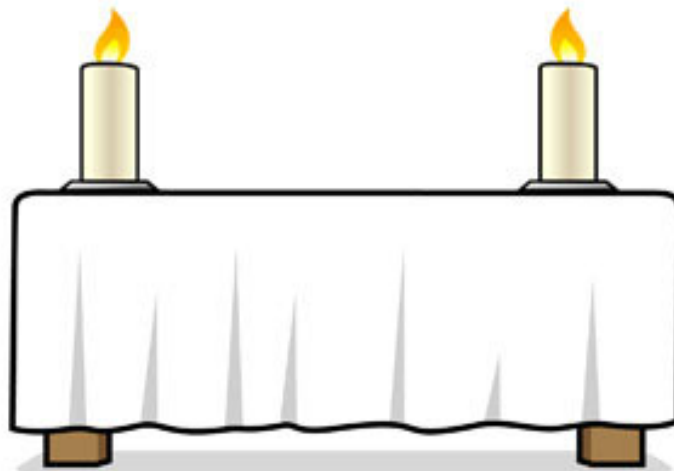
Have your student submit the form to his/her teacher at the beginning of PSR.

You can also e-mail on or in advance of the day(s) you want your student to stay for Mass at [phaney@stjosephmantua.com](mailto:phaney@stjosephmantua.com)

Drop off your student at PSR at the usual time.

Pick up your student in the church narthex after 11:15 Mass (approx. 12:15pm)

On the busy Sundays when you find yourself splitting up kids and adults to meet commitments, or if you have to work, or whatever, please consider giving this a try. We're happy to help! If you have any questions, please contact me at my office (330) 274-2268 or by e-mail at [phaney@stjosephmantua.com](mailto:phaney@stjosephmantua.com)





# Stay and Pray Permission Forms

Name of Student (s):	Date:
Will be joining the Stay and Pray program at 11:15 Mass today. I will be picking up my child in the church narthex at the conclusion of Mass (approximately 12:15). All PSR Conduct policies apply.	
Parent Signature:	

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## NOTES