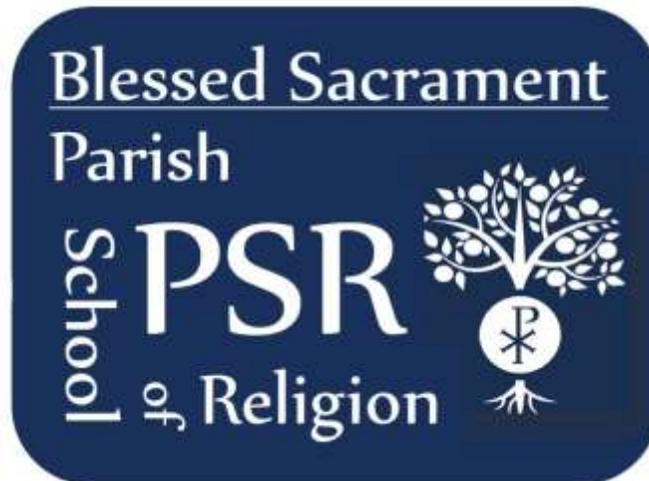


Blessed Sacrament Handbook 2019-2020



Welcome to Blessed Sacrament PSR!



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PARISH WEBSITE: www.bscky.org We're also on Facebook. Join BSC PSR Parents FB group
PARISH APP: My Parish App in the App Store or use the link on our website.

Mission Statement

The Blessed Sacrament Parish School of Religion assists families in the faith formation of their children, in partnership with the parish school, through a process of integrated, comprehensive, holistic, and intergenerational prayer, catechesis, and evangelization.

Time and Place

PSR meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month.

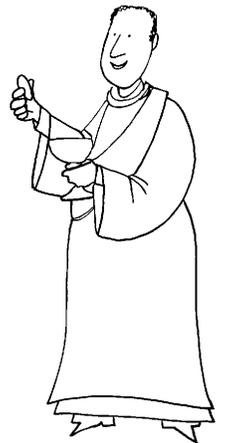
August - May, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

(unless otherwise noted in the calendar - page 9).

We meet in the church and begin with a prayer service or Liturgy of the Word with Communion, led by Deacon Bayne or Deacon Fortner. Parents and the greater parish community are encouraged to join in these celebrations of our faith.

Children then proceed with their catechists to the school building for instruction.

Parents may pick up their children in the school cafeteria at 8:00 p.m. NOTE: To help catechists keep track of children, the cafeteria doors remain locked until all the children are at their tables in the cafeteria. Children must be signed out at their tables unless we have written permission to let them walk home. See safety and security procedures below.



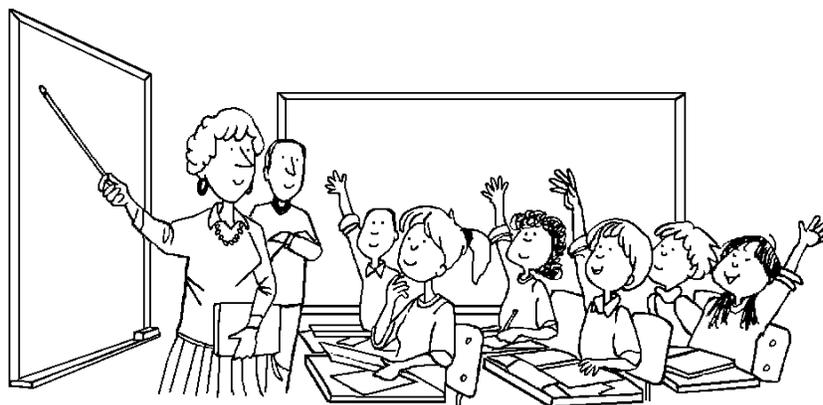
Safety and Security

- The safety of our children is our first priority. We ask that parents notify us in advance if your child/ren will be absent. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, we will call you after the session begins to verify that you are aware that your child is absent. You can streamline this procedure and save us a lot of phone calls if you notify us in advance.
- We will take attendance in church. This means that children will need to sit with their classes or check in with their teachers before going to sit with a parent. Parents are still welcome to sit with several children of different grade levels. We ask only that you arrive a few minutes before 6:00, so you won't disrupt the prayer service while checking in with multiple teachers. It will be your responsibility to make sure that your children get back with their class groups before you leave.

- If your child ever arrives after the prayer service is over and the classes have gone into the school, please bring him or her to the front door of the school - the one closest to the church - and press the buzzer to the left of the door. We will have someone in the school office who will be able to respond to the buzzer and release the door lock. If they don't answer immediately, they may be on the phone. Wait a minute and try again. Please bring your child directly to the school office once you are in the building. Attendance folders will already be there, and we will need to check your child in on the folder and give him or her an admission slip so the teacher will admit your child to the classroom.
- Students will have to be checked out by parents at the cafeteria tables before they may leave at the end of the evening. We will dismiss the children from the classrooms to the cafeteria at 7:55 p.m. Tables will be marked with grade levels, and children may be signed out at the tables marked for their grades. Note: In order to avoid confusion, we will not admit parents to the cafeteria until all the children are at their places.
- If you wish your child to walk home after each session, please indicate that on the registration form. If this is a one-time-only occasion, we will need a written note from you at the beginning of the evening.
- If you wish to pick your child up early for some reason, you will have to go to the school office to sign out your child. You may come to the front door closest to the church and press the buzzer to be admitted.

Catechists

Each PSR class is instructed by a professional school teacher or team of catechists led by a professional teacher. We value each of our catechists, professional and volunteer, for their ministry, their personal witness of faith, and their stewardship of the gifts and talents with which each has been blessed. Please keep them in your prayers as they strive to bring the Good News of Jesus to our children.



Parents

"Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instruction. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others, and their practice of frequent and spontaneous prayer, all make meaningful their professions of belief."

Sharing the Light of Faith

National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



The bishops of the United States tell us that: "Though the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children."

For this reason, our PSR is specifically designed to minister to and with parents as they strive to fulfill their important mission of bringing up their children in the Catholic faith.

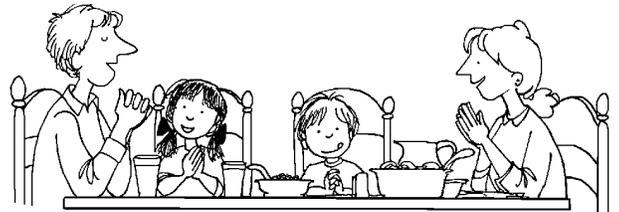
We encourage families to make use of **FORMED.org** by opening a free account with the parish pass code: **150485**. You will find films, e-books, and more for adults, kids, and family movie nights. Check it out!

Adult faith formation opportunities and community-building events are offered by the parish throughout the year. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in order to develop their own spirituality, to demonstrate to their children the importance they place on growing in wisdom and grace before God, to better equip themselves for their continuing mission as their children's primary catechists, and to enjoy the fellowship of the parish community.

All parents are expected to take an active role in maintaining the quality of our PSR. Parents may do this in a variety of ways: assisting with service projects, participating in the work of the parent club, helping in the office on a PSR night, etc. Many hands make light work, and teamwork helps ensure high quality without overburdening anyone.

Parents are expected to give example to their children of their own commitment to the Catholic faith by attending Sunday mass, taking part in adult faith formation opportunities, demonstrating compassion for others, and being good stewards of God's blessings of time, talent, and treasure. Faith development is much more than by-weekly instruction in religious doctrine. While we must be informed of the teachings of the Church, we must also be formed in the likeness of Christ through frequent prayer, reception of sacraments, and daily living of the Gospel message.

Children learn best when they can connect their catechesis to their everyday lives. By making the Catholic faith part of the daily life and decision-making of the family, parents provide the vital link between what we do in PSR and how the children actually live their lives, now and in the future.



Children



Regular participation of all registered children is vital to the life of our PSR community. Participation includes taking an active part in prayer and learning, opening the heart and mind to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and demonstrating respect for everyone.

In order to avoid disruption of prayer, it's expected that participants will be in their places in the church by 6:00 p.m. Those who are late are asked to enter and take places with their class groups as quietly as possible.

If a child is ill or cannot attend for a very good reason, parents are asked to notify the Office of Religious Formation in advance of the evening's session and to contact their child's teacher to arrange a means for making up the missed material.

We meet only twice a month, and each meeting is a "double session." We cover a lot of material each time. Children who miss more than 1 session without making up the work or more than 4 sessions, even if the work is made up, are likely to fall behind and feel lost if they go on to the next grade level the following year. It's very important to us that no child suffer the awkward experience of feeling lost and uncomfortable in our classes. For this reason, these children may be required to take a written assessment in the summer. Results will be given to parents, and it will be up to them to help their children catch up and learn what is needed in order to make a smooth transition to the next level.

Much time and love goes into the preparation of each catechetical experience that we provide. As we would not ignore an invitation to a party, or leave without expressing gratitude, so we must teach our children the proper response to God's invitation to spend time getting to know him better, and to demonstrate courtesy towards those who facilitate these sessions.

Proper Attire

Children are expected to come to PSR in attire that promotes the virtue of modesty and respects Christian values. Clothing that is not permitted includes: items carrying messages that are derogatory or suggestive, short shorts, halter tops or shirts exposing bare midriiffs, etc. Parents will be notified immediately and asked to bring proper clothing for children who aren't appropriately dressed. If no one can bring proper attire right away, the child will have to remain out of class in the Office. Children are responsible for making up work missed while they're out of class because of inappropriate dress.



Behavior Policy

Respect, courtesy, and Christian charity are essential elements of our PSR environment, and so we've established basic behavioral guidelines:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other electronic devices should not be used during PSR. If they are used or misused in a manner disruptive of our PSR formation sessions, they will be confiscated and returned to a parent or guardian at the end of the evening.

Catechists will send rude, disrespectful, or disruptive children to the DRE who will kindly remind them of the importance of respect in the PSR community. The DRE will notify parents of children sent to the office a second time and ask them to pick up their children immediately. Children sent to the DRE a third time will not be admitted to a classroom again for one month without a parent or guardian chaperone. Children sent to the DRE after such a chaperoned month will not be admitted back in the program without a chaperone for the rest of the year.

Some parents may be inconvenienced by this policy, but it's our hope that they will see this as an investment in the future of their children and know that our PSR community respects their willingness to be firm and loving parents.

Our goal is to work together to protect the dignity of all the members of our PSR community, to help all of our children grow in their ability to treat others with Christian charity and respect, and to maintain an environment conducive to quality Catholic formation.



Sacramental Policy

Because preparation for the celebration of a sacrament begins long before the year in which the celebration actually takes place, our children are expected to have a minimum of one year of formal faith formation **prior** to the year in which they plan to celebrate a sacrament.

Parents must provide a copy of the child's Baptismal certificate for the Office of Religious Formation (Bless Center) no later than one month prior to celebration of a sacrament.

During the year of a sacramental celebration, parents are expected to attend all parent meetings, and children are expected to attend all children's meetings, retreats, etc. listed on the sacramental calendar. These opportunities are provided in order to prepare whole families for full, active, and conscious participation in the community's sacramental celebration.



Faith and Service

If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:16-17

As followers of Jesus, we recognize that the differences that separate one community from another are illusions. We are all one in Christ. Where there are differences and separations, we must build bridges. It all begins with awareness.

While many public schools require "community service hours," they don't make a connection between service and faith. We Catholics see the interconnectedness of all that we do: What we believe is what we pray; what we pray is how we live; how we live is what we believe. We cannot be fully formed in our faith without this interconnectedness.

For this reason, each PSR class engages in one "Service and Stewardship" project each year. The PSR community is engaged in choosing and executing the project. We seek, in the process, to raise awareness of the needs of others, to develop solidarity with those in need, to understand the role of stewardship of our gifts in addressing the needs of the community, to integrate this knowledge and take compassionate action, and to prayerfully reflect upon the experience in light of Catholic Social Doctrine. **Parental support is essential to this process.** Parents will receive information regarding the year's project and how they can offer assistance.



Child Protection Training



Please be aware that all employees and adult volunteers participating in activities involving children must be trained and in compliance with the safe environment program in the Diocese of Covington.

To be in compliance, you must:

- receive the diocesan policies and procedures manual and sign the Acceptance Form
- submit information for a background check and be cleared for work with children
- register online at www.virtus.org to sign up for a training class and complete the workshop
- consistently read the monthly on-line bulletins or modules

By submitting to the background check, you support the policy that ensures that this procedure is followed by all adults working with children in the parish. By accepting the training, you increase your awareness of the signs of child abuse and the steps that can be taken to prevent it, making yourself one more knowledgeable member of our safe environment team. By reading the monthly on-line bulletins, you

continue to stay sharp and vigilant on behalf of children's safety and you develop skills that will enable you to provide a safer environment for your own children and all the children in our community.

We're grateful to all the adults who have taken the time to become the protective eyes and ears of our parish on behalf of our children.

PSR Parent Club

One of our program's finest assets is our Parent Club. This ad-hoc group of caring parents meets a few times each year to plan special enrichment opportunities, including the annual Advent Fair which is open to the whole parish, and the Eye Witness Stations of the Cross in Lent. All parents and grandparents of PSR children are welcome and encouraged to get involved in large or small ways in the worthwhile activities of the club. It's a great way to meet other parents in the parish who care about the religious formation of their children, as well as a way to collaborate in planning special events that are fun for all. For more information or to be put in touch with the PSR Parent Club, please contact the Office of Religious Formation.



PSR 2019/2020 CALENDAR

First Semester

Sun.	Aug.	11	Catechetical Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Mass. All catechists to attend.
Mon.	Aug.	26	6:00 p.m. PSR Begins, Family Mass, Parents accompany their children
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>9</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. Note: All PSR sessions begin in the Church
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>23</u>	Class 6 - 8 p.m.
Thur	Sept	26	Confirmation Parent & Candidate Night , 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Church.
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>14</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
Thur	Oct.	17	First Reconciliation Parent Night , 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Undercroft, (parents only) .
Sun.	Oct.	20	2nd Grade – Bulb Planting, 10:45 a.m. Meet in front of Blee Center
Thur	Oct.	24	Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Night , 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Church.
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>28</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
Thur	Nov.	7	First Reconciliation Retreat, 2nd Graders & Parents , 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Church.
Sun.	Nov.	10	Ministry Fair in Undercroft after all masses
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>11</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>25</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (Evaluations to Catechists)
Sun.	Dec.	1	Advent Begins. Advent Fair, 10:30a.m – 12:30p.m., Undercroft.
Tue.	Dec.	10	First Reconciliation : PSR 6:15 p.m., Church.
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>16</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (Evaluations due from Catechists)
Mon.	Dec.	30	No Classes – Christmas Break

Second Semester

<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>13</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>27</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (Safe environment training will use part of the session)
Thur	Feb.	6	First Eucharist Parent Meeting , 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., UC, (parents only) .
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>10</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (ACRE Testing for Grades 5 & 8)
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>24</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>23</u>	Confirmation Retreat 11 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Undercroft – Candidates only (Sponsors invited for mass and lunch (the first 2 hours or so).
Wed	Feb.	26	Ash Wednesday-Lent begins. Mass & distribution of ashes at 7:00pm.
Fri.	Feb.	28	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
Fri.	Mar.	6	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>9</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
Fri.	Mar.	13	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
<u>Fri.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>20</u>	ALL CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK & FEE DUE
Fri.	Mar.	20	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>23</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m.
Thur	Mar.	26	First Eucharist Retreat, 2nd Graders & Parents , 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Church
Fri.	Mar.	27	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
Fri.	Apr.	3	Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>6</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (Evaluations to Catechists)
Fri.	Apr.	10	Good Friday Way of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church
Sun.	Apr.	12	Happy Easter!!
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>20</u>	Class 6 – 8 p.m. (Evaluations due from Catechists)
Mon	Apr	20	Confirmation Candidate Practice & Reconciliation , 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Church
Tues	Apr.	21	Confirmation 7:00 p.m.; meet in Undercroft at 6:00 p.m.
Thur	Apr.	23	1st Communion Parent/Child Practice and Group & Individual Pictures - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., PSR & 2A, meet in the Undercroft. Children should dress as they will for First Eucharist.
Sun.	Apr.	26	First Communion , 1:30 p.m., Church (meet in Undercroft at 1:00 p.m.).
Sun.	May	10	Parish May Crowning, 11:30 mass
<u>Mon.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>11</u>	Closing Family Mass 6 p.m., Church; Closing Ceremonies, Parents accompany their children
Mon.	June	22	through Fri., June 26 -- Vacation Bible School