

Blessed Sacrament Church



Handbook 2020-2021

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.

PSR is Adapting to the Pandemic

Please read the handbook carefully. There are a number of changes from previous years.

Hello, PSR Families:

New PSR protocols are being put in place in order to keep our Parish School of Religion accessible in the coming year. It is our goal to help you meet your family's formation needs while keeping children, teachers, and families safe.

PSR will be using a format that combines virtual learning and in-person meetings. We know that after a day in school, wearing masks and following the public schools' safety protocols, doing the same at PSR will be exhausting for the children as well as the teachers. In addition, our school is establishing a policy of extensive sanitizing of all classrooms, restrooms, stairwells, hallways, etc. after dismissal each day, and we would have to repeat all that after each PSR session. We think a more practical solution is shorter, **weekly sessions**, most of which will be held online.

PSR is scheduled for **every Monday**, excluding holidays, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Teachers are being asked to meet with their classes via Zoom, Skype, or other meeting app during this time. We realize that families may not have as many devices as they have children. Some families may have to alternate weeks or even let kids take turns dropping in on their groups part of the time each week. We do encourage families to create a routine by setting aside this time period each week specifically for PSR: to check in, work on assignments, get feedback from catechists, or ask questions, etc.

On the **first Monday** of each month, we will hold a prayer service in church, followed by a general PSR session that is appropriate for all ages. Parents are encouraged to join us. The general lessons will cover seasonal topics like the liturgical calendar, forms of prayer, saints, etc. These evenings will allow us to remain a community joined in prayer. They also will provide an opportunity for teachers to hand out materials for the next month, collect papers, answer questions, and offer support as needed.

We will be using a digital textbook this year. The diocese has switched to a new series, **Spirit of Truth** from the Sophia Institute. The online edition contains games, puzzles, and other interactive materials to keep children engaged in learning.

If the pandemic situation changes and we can resume in-person classes at some point during the year, we will do that. Meanwhile, parents will have the guidance and expertise of our teachers every step of the way.

We ask that parents and children come to the orientation on August 24th to meet teachers and find out what apps and procedures each teacher will be using. See calendar – page 5 – for more details on this.

Thank you for your cooperation. The safety of your children is our primary concern.

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 virtually every Monday, except holidays,
Late August - May, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. In-person prayer and catechesis will be in church on the first Monday of each month - unless it is a holiday.

Catechists

- A professional schoolteacher and/or certified catechist instructs each PSR class.
- Catechists will work with parents and children using online and in-person sessions.
- 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.

Parent - Catechist Partnership

Parents and Catechists are Partners in Forming Children in the Faith



- The safety of our children is our first priority.
- PSR will meet in person only on the first Monday of each month, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. in church. We will have prayer and a short catechetical session that is appropriate for all ages.
- Teachers who have materials to hand out or collect for the month will do so at that time.
- Parents who have questions may ask them at that time.
- Teachers will also be available to parents via email. This will truly be a partnership.
- Parents are encouraged to join the **Facebook BSC PSR Parents group**. This will enable families to share fellowship, ideas, and support.

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 (Blees 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.

Extracurricular Activities

It is unlikely that we will be able to have our usual Advent Fair, Living Stations of the Cross, and other enriching activities this year. However, we will do what we can to keep the children connected with the community.

Blessed Sacrament Church PSR 2020 / 2021

PSR Sessions are every Monday, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. unless otherwise noted below.

Note: All scheduled activities are tentative and subject to change.

Aug	23	Catechetical Sunday – Blessing of Catechists at 11:00 Mass
	24	PSR orientation in Undercroft – Grades 1-3 @ 6:00, grades 4-6 @ 6:30, grades 7-8 @ 7:00 p.m. Parents and children can meet catechists, learn about the online materials we will use, ask questions, pick up any materials catechists wish you to have, etc. This is an important orientation.
Sept	7	Labor Day – No PSR
	14	Weekly Sessions Begin
	24	Confirmation Candidate/Parent Night – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in church. All candidates with a parent
Oct	5	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	13	Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Night – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in church. All candidates with sponsors Canceled
	15	First Reconciliation Parent Night – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in undercroft. Gr 2, Parents only Canceled
	25	2nd Grade Bulb Planting – 10:00 a.m. on the lawn between church and school Rescheduled Oct 12
Nov	2	All Souls Day – Online PSR
	9	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	12	First Reconciliation Retreat – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in church. Gr 2 Children accompanied by a parent
	22	Advent Fair – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the undercroft
Dec	7	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	10	First Reconciliation – 6:15 – 9:00 p.m. in church. Gr 2
	28	Christmas Break – No PSR
Jan	4	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	11	Safe Environment Training
Feb	1	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	4	First Holy Communion Parent Night – 6:00 – 7:00 in the undercroft. Gr 2, <u>Parents only</u>
	17	Ash Wednesday
March	1	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	25	First Holy Communion Retreat – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in church. Gr 2 Children accompanied by a parent
April	4	Easter Sunday
	5	Easter Monday – No PSR
	22	First Holy Communion Practice and Pics – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gr. 2 (PSR families meet in church first)
	24	First Holy Communion – 4:00 p.m. Mass Gr. 2
May	3	PSR In-Person Prayer and Catechesis
	9	May Crowning – 9:00 a.m. Mass in church
	24	PSR Family Mass and Closing Ice Cream Social – 6:00 p.m. in church

