

Blessed Sacrament



Handbook 2022-2023

Welcome to
Blessed Sacrament PSR!



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PARISH WEBSITE: www.bscky.org (Formation/Children's Formation)

PARISH APP: search myparish in the App Store or download at myparishapp.com

Mission Statement

The Blessed Sacrament Parish School of Religion assists families in the faith formation of their children, 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.

Late August – May, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

(unless otherwise noted in the calendar – page 7).

All sessions begin in the church. On the first session of each month, we begin with Liturgy of the Word with Communion, led by one of our deacons. Parents are encouraged to join in these celebrations of our faith.

The second session of each month will begin with a short prayer service only, allowing more classroom time. 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. Children must be signed out 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 the DRE in advance if your child/ren will be absent**: rthomas@bscky.org. Please include the child's full name and grade when you notify us.
- **Students will have to be checked out by parents at the cafeteria tables before they may leave** at the end of the evening. **The cafeteria will remain locked until dismissal.**
- **If you wish your child to walk home after each session, please submit a written notice to that effect.**
- **If you wish to pick up your child 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.

Attendance Policy

Please read carefully. This policy is new in 2022-2023.

Our program is uniquely designed for busy families. We meet only twice a month (16 sessions total, plus family opening and closing masses). Each session is equivalent to two sessions in most other parishes. Our teachers are professionals who plan lessons carefully in order to cover all the material in just 16 sessions. It is very disruptive to this special process to have children frequently arriving late, leaving early, or missing several classes altogether. In order to maintain the quality that families expect of our program and show respect for our teachers and regular attendees, we ask that families who cannot maintain our unique schedule consistently contact us in advance to make arrangements to cover missed material at home through our homeschool process. Children **MUST** make up missed work in order to keep up with our classes. ***Please see homeschool information below.***

Homeschool Information

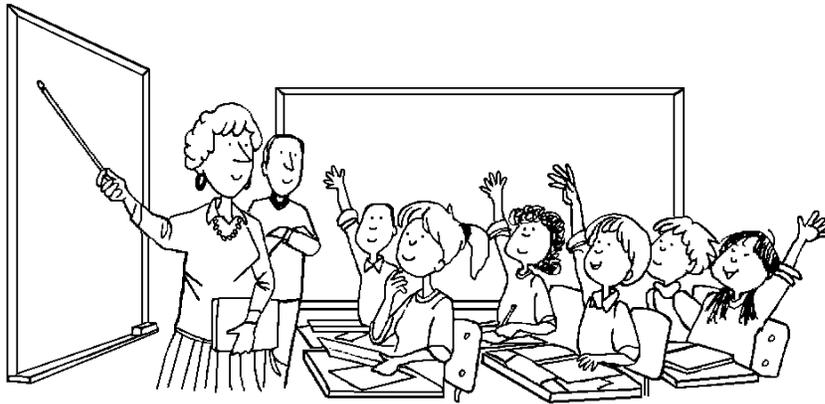
Whether your child misses one class due to illness or other unforeseen circumstance, several sessions due to scheduling conflicts, or you wish to homeschool an entire year, our Homeschool Plan will help you keep your child on track with his or her PSR class, enabling him or her to re-enter the class with confidence. Everyone will benefit from making sure the whole class is always on the same page.

We have worked with the publishers of our religion texts in order to make teaching materials available to parents online when needed. For full details, see our “Homeschool Policy” on our website: bscky.org.

Thank you for understanding the importance of keeping up with our PSR double-session program and helping us maintain excellent catechesis for all our children.

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

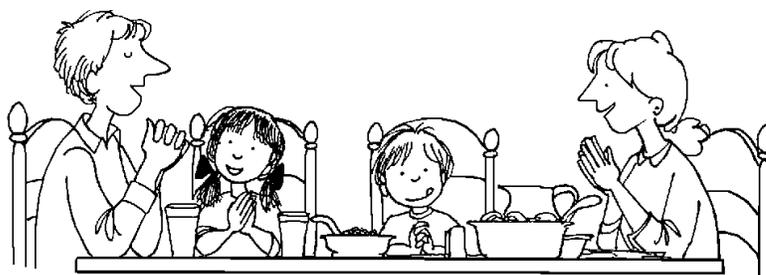
The bishops of the United States tell us that: “Though the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children.”

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.

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 our annual service project, helping to coordinate the Advent Fair, taking a turn helping in the office on PSR nights, assisting with the year-end ice cream social, etc.

Parents are expected to give example to their children of their own commitment to the Catholic faith by participating regularly at Sunday (or Saturday evening) mass with their children, taking part in adult faith formation opportunities, demonstrating compassion for others, and being good stewards of God’s blessings of time, talent, and treasure.

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.



Behavior Policy

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

Cell phones and other electronic devices that become disruptive of our PSR formation sessions will be confiscated and returned to a parent or guardian at the end of the evening.

Children who disrupt their class or behave rudely will be sent to the DRE who will decide whether or not to contact parents and ask them to pick up their children immediately. Children sent to the DRE after having been sent home once already during the year 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 occurs, 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 the beginning of the year in which their children will celebrate 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 calendars. 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

Each PSR class engages in one "Faith and Service" 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 current 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.

Welcome to Our PSR Community.



Blessed Sacrament Church PSR 2022 / 2023

PSR Sessions are 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted below:

Aug	22	PSR Family Mass and orientation – 6:00 p.m. in church. Parents accompany children
Sept	12	PSR Session
	26	PSR Session
Oct	10	PSR Session
	24	PSR Session
Nov	14	PSR Session
	28	PSR Session
Dec	12	PSR Session
	26	Christmas Break – No PSR
Jan	9	PSR Session
	23	PSR Session
Feb	13	PSR Session
	27	PSR Session
March	13	PSR Session
	27	PSR Session
April	17	PSR Session (<i>Note: this is a third Monday</i>)
	24	PSR Session
May	8	PSR Session
	22	PSR Family Mass and Closing Ice Cream Social – 6:00 p.m. in church. Parents accompany children

