

Our Lady of the Valley PSR/CCD – Policy Handbook

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General Information

- **PSR Classes:** 9:45-10:45 AM (Sundays, according to the PSR program calendar)
- **Religious Education Office:** Tues.-Thurs., 8 AM – 4 PM; Fri., 8 AM – 12 N

Program Mission Statement

In teaching our students, all of our catechists strive to:

- Work closely with families to echo the Word of God
- Strengthen each child's friendship with Jesus Christ
- Draw deeper into the sacramental life of the Church
- Actively seek ways to share the love which God first gives us with others, especially with those in need.



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Sunday Mass Participation



"The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life."

(CCC, paragraph 2177)

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that parents are the "first teachers of the faith" to their children. It is our primary responsibility as parents to see that our children are taught the basic truths which Our Lord Jesus Christ handed on to his faithful followers, when He established his Church here on earth. You are to be congratulated! The promises you made, on your child's behalf at Baptism are now being fulfilled, as they come each Sunday to Mass and for further religious instruction here. Student participation in PSR is great, but it is no substitute for family participation in Sunday Mass.

Child Safety Policies

Your child's safety is very important to us. Students, in grades 4K-2, should be dropped off and picked up from the classroom by a parent or guardian. In order for your child to leave class early, you must first communicate your intentions with the catechist, either in person or by sending a note.

Child Safety Policies continued

Food and drink will occasionally be served during our PSR class time. Our program volunteers will refrain from using foods which contain common allergens. If your child has any food allergies, please note this on your PSR registration form.

As a part of diocesan Youth Protection policy, all volunteers consent to a background check and attend Youth Protection training. Students are also briefly introduced to safety procedures through short, age-appropriate "Safe Environment" lessons each year. Materials are available to view on the Diocese of Birmingham website or by request in the PSR office.

Registration Policy

Registration for PSR classes will begin in April for the next year. Registration fees are required to cover the cost of textbooks and other classroom supplies. Families who register late may experience a delay in receiving their textbooks. In case of financial difficulties, please speak with the Director of Religious Education. No child will be kept from participating in our religious education programs because of financial difficulties.

Attendance Policy

For a student to receive the full benefit of our PSR program, regular attendance is crucial. Our textbook series and religious education standards build on one another – from one lesson to the next, one year to the next. If your child has missed out on periods of time in our PSR, please contact the Director of Religious Education so that our office may work more closely with your family. If a child must be absent from class, please notify the catechist or our Office. If a student is habitually absent from class, the DRE will reach out to the parents to determine how we might better serve the faith formation needs of the child.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, classes may be dismissed early or cancelled. If Shelby County area schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, we will automatically cancel our classes. On Sunday mornings, we will try our best to make a decision about classes by 9:00 am. Please make sure that you have on file a cellphone number that receives text and a valid email address, as this is how we will notify you.

Classroom Discipline Policy

Catechists will attempt to correct any disruptive behavior that occurs in their classrooms by clearly communicating behavioral expectations with the students and parents. If persistent disruptive behavior occurs, the catechist or staff will contact the parents to resolve the issue. Each child's religious education is of great importance to us. Any necessary corrective action will be intended for the good of the affected child and for the entire class.

