

**Parish Partners for PSR**  
**Saint Joseph, Immaculate Heart of Mary,**  
**Saint Anthony, Blessed Trinity**

# **FAMILY PSR HANDBOOK**

## **2025-2026**



## **Parish Partners for PSR Staff and Pastors**

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Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

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*“Through Christ all education, within the family and outside of it, becomes part of God's own saving pedagogy, which is addressed to individuals and families and culminates in the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. The "heart" of our redemption is the starting point of every process of Christian education, which is likewise always an education to a full humanity. Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents. In the sphere of education, the Church has a specific role to play...it can be said that it is not only a matter of entrusting the Church with the person's religious and moral education, but of promoting the entire process of the person's education "together with" the Church. The family is called to carry out its task of education in the Church, thus sharing in her life and mission.”*

- From Letter to Families Pope John Paul II, n.16

February 22, 1994

As members of the Lord's Body here on earth, all of us play an important role in the faith formation of our children. While the primary responsibility is in the hands of the parents, the Parish Partners for Catholic Education Parish School of Religion program is here to assist you in every way possible to ensure that your children have every opportunity to grow to a mature faith in God, and an understanding of our Catholic faith.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Saint Joseph, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blessed Trinity, and St. Anthony Parishes have joined together to form *Parish Partners for Catholic Education Parish School of Religion*. This PSR program will work to assist parents in their role as the primary educators of faith for their children. As we catechize the children of our Parishes in the Gospel Message and the truths of our Catholic faith, we offer opportunities for full, active participation through prayer, Word, Sacrament, and service to help them grow in faith and in their relationship with God.

## Family PSR Class Dates and Times

This option is a home-based model. Families will gather monthly for Family PSR formation sessions (whole family welcome!). Dates for Family PSR Sessions at St. Joseph are on the calendar. At the monthly sessions families will receive new formation materials to use with their children and complete at home. Each child in grades K-8 will complete a review/reflection page which is turned in at the following month's session. Registration is limited to 25 families.

**Please see [www.saintjoe.org/psr](http://www.saintjoe.org/psr) for calendar and dates.**

### Registration, Tuition and Fees

1. New and Returning Family Information, registration, Handbooks, and payment information is available online at <https://www.saintjoe.org/psr>.
2. Registration will not be accepted at the door on the first day of Family PSR, at any other Family PSR sessions, or at any *Faith! Family! Fun!* event. Please register before attending.
3. Tuition for Family PSR is \$75 per child, due by August 15th. Every child is entitled to a religious education; if these fees impose a hardship, ***please contact your Parish Pastor.***

**Please Note: Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation is separate from PSR. Registration forms and fees are processed separately from PSR. Please contact your home parish for information about Sacramental Preparation.**

### Cancellation of Family PSR

During the winter months, Family PSR Sessions held on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation will be held as long as St. Joseph Parish is open for Mass. **Should Family PSR need to be canceled on other days of the week or for other reasons, an email will be sent out.**

### Family Sessions, Materials for Home

- 1) Family will attend Monthly "Family PSR" Sessions together. All members of the family are invited to attend (younger older siblings, grandparents, etc).
- 2) After the completion of each Family PSR Session, families will receive Catechetical Materials to review and use with their grades K-8 children at home. These materials will be the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. Parents will turn in the Weekly Review sheets, **1 Weekly Review Sheet per child per Gospel Weekly, at the next Family PSR Session.**

## Absences, End of the Year Report

- 1) While the Gospel Weeklies are completed at home, consistent attendance at Family Sessions is required for full completion of the program.
- 2) If illness or an emergency should arise, parents should call or text the **PSR Office Phone @ 234-237-1834** or email the Pastoral Associate to inform us if your family will be absent. We encourage you to attend an additional *F!F!F!* event should your family miss a monthly session.
- 3) End of the year Reports will be mailed home at the end of the year for all PSR Students. It will show attendance records and offer an evaluation of your child's completion of the weekly reviews for the religious education curriculum for their grade level. If your student did not fully complete the school year, this will not in any way affect your child's ability to participate in the next grade level of PSR. Your student will enroll in the next grade level in the fall. Failure to complete the requirements will be taken into consideration when a child is preparing for certain Sacraments to determine if additional catechesis and formation is necessary.

## Expectations and Discipline

Expectations and regulations throughout the building are established to provide for the safety of each individual and family. In Family PSR, though not a traditional classroom setting, exceptions and guidelines must still be set so all families participating will:

### **EXPECTATION #1 - Be Prepared**

Be prepared for class - body, mind, and soul.

### **EXPECTATION #2 - Show Respect**

Show respect at all times, by being polite and courteous. Respect the human dignity, personal space, and property of other families and St. Joseph's. Inappropriate behavior including but not limited to inappropriate displays of affection, offensive language, bullying and disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.

### **EXPECTATION #3 - Be Focused**

Follow directions. Stay on task. Cooperate with family members, other families and St. Joseph Parish Staff and volunteers. Remember why we are here - to learn together, pray together and "be Christ" to one another.

### **EXPECTATION #4 - Be Safe**

We walk (not run), we speak in a conversational voice (no yelling), and we honor the space and rights of others. All members of families must stay together during all sessions.

### **EXPECTATION #5 - Think "What Would Jesus Do?"**

Jesus teaches us to be loving, caring, and forgiving. Our daily actions, both in and outside our sessions, should reflect seeing Christ in other people and respecting their dignity.

## Prohibited Items and Weapons Policy

Music Players, radios, iPods or any other such item with or without a headset, cameras, laser pointers, electronic games and all toys are not permitted unless it is part of a class project, approved by the teacher. Cell phones are not permitted to be on or used during class time. At no time should anyone possess, use, transmit, display, handle, or conceal an object that can be classified as a weapon or dangerous instrument. Also, no one shall possess, use, transmit, dispel, handle, or conceal an object that can be considered a look-a-like weapon or dangerous instrument that may be disruptive to education. Violation of this policy will result in the notification of law enforcement.

## Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol Policy

The use, concealment, transfer, sale, possession, or buying of any controlled substance, tobacco, drug or alcohol will result in an immediate conference with the catechist or student's parents. If a child is to use a prescribed drug for the treatment of asthma, allergies or medical condition, this should be brought with parents. With the exception of a life-or-death emergency, no child should self-medicate themselves while at PSR. Failure to follow this policy will result in an immediate conference with parents and in some cases a call to law enforcement.

## Communication

This handbook outlines the basic policies and procedures of our Family PSR program. Please note that other important communications and updates will need to get to you throughout the year. Communication will be sent via email as well as posted on the St. Joseph website. Please make sure you list an email address that you check regularly on your registration. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about any information in this handbook, or any information that you receive during the year, please contact the Pastoral Associate. You can also text the **PSR Office Phone @ 234-237-1834**

## Permission to Photograph/Emergency Medical Form

By granting permission to photograph your child(ren), please note that photographs could be used in future displays and/or parish publications. You may indicate your choice on the Emergency Medical form. Students must have an emergency medical form filled out by a Parent or Guardian before attending PSR.

## VIRTUS

VIRTUS training/fingerprinting/volunteer registration form and standards of conduct form are mandatory for volunteers 18 and older. Every catechist in our *Parish Partners* complies with the Virtus requirements set forth by the Diocese of Cleveland. These requirements include a Virtus Training program, both FBI and BCI Background checks,

reading required bulletins, and signing both the Conduct of Ministry Form Rev. 2016 and Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse: Rev. 2016.

Please contact Pastoral Associate, Jessica Plaspohl about scheduling a training session or go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and register for a training session at a convenient place and time.

## **Empowering God's Children™**

Empowering God's Children® (EGC) is a program to effectively communicate safety guidelines and principles to all children in all grades. It assists parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers in giving children and young people the increased awareness, empowerment, and knowledge they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them. It teaches them about boundaries, how to recognize boundary violations, how to respond to persons who violate their boundaries, and how to report such violations to parents, family members, and other trusted adults. The sessions are taught in the Catholic schools, in parish religious education classes, and in youth ministry sessions.

As a parent, you have the option of requesting that your child not participate in the above program. Please contact the PSR Office for an "Opt-Out" form if you do not want your child to participate in the EGC program or if you have any questions.

## **Role of Parents, Involvement and Support of PSR Program**

Our Family PSR program is designed to supplement what is being taught in the home, not to take its place. Parents, as their child(ren)'s first and primary educators, are vital for nurturing their faith. As cooperative participants in the program, parents should:

- Be registered members of a *Parish Partners* church or a nearby parish.
- Attend Mass with their child(ren) on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Teach their child(ren) the traditional prayers of the church.
- Bring their child(ren) to class on time every Family PSR Session.
- Fully participate in Family PSR Sessions with child(ren).
- Maintain an open line of communication with PSR Office.