

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We want you to know how much our catechetical staff has missed all the children and their activities as part of their PSR classes last year. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated staff. This past year has helped all of us to see just how important it is to adjust to these challenging times and seek new ways of teaching and communicating our Catholic faith. Our Catholic faith *is* the greatest gift that we can possibly give our children. Passing on that gift of faith through catechesis, worship, Sacraments and the Good News of the Gospel is the mission of the Church. We are all called to share in that divine plan and mission of the Church.

Although we do not know exactly how the future months will unfold through the pandemic, we are optimistic in preparing for the reopening our Parish School of Religion for grades Kindergarten –Grade 8. We want you to know that the health and safety of your children and all our volunteers is of ultimate priority. We want you to feel safe and most importantly we want your children to feel safe. In keeping with the CDC, Ohio Department of Health and our Youngstown Diocese guidelines, we will need to make many changes in our scheduling, expectations of staff and parents, and disinfecting of our Parish School of Religion. (Please see the Parish School and COVID-19 Guidelines in this mailing.)

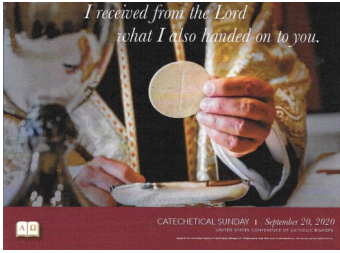
For grades K- 8, we will continue using our *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* (paper edition) this year. *Pflaum Publishing* has also created a **digital platform**. Each family-friendly issue flows from the Sunday Gospel readings and has an easy-to-use parent guide so you can feel confident about sharing the faith with your whole family! We have ordered the paper and the digital form for every student this year. Since we need to social distance, we can only accommodate grades K-3 on one Sunday and grades 4-8 the following Sunday. We will have 2 options available as listed below. Please select which option you prefer and check it on the backside of the registration form.

OPTION 1. In-Person Classes: Students will be expected to attend Mass and the sessions as listed in the schedule. The week they are not in class, they will be expected to complete the digital lesson at home with their parents. There is an assessment at the end of the lesson that will need to be completed and e-mailed back to the teacher for attendance purposes. (Please be sure to include your email address on the registration form.) If you are not able to do the digital lesson, you can complete the paper edition and return that to the teacher as well. Since the in-person classes run every other week, attendance is extremely important, unless your child is ill and cannot be at class. In that case, the child will be expected to complete the digital lesson.

OPTION 2. Digital Classes: If you are hesitant about sending your child, you will be expected to attend Mass and help your child with their lessons using the digital form at home. Each weekly lesson is to be completed and the assessment test at the end of each weekly lesson must be emailed back to the teacher for recording weekly attendance. (Please be sure to include your email address on the registration form.) The teacher will periodically check in with the parents to be sure the lessons are up to date.

SACRAMENTAL CLASSES: Since sacramental formation is especially important for the children, IN-PERSON sessions will be incorporated during those times for First Reconciliation and First Communion (Grade 2) and Confirmation (grade 8). A separate schedule will be provided for sacramental preparation classes.

OVER



Catechetical Sunday on September 20, 2020

Family Faith & Fun Day (Parish Center)

(this event will be set up as an Open House event)

Come and meet your teachers and pick up your Gospel Weeklies, crafts/activities for the family, and a digital lesson to access the teaching guide for parents!

Anytime between 9:30-10:30 AM

For families with last name ending A-L

Anytime between 12:30-1:30 PM

For families with last name ending M-Z

Fr. Mike invites you to join us for Mass at 11:00 AM as we recognize and commission those called to serve in the ministry of catechesis.

Mass attendance is an integral part of your child's faith formation. Participation in Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of what we believe and who we are as Catholic Christians.

If you are not able to come during these times to pick up your child's Gospel Weeklies, please call me at the Parish House Office (330)534-1928 to make other arrangements.

Forms Included in this mailing:

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| PSR Registration K-8 to be completed and returned to Office of Religious Ed. | (orange) |
| Permission form for photo/video, publish on internet, social media presentations | (yellow) |
| PSR Guidelines for 2020-2021 | (pink) |
| PSR Schedule for 2020-2021 | (green) |
| COVID-19 Guidelines | (white) |

Blessings,

Karen Bartos, Coordinator of Religious Education

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