

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

2016-2017

Parents are, through the witness of their lives , the first heralds of
the Gospel for their children...

by passing on the Faith through the family,
“parents become fully parents”.

Familiaris Consortio 39



**“How precious is the family as the privileged
place for transmitting the Faith!”**

Pope Francis

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer! Amen.
(Taken from the *Instrumentum Laboris*)



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

2015 Philadelphia

"The family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world; it is the leaven of society."

Pope Francis, October 27, 2013



SALVATION HISTORY

Salvation history is the story of God's plan of love and mercy beginning with creation and ending in eternal life. Students will see their own story of life as part of God's story. They will see that Jesus Christ is not only the center of salvation history, but the center of their lives. Students will come to know and love Jesus Christ and his Church. They learn that the Church and the sacraments are a precious gift from God to help them in their journey to heaven. Through an understanding of salvation history students will come to know not only what the Church teaches, but why. Salvation history is the key to understanding doctrine, the liturgy and the key to understanding life.



THE EUCHARIST

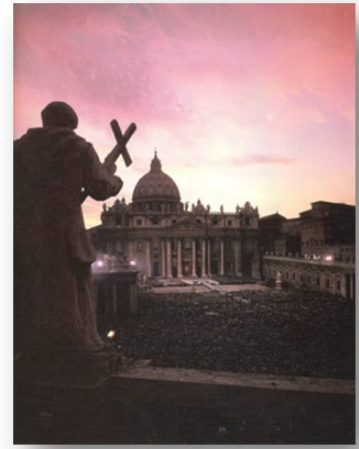
The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life...For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." CCC 1324

The curriculum at St. John's focuses on God's saving plan of love and mercy which culminates in his gift of himself, the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

FAMILY GUIDE

Pope Francis stated “how precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the Faith!” At St. John the Baptist PSR, we will equip families to transmit the faith through use of the Family Guide. Through prayer, reinforcement of what students have learned, life application and specific activities to live out their faith, families will share their faith together and increase their Catholic identity.

Each week parents should spend a minimum of 15 minutes using the Family Guide as a means of transmitting and sharing the faith with their children.



PARENTS AS THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

“By virtue of their ministry of educating, parents are, through the witness of their lives, the first heralds of the Gospel for their children. Furthermore, by praying with their children, by reading the word of God with them and by introducing them deeply through Christian initiation into the Body of Christ-both the Eucharistic and the ecclesial Body-**they become fully parents**, in that they are begetters not only of bodily life but also of the life that through the Spirit's renewal flows from the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.”

Familiaris Consortio 39

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones."³¹ Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2223

WAYS TO GUIDE YOUR CHILDREN TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH:

As primary educators of your children's faith, guide your children to:

- Pray daily.
- Consistently attend Sunday Mass.
- See that PSR classes are a priority in your family schedule.
- Have consistent attendance and arrive promptly, classes begin promptly at 6:30 PM
- See that students complete online assignments each week. Get them going and monitor their progress.
- Use the Family Guide each week; watch the faith of your family grow.
- Students complete all assignments that your catechist gives.
- Students are memorizing their Catholic prayers...see Prayer Honor Roll.
- Prepare for worthy reception of the Eucharist by fasting one hour before receiving Holy Communion.
- Be reverent in church.
- Attend all parent meetings and other activities. See calendar!
- If possible, volunteer to help in the PSR program.

BE joyful Encourage each other

COMPASSIONATE **do not worry** about tomorrow

forgiving
kind

tell the **TRUTH**

TENDER HEARTED

PRAY

love one another

WORSHIP

GIVE THANKS to the lord

BE THE HANDS
rejoice in trials of **JESUS**

OBEY

consider others better than yourself

WELCOME to Saint John the Baptist Parish School of Religion for the 2016-17 school year.

CLASS TIME: Wednesdays 6:30—7:45 PM. Students should arrive no earlier than 6:15 PM unless a parent is on site to supervise. Classes begin promptly at 6:30PM. All students must be picked up promptly at 7:45 PM in the parking lot in front of the parish center.

SAFETY: For your children's safety please comply with the traffic regulations. Students K through grade 2 must be accompanied by an adult into the school. Please park in the designated area, not in the line of drop-off traffic. All other students must be **dropped off** at the back door no earlier than 6:15 pm. All students must be **picked up** in the parking lot in front of the parish center. See diagram.

ATTENDANCE: Students are required to attend all scheduled PSR classes and events. All absences should be excused, that is, absent because of sickness or unusual circumstances. If classes are missed, students are still expected to complete all class assignments. If students miss more than 2 classes that are not excused, students will receive an incomplete grade. Sports practice teams do not constitute an excused absence. Please speak with Adam with these types of conflicts. *Please notify Adam Weber if there are any unusual family circumstances that may affect attendance.

ASSIGNMENTS: Weekly assignments consist of the online chapter (for grades 1-7) and the student book (grade 8), the Family Guide (see below), and participation in the Prayer Honor Roll. Parents are expected to be involved in the faith formation of their children:

ONLINE COMPONENT: Each student is expected to complete the assigned chapter online BEFORE it is discussed in class (grades 1-7). (See that assignment schedule dates come before the discussion schedule). Each student will receive an email from My Catholic Faith Delivered with a code and password to access their individual license. Teachers will monitor student scores and time spent on lessons each week. For technology questions please email support@mycatholicfaithdelivered.com or call 866.981.8964. If you run into any unresolved issues please contact Adam Weber. Main website is www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com

FAMILY GUIDE: Each week families are expected to complete the Family Guide sharing for the chapters found on the class schedule. Some weeks there may be more than one chapter. Students will be asked to share in class what follow up activity they did as a family. Please keep family prayers and faith sharing as a priority in your families!

BOOKS: Each family will receive one or two Family Guides. These books must be returned each year. If your child does not return the family guide there will be a book fee of 20.00 per family guide.

SACRAMENT PARENTS: Grade 2 (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) and Grade 8 (Confirmation)

- Baptismal certificates of students must be on file.
- Sacramental preparation is a 2 year process required by the archdiocese.
 - First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion Preparation: 1st and 2nd Grade
 - Confirmation Preparation: 7th and 8th Grade
- Parents are required to attend Sacrament Parent meetings. Students must complete all assignments.

THANK YOU for entrusting St. John Parish School of Religion in the faith formation of your children.

Prayer Honor Roll

Students will receive a prayer booklet containing the prayers of the Prayer Honor Roll (PHR). This booklet is also available online at: <http://stjohngildehauspsr.weebly.com>. This is a series of age appropriate prayers and other articles of doctrine (such as the Ten Commandments) for each grade level. In Sacramental years, it is required that students know all of their prayers. All students are encouraged to participate.

How it works:

Each week there will be an assigned parent **Prayer Honor Roll Volunteer**. These parents will be available each week to hear students recite their prayers. Students must recite prayers from start to finish from memory. Parent volunteer will hear prayers individually outside of the classroom. Parent volunteers will not be available to hear prayers on weeks of special events such as Mass or Confessions etc.

Students should learn their prayers at home as part of their family prayers. Catechists will also use these prayers as part of PSR class. Prayers can be learned in any order. When a student has mastered all of the prayers designated for their grade level, he or she will be included on the "Prayer Honor Roll". The names of these students will be published in the bulletin. Each student who completes the Prayer Honor Roll will receive a certificate.

****Cutoff for 1st semester is Wednesday, December 14, 2016**

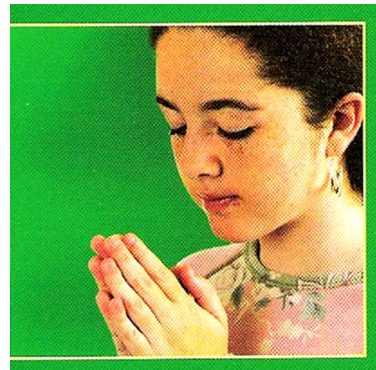
****Cutoff for 2nd semester is Wednesday, April 26, 2017.**

If you have any questions, or would like to be a parent volunteer either to hear prayers or head up this committee, please call Adam Weber 314-330-0599 or email awpsrstjohn@aol.com

Prayers for the Prayer Honor Roll

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Our Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Glory Be
5. Prayer to My Guardian Angel
6. Prayer Before Meals (traditional)
7. Act of Contrition
8. 7 Sacraments
9. Ten Commandments
10. Apostle's Creed
11. Prayer to St. Michael
12. Mysteries of the Rosary
13. Explain how to say Rosary
14. The Beatitudes
15. Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
16. Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Bonus: All grades (for High Honors) Hail, Holy Queen and Fatima Prayer; (Highest Honors) Memorare and Fatima Prayer



Each grade is responsible for the following prayers:

Kindergarten:	#1 thru 3
Grade 1:	#1 thru 5
Grade 2:	#1 thru 7
Grade 3:	#1 thru 9
Grade 4:	#1 thru 11
Grade 5:	#1 thru 13
Grade 6:	#1 thru 14
Grade 7:	# 1 thru 15
Grade 8:	# 1 thru 16

VOLUNTEERS

All parents or other guardians are invited to participate in one or more of the following volunteer positions: (please fill out form) Your parish needs you!

- Prayer Honor Roll Parent/Class: Once a month, hear memorized prayers and log in prayers on chart.
- Prayer Honor Roll Chairman: log all student progress for gifts and certificates, obtain gifts and certificates
- Office assistant: Assist in office with copies, supplies, records etc.
- Activity Support: Advent/Jesse Tree; Seder Meal; Ice Cream Social; etc.
- Substitute Catechist: substitute for classes.



DISCIPLINE

Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This commitment includes student acknowledgement and acceptance of their responsibility for their conduct and actions on church and school property, in and out of the classroom, and in their demonstration of respect for the rights and property of others.

Normal PSR class discipline issues will be handled by the catechist. If an issue becomes a persistent problem, the student will be referred to the DRE at which time a phone call or conference with the parent may be initiated. If the problem occurs again, the pastor will be notified. Further disciplinary action could include parent conference or dismissal from the classroom program.

Behavior causing disciplinary actions include any behavior, actions, or words that are in opposition to Christian values. These include but are not limited to: disrespect to any adult, a catechist, or other student; abusive or foul language, fighting, vandalism, stealing, cheating, inappropriate physical conduct, leaving parish, school or site of activity before appropriate dismissal time or to leave the absence of a responsible adult. Students are expected to respect others and all school and parish property. No use or possession of illegal substances is permitted.

Additional regulations: No cell phones or electronic devices are to be seen or heard. These devices will be taken away during class if seen or heard. No hats, no gum. All dress must exemplify Christian values. No drawing on black or white boards unless asked by your catechist. NO roller blades or skateboards. No symbols on clothing that is in opposition to Christian beliefs and values.

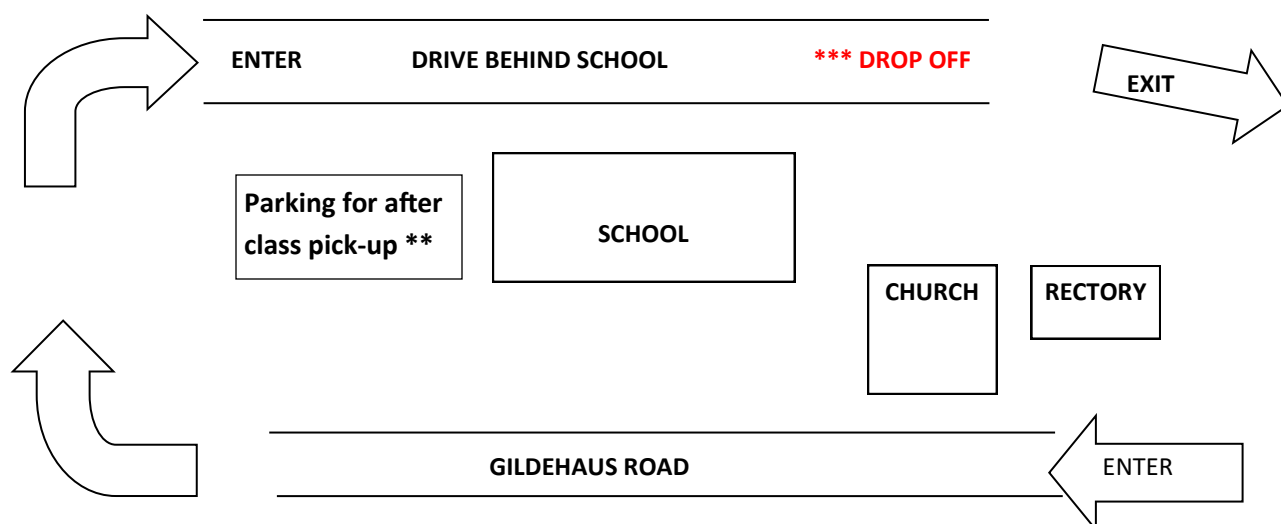
THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS FOR DISCUSSING DISCIPLINARY EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

WEATHER

If Washington School District cancels school due to bad weather, St. John PSR classes will be cancelled also (exceptions apply). Please listen to KLPW (101.7) FM, channels 2/4/5 local news for cancellation announcements, or call 636-583-5155. Questions? Call or text Adam Weber 314-330-0599 or email: awpsrstjohn@aol.com or call Joan Knight (day school secretary) 314-520-6495.



DROP OFF: PLEASE ENTER THE DRIVE BEHIND THE SCHOOL, DROP OFF ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREA
WHERE THERE WILL BE ADULT SUPERVISION



****This is a new policy to try and keep our children as safe as possible.**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Adam Weber	314-330-0599	awpsrstjohn@aol.com
School Office	636-583-2392	
PSR Office	636-583-9353	
Emergency Number	636-583-2392 EXT 22	
Father Bannes	636-583-2488	stjohnsgild@yhti.net