

# Tri-Parish Partnership Parish School of Religion (PSR)

## PSR Family Handbook

### Introduction

Welcome to the Tri-Parish Partnership School of Religion (PSR)! We look forward to a year of learning and celebrating God's great love for us. It is our hope that we can work together with your family in helping to prepare our youth for an active and faithful Catholic life. Thank you for allowing us to take part in your child's faith formation!

### Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook is intended to be a reference for information, requirements, policies, and procedures for our PSR program. The handbook is a guideline which will govern the administration of PSR. This is to be considered a working document as well, and new information or changes may occur. Any new changes or information will be conveyed to PSR families through PSR newsletters, notes home, church bulletin, or the church website. It is our belief that parents and guardians of PSR students are responsible for reading and knowing the information in this handbook.

### Our Mission

The PSR program of the Tri-Parish Partnership, recognizes the obligation of Catholic parents to educate their children in the Catholic Faith. The PSR program's purpose is to aid and support to Baptized children who attend public schools and to their parents.

During the Rite of Baptism, parents accept the responsibility of training their children in the practice of the faith. It is within the family that children are introduced to prayer, Catholic life, and devotion. Learning prayers and doctrines should take place at home with the help of family members and reinforced through PSR classes. Families attending weekly Masses can maximize their children's growth in faith development. Also, parents can set good examples for their children to follow by showing love, forgiveness, trust, respect, devotion, and service to others and the community.

The PSR program will build awareness and participation in the church community. We will encourage PSR students and families to serve others and live out the Gospel message. PSR students will have opportunities for active participation at Mass, praying the rosary, and praying the Stations of the Cross. Students will take part in the celebration of Sacraments weekly and throughout the year.

## PSR Sessions and Home-Based

### PSR - Holy Cross

PSR sessions, are **Wednesday evening from 6:25 PM to 7:30 PM**, October to May, unless noted on the PSR Schedule. A PSR Schedule with session details and days off will be handed out and posted on the church website.

**PSR sessions take place at Holy Cross, Wendelin, IL.** Please have your student there by 6:20 PM. While the student is in PSR, the Adults (parents, grandparents, caregiver, etc...)

### PSR- Home-Based

There may be situations where a student has a serious Wednesday commitment and simply cannot attend PSR classes. As stated in Our Mission, we are here to help and support parents in educating their children in the faith.

An option is to take the **Home-Based PSR** – it is an online class, using **Sadlier Connect**, for grades 1-8. This program is the same that is used at Holy Cross. The Pastoral Associate will be the supervisor of the Home-Based PSR. It is the student's responsibility (*along with the parent*) to work on the class each week until completion. There is online accountability, with quarterly checks done with the Pastoral Associate-through either email, phone, or one-on-one sessions-if deemed necessary.

## PSR Policy & Procedures

### Arrival and Dismissal

The following information and procedures are for the children's safety while attending PSR classes. Class starts at 6:25 PM. With dismissal is at 7:30 PM. For safety reasons, students must have a parent, **other designated adult, present to be dismissed.**

### Snow Days

In cases of snow and icy weather or forecasts of snow and ice, we will follow the decision of **School District # 1**. If the public school calls off on a Wednesday due to inclement weather, then there will be no PSR classes that evening. If it starts icing or heavy snowfall during the school day, then a decision will be made by 3 PM and a **FLOCKNOTE** message will be sent informing families if the session is cancelled.

### Cell Phones

No cell phones allowed out during PSR, Mass or at other events. They must be turned OFF and kept in jacket, backpack, or purse. If student isn't following this policy, the teacher has the right to take the cell phone and return it afterwards to the parent.

### Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and Policy

Catholic children who are baptized and will be in the second grade typically receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

1) A copy of the child's Baptismal certificate needs to be on file at the church office. 2) Before a student may receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, he/she must have regularly attended the previous year of a Catholic Religious Education Program. 3) Students receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are required to know the following prayers by January: Act of Contrition, Hail Mary, Our Father, and Sign of the Cross. Students who do not know these prayers by heart will be considered not ready to receive the sacraments. We will recommend students who are not ready to repeat the 2nd grade year for further preparation. 4) Tri-Parish Partnership PSR teachers, pastoral associate and priest will conduct parent informational meeting about these sacraments. **Parent attendance is required at these meetings.**

### Sacrament of Confirmation and Policy

Typically, students in the 8th grade year prepare to receive this sacrament. In order to best adhere to the statement below, policies have been outlined that will best prepare the candidates.

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a livelier familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his biddings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. #127 Catechism of the Catholic Church

1) In order to be confirmed, students have already been baptized and received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. 2) All Sacramental certificates need to be on file at the church office. Students who did not receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist at the tri-Parish, need to bring copies of these certificates and a copy of the child's Baptismal certificate to the church office. 3) Before a student may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, he/she must have been regularly attending a Catholic Religious Education Program 4) Confirmation Candidates are required to attend many special events, retreats, adorations, and accumulate service hours. 5) PSR Teachers, Pastoral Associate and/or Priest will conduct parent informational meeting about the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Parent attendance is required at these meetings.**

### Attendance Policy

Our mission statement reflects the goals of faith formation, growth, participation, service, and awareness. We are also here to support parents and students in their journey towards Christ. We cannot accomplish these goals without regular attendance. A student who misses more than 6 classes must re-take that class either the following year or online with the Coordinator or Religious Education's or Pastoral Associate's supervision.

### Sacramental Certificates

New students will need to bring a copy of their Baptismal certificate and/or certificates of Reconciliation and Eucharist to the church office of their registered parish or to the PSR teacher. If the student received any of these Sacraments at the Parishes, then the certificates are not needed.

### Information Sent Home

Often, papers are sent home with important information, such as meeting dates and times, changes, PSR activities, deadlines, or forms that need to be signed. Please be aware of this and ask your child every Wednesday if any papers were sent home. For the K – 2 children, it would be extremely helpful if parents/guardians would check their folders.

### Volunteers

All adult volunteers *must* attend the Child Safety Training Program: Training times and locations are published in the bulletin, or on church website. Volunteers are encouraged and needed and various times throughout the PSR year.

## **DATES of EVENTS and CLASSES**

### PSR Events

The fourth Sunday of every month will be PSR Sunday. The Sunday's will rotate around the three parishes. The PSR students (onsite and home-based) will participate in the various ministries. Parent's are encouraged to attend, support, and assist at PSR events.

October 27 - HC	February 23 - SJS
November 24 - SJS	March 22 - SJO
December 22 -SJO	April 26 -HC
January 26 - HC	

### PSR Schedule \*Opening/Closing Mass

October: *2,9,16,23,30	February: 5,12,19,26
November: 6,13,20	March: 4,11,18,25
December: 4,11,18	April: 1,8,15,22,29
January: 8,15,22,29	May *6

## **CONTACT PAGE**

### **Tri- Parish Partnership Coordinators of Religious Education**

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### **Pastoral Associate**

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### **Priest**

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### **Facebook**

@StJosephHolyCrossStJoseph

### **Flocknote**

Sign Up by texting stjoeholycross to 84576 to get connected

### **Tri Parish Website**

<https://www.holycrosswendelin.com/tri-parish>

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