

PSR Family News

August 2008

Back To School Night Information

Our first night of PSR will be:

Monday, August 25

5:00-6:15pm or 6:50-8:00pm

OR

Wednesday, August 27

5:00-6:15pm or 6:50-8:00pm

The first session is for students AND parents. We will gather together to begin our new year with a prayer service and short presentation. **Parents and students should report directly to the church. Students should be seated with the parents.** We will offer a special blessing for teachers, parents, and students. Instructions will be given and parents together with their students will be dismissed to go over to school and visit their classrooms, meet their teachers personally, and discuss the new school year with them. Please do not report directly to school as the teachers will be gathered in Church and the building will not be open.

The teachers have been working very hard over the summer preparing and are anxious to meet their new students.

There will not be a safety patrol in place on the first night, so please drive carefully as you enter and leave. The next time we meet we will follow the arrival and dismissal procedures as outlined in the parent handbook.

Parental Involvement

Our PSR program is staffed by catechists and administration who are dedicated to developing each child's knowledge of our Catholic faith. Even so, we consider the parents the primary catechists in their child's lives. It is imperative that parents participate regularly and actively in the Sunday Mass. Support the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and pray together as a family. Your children are here for just a short time each week and they need your help and involvement in their religious education.

PSR OFFICE HOURS— Monday thru Thursday from 8am-2pm in the Parish Administration Building and during PSR class times (school office) for registration and questions. The office is closed on Fridays.

Email addresses are as follows: PSR Coordinator Laura Weinzirl lweinzirl@stjoecot.org
Secretary—Debbie Wilhelm dwilhelm@stjoecot.org

TELL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

PSR registrations will re-open on Sept. 4th - students can register for the PSR program and will be assigned to classes as soon as possible. All PSR families must be registered in our parish. Parents are asked to contribute to the parish in order to keep PSR costs to a minimum. You can register at the PSR office/Parish Center during regular business hours (M-Th 8:30am-8:00pm) and during PSR time. Registration forms are available on our website www.stjoecot.org

ATTENDANCE

An integral part of the learning experience is the interaction between students and teachers. Students who are absent from PSR are not able to participate in class discussions, or group activities. It is not possible to make up activities ie. church tours, practices, etc. Therefore, regular attendance is an important component of the educational process. Excessive absences may jeopardize your child's reception of the sacraments as well as making them uncomfortable when discussing assignments.

Classroom and teacher assignments are listed on the label below. Please check to be sure you have the correct session & grade. If you are missing a teacher's name- we do not currently have a teacher for your class. Assignments will be made at back to school night. Be sure to bring this newsletter with you to the open house. Student assignments will not be changed unless they are switching to another session. Classroom size is restricted. Changes are authorized through the office only and will be based on classroom availability. Teachers are not authorized to make assignment changes in any way.

For the safety of ALL of our students we have an organized arrival and dismissal procedure.

Arrival Procedure

Parents are to enter the south parking lot via Motherhead Rd and proceed toward the gym. Safety patrol parents will assist children in exiting the car. All students will report directly to the gym. Parents will proceed around the school, past the cemetery and down the drive between the church and the rectory through the parking lot and exit at the traffic light. See map in enclosed handbook for details.

Parents wishing to walk their children to class should park by the playground and follow the sidewalk down to the gym. Parents of students with special needs should contact the office to make arrangements for their child.

Dismissal Procedure

*****All Parents and Students will follow this procedure*****

Dismissal procedure is opposite that of arrival. **After arrival the south lot is barricaded and no entrance is allowed.** Parents are to enter at the stoplight at N and Motherhead, proceed past the cemetery and around past the gym and park in the south parking lot. Parents wishing to turn right on Motherhead will park in the spaces closest to Motherhead Rd. Parents wishing to go straight or left on Hwy N will park in the spaces closest to the concession stand. All parents must park! Parents arriving late will be directed to a "late line" to wait until the lot has cleared to pick up their student. When the signal is given, parents will be directed toward the appropriate exit. All students will exit the south building. There is **NO PARENT PARKING AT CHURCH OR IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OFFICE!** Students will not be allowed to exit anywhere other than the designated exits. No students will be allowed to go around the school building to find their parent. This is for the safety of all of our students. See Mrs. Weinzirl if you have a unique situation that requires special arrangements.

Our primary goal is to get our students to their cars SAFELY and to dismiss parents as QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

CLASSROOM RULES FOR ALL PSR STUDENTS

These rules are for the entire PSR program. Your student's teacher may have additional rules for their classroom. Please be sure to share these with your children.

Respect is to be shown to teachers and other students AT ALL TIMES

Thou shall NOT have GUM

Thou shall wear NO HAT

Respect is to be shown for personal and school items in the classroom

Zero tolerance policy for aggressive behavior

No obscene T-shirts or jewelry should be worn. Students will turn their T-shirts inside out for class time or parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing for students. **No stomachs or under clothing should be showing.** Jewelry and other items will be held in the office and returned **ONLY** to a parent. PSR is not responsible for items left by students in the desks after class, so please don't bring unnecessary items to class.

GYM Rules:

No **RUNNING, SLIDING OR THROWING OF ANY OBJECT** (balls included) will be tolerated in the gym. No skating with roller shoes will be allowed. Students should keep their hands to themselves.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If an emergency arises and you must pick your child up before classes are dismissed you must sign your child out personally. **NO STUDENT WILL BE DISMISSED INTO THE PARKING LOT WITHOUT A PARENT ESCORT.**

Early dismissal of students is discouraged. They are only in class for 75 minutes and excessive disruptions make it difficult for teachers and students.

Be sure to keep your parent handbook available to review our policies and procedures including inclement weather. A calendar for the entire year is included—please refer to it for meeting dates, days off and special events. You may also check our website www.stjoecot.org

A parent Safety Patrol” will be in effect each Monday and Wednesday evening. Parents of each classroom will be called upon during the school year to take their turn in providing this very important service to our students. The safety patrol schedule is well organized, but the success of this program depends on YOU! When it is your turn for duty, report to the gym lobby 15 minutes before classes begin. You will be assigned a position for both arrival and dismissal and given an orange safety vest. You will remain in your position until 5 minutes after the bell has rung. If you are able, please stop by the PSR office and volunteer your time during class. Report to your assigned position for dismissal 10 minutes before classes end. Your children will be dismissed in the usual manner and will exit out the only authorized exit. Decide ahead of time where you will meet them - it can be the office (there will be an adult there) if you would like to pick them up there after all the cars have cleared the lots.

PSR SAFETY PATROL IS A MANDATORY PART OF THE PSR PROGRAM. You are required to work when you are scheduled. If you cannot work your scheduled time, you must call the Religious Education Office and you will be rescheduled for another day. If you have small children, positions are available for you to keep your children with you. You will work at least one night for every student you have in PSR. **You may be scheduled more than once per student depending on the number of classes at your session.**

You will be mailed a postcard a week before you are assigned. You will also receive a reminder call the day before you are assigned. Please be courteous to the caller and prompt for your assigned time and date. We are counting on you! Parents of each classroom will be called upon during the school year to take their turn in providing this very important service to our students.

Gathering in the Gym

As children gather on arrival in the gym, they will look for the following signs/symbols, designated for their particular classrooms. Kindergarten, first and second grade have assigned symbols which will help them locate their designated area a little easier.

Kindergarten	Room 232 Room 234	Noah’s Ark Hearts	1st Grade	Room 228 Room 230 Room 227	Balloons Jesus on the Cros Angel
2nd Grade	Room 229 Room 231 Room 233	Chalice Rosary Hosts and Bible			

Grade 3 - 8 Gather under their grade number listed on sign

Please note:

We have changed our cancellation policy regarding inclement weather. PSR cancellation will be decided separately from St. Joseph School and Francis Howell & Ft. Zumwalt school districts. A cancellation decision will be made by 1:00 pm. In case of inclement weather, cancellation information will be available at (636) 441-0055 x 300, x301 and x302. ***PSR does not follow the St. Joseph School calendar*** so be sure to check the PSR calendar for break, holiday and Holy Day schedules.



Mark your calendar NOW for important PSR dates & times

Mark your calendar for these special dates (remember to check your parent handbook for upcoming events)

Mon/Wed Sept 29/ Oct 1—8th Grade parent meeting 5 or 7pm—Cafeteria

Mon/Wed Oct 13/15—First Reconcilia 12/7—PSR Donut Sunday & Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe—after 7:30, 8:45 & 10:30am Masses—Service Opportunities

Tues/Thurs Nov 18/20 First Reconcilia Available

Wed/Mon Nov 19/24—Thanksgiving P: Vincent DePaul—then regular classes 12/22, 24, 29 & 31—NO PSR Classes

Nov 26—NO PSR Classes

12/6—Set up for Ye Olde Christmas Sl



Thanksgiving Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sharing our Harvest Prayer Service

PSR will give Glory and Praise to our God at a Sharing Our Harvest Prayer Service on Wednesday, November 19 and Monday, November 24 during regular class time. There will be no changes in arrival or dismissal. The students will come to church, escorted by their teacher, to donate food and paper products to help others in our parish. A list of items will be sent home in the weeks before our Prayer Service. Students will then return to class to finish the remainder of their lesson.

It's Time to Clean Out Your Old Christmas Decorations.....

PSR will once again be collecting new and gently used Christmas decorations. Collection dates have not been established— more information will follow.

We are accepting anything related to decorating for Christmas... trees, lights, towels, wreaths, statues, dishes, glassware, etc. Items not sold will be donated to St. Vincent dePaul Society.

Last year's sale was a HUGE success (\$2600) and we are hoping this year will be even better. Our YE OLDE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE will be open during Donut Sunday on Dec. 7th after the 7, 8:45 and 10:30am Masses. (possibly 5pm Mass on Saturday also)

Service hours are available & parent volunteers are needed Sat. 12/6 for set up and 12/7 for sales and donut clean up. 8th graders & families are WELCOME to help. We need many hands to make this a success!!!

Catholic High School Admissions Process

Sept/Oct 2008—High School Nights. Eleven high school sites will host informational nights beginning at 7 p.m. Various high school representatives will be available to give a presentation on their high school. Each evening will afford the opportunity to hear presentations of three high schools.

Schedules are posted at www.archstl.org click on Catholic Ed Office then Secondary Schools. Information is available on each school, open houses, registration dates, cost, admittance, etc.

November 2, 2008 High School open house. Most high schools will conduct an Open House on this Sunday. Tours will be given and personnel will be available to answer questions. Schedule posted at www.archstl.org

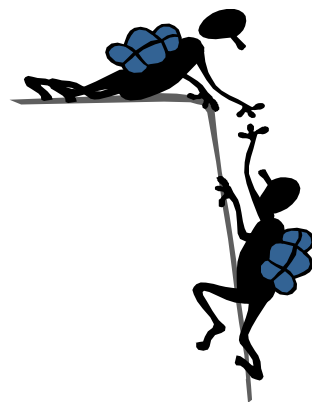
November 3, 2008—Applications for PSR students should have been received by this date.

November 12, 2008 Applications Due: Eighth grade parents return parts A, B and C as directed on each form.

What's New in PSR?

New Adult Group forming during PSR classes

We are excited to be offering something for parents during PSR class times. A new adult group is forming to learn more about being Catholic. The program is entitled Exploring Our Catholic Faith and it is published by our textbook publisher RCL. The topics will be enhanced by guest speakers, church tours, explanation of the Mass and much more. Each group will have a facilitator to lead the group. The group will decide how often to meet and what topics to discuss to be better able to meet the groups interests. Groups could meet once a month, twice a month or weekly. It's up to you! If you are interested please contact the Religious Education Office at 441-0055 x300 to sign up. Groups will begin meeting the middle of September. Come and share your knowledge of our faith and perhaps learn something new. We are called by God to continue learning—so here's your opportunity. JOIN NOW!



New Procedure for Pick-up of K-3

This year in an effort to streamline the pick-up process in the cafeteria (which can be quite chaotic) we will assign tables that grades K-3 will be brought to by their teachers. Parents may wait at the tables and students will be brought to them. Parents are welcome to sit down, relax and await the arrival of their child. Parents MAY NOT SIT AT OR STAND BY the area designated for the latch key program. It gets very difficult for the child care providers to keep track of the children they are responsible for when there are parents and PSR students mixed in with them.

Learning more about Mary the Mother of God and Saint Joseph

This year we will be sending home a family prayer box. It contains a prayer cloth, statue, a prayer card, prayers and other information regarding the saint. Each family should use the items to make a prayer center (preferably on your kitchen table). We hope you will use this opportunity to add to the prayer life your family already shares. A different student will be chosen each week and will bring the box home to their family. Be sure it is returned with all its contents the next week. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Visit our parish and PSR website www.stjoecot.org

Our parish website gives you current information regarding various opportunities in our parish. Organizations, volunteers, prayer groups, liturgical, MOMS, teens, etc. There is literally something for everyone! It also includes our weekly bulletin information.

We have been working over the summer to update our PSR website. This year it will include detailed sacramental information, pictures from various activities and our new calendar is posted. We hope you visit often.

Back to Class

Here are some ways to help you get the most out of your child's religious education: Just like you do for reading and math, set aside a short time each week to walk through the lesson with your child. Help your child connect the lesson to their daily life (For example, how can Jesus' words about loving our enemies help us with our friendships at school?)



Safety Assignments

Monday 5:00pm

8/25 No safety - Prayer Service/Open House
 9/1 NO PSR - Labor Day
 9/8 8 Mrs. Aleman
 9/15 8 Deacon Schaeffer
 9/22 8 Mrs. Walton
 9/29 7 Mr. Statler
 10/6 7 Mrs. Halloran
 10/13 7 Mrs. Dazey/ Mrs. Patterson
 10/20 6 Mrs. Joyce
 10/27 6 Mrs. England
 11/3 6 TBA
 11/10 5 Mrs. Porter
 11/17 5 Miss Schaefer
 11/24 5 Mrs. Thomason
 12/1 4 Mrs. Fenske
 12/8 NO PSR—Feast of Immac Conception
 12/15 4 Mrs. Brown
 12/22 NO PSR Classes - Christmas Break
 12/29 NO PSR Classes - New Year Break

Monday 6:50pm

8/25 No safety - Prayer Service/Open House
 9/1 NO PSR - Labor Day
 9/8 8 Deacon Schaeffer
 9/15 8 Mr. Palermo
 9/22 8 Mr. Recca
 9/29 7 Mrs. Ehrhard
 10/6 7 Mrs. Schene
 10/13 6 Mrs. Holloman
 10/20 6 Mr. Travers
 10/27 5 Mrs. Bengfort
 11/3 5 Mr. Iven
 11/10 5 Mr. Ulm
 11/17 4 Mrs. Vance/ Mrs. Dallas
 11/24 4 Mrs. Gallagher
 12/1 3 Mrs. Rempinski
 12/8 No PSR—Feast of Immac Conception
 12/15 3 Mrs. Nadler
 12/24 NO PSR Classes - Christmas Break
 12/31 NO PSR Classes - New Year Break

Wednesday 5pm

8/27 No safety - Prayer Service/Open House
 9/3 8 Mrs. Wootten
 9/10 8 Ms. Schwaegel
 9/17 7 Mrs. Watson
 9/24 7 Ms. Robison
 10/1 6 Mrs. Boyle
 10/8 6 Ms. Gardner
 10/15 5 Mrs. Benson
 10/22 5 Mr. Corrao
 10/29 4 Mrs. Schroeder
 11/5 4 Ms. Pizzo
 11/12 3 Mrs. Shurtliff
 11/19 3 Mrs. Amato
 11/26 NO PSR Classes—Thanksgiving
 12/3 3 Mrs. Reinhart
 12/10 2 Mrs. Maurer
 12/17 2 Mrs. Banholzer
 12/24 NO PSR Classes - Christmas Break
 12/31 NO PSR Classes - New Year Break

Wednesday 6:50pm

8/27 No safety - Prayer Service/Open House
 9/3 8 Mr. Catlett
 9/10 8 Mr. Recca
 9/17 7 Mrs. Schmittgens
 9/24 6 Mrs. Steiner
 10/1 6 Mrs. Humphrey
 10/8 5 Mrs. Bengfort
 10/15 4 Mrs. Carbrey
 10/22 4 Mrs. Gunderson
 10/29 3 Mrs. Hinman
 11/5 3 Mrs. Reinhart
 11/12 2 Mrs. Hummel
 11/19 2 Mrs. Banholzer
 11/26 NO PSR Classes—Thanksgiving
 12/3 1 Mrs. Corrigan
 12/10 1 Mrs. Benenati
 12/17 K Mrs. Dineen
 12/24 NO PSR Classes - Christmas Break
 12/31 NO PSR Classes - New Year Break

Service Hours for PSR

As we know, service is part of our Catholic Christian faith in which God calls us to help others. Our children should practice their Catholic faith as an example to others. Our PSR students are strongly encouraged to participate in service projects at every grade level. These hours can be parish service, family service or community service. Hours can be fulfilled in any increments (15 minutes, 30 minutes) until the desired hours are reached. This is an excellent opportunity for students to help others and bridge their faith life into their community. Projects can be simple and students are welcome to come up with their own ideas.

Service Hours:

K, 1st and 2nd grades	1 hour
3rd, 4th and 5th grades	2 hours
6th and 7th grades	3 hours

8th grade 15 hours mandatory for Confirmation (5 parish, 5 community and 5 family)

See your parent handbook for ideas and suggestions.

Check out our Textbook Website

Our textbook series *Faith First Legacy* offers a website with additional activities and games related to and expanding on the chapters in their textbook (grades K-8). Just enter www.faithfirst.com to access the website. This is a great way to spend family time while expanding your child's knowledge of their Catholic faith. The website is monitored and offers activities and chat rooms for all ages. Parent activities are also included. The website is offered as a courtesy from our textbook publisher to enhance our program. www.faithfirst.com

Hats on for Batten Disease

Students—this is your opportunity to wear a hat to PSR and help fight Batten Disease.

On Monday, Oct 20 or Wednesday, Oct 22 student may wear a hat to PSR for a .50 donation to benefit The Batten Disease Support and Research Association.

Students will bring their donation to PSR those evenings and turn it in to their teacher.

Batten Disease was first described in 1826, more than 170 years ago. Batten Disease is the common name for a group of diseases known as neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, and is one of the neurodegenerative diseases. Batten Disease is rarely diagnosed immediately and is often mistaken for epilepsy, mental retardation, retinitis, pigmentosa, even schizophrenia in adults. Onset is characterized by beginning vision loss, seizures, clumsiness, personality and behavioral changes. It is a recessive inherited disease. There is no cure. The Batten Disease Support and Research Association was created to provide information, medical referrals and support, along with furthering the efforts of research to find a viable treatment and eventually eliminate Batten Disease. Please help us to find a cure...