



HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH

627 Dennison Drive



Ballwin, Missouri 63021



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August 25, 2020

Dear PSR Parents:

After much prayer, thought, and discussion of all the possible ways to continue educating your children in the faith, we have decided to offer two options for PSR this first semester: virtual learning and home-school. One of the main considerations for this decision is to keep catechists, students, and families as safe and healthy as possible. Since most of your children are starting their schooling virtually and will be in their family cohorts or “pods” at home, we do not want them to leave the safety of their home pods to attend PSR.

We will start PSR virtually on September 21st and continue virtual learning through at least the first semester. At that time, we will assess conditions and take into consideration whether Parkway and Rockwood have decided to return to in-person classes. Once they start allowing students to return to the classrooms and we deem it safe, we will resume in-person classes as well.

Virtual learning: Virtual classes will begin on **Monday, September 21st**. We will be using Seesaw for Grades K-2 and Google Classroom for Grades 3-8. Catechists will teach classes live through Google Meet (which is similar to Zoom) during the regularly scheduled class times or they will record their class for students to view at a later time. We will use the same textbook series as last year, **Alive In Christ**. This series has online access to textbooks and a variety of excellent faith formation activities for the whole family.

Home-Schooling: The other option for PSR this year is home-schooling. If you choose this option, it will be for the entire year. This is only available for Grades 3-6. If you choose to home-school, (Grades 3-6) you will be totally responsible for teaching your child the material at home all year. A curriculum guide, schedule, and access to the on-line textbooks will be provided to you. Students will be periodically assessed during the year to make sure they are learning the material. Home-schooling will begin in October with a Zoom Training for parents.

To prepare for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, we will be using the **Blessed** series by Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic. Students can access the series online and watch the accompanying videos.

For the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will be using **Decision Point** by Matthew Kelly to supplement our class textbook. More decisions about Confirmation small faith groups and additional Sacramental preparation will follow.

Our catechists at each grade level will be prepared and ready to teach their virtual classes. We have learned a lot from our online classes last year, and we have made improvements to the virtual class format which we trust will increase student engagement. We will also have additional resources for our families and catechists. If you decide to home-school your child, we ask that you notify us by **September 4, 2020**. Otherwise, we will assume that you will start the year virtually with the hope that we will be back in the classroom soon.

If you have not registered for PSR, you must register by September 4th to be included in this year's classes. Go to <https://bit.ly/HIPSRRegistration>.

Thank you, in advance, for your patience and flexibility as we continue to provide faith formation for our children. Please know this decision was made with the utmost concern for the safety and well-being of our students, catechists, and families. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year in which our children grow in their faith and their knowledge that God loves them, is always with them, and will carry them through anything—even a pandemic!

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Foley".

Patricia Foley
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