

## ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION ATTENDANCE POLICY

Our parish provides an opportunity for children to attend PSR each and every year, in support of the Baptismal responsibilities parents bear as the “primary teachers of the Catholic Faith” to their children. As our curriculum is based on a spiral scope and sequence, students engage their coursework in an age-appropriate manner each year as a part of their ongoing Religious Education. The vast majority of our students make this progress year after year, and the benefits are a testimony to the faith lives of the families in our parish community.

Faith formation is a lifelong experience and regular attendance is critical for success. A student experiences greater and longer-lasting benefit and has increased confidence with consistent participation. Students registered in PSR are expected to attend classes and miss class only when there is a serious reason such as illness. At the same time, ***children who are kept out of classes over one or more years become disadvantaged, and may be evaluated for readiness and required to make up a portion of any Religious Education work they missed before they are re-enrolled in PSR.***

In classes directly involving preparation for reception of Sacraments (Grades 1, 2, 7, and 8) regular attendance ensures the success of class-based communication, group discussion, reflection, and community-focused action. ***Students in sacramental years are expected to be present for at least 75% of all scheduled classes. All other students are expected to be present for at least 60% of all scheduled classes.***

If a student must be absent from PSR class, a parent/guardian should call the PSR Office attendance line at 286-6531 x18 stating the student’s name, grade, teacher, and reason for the absence. The student is expected to submit the make-up work covered in the missed class. Excessive absences or failure to turn in make-up assignments may result in a family interview with the Parish Catechetical Leader or Pastor.

### Religious Education and Extra-curricular Activities

PSR assists parents in their carrying out their Baptismal responsibility as “primary educators” of the Catholic faith to their children. This includes those parents who choose extracurricular programs for their children that may, on occasion, conflict with PSR class sessions. Parents are strongly urged to review our Attendance Policy and exercise good judgement in planning their children’s schedules.

If sports or other outside activities will be a known conflict, parents are encouraged to contact the PSR Office to discuss the options available to them to complete PSR for the current year. A reasonable solution will be sought that is mutually beneficial to all parties and will also satisfy the requirements for promotion to the next grade level.