



St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish School of Religion

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PSR Office: 513-389-3242, Ext. 2223 (Sundays, Sept-May 8-10am)

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Director: Mrs. Elaine Kroger, Coordinator of Religious Education

*2019-2020 Theme: Go and Set the World on Fire: Increase our Faith
"The apostles said to the Lord: 'Increase our Faith'" Luke 17:5*

NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Welcome to everyone! The teachers and staff of St. Ignatius Parish School of Religion (PSR) would like to welcome your family to the Parish School of Religion program this year. We look forward to sharing the faith with your children. Registration is still open, so share the good news of PSR with your friends.

Our theme for the year is: ***Go and Set the World on Fire: Increase our Faith.*** Our scripture focus is: ***"The apostles said to the Lord: 'Increase our Faith'" -Luke 17:5.*** By working together as a team of student, parents, and teacher, we can help one another 'Increase our faith' both individually and as a community.

Parents, you are the first and most important educators of your children. We are here to support you by offering weekly lessons on the basics of our faith. Like you, our teachers have made a huge commitment to this program; making lesson plans and setting aside Sunday mornings from September to May to teach the children. The primary care of your child's faith starts with you at home and continues at PSR. Every child that comes to PSR is a special gift from God and we *thank you* for letting us share our faith with them. We are so blessed to be Catholic and celebrate the gift that Jesus himself gave us in the Eucharist. **It is vitally important for your children to see you practice your faith by praying daily, reading the Bible regularly, and celebrating the Eucharist with our community at weekend Mass.** *Please let us know how we can help support you in this modeling of faith.*

We are introducing "Theology of the Body" this year as a part of our curriculum. Theology of the Body was given to us by Pope John Paul II in his Wednesday audiences in the 1980s. The main focus of his message is that we are all gifts from God, and therefore should treat ourselves and others as gifts. So our relationships with others are positively changed by this loving reception of each other. Each grade level has curricular objectives to meet, most of them through storybooks and faith sharing opportunities. Each month, a bit more information about Theology of the Body will be shared with you in our monthly news.

As we begin this year, a few reminders for you: Class starts each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m., in time for your family to go to 10:15 Mass together! The doors will be unlocked at 8:15 for student drop off to begin and will be locked at 8:40 each morning during class. Doors will be unlocked again for pick up starting at 9:50. We are asking for your commitment to have the students attend classes each week, be well prepared, and give their best effort.

Please make sure that you read the Parent/Student Handbook with your child, note any changes from last

year, and return the Acknowledgement page after you have signed it. You can hand them to me in the hallway or turn it into your child's teacher.

Please check the board at the front door for any upcoming events or information. If you need additional copies of the Newsletter, forms, handbook, calendar, etc. please ask your child's teacher or any of the staff members.

On the last Sunday of each month, you will receive a Student/Parent P.S.R. Newsletter for the following month via email. It will have all the important information in it and of all the things that are happening during the month. Please make sure that you take time to read it. It will also be posted on the Saint Ignatius website. There will be a section at the end of each newsletter with important parish news, including opportunities for your family to participate in different parish groups, such as Scouting or Sports teams.

If you have any questions or concerns, please stop one of us in the hallway in the morning, or come by the PSR office so we can discuss the problem or situation and take care of it. We will be glad to help in any way we can.

We would like to introduce this year's teachers:

Preschool/Kindergarten – Lori Fronk has returned to the Kindergarten program and has agreed to also teach our Preschoolers in a combined classroom. Lori taught PSR for a number of years, and after taking some time off, returned last year. We are very thankful to her for donating her time and talents. Lori is a lifelong parishioner, here at St. Ignatius.

Grade 1 – Amanda Menke will be teaching our first grade class. She is currently an intervention specialist at St. Lawrence School. Amanda is a convert to our faith, joining our St. Ignatius community through the RCIA program in 2014. Amanda's son has joined the program this year as a student, as well. Welcome, Amanda!

Grade 2 – Rick Thomas is returning as our Second grade teacher. This is his twelfth year of teaching PSR. He and his wife Kim have children that attend St. Ignatius, as well as LaSalle. Rick is active in the parish in many ministries.

Grade 3 – Carol Phillips is returning as our third grade teacher. This is her third year teaching PSR. She enjoys poetry, quilting and bead working. Carol is very close to her large family, and her nephew, Oscar, helps in her classroom as an aide.

Grade 4 – Maggie Hohlefelder is new to our program this year. She is studying theology at Xavier University and has experience with PSR, as she was an aide in her home parish during her high school years.

Grade 5 – Samantha Mossing is a student at Xavier University and this is her second year as a PSR teacher. She is also studying theology at XU and is very excited to be teaching 5th grade again this year.

Grade 6 – Fred Hunt is returning as our Sixth grade teacher. Fred and his wife Lisa joined the St. Ignatius parish six years ago. This will be his sixth year teaching PSR at St. Ignatius. Growing up, he attended public school as well as religious education classes. He believes this gives him a strong sense of the students' needs and challenges in a PSR environment.

Grade 7 – Beth Kemble is joining our staff this year as our 7th grade/Confirmation teacher. She and her husband, Rick, have four children. She is an intervention specialist during the week, and has been working with the youth group for the last few years. Beth is excited to begin teaching the Sacrament studies for Confirmation.

Tyler Menke is returning as our Music teacher. Each week, students in Preschool through sixth grade go to music and learn songs for upcoming prayer services, songs that go with their lessons, etc. He is excited to share his love of music with the students.

Marlene Schirmer is our Office Assistant. Marlene helps the teachers in preparing for class by making copies, collecting materials for crafts and organizing our supplies. Please stop by our PSR Office if you are looking for resources or books, as she can help you find it. Marlene had been a Parish School of Religion teacher for four years before becoming an Office Assistant.

Mary Ann Bosse has been involved in the PSR program since 1975 as she started teaching Kindergarten and in 1993 became the Director of the Sunday morning program. She has been having some health issues but hopes to be here as often as she can as an Office Assistant this year.

Kim Abele has changed positions within the parish, and is now the Coordinator of Sacraments. She plans and executes all of the Sacramental celebrations for the parish. If your children are celebrating a Sacrament this or next year, you will meet her at one of the parent meetings. You will find her family regularly celebrating the Eucharist together at noon mass.

I am Elaine Kroger, the Coordinator of Religious Education and currently the interim Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis for the parish. My family joined the parish in 2003. I have been a catechist (religion teacher) for 23 years and taught students from 1st through 5th grade. I began working at St. Ignatius full time in June of 2019. My job is to coordinate youth programs such as PSR, Vacation Bible School, and Happy Birthday, Jesus, and to support YOU and the teacher catechists in your roles as educators of the faith.

We would like to thank each of our teachers for all the time and talents they give to the Parish School of Religion program.

A final thank you to all of the parish staff, particularly Fr. Dave Kobak, O.F.M. and Deacon Tim Helmick for their leadership over the last few months, Mrs. Maureen Reis for her assistance in the registration process and daily office duties, and Mrs. Amy Lesko for getting online registration up and running for us this year.

We are looking for more teacher's aides this year. If you know any students who are in the Ninth grade or older that would like to serve the youth of our parish in this role, please let us know.

We have many exciting ideas for the Parish School of Religion and hope to make this the best year ever. May we have a faith filled year and may each student, family, and teacher be blessed in many ways.

Blessings to you all,
Elaine Kroger

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEPTEMBER

- 15 PSR ALL SCHOOL 8: 30 OPENING MASS/
meet the teacher
pm
- 22 1st Day of Class! 8:30–10 am
- 26 (TH) 7 pm 2nd grade parent meeting

OCTOBER

- 3 1st grade parent meeting 7-8 pm;
6th grade parent meeting 7:30-8:30
- 27 *All Saints Prayer Service 9:40 am*

PARISH EVENTS: *You can find more information about these and more events in the weekly bulletin!*

Flocknote sign ups

Now you can subscribe to St. Ignatius communications via email or text to stay current on the latest parish news!

Sign up is easy: 1. Send the text "IgnatiusLoyola" to 84576 and follow the prompts. OR

2. Visit SaintIgnatiusCincy. flocknote.com and create a new account.

You will have the option to select which groups you want to receive updates from or you can choose to receive all communications.

You choose how much or little you would like to receive and can opt out at any time.

Parish Health

Social Media and the Internet are so powerful, it is our responsibility to make ourselves more informed about their uses and abuses. Dr. Chris Tuell from the Lindner Center of Hope will speak at **6:30pm on Sept. 30** in the Loyola Hall at St. Ignatius. *Let us know if you are coming by calling 513-661-6565, option 4.*

American Heritage Girls *Faith, Service, Fun*

Cake Decorating, horseback riding, pottery, dance, archery, service. Does that sound like fun? Do you want to build confidence and inspire adventure in your daughter, all the while encouraging her to love God, cherish her family, honor her country and serve in our community? Then American Heritage Girls awaits. American Heritage Girls (AHG) has been raising women of integrity for over 10 years at St. Ignatius. AHG is a Christian-based ministry where girls experience new challenges that teach service, team-building and leadership skills in a safe and fun environment.

American Heritage Girls is open to girls ages 5-18. We meet at the Loyola Center (formerly Hilvert Center at St. Ignatius) on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 3:30-5:15pm, September-May. Our first meeting is on Tuesday, September 10th at 3:30-5:15pm. For more information, please contact Elena McSwane at emcswane@yahoo.com or 513-225-5779.

Free Craft and Game Night

Monday, September 30th, 6:30-8pm at St. Ignatius Picnic Shelter

While you are at practice for one child, bring your other children to the American Heritage Girls Craft and Game Night or stop by before or after practice. Fun crafts, bingo and a snack will be provided at the picnic shelter (by the lower fields) and in the Wild Cat Room at St. Ignatius. **Anyone is welcome!** There will be Virtus trained adults and other volunteers to entertain your children. Enjoy this welcome break! If you have any questions about this event or American Heritage Girls, please contact Elena McSwane at emcswane@yahoo.com or 513-225-5779.

Junior High Youth Group

Our Junior High youth ministry kick-off will be on Monday Sept. 30th from 7pm to 8:30pm in Loyola Hall. This program is open to all 6th 7th and 8th graders. We will enjoy an evening of fellowship and games concluding in prayer. All are welcome! Please be sure to go to our website to fill out a permission form ahead of this event. They can be found at this link:

<https://sainti.org/church/education-spiritual-growth/template-h/>. Please contact Emily Branscum at ebranscum@sainti.org with your questions. Junior High Youth Ministry Team: We are looking for faithful and passionate teens, young adults, and adults who would be willing to serve as leaders for our Junior High youth group. We meet bi-weekly on Monday evenings and will have quarterly team meetings. Adult helpers must be Virtus trained, or willing to be Virtus-trained. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Emily Branscum at ebranscum@sainti.org.