



## St. Ignatius of Loyola Church

## St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish School of Religion

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Director: Mrs. Elaine Kroger, Coordinator of Religious Education

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2020-2021 Theme: *Go and Set the World on Fire: Rejoice in Hope*

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12*

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### NEWSLETTER: FALL 2020

#### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

**Rejoice in Hope!** Our new theme for this year is so timely, don't you think? In our current COVID-world, I reflect on this quote from the Book of Romans often, and think of how many times in my life that I've suffered in some way and how I've always gotten through it with God's love and mercy. The quote says to be *patient in suffering* which is REALLY HARD TO DO! However, every time I've had suffering in my life, I've relied on my faith-I've *persevered in prayer*, and sure enough-*every time*-I've been able to *rejoice in hope*. It is amazing to me that God, in all of His infinite mercies, takes care of little 'ole me. I just have to have faith that He will! This is so hard some days when life is weighing us down and things are out of our control...but God always grants us grace and in that grace he gives us hope! Our God truly is an AWESOME God!

As Coordinator of Religious Education, my job here at St. Ignatius Parish is to SUPPORT YOU in your role as the primary educator of your child(ren) in the faith. As the primary educators of your child(ren), **it is so vitally important for you to go to Mass together!** Children imitate their parents in so many ways. You obviously are committed to their religious education, as you bring them to class each Sunday. When they watch you model your faith at home, they learn so much. PLEASE help them learn even more by participating in the Mass together each week. The Eucharist is CENTRAL to our beliefs as Catholics. It is what makes us unique among all of the world religions. Jesus gives himself to us-and we receive the graces of this most wonderful Sacrament to live a life of love and service to others. We are living, breathing tabernacles when we take Christ's Body and Blood into us each week and go out into the world with Him in us, providing strength for our daily lives. I find a profound difference in my life between when I receive the Eucharist, and not. It is amazing the peace and love I feel when I've taken Christ into me. I have a better perspective on my relationships, interactions with co-workers and my family, and even my stresses are lessened! There is a Mass at 10:15 each week, right after class. Many of our teachers attend that Mass, and we would love to see your family there.

If at any time throughout the school year you have questions about what your child is learning, or would like help in finding ways to further your own faith life, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

**THANK YOU FAMILIES!** You have been so patient as we planned for our classes to begin; and today, **our first day of class, was wonderful!** I do apologize for the line outside the door-purely a paperwork cog on the first day. Next week, it will be a well-oiled machine! ;) Thank you all for your cooperation, patience, and rule-following for safety's sake! Of course, the first rain we've had for a while would show up when we started class...but if that should happen on future occasions, please feel free to wait in your car by the sidewalk and send your child when you are next in the line of cars to drop them at the door. The same goes for dismissal, too! As much as we want your child to be prompt and on time for class, we also want to keep everyone safe.

I had a plan to share all of the beginning of the year information from our parent meeting in August via video for those who had not been able to attend; however, I had technical difficulties in preparing that to release before the start of class. So, please check out the papers you received in your orange folder and see the highlights of information from the meeting below:

- ❖ Welcome and Introduction of staff: see our SPECIAL STAFF SPOTLIGHTS later in this Newsletter.
- ❖ Safety procedures: ***Before you leave your home***, please make sure you've done a health check of your child(ren). If they are exhibiting ANY symptoms that are unusual for them, PLEASE keep them home-BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY! PLEASE, make sure to report any exposure that your child may have had to C-19, so that I can properly document with our County Health Department and keep our in-person classes available and safe. Our ***new entrance procedures*** include one entrance and one exit to help maintain the flow of traffic, as well as provide a health check-in for each student as they come in the door. ***Safety protocols in the hallway*** are to stay to the right as you enter or exit the building. ***Safety protocols in classrooms*** are that everyone is masked, and stays in their assigned seat for the duration of class. We will provide "wiggle breaks", especially for those younger students that need to move more frequently. (Today we danced to "Blessed Be Your Name" for our wiggle break!) Also, students may bring a water bottle, tissues and their own hand sanitizer, if they'd like. ***Safety protocols for dismissal*** include students meeting their parents OUTSIDE on the sidewalk. Please stay socially distanced from one another as you wait. Students will be dismissed from oldest to youngest, with the Kindergarteners through 3rd graders being escorted out by their teachers. The oldest sibling from each family can collect their younger siblings when the oldest is dismissed from their classroom.
- ❖ Book AND class schedule changes: We have changed book programs this year for many of the grade levels. Sacrament preparation levels materials have stayed the same. We are using *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* now, which share the curriculum throughout the year by focusing on the Gospel each week. These remind me of the Weekly Reader magazines we had as kids, but totally focused on Religion! They are much more user friendly than textbooks and help the children tie what they are learning to what they are hearing at Mass each week to help them make connections to what they are learning. THERE WILL BE A DIGITAL CODE COMING SOON so that everyone will have access to the materials online, too. This will be a great help should we need to have another "shutdown" of classes, as well as for access for anyone that needs to be quarantined or can't make a class for any other reason. SHOULD THERE BE ANOTHER SHUTDOWN, classes will be held via Zoom each week.

We also have schedule changes within our class time, as we have increased our Music program to include grade 7, and now have dedicated Theology of the Body teachers to supplement our curriculum. Each class will rotate weekly between Theology of the Body and Music. These teachers are rotating to the classrooms for these two classes.

- ❖ Handbook highlights: Two changes to the Handbook from last year- one is a significant tweak to the Health and Safety portion to include COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols, and the second is an update to the Attendance policies. Although we want your child to be in class, we understand if they cannot be there-**but we also need you to make sure they've completed the work**. Each teacher will be sending home an email each week to inform parents of what was covered in class. If your child missed that Sunday, **it is your responsibility to have them complete the work and contact the teacher so that they know the work is done!** *If you do that, they will receive credit for having attended class!* Our digital access has a great, simple, parent lesson plan for guiding your child through the lesson. More on that to come when the codes are sent home for you.
- ❖ Calendar changes: A significant change to the calendar this year to help slow the spread of germs is that there will be NO IN-PERSON CLASSES from Thanksgiving through the first week of January. This will allow for families to gather for holidays, yet still allow plenty of time for everyone to quarantine after the gatherings before coming back to classes. *There will be Advent activities that the teachers will assign for December as family projects.* We will not have any in-person prayer services this year; but watch for virtual prayer services to be shared with classes and parents. The extra class time we get from not having these allows us to take a few extra days off in December.

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. We are always happy to help you out!

Finally, if your child would like to bring their own coloring and writing utensils, please put them in their bag. The younger students were given supplies today.

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*

*Keep going...there's more!*

**SPECIAL STAFF SPOTLIGHTS:**

- ★ **Ms. Madalyn Hardig** has joined our team and will be teaching a combined *Kindergarten and 1st grade* class. Madalyn just graduated from Marian University with a Religious Education degree. She is a lifelong member of the parish. Ms. Hardig will have 2 rotating aides each week.
- ★ **Mr. Rick Thomas** returns as our *2nd grade* teacher. He and his wife, Kim, have been members of our parish for a long time. They have several children, and their youngest sons, Dion and Aden, help as classroom aides.
- ★ **Ms. Carol Phillips** has been teaching *3rd grade* for a few years now and really enjoys it! Her nephew, Riley, is a classroom aide for her. Carol likes to do bead work and is looking forward to making rosaries with her class this year!
- ★ **Ms. Samantha Mossing** is returning for her third year and is teaching a combined *4th and 5th grade* class. Samantha is a student at Xavier University studying Theology.
- ★ **Mr. Fred Hunt** loves teaching *6th grade*. He and his wife, Lisa, have 2 grown children. Mr. Hunt is a self-proclaimed kid-at-heart and loves to play games with his class!
- ★ **Mrs. Beth Kemble** is starting her second year teaching *7th grade/Confirmation*. She is a special education teacher by trade, and her 4 daughters and husband, Rick, keep her busy with family activities.
- ★ **Mrs. Vickie Geckle** is joining our staff as a *Theology of the Body specialist for grades K-3*. Vickie teaches ToB at St. Ignatius School. She loves to spend time with her husband, Greg, her 3 daughters, and her adorable pugs!
- ★ **Mr. Larry Smith** is joining our staff as a *Theology of the Body specialist for grades 4-7*. Larry and his wife, Tammy, have 3 children. Larry is excited to teach ToB, and to watch his daughter play college basketball this year!
- ★ **Mr. Tyler Menke** is returning as our *Music* teacher for grades K-7. He and his wife, Michelle, have 3 children. Tyler likes to play his guitar and share the joy of music with others. He and his wife are also starting a new business!
- ★ **Mrs. Marlene Schirmer** is our *office assistant*. She is a long time parishioner and helps our parish in many ministries, including the Bereavement Team.
- ★ **Mrs. Elaine Kroger** is our *PSR Director and Coordinator of Religious Education* for the parish. This is her second year as director and was a PSR teacher before taking on the director's role. She has taught Religion for over 20 years and loves her role at the parish, as she plans and implements programs to help children learn more about God. Elaine likes to play trivia with her husband, Brent, and son, Nolan.

*Keep going...there's more!*

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

<p align="center"><b>August/ September</b></p>	<p align="center">30</p>	<p align="center">6</p> <p align="center">NO CLASS Labor Day</p>	<p align="center">13</p> <p align="center">1<sup>st</sup> Day of Class! 8:30-10 am</p>	<p align="center">20</p> <p align="center"><b>Class</b></p>	<p align="center">27</p> <p align="center">Class</p>	<p><b>Saturday, August 29: PSR</b></p> <p>ALL SCHOOL OPENING MASS at 6pm/ Meet the Teacher/ PSR family picnic @ Loyola Hall/Concession Stand</p> <p><b>End of September:</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> grade parent meeting (video)</p>
<p align="center"><b>October</b></p>	<p align="center">4</p> <p align="center">C l a s s</p>	<p align="center">11</p> <p align="center">Class</p>	<p align="center">18</p> <p align="center">C l a s s</p>	<p align="center">25</p> <p align="center">Class</p>		<p><b>Mid-October: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Parent Meeting (video)</b></p> <p><b>Friday, Oct 16: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation retreat (evening, time tbd)</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>November</b></p>	<p align="center">1</p> <p align="center">Class</p> <p align="center">ALL SAINTS DAY</p> <p align="center">Toy Collection;</p> <p align="center">Vocation Awareness week;</p> <p align="center">DST-fall back</p>	<p align="center">8</p> <p align="center">Class</p> <p align="center">Toy Collection</p>	<p align="center">15</p> <p align="center">Class</p>	<p align="center">22</p> <p align="center">Class</p>	<p align="center">29</p> <p align="center">NO CLASS</p> <p align="center">Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p align="center">1<sup>st</sup> Sun Advent</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, Nov 3: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Vigil</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, Nov 5: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, Nov 12: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Commissioning (student and sponsor)</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, November 26: Thanksgiving Day</b></p>

**PARISH EVENTS:**     *You can find more information about these and more events in the [weekly bulletin!](#)*

**FLOCKNOTE-** Would you like to know more about upcoming events? Join Flocknote to receive the latest news

from the parish. Click here: [Sign up for Flocknote](#)

**Junior High Youth Group** -visit our website [here](#) to see the latest pictures from great events that the Youth Group has been hosting. If you want to be a part of all the fun- contact Emily Branscum at 661-6565 x2711.

