



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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Friday, July 26, 2024

Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish School of Religion Families:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and having a splendid summer. It's hard to believe that classes will resume for your children in less than a month, and our Parish School of Religion (PSR) shortly thereafter!

I truly look forward to starting this upcoming PSR year as I continue to get to know families and be part of the faith formation journey here at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. Our children are not the future of the Church but by virtue of their baptism are part of the Church here and now. So, it is important that we together-- parents, clergy, and catechists, combine to pass on the great treasure of our faith and witness to it by our Christian example in daily life. As we know, our culture competes for their full attention and bombards them with many messages that stand at odds with our call to become saints!

Some effects of these bombardments as found in Pew Research Center surveys are: 72% of Catholics say they do not attend Mass at least once a weekly; 48% of Catholics do not pray daily; 69% of Catholics do not believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus as the Church teaches, but that it is just a symbol; and over half of Catholics that have left the faith did so before reaching age 18. We deeply do not want our children to become part of those statistics.

As we all persist on our way to become saints, we, clergy, staff, and catechists, are here to help you, the primary catechists of your children. After much consideration, prayer, and consultation, we are expanding the time of PSR and offering a monthly study for parents; both are to better help form our children in the faith and assist in creating holy and grace filled families. PSR will be extended to 1 hour and 15 minutes and will be held on Sundays from 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption Faith Formation and Evangelization Center on the Emerald Campus (former St. Mark). This provides all families the opportunity to attend anyone of the 3 Masses celebrated each weekend: Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. The Emerald Campus allows catechists and students to have a space that is theirs to be fully utilized and for the continuation of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This year the monthly opportunity for parents and guardians will be to come together for a book study on Parenting Your Kids with Grace (Birth to Age 10) and Parenting Your Teens and Tweens with Grace (Ages 11 to 18) both by Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak. More details, registration, and schedule of the study are to follow.

Our PSR orientation for parents and students will be on Sunday, September 8th at 11:45 a.m. in the St. Raymond Room at the Emerald Campus, 324 Gay Street, Lancaster, OH 43130. If you are not able to attend, please reach out to me and we can schedule a one on one to go over the information. Registration will be online this year and there is an early bird tuition discount if registration is submitted by August 21. Please follow the below link.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/889fd674-2879-4b21-b4c6-33c7e1ae63c6>

Please register by Sunday, August 28th so class lists, and all medical information can be prepared and available to the teachers. Tuition checks may be made payable to "St. Mary" and returned to the Saint Mary Rectory. Thank you in advance for your prompt cooperation in this matter. If you are having trouble registering and/or are experiencing financial hardship, please reach out to me.

The full PSR calendar and sacramental preparation calendar, including sacramental parent meetings and form due dates is expected to be finalized next week and will be found on the parish website. Especially sacramental families, those of you who have a child in second or eighth grade, once the calendar is available, please copy the sacramental preparation calendar onto your family calendar so you can be sure to attend the important parent sessions. If your child, for whatever reason, is "out-of-sequence" with his/her sacraments, I ask that you please contact me this summer so we can meet to discuss an appropriate plan of preparation for the coming year.

Fr. Eilerman, our catechists, and I are very excited to work with your children this coming year! I thank you for trusting us to work with you and your family. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely in Christ through Mary,

Miss Shana Leonard
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