

**PSR PROGRAM
PARENT LETTER**

August 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Registered PSR Student:

We welcome you and your families to the St. Francis Xavier Parish School of Religion Programs for our 2011-2012 school year. We look forward for the opportunity to once again, or for the first time, minister to your family's spiritual development, faith formation, and needs.

This 2011-2012 year everyone is still trying to economize in their homes and we are too, in the Religious Education Office. This year again we will be using the St. Francis Xavier web site: stfrancisxavier.info. Under Parish click on Religious Education then on the link which pertains to your need. We'll be updating each of our sites every couple of months with a parent letter so please refer to this means of communication (and also the church bulletin). Again this year the handbook will be on our website. If your family does not have weekly access to the web site please call us at 722-7700 and the information will be mailed. We will also be asking for your families e-mail address to add to our records. We will be emailing information to you so please check your inbox for updates. You can email us at sbrooks@stfrancisxavier.info. This updated process will save us hundreds of dollars during the school year.

In order to begin this year we are still in need of faith-sharing adults and young adults (junior and senior year) to give their time as catechists, substitutes, facilitators or Core members for Pre School, Elementary, and the Edge (Grade 6, 7, & 8). Adults are needed for Pre School (Sunday mornings) as catechists and helpers for the 3,4 year old age groups. Elementary (Saturday mornings) classes need catechists (especially Grade 4 and classroom helpers) and substitutes for the year. The Edge (Grade 6, 7 and 8) need facilitators and substitutes. Please call the PSR office now at 722-7700 or 725-4968 and pray about giving of your time and gifts to Faith Share with our youth. Please don't wait until our programs are to begin. Help, materials, and training are available. Pray and reflect to see if this is your year to answer Jesus' call . . . Come . . . Brothers and Sisters . . . Teach and Share with our Young Adults.

We do have a program on Saturday mornings for students with special needs called Inclusive Ministry. Nancy Sherepita who coordinates this program and her assistants do a beautiful ministry for those that need extra help. If you have any questions, please call us with your child's information so we can try to meet their formal religious needs. If any parent has training in special needs, and could help us out on Saturday mornings in this program please call the PSR office.

Your family and their spiritual, educational, and physical needs are extremely important to us. Year after year we try to make new changes or additions to benefit our students of all age levels. Please feel free to contact the PSR office at any time, as we are here to serve you in any way we can.

May this 2011-2012 year bring us all together as we work home and parish for the benefit of your child/children/young adult. It is our prayer that this combined effort brings us all closer to Jesus Christ. Our PSR theme is **"Spreading the Seeds of Our Faith" . . . Stewardship, Scripture, Sacraments, and Service"**.

In Christ's Ministry,
Susan Rohe-Brooks
Director of Religious Education

PSR PROGRAMS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Pre School - A program for those children who are 3,4, or 5 years old by September 1. The children meet in the school on Sunday mornings from 10:00 A.M. **until the 10:00 A.M. Liturgy ends.** Registrations need to be made immediately by stopping by the Rectory or call and the forms will be sent out. The program will use a new series this year supplemented with music & activities. **In order to provide for more youth we still need help! We are still in need of Ages 3 &4, Pre School catechists & helpers. Call the PSR office at (722-7700) for more information if you can assist with the Pre School classrooms. Help and assistance is given.**

Staff Meeting: The Pre School Staff Meeting is Thursday, September 22 , 7:00–8:30 P.M. in the Xavier Room.

Open House: Sunday, October 2 after the 10:00 Mass stop in and meet the catechist until 11:45 A.M. Students will receive a letter a week before with the teachers/helpers name and the room number.

Regular Sessions begin on Sunday, October 16th at 10:00 A.M. in the school and after the conclusion of the 10:00 A.M. Liturgy.

Elementary - A program for those enrolled in public schools, Grades 1-5. Students meet on Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:30 A.M. **Please register first grade students *(See Sacrament Information Section) and anyone new to the program immediately.** All other students have automatically been moved up to the next grade level as long as they attended regularly last year. In the elementary program we are in need of catechists, and substitute teachers for the year ahead. **We are also in need of parent assistance in the parking lot about 2X during the year.** Sign up for parking help by calling the PSR office. This only involves helping from 8:40-9:15 A.M. and 10:15-10:45 A.M.

Opening Classes - This year classes begin on Saturday, September 10. Due to the parking lot and construction going on we ask that parents drop off their student at the door and follow the directives given by the traffic guards. As soon as we find a plan we will email you. Staff members will greet your students at the door and take them to their classroom. In previous years we had a special meeting for parents this will have to wait due to the parking situation **We will be keeping you informed by emails.** Class lists will be posted on the windows of the Xavier Room of the school and will be sent to you through the email beginning Thursday, September 8th at 4:00 P.M. PSR Fees can be paid on September 10. Please send an envelope with your child to give to their catechist. (\$65.00 per student in Gr. 1,3,4,5, \$85.00 for Grade 2 students). Parents need to drop off all students at the main school entrance. **Dismissal: Due to the construction dismissal will be changed as soon as we have a plan in place we will let you know via email.**

Important Note - If your student is not registered by Tuesday, September 6, 2011 they'll need to wait until the following week to begin classes. If they are not registered please do not bring them the first day. Please note if your child was in Pre School they still need to be registered for Grade 1 in the Elementary Program. We have no knowledge of your first grader coming unless you call and register them into the PSR program.

Inclusive Ministry (Special Needs) - On Saturday mornings we have a program available for those students who are of age for first grade and up and have special needs. We need to know the needs of the children in order to help parents with a more formal foundation. This is achieved on an individual basis and time schedules. We are very blessed to have Nancy Sherepita leading this program. Please call the PSR office at 722-7700 to enroll your special needs

child. Also, if any adult is trained to work with these students please call us as help is always needed.

The Edge Program - Grade 6, 7 & 8 - This is a Catholic centered junior high youth ministry program provided for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade level. If your student attended regularly last year in Grade 5, 6, or 7 they are registered for this program. If your student did not attend last year please call the PSR office to register as soon as possible.

Opening of the Edge Program - Wednesday, October 5th from 6:45-8:30 P.M.

This year our program will take place in 2 locations. Some classes will be in the gym and some classes will take place in the church. Please consult the schedule for each week's location which will be posted on the website. The Edge students on the first night will use the doors by the gym. Group Lists will be in the gym entrance and will be posted on the web site on Monday, October 3, 2011.

Edge Retreat for Grade 8 - The date for this year's opportunity for all 8th graders in our parish(PSR, Day School, and Home Schooled) will be Saturday, October 15 at Inspiration Hills in Burbank, Ohio. Students will be bringing information home and a form will be available on the website by the end of the week.

Life Teen - The PSR movement of youth ministry, called Life Teen, is provided for all parish high school (public, private and home-schooled) students (Grades 9-12) and their high school friends to meet their spiritual, educational, emotional and social needs.

Life Opening Mass/Kickoff Sunday, September 25, 2011 - This opening Night begins with our Life Teen Liturgy at 5:30 P.M. in the Church. Following is a Life Night of a Fall Festival theme. Information will be on the parish website.

Life Teen Retreats/Overnights - For all high school students and their high school friends Life Teen Retreat November 5 & 6, 2011 "In the Flesh", at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville and the Cardboard City Retreat - Saturday-Sunday April 14 & 15, 2012 at St. Francis Xavier.

Parents for Life - This is an opportunity for our high school parents to give assistance in different ways, driving, retreat help, refreshments, fund raising, etc. to support and make this program come alive for your teens and their friends. Please call the rectory at 722-7700 and let us know your interest in helping!

Refreshment Coordinator - **Our thanks to Mrs. Ellen Stine for her years of service. We are in great need of a head person to help with snacks, retreats, Life afternoons, etc. This takes place before or after Life nights. A couple of families could volunteer to work together so please call the PSR office if you are willing to help!**

Life Teen Fund-Raiser - Life Teen does not charge a regular fee to come each week. The program is supported by our Fund Raiser "**Trees & Treasures**" Parents and parishioners are encouraged to support this fun evening of dinner/silent/oral auction at Rustic Hills Country Club on Friday, November 18th. We would appreciate donations of Christmas and non-Christmas items and themed baskets to help the cause. Please call the PSR office for more information about "Trees and Treasures" This is not only a function to benefit Life Teen but has also been a great parish community event!

Sacrament Programs -

Reconciliation/Eucharist programs for students in Grade 2 and older students who have not yet received the sacraments. **To be in the Sacrament Programs, Public school students need to attend regularly and complete an entire Grade 1 PSR year before they are enrolled in the Gr. 2 Sacrament Program.** Parents of older students need to contact the PSR office if they haven't already notified us of their child/children's desire to receive the sacraments this year. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is prepared for from September until December. The celebration dates for Reconciliation are December 10th and 17th 2011 at 11:00 A.M. in the

Church. The Sacrament of Eucharist is prepared for in the classrooms from January until May. First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at two liturgies. The schedule of times for First Eucharist will not be available until the February Parent Meeting.

Parent Sacrament Workshops -

Those parents/guardians whose students will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Eucharist during this year are to attend a special workshop night before each Sacrament preparation begins. The Reconciliation Parent Meeting will be on Monday, October 3, 2011 from 7:00-9:30 P.M. in the Church and Church Basement. This is a very important meeting to attend as important information will also be given out for First Eucharist. The Eucharist Parent Meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2012 from 7:00-9:30 P.M. in the Church and Church Basement. **One parent from each family needs to attend these important evenings.** Mark your calendar now!

Sacrament Retreat Days for Grade 2 and Older Sacrament Students -

Students receiving their Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will have a special Retreat Day of preparation and need to be in attendance. Please mark your calendars for Reconciliation Retreat Day, Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. On this day Grade 2 PSR students do not come to regular PSR classes only to the special retreat day at 11:00 A.M. The Eucharist Retreat Day is on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00-1:00.

Fees for the 2011-2012 year - Pre School, Elementary, and The Edge

To make this process easier and more efficient for the PSR office all payments will be checked through us and turned into the Business Manager. We will have an area set up to take payments on the first day for Elementary. Due to construction we will not have a table set up for payments but ask for students to turn in payments in an envelope The Edge students are asked turn in payments the first night Wednesday, October 5 to the catechists. In order to meet our costs, we need payments to be made during the beginning month of classes. Thank you **Pre School** - \$40.00 for 1 child, \$65.00 for 2 children, \$80.00 for 3 children. Payment is requested at the time of registration.

Elementary & The Edge Program

\$65.00 per student for Grades 1,3,4,5,6,7,8

\$85.00 for Grade 2 Sacrament year students which covers parents and students texts and the retreat day fees. **We ask, if at all possible that fees for different programs be paid in separate checks.**

Life Teen - No initial fee - See Life Teen Fund-Raiser

The Edge Summer Camp - This camp is held for all students who have completed 7th or 8th grade in the 2011-2012 year. It will be held the week of July 9-13, 2012. More information will be provided during the end of March. This is a great opportunity to give Service, experience Fellowship with Peers, and have a fun week! This program does fill up quickly so watch the parish bulletin and the flyers the students will bring home in the end of March 2012. If we do fill up the first week a second week will be offered.

Vacation Bible School - Held each summer for those Age 4 through Grade 6. This coming year's program will be held on June 25-29, 2012. We can use adult and teen helpers. Watch the bulletin and web site for information on the theme and mark your calendars for March 20, 2012 and April 17, 2012 meeting date. Many hands are needed from planning the weeks program to set up and clean up.

Stewardship:

This is a parish wide mission and our students are encouraged to give their gifts of time, talent and treasures, This year instead of giving out envelopes each week to Grades 1-8 we are encouraging the students to pick up an envelope as they enter the vestibules of church each week. They will be reminded to put in a monetary donation if possible and also write down their gift of time and talent shared during the week. This year, also our students in PSR will join with the Day school in having an opportunity to contribute donations in October and November which will go toward a figurine for the new Christmas creche. More info to follow.

The Parish School of Religion Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00. Call 330-722-7700 extension 110 and 111 and leave a voice mail message if we are not in. You can also call the Rectory and DRE Sue Brooks office (extension 110).

We are looking forward to sharing this year with your student and family. Our theme this year is **"Spreading the Seeds of our Faith" in all areas Stewardship, Scripture, Sacraments and Service.** We look forward to seeing you and your family in the next couple of weeks.

