

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Parish School of Religion*



Parent Handbook

2017-2018



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH

8968 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037-2237

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Parish School of Religion at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. I look forward to working with you and your children to grow closer to God.

Our mission is to bring the Good News of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. In order to do this it will take the commitment of all parents, catechists, students and the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." (CCC 2223) We are here to help you with that responsibility. We offer Religious Education, Community, and Love necessary to accomplish this goal.

Again this year we will do our best to work together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in order to bring about more of a sense of parish community. We will have the same theme for the year as the school and our classes will be using the same text books. Whenever possible we will use similar themes for the month and learn some of the same songs. I hope that you will feel more of a sense of unity through our efforts.

I pray that everyone involved will have the chance to encounter Christ and experience His mercy.

God Bless,

C.C. Merritt

CRE/PCL Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Phone: 504-394-0314
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churchoffice@olphbc.org
www.olphbc.org



OLPH Parish School of Religion 2017-2018

August	29	PSR Opening Prayer Service & Parent Meeting (Both days attend.)
September	5/6	PSR Classes
	12/13	PSR Classes
	17	Catechetical Sunday – Commissioning of all Catechists
	19/20	PSR Classes
	26/27	PSR Classes Mass for 6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grade PSR
October	3/4	PSR Classes <i>Drive-by Pet Blessing (Bring pets at dismissal)</i>
	10/11	PSR Classes
	17/18	PSR Classes
	24/25	PSR Classes
	31	No PSR
November	1	All Saints Day; PSR Parade of Saints/Mass (Both days attend.) Masses: 8:30 am, 5:00 & 7:00 pm Holy Day of Obligation
	7/8	PSR Classes
	14/15	PSR Classes
	21/22	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
	28/29	PSR Classes; Reconciliation
December	5/6	Nativity Play Rehearsal <i>Parents are invited to help.</i>
	12/13	Nativity Play 5:00 p.m. in Church
	19/20	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>
	24	Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00, 6:00, 10:00
	25	Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 am
	26/27	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>

“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14



OLPH Parish School of Religion 2017-2018

January	2/3	<i>New Year Holiday</i>
	9/10	PSR Classes
	11	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting 6:00pm (church)
	16/17	PSR Classes
	23/24	PSR Classes Mass for 3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Grade PSR
	30/31	PSR Classes
February	6/7	PSR Classes Krewe of Christianity
	13	Mardi Gras; <i>No PSR</i>
	14	Ash Wednesday; <i>No PSR</i> Masses: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm
	20/21	PSR Classes
	20	First Reconciliation Practice & First Communion Meeting 5:00 pm (church)
	21	First Reconciliation 7:00 pm (church)
	27/28	PSR Classes
March	6/7	PSR Classes
	13/14	PSR Classes
	20	PSR Living Way of the Cross (Both days attend)
	21	No PSR
	27/28	No PSR - Holy Week
April	3/4	No PSR
	10/11	PSR Classes Mass for K, 1 st , & 2 nd Grade PSR
	17/18	PSR Classes
	24/25	PSR Classes
	28	First Communion Retreat 9:00am-12:00noon
May	1/2	PSR Classes
	5	First Communion 10:00 am (church)
	9	PSR Closing Mass (Both days attend.)

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Parish School of Religion - 2017-2018

Policies and Procedures

Welcome to our PSR program. The program is designed to promote full and active participation in the life and mission of the Roman Catholic Church through experiences in prayer, scripture, religious study, and participation in the sacramental life of the parish.

1. This year we will use the publication ***Christ Our Life—New Evangelization Edition*** (Loyola Press). Only weekly pages will be sent home with the students, not the books. Review the pages with your children and complete the Building Family Faith section together.
2. We are blessed to have volunteer catechists to teach PSR. Please communicate with your child's catechists regarding absences, progress and other concerns.
3. **You and your family are expected to attend Mass regularly.** Mass attendance as a family has a profound effect on religious education classes. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our faith. Most of what is taught in PSR stems from the Mass.
4. **COMMUNICATION:** In addition to the emails, flyers and notes that we used for communication last year, we will add the REMIND notification. This will go to the cell phone numbers that were listed on the registration form that was handed in for the 2017-18 year. You will have to "accept" the notification for you to receive the information. Instructions will be explained in another communication. This will be used to remind families about special events, changes in regular PSR times or dates, and if it is necessary to cancel PSR due to weather or other emergency situations.
5. **ATTENDANCE:** If you know your child will be absent ahead of time, please contact the Church office before 4:00PM at 394-0314 or after 4:00PM please call 394-0757. Lesson pages for missed day(s) are available. If a student misses more than two consecutive classes the Coordinator of Religious Education will contact the parent or guardian. Excessive absences may require make-up work before advancing PSR the following year. This may also affect sacramental preparation.
6. **ARRIVAL:** All students must be dropped off under the overhang between the Church and the School. Students must exit on passenger side **ONLY**. Students must line up in their designated grade area. Students are not allowed in the playground area. Students should not arrive before 4:30PM and should not be left without knowing a responsible adult is on the premises.

7. **DISMISSAL:** The parking lot area between Church and School is **EXIT ONLY** from 5:30PM to the end of dismissal. Enter the parking lot between KC Hall and Church forming two lanes. Please pull up as close as possible to the car in front of you. **Do not block** or stop on Belle Chasse highway.

a. **Those picking up students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades and their siblings** stay in the far right line behind the church. These students will be dismissed in the area between the front of the church and the school and will enter vehicle from passenger side **ONLY**.

b. Those picking up students from 3rd through 8th grade line up in left lane behind church. These students will be dismissed in front of the school cafeteria. (Pick-Up passenger side **ONLY**). Rainy day dismissal for these students will be between the school and rectory, car entrance on fair grounds.

c. If a student needs to be picked up early, please come to the office to sign out.

8. **PLEASE BE PROMPT IN DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP.** Students should be in line by grade level for assembly by 4:40PM on the map in front of school. Students arriving late after assembly is over must check in at the office before going to the classroom.

9. Students must conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times: at assembly, in the classroom, and in church. Food, drinks, and snacks are not allowed unless a catechist provides these items. **Gum chewing is not allowed.** Also, be mindful that we are sharing space with school children. Any papers, pens, pencils, books, or other items in the classrooms should not be handled by PSR students. Toys, sports balls, iPods, iPads, and cell phones are not allowed at any time while attending PSR. Any electronic device brought to class must be turned off when arriving on the property. When entering the classroom the device will be placed in a designated place determined by the teacher and will be returned when class is dismissed. **WE HAVE A NO-TOLERANCE POLICY REGARDING CELL PHONES, IPODS AND IPADS. IF THE STUDENT IS CAUGHT USING ANY OF THESE DEVICES WHILE ATTENDING PSR THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES WILL OCCUR:**

1ST TIME: THE DEVICE WILL BE PLACED ON THE CATECHIST'S DESK AND IT WILL BE RETURNED TO THE STUDENT AFTER CLASS.

2ND TIME: THE DEVICE WILL BE TAKEN TO THE OFFICE AND RETURNED TO THE STUDENT OR PARENT AFTER PAYMENT OF A \$10 FINE.

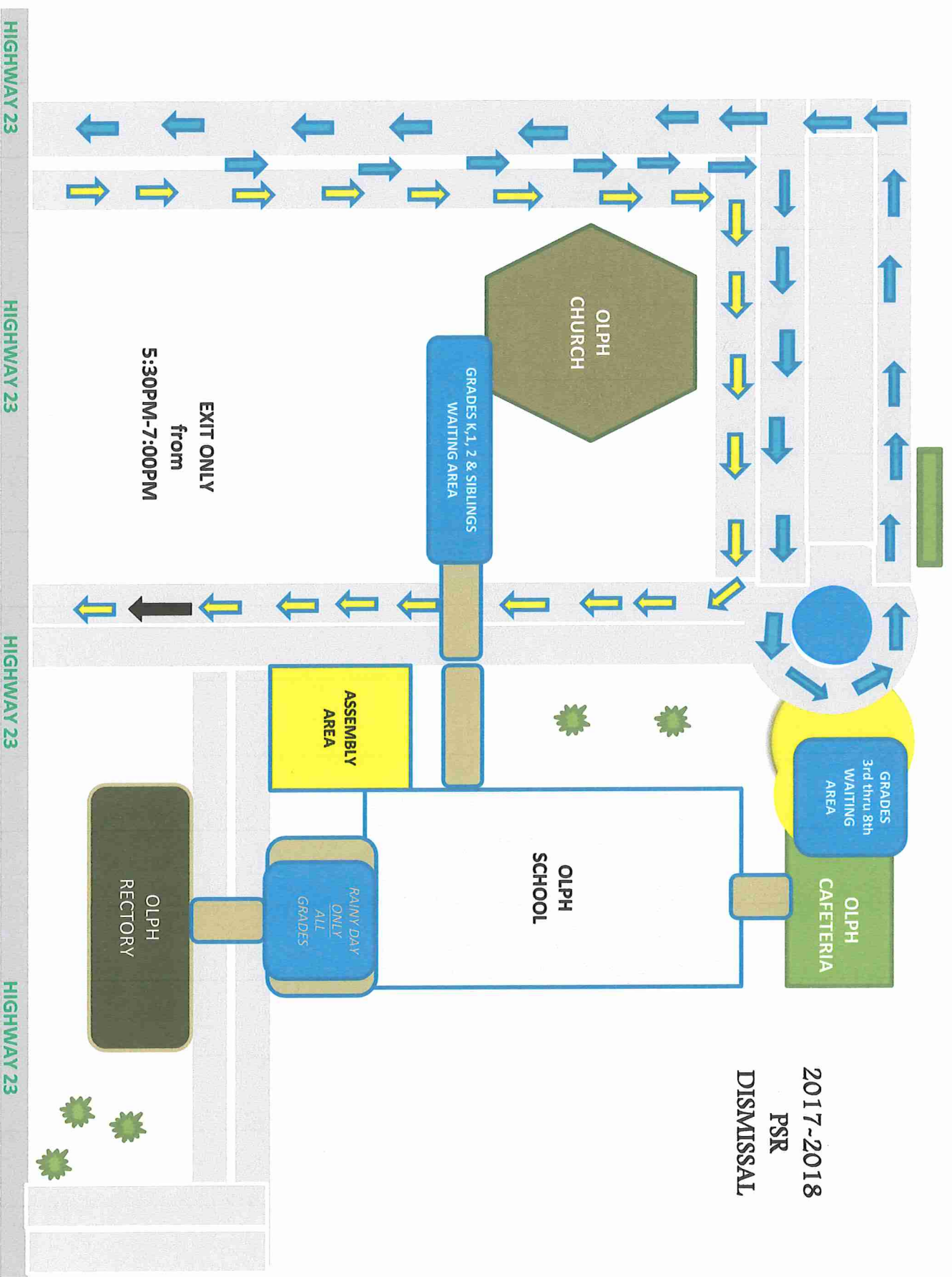
10. We invite parents to attend different events (i.e. masses, special blessings, plays, etc.). Please make every effort to attend. If you would like to visit or assist in your child's class, please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, at the Church Office (504-394-0314). Safe Environment training is required for anyone who will have regular contact with students.

11. **SCHOOL UNIFORMS ARE RECOMMENDED.** Any OLPH T-Shirts may also be worn. Official sports uniforms may be worn when going directly to a game. Cleats are never to be worn in the school building. If dressed for dance class, please make sure to be covered appropriately.

12. Only students who are registered PSR students can be on the school premises during PSR hours. (OLPH school students who attend afterschool care use separate buildings and spaces.)

13. Please contact **C.C. Merritt**, Coordinator of Religious Education, at the Church Office (504-394-0314) if you have any questions or concerns.

**2017-2018
PSR
DISMISSAL**



A Parent's Prayer

All praise to You, Lord Jesus,
Lover of children:
Bless our family,
And help us to lead our children to You.

Give us light and strength,
And courage when our task is difficult.
Let Your Spirit fill us with love and peace,
So that we may help our children to love You.

All glory and praise are Yours, Lord Jesus,
For ever and ever.

Amen.



“You may not be rich; you may be unable to bequeath any great possessions to your children; but one thing you can give them; the heritage of your blessing. And it is better to be blessed than to be rich.” St. Ambrose