

St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish PSR and Sacramental Preparation Policy and Guidelines

A. Schedule and Location:

Sessions are on Sundays (*unless noted - see attached calendar*)

Drop-off time: 9:15 am

Session time: 9:30 - 11:00 am

Holy Redeemer Activity Center – *K – 6, including First Communion*
(1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth, OH 45662)

St. Mary Activity Center – *Confirmation*
(514 Market St., Portsmouth, OH 45662)

B. Who is eligible?

The Diocese of Columbus requires that all children receive sacraments in their parish of registration. Families attending PSR and those who need sacramental preparation are required to be *registered and active* parishioners of St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.

Children whose families are members of other Catholic parishes in the diocese should ideally prepare for and receive their sacraments at their church of registration. Students enrolled at Notre Dame Elementary and Notre Dame High School must either register at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish or, if registered with another parish, must obtain special permission to prepare at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.

For extraordinary circumstances that would necessitate a child or children to attend faith formation and/or receive a sacrament at another parish, the registered family of St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish must obtain the written permission of their pastor.

Please see the parish office for more information and help with registration.

A registered active member of a parish is one who is registered with the parish office, attends Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation year-round, gives regular financial support to the parish, and participates in volunteer opportunities that support the ministries and other needs of the parish.

Regular and active attendance every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is particularly essential for families whose children are preparing for the sacraments.

Two-Year Requirement: Children seeking sacraments must be enrolled and have consistent attendance in religious education for **two consecutive years** to be eligible for a sacrament. Proof of religious formation or Catholic school attendance from a previous parish

or school may also be used to fulfill this requirement. *(Due to transitions, this requirement will be strictly effective SY 2026-2027)*

Newly registered families are welcome to participate in PSR if they are active members.

C. Cost

There is no fee for faith formation at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish. If parents and other parishioners wish to make a donation or provide any other support, such as providing snacks, supplies, volunteering to assist, etc., please contact the office at **(740) 354-4551**, email: marissa@sciotocatholic.org, or drop by at **514 Market Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662**.

D. Registration and Required Paperwork

Please make sure to complete and sign the attached registration form for your child/children. A copy of the **baptismal and/or first communion certificates** is/are REQUIRED for **all** children receiving sacraments in the parish. If you need a copy or proof of your child's sacraments, please contact our parish office.

E. Sacramental Participation Requirements

1. Continuous faith formation is essential for true discipleship. Children must attend all PSR sessions. Children enrolled in our Notre Dame Schools who are in their sacramental preparation year are required to join our parish PSR sessions (this applies to both First Communion and Confirmation).
2. Children seeking to receive the sacraments must attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday night anticipated Mass). Documentation of Sunday Mass Attendance is required – children will bring a copy of the parish bulletin signed by either a priest or a deacon to every PSR session.* All knowledge of our Catholic faith is irrelevant if the child is not actively participating in the liturgical life of the Church with the family; failing to do so will therefore result in the delay of receiving the sacrament(s).
3. For children needing to receive more than one sacrament (e.g. those not yet baptized), an initial meeting with the parents/family will be required as this is determined on a case-by-case basis.
4. A pre-interview and final interview will be conducted, and a few sessions with parents will be scheduled throughout the year. Sponsor inquiry and preparation will also be required.
5. The pastor makes the final decision in all matters of sacramental preparation and religious education in the parish.

*If visiting another parish, a copy of the parish bulletin (unsigned) is sufficient.

For more information: please address additional questions and concerns to Marissa McCormick via email: marissa@sciotocatholic.org or phone: (740) 354-4551.