



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

August 25, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 year for the Parish School of Religion at St. Dominic! I hope that all of our families have had an opportunity for renewal this past summer. This letter and the accompanying documents contain both new information and annual reminders as we prepare to begin the new academic year.

Welcome to Our New Priests!

As many of you know, the Dominican Friars withdrew from St. Dominic Parish on June 30 after staffing it for 98 years. The archbishop assigned diocesan priests to St. Dominic on July 1, and we welcomed Fr. Wayne Paysse as our new pastor, and Fr. Jeff Merritt as our new parochial vicar. They are assisted by two retired priests in residence, Fr. Harry Bugler and Fr. Mike Kettenring. We are excited for them to be at St. Dominic, and appreciate their support of our Parish School of Religion.

Office Hours & Communication

- Ms. Laurie Neely, our secretary, maintains office hours in Aquinas Hall on Memphis Street from 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Wednesdays. The number for our office at Aquinas Hall is 504-486-9731.
- Outside of that time, please leave a message and we will return your call; voicemail is checked several times a week outside of Wednesdays.
- If you need more immediate assistance, I can be reached at 504-813-3003, and Laurie can be reached 504-450-6814.

Start Date

Classes for students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will begin on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 4:00pm with dismissal at 5:30pm. Classes will continue on subsequent Wednesdays according to the enclosed calendar.

Classes for students in 3rd grade through 8th grade will begin on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 4:00pm with dismissal at 5:30pm.

Families with students in 9th – 11th grades will be contacted regarding a special schedule.

We welcome all our new students and those who will be returning to continue their formation in the Catholic faith.

Dismissal Placards

For use at dismissal/pick-up time, two name placards will be provided; if you need more please let Laurie Neely know. Please understand that those picking up your child will need to show one of these whether walking up or driving up. If the placard is not available and we cannot identify the adult, we reserve the right to contact the parent of record before releasing the child.

Covid Protocols

Face coverings are not required at PSR at this time.

Per the archdiocesan Covid-19 protocol for schools, any student testing positive for Covid-19 must isolate for five full days following the first day of symptoms or positive test, regardless of vaccination status. If a PSR class day falls within this span, the student must not attend PSR. If symptoms resolve the student may return to class after the five days are complete, and should wear a facial covering the following week.

If a student is exhibiting symptoms consistent with Covid-19, they should not attend PSR and be tested as soon as possible. If the test is positive, follow the above steps.

If a student has been exposed to Covid-19 but not showing symptoms, they may attend PSR but should wear a mask to class on any PSR class day that falls within 10 days of exposure.

Accompanying Documents to Keep

- **2022-2023 Policies & Guidelines** document contains our Covid-19 protocol, arrival/dismissal procedures, attendance requirements, etc.
- **2022-2023 Calendar**

Accompanying Documents to Complete and Return

The following documents must be completed and sent with the student to their first class. They may also be dropped off at the church office on Harrison Avenue before that day. Any student without these on file may not be allowed to attend class.

- **Parental Consent Form and Liability Waiver**
- **Medical Information and Consent Form**
- **Covid-19 Waiver**

Altar Server Opportunity

The parish is seeking new, additional altar servers for the Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses. Any student in 4th grade or above is welcome! If your child is interested, please let Laurie or me know and we will ask George Voulgarakis, coordinator, to contact you regarding training and scheduling.

Grandparents' Club

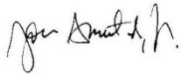
Did you know that St. Dominic has a Grandparents' Club for grandparents of our school and PSR students? The club gathers for prayer, fellowship, and activities in support of our children. If you would like to connect your child's grandparents to the club, please let Laurie or me know and we will ask Mrs. Linda Pippenger to reach out.

Sunday Mass

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, and participation in Mass on Sundays or at the Saturday vigil is also the core of how we "keep holy the Sabbath." Most of our students are too young to go to Mass on their own and rely on their parents to both set an example in this regard and bring them. We wish to encourage all parents to recommit to weekly Sunday Mass this year for the benefit of themselves, their children, and the faith life of our parish.

We pray through the intercession of St. Dominic that all of our students will grow this year to become more like Jesus and to follow in his footsteps as disciples. We partner with you, their parents, the first teachers of the faith, in this important mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Smestad, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John Smestad, Jr., M.R.E.
Director of Religious Education

St Dominic Parish School of Religion 2022-2023 Calendar

September 2022

07 PSR Class 1
14 PSR Class 2
21 PSR Class 3
28 PSR Class 4

October 2022

5 PSR Class 5
12 PSR Class 6
19 PSR Class 7
26 PSR Class 8

November 2022

2 PSR Class 9
9 PSR Class 10
16 PSR Class 11
23 No Class -Thanksgiving Holiday
30 PSR Class 12

December 2022

7 PSR Class 13
14 PSR Class 14
21 No Class – Christmas Holidays
28 No Class -Christmas Holidays

January 2023

4 PSR Class 15
11 PSR Class 16
18 PSR Class 17
25 PSR Class 18

February 2023

1 PSR Class 19
8 PSR Class 20
15 No Class – Parade Week
22 No Class – Ash Wednesday

March 2023

1 PSR Class 21
8 PSR Class 22
15 PSR Class 23
22 PSR Class 24
29 PSR Class 25

April 2023

5 No Class – Holy Week
12 No Class – Easter Holidays
19 PSR Class 26
26 PSR Class 27

May 2023

3 PSR Class 28
10 PSR May Crowning & Awards

PLEASE NOTE: THIS CLASS SCHEDULE APPLIES
TO GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH THAT
MEET FROM 4:00PM – 5:30PM ON
WEDNESDAYS.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-11 HAVE A DIFFERENT
SCHEDULE.

St. Dominic Parish
Parish School of Religion
2022-2023 Policies and Guidelines

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CLASS TIMES

- **K - 8th** meets on Wednesdays from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm.
 - Grades K-8 report directly to their classroom
- **9th - 11th** schedule to be communicated

PLEASE BE FAMILIAR WITH THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ON THE ENCLOSED CALENDAR.

ARRIVALS

Please enter Aquinas Hall through the main glass doors on the right side of the building adjacent to the Adoration Chapel. Staff and/or classroom assistants will be in the lobby to greet the children. For a child attending PSR for the first time, parents are asked to bring them into the building for the first couple of weeks. Parents should not to escort children to the classrooms.

Please do not drop off your child before 3:45pm as our volunteer teachers will not be ready to receive them.

TARDINESS

We understand that some students must come from a distance to attend class, but we ask that every effort be made to get the children to class on time. Frequent, significant tardiness that accumulates to be the combined equivalent of an entire missed class will be treated as such.

ATTIRE

Religion classes are a formal learning time. There will be occasions when the children are brought to church. Therefore, we ask that each student come appropriately dressed. Schools uniforms/attire are acceptable.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal for afternoon classes will be from the courtyard gate at 5:30 PM. The safety and supervision of your children is our most important responsibility. Please note:

- All students will remain in the Aquinas Hall courtyard until claimed by someone with the placard, by a parent/guardian or someone designated in writing by the parent/guardian.
- If you choose to park, get out of your car, and walk to Aquinas Hall, identify yourself to the teacher at the courtyard gate using the name placard (will be provided), who will call for your child.

St. Dominic Parish
Parish School of Religion
2022-2023 Policies and Guidelines

- If you choose to utilize the drive-up lane on Memphis Street please have the name placard on your dashboard. The teacher at the curb will use a two-way radio to contact the teacher in the courtyard to call for your child.
- **If it is raining at the 5:30 PM dismissal time, dismissal will take place from the main entrance/glass doors/covered sidewalk where the students enter at 4:00 PM.**

ATTENDANCE

With the exception of the Covid-19 protocol outlined above, children are expected to attend class regularly. **Please phone us in advance at 504-486-9731 if you know your child will not be attending class a certain day;** leaving a voicemail is sufficient. If a child is absent without notice, we may contact you to inquire. Any child missing more than three (3) classes per semester without medical documentation may be asked to repeat the grade.

CONDUCT

The children are expected to show respect to teachers, one another, and to property. No food or drink is to be brought to class. Parents will be contacted if any discipline problems occur. When it becomes necessary a teacher will send home a discipline sheet, either for lack of attention during a lesson or for a disciplinary concern. Parents are asked to follow any directions indicated on the paper, sign the paper and have your child return it to the teacher at the next class period.

EMERGENCIES

Our office will use the emergency phone numbers provided on the registration form in order to contact you regarding an emergency. Because of their importance, please help us keep phone numbers current.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be issued twice a year at the end of each semester.

HOMEWORK

Depending on the teacher and the content of the lesson, children may have differing amounts of homework to be completed and possibly signed by you before the next class. Parents, since you are the primary religious educators of your children, we urge you to be involved in their formation. Please discuss and go over any materials/lessons with your child.

TEXTBOOK & FOLDER

Although the textbooks are usually kept at St. Dominic, in cases where it is sent home by the teacher, it is very important that your child bring it to the next class, along with the student folder and any other material requested by the teacher. Parents are responsible for the cost of replacing lost books.

E-MAIL

Each fall we load the parent e-mail addresses provided at registration into our e-mail system. If we discover any "bounced" e-mails, we will call you to get corrections/updates. Beyond that, we ask that parents to notify us of any e-mail address changes and to please check e-mail regularly as this is how we will communicate reminders, and any necessary schedule changes.

**ST. DOMINIC PSR, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM AND LIABILITY WAIVER**

Participant's name: _____

Birth date: _____ Sex: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone : _____ Business phone: _____

I, _____, grant permission for my child, _____, to participate in this parish religious education program. This activity will take place under the guidance and direction of parish employees and/or volunteers from St. Dominic Parish. A brief description of the activity follows:

Type of event: 2022-2023 Parish School of Religion

Location(s): St. Dominic Parish

Individual in charge: John Smestad, Jr., Laurie Neely, and PSR teachers

Duration of activity: September 2022 – May 2023; classes on Wednesdays

Mode of transportation to and from event: on your own

As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named minor ("participant").

I agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to hold harmless and defend St. Dominic Parish, its officers, directors and agents, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans, coaches, chaperons, or representatives associated with the event, arising from or in connection with my child attending the event or in connection with any illness or injury or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and I agree to compensate the parish, its officers, directors and agents, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans, coaches, chaperons, or representatives associated with the activity for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses arising in connection therewith.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**ST. DOMINIC PARISH
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
PARENTAL/GUARDIAN COVID-19 CONSENT FORM & LIABILITY WAIVER**

Participant's name: _____

Birth date: _____ Sex: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone : _____ Business phone: _____

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and as a result, social distancing is recommended. St. Dominic Parish will follow state and local standards of conduct and has put in place reasonable preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at its parish activities (including but not limited to the Parish School of Religion.) However, even though such standards will be followed and reasonable measures put into place, the parish cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending the parish activity could increase your risk and your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in the parish/school activity and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at St. Dominic Parish may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, parish/school employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

Considering the foregoing, however, I, _____, grant permission for my child, _____, to participate in these parish activities that may require transportation to a location away from the parish site, notwithstanding the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus and group activities.

I confirm that there are no necessary changes to the Medical Information Consent form for my child that I previously submitted. If there are any necessary changes, I will complete another Medical Information Consent form.

I further agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, and my spouse, our heirs, successors, and assigns, to release, indemnify, and hold harmless St. Dominic Parish and The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, their members, directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives ("Indemnitees") associated with the event arising from or in connection with the negligent acts or omissions of the Indemnitees ONLY in regard to prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO THE FOREGOING.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ST. DOMINIC PSR, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
MEDICAL INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

1. Please take care in filling out this form. It provides crucial information for caregivers in the event of illness or medical emergency. Accuracy and thoroughness are encouraged.
 2. Sections I, II and V are mandatory. Sections III and IV provide you with treatment options in non-emergency situations.
-

Participant's name: _____

Birth date: _____ Sex: _____

Parent/Guardian's name _____

Home address: _____
(Street) (City/State) (Zip)

Home phone: _____ Cellular phone: _____

Business phone: _____ Other: _____

SECTION I. MEDICAL MATTERS

As the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, who is currently associated with St. Dominic PSR. I hereby authorize John Smestad, Jr. or his/her assistants to carry out the wishes I have named (herein) in areas of emergency medical treatment and other cases of illness. This authorization inclusively extends from September 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023. I hereby warrant that, to the best of my knowledge, my child is in good health, and I assume all responsibility for the health of my child.

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

SECTION II. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to transport my child to a hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment. I wish to be advised prior to any further treatment by the hospital or doctor. In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to reach me at the numbers listed herein, contact:

Name & relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Family doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Family Health Plan Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECTION III: OTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT

In the event it comes to the attention of the parish, its officers, directors and agents, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans, chaperones, or representatives associated with the activity that my child becomes ill with symptoms such as headache, vomiting, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, I want to be called collect (with phone charges reversed to myself).

Signature _____ Date: _____

SECTION IV: MEDICATIONS

(SIGN ONLY THOSE OPTIONS THAT ARE APPLICABLE)

- My child is taking medication at present. My child will bring all such medications necessary, and such medications will be well-labeled. Names of medications and concise directions for seeing that the child takes such medications, including dosage and frequency of dosage, are as follows: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I hereby grant permission for non-prescription medication (such as tylenol, throat lozenges, cough syrup) to be given to my child, if deemed appropriate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- NO medication of any type, whether prescription or non-prescription, may be administered to my child unless the situation is life-threatening and emergency treatment is required.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECTION V: MEDICAL INFORMATION

The parish will take reasonable care to see that the following information will be held in confidence.

Allergic reactions (medications, foods, plants, insects, etc.): _____

Immunizations: Date of last tetanus/diphtheria immunization: _____

Does child have a medically prescribed diet? _____

Any physical limitations? _____

Is child subject to chronic homesickness, emotional reactions to new situations, sleepwalking, bed-wetting, fainting? _____

Has child recently been exposed to contagious disease or conditions, such as mumps, measles, chickenpox, etc? _____ If so, date and disease or condition: _____

You should be aware of these special medical conditions of my child: _____
