

Calendar

Our program largely takes place on Sunday mornings from 9am-10:10am throughout the St. Francis Xavier parish campus. For more particular dates for our sessions, please refer to our calendar handouts. Generally, we try to account for national holidays and school calendars so that we can avoid those Sundays where families would be inclined to leave town (for a three-day weekend, for example). We will never be able to perfectly balance everyone's calendar, but we do our best to make attending PREP both fun- and faith-filled. Once again, please refer to our handouts for more details about class sessions, parent coffee celebrations, relevant information for those seeking to have their children receive the sacraments, and other special events.

Communication

You, as those in charge of raising and forming your children, are the first and most important catechists for your children. No matter what we can teach them on Sundays, there is no better teacher for them than you.

In order to help you pass on the faith, not only will we aim to offer the best curriculum we can, but also, we will strive to give you weekly updates on what they have discussed in class, what events and material are upcoming, and some questions you might ask them to continue the conversation long after class lets out.

To best do this, we will work to keep constantly updating e-mail contacts so that you receive them consistently and to limit our e-mails so that you never feel overloaded with information.

Home Enrichment

Aside from the review opportunities, the Pflaum website (www.pflaumweeklies.com) has a wealth of resources to continue the conversation at home. We highly encourage you take a chance to check out the "Parents" tab of their website for a concise, age-appropriate summary of the week's Gospel, information for the seasons of the year, and activities to help reinforce what they learn.

Meeting Cancellations and Emergencies

Though it only very rarely happens, we will notify families through an e-mail blast as soon as we can so that you can plan accordingly should there ever be a need to abruptly cancel sessions due to weather or some other hazard. Once again, this is why it is absolutely important that we have the most up-to-date contact information for families, especially e-mail addresses.

Similarly, should an emergency situation arrive during, immediately before, or immediately after a session, we will do our best to contact families by e-mail, or in singular emergency situations, by phone call. In case families do change contact information, it helps that much more to receive that information as soon as possible to update our records.

Missed Sessions

No matter how hard we try, some of us will end up missing a session here or there. Without a little help, the children who missed a session will have to come into the next meeting behind. To help ease that transition back into the group, we have developed a way to help you catch your children up on the sessions they missed.

Therefore, if your children miss a session, we ask that you help work them through the lesson at home and then have them complete the review assignment.

- For grades 1, 3-8: makeup work will come in the form of weekly reviews. After going over the week's lesson with your children, please have them complete the weekly review and submit a completed copy, to sfxprep@comcast.net with your child's name and grade level in the subject line.
- For our children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, there will also be an expectation of attending sessions each week, and absences could lead to a recommendation for delaying the sacrament. Parents looking to develop their children's understanding of the lessons are welcome to use BlestAreWe.com to cultivate that knowledge and have children test their learning with the online quizzes.
- Occasionally, for 8th grade, there will be work done in *Christ in the New Testament*, and those lesson reviews may be completed at BeMyDisciples.com. When completed, you may have your children e-mail the results to those quizzes to sfxprep@comcast.net, as well.

Trying to remember how that all works out may be a bit confusing. To help, we will endeavor to include reminders weekly on what to work through with your children in case they miss sessions, including the link to the website or worksheets, as applicable.

Tuition

In consultation with the Finance Committee, we have recently had to raise tuition rates. Obviously, we try to limit raising tuition as much as possible and certainly seek to avoid the rates becoming a burden. Tuition for the program goes to pay for materials such as books, paper, markers, and pens; speakers, especially for sacramental years with retreats; maintenance; utilities; and much more. In fact, the parish helps subsidize the PREP program in addition to the budget we receive through tuition, averaging out to around a \$115 per child subsidy for PREP students just a few years ago.

That said, if your family, for whatever reason, does feel like the tuition would be an extraordinary burden to your family, please do not hesitate to contact us to let us know. We do offer scholarships to families in need of it—tuition rates should never come between a child and developing her or his relationship with God.