

6th
7th &
8th
Grade



Nicole Richard, PSR K-11th coordinator

Youth Minister

nrichard@sjscrusaders.org

KAYCEE WIDMER, ABLAZE MIDDLE SCHOOL

YOUTH MINISTER ASSISTANT

KWIDMER@SJSCRUSADERS.ORG

JEREMIAH 29:11

**“For I know the plans I have for
you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to
harm you,
plans to give you
HOPE and a future.”**

St. Joseph's PSR ABLAZE 6-8 GRADE

2023-2024

Academic Year Calendar

August 23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October 23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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June 24						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

November 23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

March 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December 23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

August 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Notes

CLASSES BEGIN AFTER LABOR DAY
 9:30 am -10:45 am
PARENT ORIENTATION
 ABLAZE PSR CLASS-9:30-10:40 AM
 NO CLASS-no class/office closed
 GRADES 6-8 GRADE
XLT IS CLASS..5-7 PM
Sidewalk for Life Sunday
STRAWBERRY FEST
 RETREATS - possibility & TBD
 SERVICE PROJECTS TBD
 SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY:PARENTS & TWEENS CLASS
 * FEBRUARY 4 9:30-10:30 AM gym*
VBS :decorate & do
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
ABLAZE HANGOUTS-MED. EYE
 5-7 pm St. Joseph's Ministry Bld.

DETAILED DATES FOR 2023-2024 PSR YOUTH

SHINE(K-5) – ABLAZE(6-8) -THIRST(9-11)

- August 5-6 Nicole & Kaycee promoting PSR registration Narthex
- August 13 THIRST 9-11 GRADE Parent Meeting 9:30 am St. Joseph Ministry Building
- August 15 Office closed. Holy Day of Obligation. Assumption of Mary – ATTEND MASS
- August 20 ABLAZE 6-8 GRADE Parent Meeting 9:30 am St. Joseph Ministry Building
- August 27 SHINE K-5 GRADE Parent Meeting 9:30 am St. Joseph Ministry Building
- August 30 NO ABLAZE HANGOUT ...ABLAZE see dates in parent packet
- =====
- September 3 NO PSR...Labor Day weekend
- Sept. 5 IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION 11 TH GRADE MANDATORY PARENT/CONFIRMANDI MEETING 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm St. Joseph Ministry Building. THIS IS VIP
- Sept. 10 FIRST DAY OF PSR K-11 th 9:30 am -10:40 ISH am (signs will be on doors for directions to classrooms)
- Sept 17 PSR SHINE K-5 AM REGULAR CLASS TIME
- XLT..EXHALT...ABLAZE & THIRST CLASS 5-7 PM IN THE CHURCH
- FAMILY EVENT ----PARENTS & TEENS- NO YOUNGER SIBLINGS PLEASE.
- NO CHILDCARE OFFERED.
- Sept. 23 Ablaze possible junior high retreat in Baton Rouge ...MP3
- Sept.24 PSR K-5
- Sept. 30 NOLA YOUTH CONFERENCE..7-12 TH GRADE ONLY. INFO TO COME.
- =====
- October 1 SHINE PSR K-5 in Classrooms 9:30-10:00 am
- ABLAZE & THIRST ... report to class the sidewalk for life 9:30-10:00am
- ALL GRADES K-11 & FAMILIES IN GYM FOR PROLIFE ROSARY ...10:10 AM
- Oct. 4 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS with Fr. McDuffie...CHURCH PARKING LOT ...FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS ...6 PM ...ALL FAMILIES INVITED
- Oct. 8 PSR CLASSES K-11th
- Oct.15 NO PSR ...Fall Break/ teacher professional Development

Dec. 10 ABLAZE & THIRST ADVENT XLT 5-7 PM
 Dec. 16-17 ABLAZE FUNDRAISER IN NARTHEX ...will need 'tweens to help.
 Dec. 17 NATIVITY PRACTICE ...SHINE K-5. 1:00 pm in Church.
 Dec. 24 NO PSR ...CHILDREN'S MASS 4:00 PM (Nativity)
 Dec. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
 December 25- January 1...OFFICE CLOSED

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January 1 MARY MOTHER OF GOD- HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
 January 3-10 THIRST PROLIFE SHIRT DECORATING DUE IN OFFICE. PLEASE DROP OFF.
 ABLAZE PROLIFE POSTERS DUE BY JAN 10. Details on flier to come.
 Jan.7 NO PSR CLASSES K-5
 Jan.10 Prolife KC contest items due in office
 Jan.13 KCs to judge Posters and t-shirts for prolife Banquet. No need for any to attend.
 Jan. 14 PSR K-11
 Jan. 15 Office Closed ..MLK
 Jan. 16 *Word n Worship with Nicole ..all families invited . Church . 7 pm*
ABLAZE & THIRST _ another family event opportunity
 Jan. 20 MARCH FOR LIFE BATON ROUGE ..FAMILIES CARAVAN TO CAPITAL...leave
 at 9 am- march 10-noon
 7AM ...CHALK ABOUT LIFE- All families welcomed to decorate our Church
 parking lol then join our march at La state capital. Or just come and decorate ☺
 Jan 21 PSR K-11
 Jan. 24 **MANDATORY PARENT MEETING OPTION #1...FIRST RECONCILIATION
 MEETING FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS (PSR, HOMESCHOOL & ST.
 JOSEPH) with Fr. McDuffie & Nicole (sign up genius will be emailed to
 choose which night best fits your schedule. This meeting is required.
 PARENTS ONLY PLEASE). Yes even if you came last year or a few years ago-
 you must attend.**
 Jan. 27 KC Prolife Banquet for poster and T-shirt ABLAZE , THIRST & SJS MIDDLE
 SCHOOL winners. You will be notified as soon as the judging is complete. Families
 attend with student for a meal, prayer and speaker. And of course prizes. 6:15 pm
 . KC Hall right after 5 pm Mass.
 Jan. 28 PSR K-11

March 16 NOT ADVERTIZED BUT PRAYING THEY WILL ANNOUNCE ABBEY YOUTH FEST...8th – 11th grades

This would be a possible all day retreat.

March 17 PSR K-11 ...(wear green -it's St Patrick's Day). All classes will visit St. Joseph's Altar in gym . All are welcomed to visit after all Masses.

March 20 **MANDATORY PARENT MEETING OPTION #2...FIRST COMMUNION MEETING FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS** (PSR, HOMESCHOOL & ST. Joseph) with Fr. McDuffie & Nicole (sign up genius will be emailed to choose which night best fits your schedule. This meeting is required. Parents only). Yes, even if you came last year or a few years ago- you must attend.

March 24 PSR K-5...Palm Sunday

March 25 Tenebrae...a great opportunity for families to attend and walk this Holy Week together. 7 pm Church

March 28 (Washing of the Feet)- Holy Thursday of The Lord's Supper. Another opportunity for families to attend. Begins Triduum

March 29 Church Office Closed

Good Friday ...Passion of Our Lord : 10 AM Confessions 12 noon- Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm – Good Friday Service

March 31 NO PSR **EASTER SUNDAY 1** Easter egg hunt after 11 am Mass

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April 1 Office Closed...Easter Monday

April 7 NO PSR ...end of Spring Break

April 7 ***THIRST 11th GRADE – CONFIRMATION RETREAT ALL DAY with sponsor***

April 8 **CONFIRMATION MASS ..11TH GRADE 7 pm Church**

APRIL 11-14 **STRAWBERRY FEST ...ABLAZE & THIRST WITH PARENTS VOLUNTEER 2 HOURS TO HELP WITH PARKING. Sign up Genius will be emailed in advance.**

April 21 **LAST PSR K-11th...YES 11TH COME BACK FOR FELLOWSHIP & FOLLOW UP AFTER YOUR SACRAMENT**

April 27 **FIRST COMMUNION MANDATORY PARENT & CHILD RETREAT**

9-10:30 AM Church Deacon Ed & Nicole

April 28 **FIRST COMMUNION MASSES 8 AM & 11 AM (no 5 pm Saturday)**

Sign Up Genius will be sent out. Total number of students will be evenly split between the two Masses. Details to come as we near this Sacrament.

Ablaze Calender 23-24 - subject to change

August 2 - Prayers & Popcorn

August 9 - Back to School Bash

August 16 - Tears & The Trinity

August 23 - Faith & Flowers

August 30 - No Youth Group

September 6 - Mary's Birthday Party

September 13 - The Holy Cross

September 20 - Volcanoes & Vespers

September 27 - The Archangels

October 4 - Animals & Adoration

October 11 - Our Lady of the Rosary

October 18 - Female Doctors of the Church

October 25 - The Vatican

November 1 - No Youth Group

November 8 - Pretzels & Purgatory

November 15 - Martinmas

November 22 - St. Catherine of Alexandria

November 29 - The End of the Liturgical Year Party

December 6 - All About Advent

December 13 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 20 - Christmas Party

December 27 - Stones & Scripture

January 3 - Striving for Sainthood

January 10 - Socks & Sacraments

January 17 - ProLife & Posters

January 24 - The Dumb Ox

January 31 - Lights & Liturgical Colors

February 7 - Valentines & Vespers

February 14 - No Youth Group

February 21 - Learning About Lent

February 28 - Cows & Confession

March 6 - Building A Relationship With God

March 13 - Snakes & Sacrifice

March 20 - Hammers & Humility

March 27 - The Triduum

April 3 - No Youth Group

April 10 - Divine Mercy

April 17 - Vocations & Vestments

April 23 - Defeating Dragons

May 1 - Space & Sin

May 8 - Mother Mary

May 15 - Our Lady of Fatima

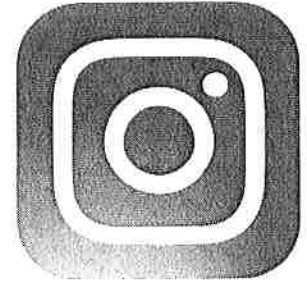
May 22 - Pentecost Party

May 29 - Parts of the Church



St. Joseph Thirst
St. Joseph's Church in Ponchatoula

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St.Joseph's in Ponchatoula

St. Joseph's Ponchatoula



<https://sites.google.com/sjscrusaders.org/stjosephyouth/home>



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

P.O. Box 368 ✕ Ponchatoula, LA 70454 ✕ Phone: 985.386.3749 ✕ Fax: 985.386.4188 ✕ www.stjosephsonline.com

ABLAZE & THIRST YOUTH GROUP RULES & GUIDELINES

While on St. Joseph's Catholic Church Grounds

Note: You are the responsibility of the Church while on church property. Our volunteers do an excellent job of watching and protecting you during our classes and events. It is very important that you help make your time at St. Joseph's Catholic Church safe by listening and obeying those in authority. Your safety is our number one priority. Below is a list of things we expect from each one of our youth while on the church property.

1. You must stay in designated areas. (Youth Building, classrooms, gym, parking Lot in front of Youth Building)
2. Do not go where an adult is not.
3. Under no circumstances are you to leave the church property unless with a parent who must inform the leader.
4. Obey instruction from adults.
5. No fighting
6. No cursing
7. No bullying
8. Do not disrespect authority
9. Treat the church property and equipment with respect. (Do not intentionally damage property.)

Eating

Note: Volunteers at St. Joseph's Catholic Church work hard to provide you the opportunity to enjoy a meal or snacks at certain functions. It is very important that you respect the hard work that these men and women do and be thankful for them. Below is a list of things we expect you to do when you eat.

1. Be neat while eating. Do not leave food on tables or floors.
2. Throw away your plate and cup.
3. Do not leave cups in parking lot.
4. Be courteous to the workers and other people eating with you.
5. Take care of the ministry center space.
6. No running or playing in ministry center.

Volunteer Descriptions

All volunteers must complete the Child Safeguarding Training
(see last page for links and instructions)

Catechist/Asst/Coreteam - To be a catechist for **Ablaze** means you would be at the St. Joseph Room from 9:15am-10:30am on Sunday mornings to *run* a small group. The **Ablaze** assistant would be present to *help the Ablaze catechists run* a small group. If you have further questions please email me at: ✨

Food/Hospitality - Our teens are becoming sick of pizza and are asking for other things to eat. Whether it's a lasagna, burgers, or a personal family favorite you'd like to share, we are looking for volunteers to provide dinners for the Wednesday evening Come As You Are, and any on campus retreats. If you would be willing to cook for other events, please let me know so I can let you know of other dates and times. If you have any further questions please email me at: ✨

Chaperone Events/Retreats - We need 1 adult for every 6 youth. I am asking that you please commit to one event on the calendar to attend - and let me know - so that we don't need to worry about the possibility of canceling an event due to lack of chaperones. If you have any further questions please email me at: ✨

Intercessory Prayer - Volunteering for intercessory prayer means that you will be put on an email list and any time we need prayer for a particular youth, situation, or event, you will get an email with that prayer request. All prayer requests will remain confidential and we ask our intercessors to keep the discretion. All prayer is good and welcomed but we ask, in addition, that you please consider going to a Mass or adoration to lift the youth up in prayer. If you have any further questions please email me at: ✨

Photography/Videography - We need help capturing all of the fun things we do! These will potentially be posted on our website, social media, and bulletin. If you have any further questions please email me at: ✨

Transportation for Events - We need help bringing the youth to and from events. Your vehicle would need to be approved by the archdiocese but if you are interested let us know so that we can help you with filling out that form. If you have any further questions please email me at: ✨

Vacation Bible School - If you are willing to help with St. Joseph's VBS, please let us know! If you have any further questions please email me at :★

All volunteers must complete the Child Safeguarding Training:

Complete:

- 1) Safeguarding Training: <https://safeandsacred-diobr.org/login/index.php>
- 2) Read, sign, and return signed page of the Code of Ethics:
http://diobr.org/images/Code_of_Ethics_English.pdf
- 3) Fill out and return to us the Volunteer Application:
http://diobr.org/images/Eapps_Volunteer_Application_formfields.pdf

Getting to Know You

Name

Birthday

Favorite Snack

Favorite Color

Favorite
Thing to do

Favorite Drink

Favorite Saint

Favorite Bible
Verse

Fun Fact

"I can't wait to get to know each and every one of you this year!"





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ST. JOSEPH'S ABLAZE MIDDLE SCHOOL BRING -A -FRIEND PERMISSIN SLIP

A brief description of the activity follows:

EVENT Wednesday ABLAZE Middle School Youth Group

LOCATION St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Property, Ponchatoula, LA

ALTERNATE LOCATION _____

DATE January-May 2023 (specific date _____)

PARTICIPANT'S NAME _____

BIRTH DATE _____ **SEX** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN ADDRESS _____

BEST PHONE CONTACT (CELL) _____ **(HOME)** _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian name) , grant permission for my child _____ (child's name) , to participate in this parish event . This activity will take place under the guidance and direction of parish employees; and/or volunteers from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ponchatoula, La .

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. Joseph's Catholic Church , its officers, directors,

employees and agents, and the Diocese of Baton Rouge, its employees and agents, chaperones or representatives associated with the event, from any claim arising from or in connection with my child attending this event or in connection with any illness or injury (including death) or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and I agree to compensate the parish, its officers , directors and agents, the Dioiocese of Baton Rouge , its employees and agents and chaperones, or, representative associated with the event for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses which they may incur in any action brought against them as a result of such injury or damage , unless such claim arises from the negligence of the parish/diocese.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MEDICAL WAIVERS : I hereby warrant to the best of my knowledge , my child is in good health, and assume all responsibility for the health of my child.

(OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS PERTAINING TO MEDICAL MATTERS, SIGN ONLY THOSE THAT ARE APPLICABLE)

1. Emergency Medical Treatment : In the event of an emergency , I hereby give permission to transport my child to the 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 above numbers, contact:

NAME & RELATIONSHIP _____

PHONE _____ FAMILY DOCTOR _____ PH # _____

FAMILY HEALTHCARE PLAN _____ POLICY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

2. Other Medical Treatment :

In the event that it comes to the attention of the parish, its officers, directors or agents, and the Diocese of Baton Rouge, 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 notified collect (with phone charges reversed to myself).

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

3 Medications:

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

B.) I hereby give permission for non-prescription medicine (such as non- aspirin products, ie: acetaminophen or ibuprofen, Benedryl, throat lozenges, cough drop or syrup) to be given to my child, if deemed appropriate.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

C. 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 _____

Specific 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.) _____

Does the child have a medically prescribed diet? _____

Any physical limitations? _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Nicole H. Richard, PSR Coordinator

1-16-2023

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Requirements for a Minor's Behavior

I understand that the following conduct is not allowed when participating in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Youth Ministry:

-Bullying of any kind (cyber, physical, texting, phone calls, stalking, etc) will not be tolerated and will be immediately addressed to offer intervention and determine repercussions which may result in being dismissed from all future youth events.

-Inappropriate speech (cursing, humor, sexual, etc), physical contact and/or behavior including, but not limited to: aggressive physical contact (punching, hitting, kicking, choking, etc), sexting, sitting on each others laps, creating/distributing/viewing any form of pornography, any types of massage, kissing, fondling/petting/or any type of genital contact, will not be tolerated and will be immediately addressed to offer intervention and determine repercussions which may result in being dismissed from all future youth events.

-All behaviors listed in *Youth Guidelines*

Date: _____

Minor's Name (Printed): _____

Minor's Signature: _____

Adult Witness: _____





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PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO CONSENT FORM:

From time to time, pictures and video may be taken of youth ministry events and gatherings. We would like to be able to use these photographs and videos for flyers, parish and diocesan publications, and the ministry website. Written consent of both the student and parent/guardian is required. Names will not be posted unless written authorization is given by the student and parent/guardian, and then only first names will be used. If there are concerns about pictures or videos posted on the website, please contact the ministry coordinator or webmaster, and they will promptly be removed.

I/We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of this youth (name) _____, authorize and give full consent, without limitation or reservation, to (parish/school) _____, to publish any photograph or video in which the above named student appears while participating in any program associated with (parish/school) _____ ministry. There will be no compensation for use of any photograph or video at the time of publication or in the future.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

