

Dear Parents,

As mentioned at the parent meeting, Tuesday, this year our PTO is inviting you to participate in parent reading and discussion groups. As a school, we will be reading the book, *The Benedict Option*, by Rod Dreher. The following are some helpful FAQs about the reading groups.

How do I sign up?

You can click on the attached google spreadsheet and simply put your names under the group you want to join. You could select the group that is closest to your home, or you could select a group with people you'd like to get to know better. We hope to spread people out among the groups, and limit each group to 7-10 couples. [Click here.](#)

Will there be babysitting?

Yes! Please note on the spreadsheet the ages of any children you'd bring so we can work to ensure that there will be sufficient teens assisting.

Should I bring anything?

We're encouraging everyone to just bring themselves and a plate of hors d'oeuvres to share.

What are the dates and times?

The parent reading groups will meet from 6:30-8:00pm on Three Wednesdays: September 6 (Chapters 1-3), November 15 (Chapters 4-7), February 7 (Chapter 8-the end).

Where can I get the book?

The *Benedict Option* is available at the Acadian Religious & Gift Shop, owned by Mr. Art Garrett, one of our parents. You also can get it at any bookstore (it's a New York Times Best Seller), and it is available on audiobook through Audible.com, which is very helpful for busy parents. If your life is pretty scheduled, I highly recommend listening to it on audiobook.

Why this book?

The author provides a fascinating and challenging perspective on raising children in the today's world. Among other things, Mr. Dreher identifies the approach of classical education and schools like JPG as essential to the renewal of our wider culture. Even more, it specifically describes the work being done here in Lafayette at Our Lady of Wisdom and at UL as an answer to the increased secularization affecting America today. Fr. Bryce Sibley, one of our school's founders, was quoted in the book and is a friend of Mr. Dreher.

Is it likely that Mr. Dreher will be able to speak at JPG this year?

We are making plans to have him speak some time in the Spring after our community has had a chance to read and discuss the book. Mr. Dreher lives nearby in Baton Rouge, and was raised in St. Francisville.

Will there be other books to read with these parent reading groups?

We will only read this one book this year, but for our JPG moms, there is a wonderful reading group called the "Well-read Moms." These moms get together and discuss one book each month. There has been a discussion about JPG dads getting together for eating and discussion. The proposed name is "Well-fed Dads."

In all seriousness, I do hope that our decision to read and discuss this book will lead to great conversations about living our faith, raising our children, and serving our families.

In the Peace of Christ,

Peter Fletcher
President & Headmaster
John Paul the Great Academy