

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Prince of Peace Catholic Parish

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Prayer for the School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year. Amen.

September Saint Feast Days

St. Teresa of Calcutta, 9/3

St. Vincent de Paul, 9/27

St. Michael the Archangel, 9/29



WELCOME BACK!

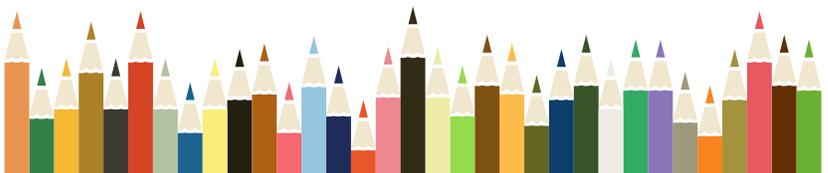
Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to Religious Education! I hope you had a wonderful summer break filled with lots of family time and adventures. I am excited to see all of you soon as we begin our new school year. For the families who have been going to Sunday School at Prince of Peace for a while, it is great to have you back! To our new families, welcome! We are glad that you decided to become part of the Prince of Peace family. I look forward to seeing all of you on the first day of Sunday School, which is SEPTEMBER 23rd!

✨ CHANGES ✨

After much thought and planning, I am ready to share the exciting changes that will take place this year in Sunday School.

3k- 1st Grade: Classes will occur during both the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. The lessons will be Gospel-based and include a craft, music, and movement.



Upcoming Dates

September 9th: Parent Meeting for Grades 3-5, 9:45 Day Chapel

September 12th: Parent Meeting for Middle School and High School students, 6:00 for Middle School students in Deasy Hall and 7:00 for High School students in Deasy Hall

September 16th: Parish Picnic after the 11:00 Mass. All are welcome! Come join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

September 19th: Wednesday night Formation begins for Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) and High School Youth Group (HSYG)

September 23rd: Sunday School begins for Grades 2-10 (Grades 3K-1st are year round)

September 29th: Fifth Sunday Rosary at 4:30pm in the Day Chapel

2nd Grade: Students will attend class between the Sunday Masses (9:45-10:45), just like last year. This is a fun year as the students will be adding two new sacraments to their belt- Reconciliation and Holy Communion. There will also be Children's Liturgy during both the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses.

3rd-5th Grade: Just like the 2nd grade class, our intermediate students will also have the opportunity to experience their own Children's Liturgy during the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. This will **replace** the previous class time that was held between the Masses. During Children's Liturgy, students will learn more about the readings, parts of the Mass, and the Liturgical Year.

6th-8th Grade: Students will have the opportunity to attend class **either** during Sunday mornings (9:45-10:45) or Wednesday evenings (5:30-7:30) or BOTH! Each class session will take place in one large group for all middle school students and will break into smaller groups for discussions and activities. The theme for the year is "Our Faith Journey: Living God's Purpose for Our Life."

9th Grade: Class will continue to meet between the Sunday Masses (9:45-10:45). Students will learn more about morality by taking an in-depth look at the Ten Commandments. In addition, teachers will also be using an Ascension Press curriculum program entitled *YOU: Theology of the Body* to emphasize that we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

10th Grade: Like the 2nd graders, this is a sacramental year for our young adults. Students will be making the decision to continue on their Catholic faith journey through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Teens will continue to have class between the Sunday Masses (9:45-10:45). They will be using one of Dynamic Catholic's programs called *Decision Point*.

Whole Family Catechesis

As parents, we are called to be the first and primary teachers of the faith to our children. We can often get lost or too over-scheduled to plan time each day to talk about faith to our children.

Oftentimes, we can even get lost in wording or terminology and then weeks and months pass without a discussion of what our faith truly means to each of us.

The beauty of the Catholic faith is that it is a lived faith; it grows within us and transforms us throughout our lives. As adults, we

September Activities for Catholic Families

1. Grandparents Day is September 9th, help your children do something special for their grandparents or spend the day with them.
2. September 22nd marks the beginning of Autumn, make a Fall craft as a family.
3. Look around your home and pantry for items and food to donate to those in need to celebrate St. Vincent de Paul's September 27th Feast Day.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. Teresa is one of the most influential saints of our time. She spent most of her life joyfully serving the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India. Just because she was always happy and smiling on the outside doesn't mean that she wasn't hurting on the inside. It wasn't until after her death that the world learned of the daily struggles and inner turmoil that St. Teresa faced. She often questioned her calling and thought that God had abandoned her. The fact that she continued to dedicate her life to God in the midst of her darkness shows us two things- that St. Teresa is human just like us and that she is an extraordinary woman who put God and others above herself. There's no question about it, she lived a life of sainthood!

understand this. It is imperative that we take time to share with our children the importance and intricacies of our faith that makes it the pivot point around which we choose to live, work and grow. Pope John Paul II stated in *On the Role of Christian Family in the Modern World*, "By reason of their dignity and mission, Christian parents have the specific responsibility of educating their children in prayer, introducing them to gradual discovery of the mystery of God and to personal dialogue with Him." This personal relationship is unique to each one of us through our understanding of the unconditional love that God has for each of us. However, even though the relationship is individual, it needs to be taught and fostered. And this is where Whole Family Catechesis enters.

In "Best Practices in Family Faith Formation," John Roberto identifies several recurring themes in the research literature about the faith lives of children and families. These themes point to five 'core practices' that, "if consistently acted upon at home and supported by congregations, would contribute to building families of faithful Christians...." These practices include:

- Having conversations that connect faith and daily life, and studying the faith together
- Praying together, both at home and with the Church
- Serving others together
- Maintaining family rituals, traditions, and celebrations
- Eating meals together

Join us for four different Whole Family Catechesis sessions this 2018-19 school year. These two-hour sessions will be geared to specific age groups, but you are welcome to bring siblings to any session. Each session will contain a presentation by Director of Family Life, Dr. Dale Wisely; an activity to engage in with your child; and catechesis for your child. All sessions will take place in Deasy Hall from 3-5pm.

Sunday, October 21, Families with children in grades 3-5

Sunday, December 9, Families with children in grades Kindergarten and 1st grade

Sunday, January 13, Families with children in grades 6-8

Sunday, February 24, Families with children in high school

Sunday, March 10, Families with children in preschool (3's and 4's)

I look forward to sharing this faith journey with you both as a parent and formation "coach"! Please contact me, megan.everett@popcatholic.org with any questions.