



CALANDAR OF EVENTS

FRI 12/8/17

- School Liturgy at 8:00 am Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- School office will be closed during Mass (latecomers can meet us in the church)
- January lunch orders DUE
- EPIC Skipper Lunch (if ordered)

TUES 12/12/17

- NO HW Club
- School Mass at 8:00 AM
- Band Concert Rehearsal at Moeller 6:30-8:00

WED 12/13/17

- Faculty Meeting 2:30-4:00 PM
- Education Commission Meeting at 4:15 PM
- Band

THURS 12/14/17

- Archery Practice 2:15-3:30 PM
- Band Concert at Moeller at 7:00 PM (arrive 6:30)

MON 12/18/17

- Christmas Program Rehearsal at Parrish Auditorium all day
- Christmas Program at Parrish Auditorium at 12:00 + 7:00 PM

TUES 12/19/17

- School Liturgy at 8:00 AM
- Children's Choir 2:15-3:15—Choir loft

THURS 12/21/17

- Class Parties begin at 1:15 (you must be Virtus Trained to help at parties)
- NO HW Club
- Archery—TBD

FRI 12/22/17

- Children's Choir 12:00-1:30 PM—Choir loft

12/22/17-1/2/18

- Christmas Vacation

WED 1/03/18

- Students return to school

The Link

Mission Statement

The purpose of Catholic education at St. Peter in Chains School is to instill the values of the Catholic faith in the students so that they not only hear, but also embody and practice the mission of Jesus Christ and spread His message as it applies to life in the twenty first century.

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful first trimester at St. Peter's as we continually offer our students opportunities to learn and grow. The time from August to December has gone quickly! There has been much activity with service projects, STEM experiments, new technology, and eighth-grade preparation for their trip to Washington D.C. in the Spring. Adding to the activity has been the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please be sure to join us for our Christmas Program on Monday, December 18th, 7pm at Parrish Auditorium on Miami University's Hamilton Campus. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior as our students perform, under the direction of Mrs. Blasch. Thank you to all the parent volunteers and sponsors for working together to make it possible for our students to perform in such a wonderful venue!

On October 19th, our Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Heather Hart was honored at the Education Award of Excellence dinner and received a grant for her classroom. In addition to being a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Hart is a mentor teacher, a STEM fellow, an ALICE instructor, and has been involved with offering professional development at the Archdiocesan level. Please read the [nomination essay](#) to learn more about Mrs. Hart's accomplishments.

In an effort to continually improve technology, we were able to upgrade our security this year with more cameras and a better entry system, and as you are aware, we also implemented Option C, our new data management software. Any change can be difficult, but I appreciate the hard work of our faculty and staff as well as the patience of our students and parents as we continue to find ways to optimize our software. In addition to managing assignments and grades, we've been able to schedule conferences, offer online lunch ordering (and hopefully, online payment soon!), as well as offer better communication through email, texting, and automated voicemail. Additionally, we will be working to obtain more Chromebooks for our students as we work toward our goal of one Chromebook per student for Grades 3-8. We are also exploring other programs for individualized learning as we continue to strive for excellence.

The last two years have seen great success as our enrollment has grown. We've continued to receive calls for tours and shadow dates for prospective new students even throughout the first trimester! Our parent-teacher organization, EPIC, is busy preparing for Open House in January, and we've also begun a process of strategic planning with Josh Ater, the Director of Strategic Planning for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Josh will lead us through a process which will help us to clarify our goals and continue on a trajectory of success as we move forward.

In the middle of all this "busy-ness", we pause during the Blessed Season of Advent to just wait...During Advent, our virtue for the month is PATIENCE. Advent involves a patient waiting, a joyful hope, anticipation. But what are we waiting for? We're waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus when all our hopes and dreams are fulfilled in Him. Later in the season of Advent, we begin thinking about the first coming of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and the fiat (yes) of Mary. As we enter this season let us also be patient with ourselves and others. The good news is that God is not finished with us yet! If we, like Mary, continually say yes to God, we will see God's will "birthed" (come to pass) in and through us. The saints known for the virtue of PATIENCE are St. Monica (grades K-2), St. Isaac Jogues (grades 3-5), and St. Rita of Cascia (grades 6-8). You can find home resources for the virtue of Hope [here](#) or in the Parent Section of our school webpage. As educators and parents, we are building His kingdom, hopefully not only in our own hearts, but also in the hearts of our children.

Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ,

Michael Collins
Principal



This was the evening of the Awards' Dinner; Heather Hart (L) and three of her colleagues.

**THE DECEMBER
CATHOLIC VIRTUE**
The Virtue of Patience

PATIENCE

Waiting and
enduring without
complaint



St. Peter in Chains Christmas Program

@ Miami University Hamilton Parrish Auditorium

Monday, December 18th at 12:00 PM

**All students MUST be bused back to school after the performance and follow the school dismissal procedures.*

***Tickets will not be required for the 12:00 PM show*

Monday, December 18th at 7:00 PM

Tickets ARE required for the 7:00 PM show

Doors will open 30 minutes early; students should arrive by 6:30

Just like last year, every family will receive 4 tickets for the evening Christmas performance. They are being sent home in the white folder TODAY. Should you not need all of your tickets, please return any tickets not being used to the office so that we can redistribute them to families requesting more. You are also welcome to trade unneeded tickets via social media and email in order to eliminate the middleman.

If you would like to request more tickets for the 7:00 PM performance, you can do so via social media, or you may call the office to have your name added to a waiting list. We will fulfil as many requests as we can, 2 tickets at a time, depending on how many families return tickets not being used.

Tickets are for general admission. Remember—there is not a bad seat in the house, so no need to camp out for a good spot! Doors open at 6:30 PM.

PLEASE RETURN ANY TICKETS NOT BEING USED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so we have adequate time to redistribute fairly.

A reception will follow in the lobby after the 7:00 PM performance. Winter artwork will also be on display. The 7/8th Graders will be selling pop sockets for \$10 in the lobby and EPIC will have a limited supply of St. Peter in Chains School and Parish ornaments for sale for \$5 in the lobby. Contact the office with any questions.



To volunteer your time and talents to help make our **SPS CHRISTMAS CONCERT** a success, please click on the following link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044ba4ac2ea64-ourchristmas1>

Pop Sockets for Sale!

Dear families of St. Peter in Chains,

As some of you may know, we are planning on taking the 7th and 8th grade students to Washington DC this spring. To help us ease the financial burden for the students we have been fundraising. This includes the selling of Pop Sockets. Pop Sockets are button like-suction cups that you can place on your cell phone or tablet that “pop whenever you need a grip, a stand, an earbud-management system, or just something to play with.” We will have them for sale before and after the Christmas program. They are \$10 each and make terrific stocking stuffers! Attached are the 4 designs that we will have available. Thank you for your support!



St. Peter's Church and School Christmas ornaments for sale

Order forms for your chance to buy handcrafted wooden ornaments of our church and school came home today in your child's white folder. Each ornament is \$5.00. All proceeds will benefit EPIC. There is a limited supply of ornaments so orders yours today. For any questions, contact Teresa Donges at 868-3425 or teamdonges@fuse.net.

Note From Father Rob....

Many of our 2nd grade students received the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for the first time this past Tuesday. Many parents (and other members of the pastoral region seeking God's mercy in this Sacrament) received the Sacrament with our students. *Thank you for sharing this sacrament with your children!* Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save what was lost," and the prophet Isaiah, which we hear from often during Advent, announces, "God has visited his people." Truly God has visited his people in the grace received through this Sacrament.

Thank you teachers and parents for helping our kids prepare for this Sacrament.

Thanks and God bless,
Fr. Rob



Reminders...

- January Lunch Orders are **DUE TOMORROW**. Please enter lunch orders online through OptionC and then submit payment to school with your child(ren)'s name.
- The School Office will be closed during Mass on Friday, December 8th. Latecomers can meet us in Church if arriving to school after 8:00 AM
- Permission slips for the Christmas Program rehearsal at Parrish Auditorium were DUE on Dec. 6th
- **NO Spirit Wear Friday tomorrow** due to School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **Students should be in UNIFORM.**



The youth group will be decorating the church for Christmas during school on Thursday, December 21st

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 10

8:00 AM Mass

Grayce Sieg
Rylan Sieg

11:00 AM Mass

Ainsley Brandabur
Jacob Collins
Tate Brandabur

School Mass—December 8

Altar Servers

Anna Bucheit
Carson Cheek
Maya Craft

Eucharistic Ministers

Emma Zancan
Ellie Black
Paige Luebbe
Anna Phan
Mrs. O'Connell
Mrs. Wirtz
Mr. Otte
Mrs. Hart

