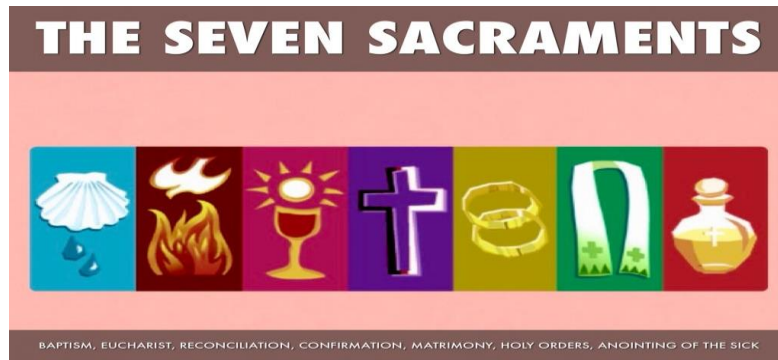


# ST. PIUS X PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION FAMILY HANDBOOK 2017-2018



## 2017-18 ST. PIUS X RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION OFFICE HOURS

Monday	closed	Thursday	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Friday	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Sunday	Mornings & during PSR or by appointment.

PSR Office—614-864-3505 or 614-648-9191 (cell)

\*\*Two standard PSR Times but please check calendar for which time goes with each PSR Class:

5:00 to 6:30 or 1:15 to 2:45. (Please see schedule)

The PSR theme for **2017-2018 is the Year of Prayer.**

The St. Pius X Religious Education Department seeks to accomplish this command by providing its parishioners with a variety of faith building programs and opportunities for children through adult age. In addition to the Parish School of Religion (PSR), the following programs are included in the Religious Education Department of St. Pius X parish: RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), St. Pius X School (Levels K-8), and St. Pius X Youth Ministry (High School & Jr. High).

The PSR program at St Pius X provides a basic religious foundation for children and youth to become acquainted with the living traditions of the Catholic Church; prayer, liturgy, scripture, doctrine, principles of moral living, and service. In this way, the PSR program is a supplement to those who are respected as the **primary teachers** and models of our Catholic/Christian faith—the **parents and family**.

When parents take an active role teaching and supporting our Catholic/Christian beliefs, the children benefit because we really become a partnership supporting each other. Daily prayer, weekly attendance at Sunday Mass and Holy Days, parental involvement in sacramental preparations, and simply discussing and reviewing the weekly Parish School of Religion topics are significant ways that families can offer encouragement and support for their children’s faith formation. Learning about our rich Roman Catholic faith as children and also as adults is a lifelong learning experience. Ongoing religious education and practice is not merely a suggestion—it is a requirement!

We refer to the children/youth in our PSR program as “disciples.” As disciples of Jesus, we are learning what is required of someone who commits to being a follower of Christ. Using the word disciple is not a mere semantic alteration—it is a way for our children to truly see themselves as “followers of Christ” who are learning how to live out the Gospel message as Jesus intended. As parents, families, catechists, and members of the St. Pius X community, it is our spiritual responsibility to work together and make this journey a faith-filled and joyous experience for all of our disciples!

## **DIOCESAN AND PARISH POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

### **FINGERPRINTING AND PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN:**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Columbus (4110.0) and St. Pius X Parish that all adults who have contact with children must have on file a current Bureau of Criminal Investigation background check and must attend the “Protecting God’s Children” workshop. All volunteers (catechists, aides, office helpers, hall monitors, nurses, and traffic attendants) are required to have these records on file with the St. Pius X Religious Education Office.

### **TWO-DEEP MINISTRY:**

Complying with diocesan policy (6001.1) St. Pius X follows the “two-deep” ministry with children and adolescents wherever possible. We make every effort to have a lead catechist and a catechist aide present during PSR sessions.

### **PSR PICTURE POLICY:**

At times, catechists and aides might take pictures of children for use with class projects: class books, child-produced prayer books, news articles for illustrating service projects, etc. Each PSR Handbook packet includes a Personally Identifiable Information Release Form. By signing this form you are giving your approval for catechists and aides to take pictures of the children for use with class or parish projects.

### **PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN REQUIRE FORMS TO BE READ EACH YEAR:**

Curriculum Support for “Protecting God’s Children” and 5140.05 Harassment Policy are required to be given to the PSR families each year. Please read the two forms below and sign the back page indicating you have read the handbook which includes these forms.

### **DIOCESAN COURSE OF STUDY:**

The Parish School of Religion follows the Graded Course of Study for religious education as determined by the Department of Religious Education for the Diocese of Columbus. Only textbooks and materials approved by the Department of Religious Education are used for religious education instruction in the classroom and for children being home schooled. Supplemental materials used for additional instruction (books, videos, etc.) are in compliance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. PSR uses “Be My Disciples” textbook from RCL/Benzinger

Publishing Company, for Levels 1-6. The Catechism for youth (YOUCAT) for Grades 7-8, and the St. Mary's Press Bible for grades while they study the Bible. Grade 8 is using the RCL Benzinger Confirmation and Church History textbooks. The Pre-K Class and Kindergarten uses Stories of God's Love by RCL Benzinger. The Diocesan Graded Course of Study ensures that children receive religious instruction that provides a well-rounded and firm foundation of faith, based in Catholic beliefs and traditions.

### **Overview of Coursework for Religious Education Levels**

**Pre-K**---Will explore Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior and prayers etc. of the church.

**Level K**—This basic level, religious education starts developing a child's growth in faith from the family to the wider faith community. Children begin to develop a sense of trust, freedom, selflessness and joyful participation in experiences of spontaneous and formal prayer, prayerful silence and simple acts of worship.

**Level 1**—Provides children with additional introduction into God's activity in the world. Children have more exposure to Bible stories and formal prayers. They continue to be introduced to God as Trinity: God, Son and Holy Spirit and how they are sharing God's life through Baptism. They learn that Baptism leads to their membership into God's family, the Church, and to the experiences of worship, service and community.

**Level 2**—A closer relationship with Jesus is the emphasis at Level 2. Children receive catechesis for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. They also become more acquainted with Bible stories to increase their knowledge about the life and teachings of Jesus. Children are coming to realize that Jesus is their friend and that he is God's son and their Savior who became human to show God's love.

**Level 3**—The focus at Level 3 is the Church and the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Understanding of Sacred Scripture is deepened as children are introduced to more Bible stories and important characters in the Bible. They delve deeper into the teachings and life of Jesus, realizing the Jewish tradition into which he was born and lived. Parable and miracle stories are studied in light of the mission of Jesus.

**Level 4**—At Level 4, children are becoming aware of God's self-communication, of God's plan of creation and salvation through Divine revelation in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The concept of covenant continues to be developed in the sense that it lies at the heart of our relationship with God and goes back to its origins in the Old Testament and continues in the New Testament through Jesus. The Ten Commandments are seen as a loving response to that covenant. Each of the commandments and precepts of the Church is studied in greater detail. Children are becoming aware of how to live this covenant or special friendship with God.

**Level 5**—At Level 5 the focus is the liturgical year, the sacraments and the Mass. Children have continued growth and understanding of Bible stories, becoming apparent as they use the Bible and additional resources in their studies. Children broaden their understanding of sins against the Ten Commandments. They also look more deeply at the meaning of the Gospel stories to come to a better understanding of Jesus' message.

**Level 6**—God's Revelation or God's self-communication and presence throughout history as recorded in Sacred Scripture, particularly the Old Testament is the highlight at Level 6 in religious education. This level focuses on the creation stories, the Exodus, the ratification of the Covenant, the stories of Saul, David and Solomon. The young people explore more deeply the stages of the writing of the Bible, the books in the Catholic canon, and they begin to develop skills in biblical interpretation. They look at the symbolism of some of the stories and what religious truths are being conveyed, some of the prophets, the Exile, the Restoration and wisdom literature. At Level 6, youth realize that the Church alone has the authority to interpret scripture authentically.

**Level 7**—The New Testament, its stages of development and the teachings of Jesus are central at Level 7 of religious education. These young people also study more deeply, the sacraments and one of the ways persons are initiated into the Catholic Church, namely, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and this rite adapted for children. It is also emphasized that the Church carries on the ministry and mission of Jesus in its various vocations and ministries. They also look at the meaning of sexuality, various kinds of intimacy, friendship and love and the importance of chastity in all relationships along with Catholic Church teachings in sexual morals.

**Level 8**—The Church and the Sacrament of Confirmation are the focus at Level 8 as many young adolescents in the diocese are confirmed in junior high. Studying the history of the Church and its development, its key dogmatic and moral teachings, the importance of its worship and a deeper study of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Understanding more about Chaste Living, how to build good relationships, and making good moral decisions are key topics explored in religious education Level 8.

The Religious Graded Course of Study is based on the Six Tasks of Catechesis which has been approved by the Bishops of the United States. (USCCB)

1. Catechesis Promotes Knowledge of the Faith.
2. Catechesis Promotes Knowledge of the Meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments
3. Catechesis Promotes Moral Formation in Jesus Christ
4. Catechesis Teaches the Christian how to Pray
5. Catechesis Prepares the Christian to Live in Community and to Participate in the Life and Mission of the Church
6. Catechesis Promotes a Missionary Spirit that Prepares the Faithful to Transform the World.

*Information provided by: Diocese of Columbus Department of Religious Education Diocesan Office of Safe Environment and Activities*

### **ST. PIUS X PARISH POLICIES:**

All families of children enrolled in PSR must be current, active and \*participating members of the St. Pius X parish community.

St. Pius X parish sponsors athletic programs in the Diocese of Columbus for Catholic youth in grades 4-8, who are currently enrolled in and attending St. Pius X School or Parish School of Religion and whose families are participating members of the parish. Participating membership is defined according to Diocesan Policy #3130.0:

*\*In order for a family to be acknowledged by the parish as a "participating member," it is necessary that (1) they be registered in the parish, that (2) they are recognized by the pastor as a family participating in the sacramental life of the parish; that (3) they contribute time and talent to the ministries of the parish; and, in agreement with the pastor, that (4) they regularly contribute an appropriate portion of their annual income to the financial support of the parish.*

The exception to this St. Pius X Parish policy are students who currently attend St. Pius X School and are members of another Catholic parish or religious denomination.

### **BUILDING POLICIES:**

The Parish School of Religion has classes in Levels Pre K-8. PSR uses the classrooms, gym and equipment in the school building for our religious education sessions. It is expected that children and adults will respect and take proper care of the facilities and materials used during our scheduled times.

### **DIRECTIONS FOR DROPPING CHILDREN OFF FOR PSR:**

**ALWAYS** enter the church lot by the **NORTH drive** between the church and the school, following the traffic flow to the west-end of the parking lot proceeding south to the driving lane next to the play equipment area, then, turning left into the north lane. The **drop-off zone** is the area in front of the **WEST entrance doors** and the **EXIT** is the **NORTH drive** between the church and the school. Parents bringing their children into the building should park and escort their children within the "safe walking zone." (When traffic for "dropping off" backs up, one lane in the south exit is opened and children can be dropped off by the south exit and walk safely next to the fenced-in, grassy area allowing cars to depart by both north and south exits.) **Please follow the instructions of the Traffic Monitors and do not let your children run through un-supervised areas. Your children's safety is always our primary concern!** See next page for example.

\*\*\*\*\*The students will proceed to the cafeteria for Grades 3-8<sup>th</sup> until your child(ren) teacher(s) or aide(s) picks them up to go to the classroom.

### **DIRECTIONS FOR PICKING CHILDREN UP FROM PSR:**

**At the normal pickup times, THE ONLY ENTRANCE AND EXIT IS THROUGH THE WEST DOORS TO THE PARKING LOT! WHEN CARS ARE ENTERING AND EXITING BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH EXITS—THIS ENSURES YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY!**

\*\*\*\*Parents are required to pickup the students in grades K-2 at the classroom. All other student grades must be met by their parents in the cafeteria. This is to ensure the students safety.

## **DAYS AND TIMES FOR PSR CLASSES:**

Parish School of Religion classes meet from 5:00-6:30 PM on Sunday evenings and **on the (approx.) second Sunday of the month (Oct-March), following the 12:00 Mass from 1:15-2:45 PM.** Depending on interest, an adult education opportunity can be offered for PSR parents to engage in discussions about our Catholic faith during this 1:15-2:45 time period. In this way, you truly are a faith model for your children—learning about our Catholic faith, just as they are!

A complete calendar for the 2017-2018 year is in the back of the handbook. Please keep it handy for referencing throughout the year.

**Children need to be in their assigned areas by 5 minutes before class starts.** Late arrivals and early dismissals cause unnecessary distractions for everyone. Since your children are dependent on you to get them to PSR, please demonstrate respect and courtesy for our catechists by arriving on time. The catechists do not dismiss the classes until 6:30 PM. If a child needs to be dismissed earlier, he/she must bring a written request from the parent. The note will be given to the office with the attendance sheets. The parents will need to pickup the students at the east door (#C) by the PSR office. Early dismissals are ALWAYS exceptions--not rules!

## **ATTENDANCE:**

It is extremely important, for a child's ongoing religious growth and development, that he/she attends class every week. In 2017-2018, PSR meets a total of 30 weeks from mid-September to mid-May. **Religion classes need to establish a trusting environment for faith sharing and personal interaction and regular attendance allows children to become comfortable, familiar, and trusting with their group members and leaders.**

The handbook information on pages 3&4 illustrates the progressive development in religious education for Levels PreK-8. Every year, and as children mature, additional knowledge and understanding of our Catholic beliefs and traditions are reinforced and new concepts introduced, building on what was learned previously. **Every level is important** to help our children gain an understanding of the Catholic faith that you claimed for them at Baptism.

Attendance sheets are monitored on a regular basis and parents are notified when a child's absences are interfering with the quality of his/her religious education.

## **PSR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:**

If weather-related driving conditions become hazardous, classes will be cancelled by 2:00 PM. on that Sunday for classes at 5:00PM and as soon as possible for 1:15PM classes. No decision is made in the early morning because central Ohio weather can change drastically in just a few hours—for better or worse! You will receive an email, text, or phone call from your child's teacher. (You can select the way of contacting you on the last page of booklet.)

Weather Bags will be provided when PSR Class is cancelled because of weather problems.

As backup, please check Channel 4 television station or web site for cancellation information when severe weather indicates that programs are being cancelled. Canceling Sunday PSR classes is a rare circumstance. Since our children come from rural areas north, south, east, and west—parents will decide if threatening weather makes travel too dangerous for you. If you have questions about class times, closings, etc., please call-614-864-3505 or 614-648-9191.

***DO NOT CALL THE RECTORY FOR PSR CANCELLATION INFORMATION!***

## **YOUNG STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES**

Young Stewardship Envelopes will be given to each PSR student who is in Level 2 or higher. (Level 2-5 Patron Saints/Level 6-8 Life Fire). These envelopes are to be put in the Sunday Mass collection baskets. The envelope proceeds will be given to a charity such as Catholic Social Services. The charity is decided by the St. Pius X Youth Group Board.

Also, the students can put on the back of the envelope how they have donated their time and talents. The Stewardship Committee will select from several of the youth, what they have done in the past week for stewardship of time and talent based on the comment on the envelope. The students that are selected will be

highlighted in the weekly bulletin under the Young Stewards Corner. Also, they will be featured on the PSR Bulletin Board by the PSR Office.

### **PSR Mass on the Weekends**

On the 1:15pm-2:45pm PSR Sundays starting in November thru March the 12:00PM SPX Mass will be a PSR Mass. The grades will take turns lecturing, taking up the gifts, singing or playing with the group singing etc. Please plan on your family attending this Mass on these Sundays.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

Although the words “disciple” and “discipline” have similar meanings, they have totally different connotations in the real world. One means “learner” and the other means, “to learn.” It is important to remember that, as Disciples of Christ, discipline is not an option—in order to live the Gospel message, disciplining one’s actions is an exercise that is practiced over and over again with every choice we make in our lives. Even though our society accepts certain behaviors as demonstrating creativity, individualism, and self-confidence—the following actions are never tolerated in PSR.

- Vulgar language
- Obscene gestures
- Disrespectful actions and/or words toward catechists, aides, and other adults.
- Any type of physical contact, unless the gesture is invited during a prayer service or class experience (refer to harassment policy in this handbook).

### **FOOD, BEVERAGES AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS:**

On occasion, classes may have a shared snack at a PSR session, if the catechist approves. **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC GAMES, TELEPHONES AND DEVICES ARE NEVER ALLOWED DURING CLASS!** If items are brought to PSR, they will be confiscated, kept in the PSR office and **ONLY** returned when the parent and child comes to retrieve them.

We will be giving the PSR Students a snack at the beginning of class on the early Sundays.

### **HOMEWORK:**

Catechists might assign work to be completed at home. These are usually simple reading and/or writing assignments. Please respect the commitment that the catechist has made to you, your child, and the program by There will be e-textbook on line for grades 3-5 for the families who turn in the signed approval forms.

### **GYM TIME AFTER PSR CLASSES:**

After most PSR Classes, gym time for the students will be held for 30 minutes at the end of PSR. Notice will be given in the weekly PSR reminder e-mail letter.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

Text materials are provided Pre-K -8. Children are expected to take care of their books and bring them to all class sessions when sent home. When books are lost, there is a **\$30.00** per book **replacement charge**. All family members are encouraged to become actively involved in the discipleship learning process by discussing weekly topics and readings with their children. E-textbooks are available for students in 3-5 for working with the students at home. Each family will need to sign a form indicating the e-books will be used during the week, in order to obtain an e-book code.

### **NEWSLETTERS:**

A newsletter is sent home at the beginning of each month to inform parents about any upcoming programs that might include: PSR family activities, sacrament preparation, required parent meetings, monthly calendar, and other parish events. The newsletter also encourages your support and cooperation for special PSR and parish programs.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORTS TO PARENTS:**

Our reporting involves child to catechist to parent communication and catechist to child to parent communication. Children report what they have learned in their religious studies... Attendance, the child’s

response and catechist commentary give feedback about what each child is learning along with catechist commentary about his/her involvement and participation in class. Please go over reports with your children!

In 2017-2018, your child will receive 2 progress reports. Please look for these reports on or about Mid-January 15 and the last class in May.—they are important!

The goal of religious education is to help children learn about God's loving relationship with us, and how that relationship is deepened through our knowledge of the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church (the Mass, the sacraments, prayer, rites, rituals, etc).

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

The Religious Education Programs are made possible by the continued dedication of many volunteers who unselfishly share themselves with time and talent. Volunteer opportunities are available—from a little commitment to a lot—either in the Sunday PSR program, or other activities that require additional adult supervision.

All volunteers must attend a Protecting God's Children workshop, be fingerprinted and have a background check before interacting with children in parish programs. Please call 614-864-3505 to indicate volunteer interest.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR HOME-BASED CATECHESIS for all grades including Sacrament Years: (used in special conditions only)**

A program of home-based catechesis must demonstrate the content of the faith and the experience of Christian life presented authentically and completely.

A program of home-based catechesis should include the following:

- Parents maintain regular contact with the pastor or his designate which could include testing of the material.
- Families are active participants in parish life, e.g., Mass and participation in community events of the religious education program.
- Parents must use the diocesan approved textbooks used by the parish.
- Home-Based Catechesis is used in special conditions only. PSR students benefit from the interaction with other students in learning about our rich Catholic faith and how to be a part of the Body of Christ.
- Pastor or his designate, along with the parents, determine the child's readiness to receive the sacrament.  
Taken from the 15.1 in the Diocese of Columbus Rel. Ed. Docx.

#### **TUITION:**

Tuition fees and parish subsidy are used for PSR expenses (textbooks, supplies, heating, cooling, lights, etc.).

Monthly payment plans are flexible using our **Automatic Payment Withdrawal Program**. Families unable to pay tuition costs need to contact the Religious Education Director to discuss personal arrangements (614-864-3505). A tuition-assistance program is available and families are encouraged to apply for this annual aid.

The tuition will be pro-rated for any families starting in January by half.

#### **MASS ATTENDANCE:**

Children in Level 2 and above are expected to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As a precept of the Catholic Church, we learn that our participation at Mass and Eucharist joins us together as a full faith community. St. Pius X has four (4) Masses every weekend to allow for flexibility in family schedules: Saturday @ 5:00 PM and on Sunday @ 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, and 12:00 noon. (On early PSR Sunday's the 12:00PM Mass will be a PSR Student Mass with the students lecturing, offertory procession, and leading the singing.)

#### **PRAYING WITH YOUR CHILDREN:**

Prayer is an essential part of our Catholic tradition. Whether it is a ritual prayer said before a meal to thank God for the food we are about to eat, or as part of the liturgical celebration, prayer acknowledges God as the central guiding force in our lives. Check your children's textbooks for ritual prayers (before/after meals, bedtime, Act of Contrition) and other prayers needed as active participants in the celebration of the Mass (Our Father, Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed). The Parish School of Religion can introduce your children to prayer, but it is parental and family modeling that determines whether prayer is an important practice that your children use in their lives for expressing praise, thanksgiving, petition, and sorrow to God.

## SACRAMENT PREPARATIONS:

The Religious Education Department provides opportunities for children to receive instruction and preparation for the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. In order to receive a particular sacrament the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. The child(ren) meet the minimum age requirement for the sacrament.
  - a. Age of reason (7 years old) for Eucharist and Reconciliation
  - b. Level 8 for Confirmation
2. Children must be registered and participating in religious education classes one full year prior to the sacrament year and have consistent, weekly PSR attendance throughout these years.
3. Families along with child(ren) are fully participating in the sacramental preparation process and activities offered in the parish.
4. Actively participating in parish life, including Sunday and Holy Day Masses
5. Parents agree to work with their child(ren) in preparing for the sacraments.
6. Parents must attend a sacrament meeting and are also encouraged to participate in additional faith-formation programs offered for adults in the parish, i.e. parish mission, Advent and Lenten activities, faith sharing groups, etc.

***Any exceptions to these basic guidelines must be discussed and approved by the Director of Religious Education, and/or the pastor of the parish, before any special compromises are made.***

## FIRST EUCHARIST

If you have not received Eucharist for the first time, you will need to receive classwork to receive this sacrament in one our classes. This preparation might also include children who have received First Eucharist at a younger age but still need additional catechesis. Catechesis is ongoing, and older children attending RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) should also attend PSR sessions, during and after receiving First Communion.

### **Parent information meeting for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation**

**Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017 from 7-9pm in the Church**

**Also, the make-up meeting will be Sunday, Oct.22nd from 11:30-1:30 in the Cafeteria**

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist involves several celebrations that include the child's family and the community of St. Pius X. The First Eucharist candidates gather in the school cafeteria or PAC room to prepare for the upcoming celebration. Following each celebration, the children are encouraged to meet their families in church, continuing the celebration with the parish community at the 5:00 PM Mass.

October 21st (Sat) @4:00-4:45 PM	Celebration of Belonging
December 2nd (Sat) @4:00-4:45 PM	Celebration of God's Word
January 20th (Sat) @4:00-4:45 PM	Celebration of Caring
April 7 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) @12:00 PM-4:30 PM	Pray and Play Day
April 24 <sup>th</sup> (Tues) @ 7:00PM	10AM First Eucharist Practice
April 26 <sup>st</sup> (Thurs) @ 7:00 PM	2PM First Eucharist Practice
April 28 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) @10:00 AM	First Eucharist Celebration
April 28 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) @ 2:00 PM	First Eucharist Celebration

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation along with Baptism and Eucharist. At St. Pius X, this sacrament is received in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above. The preparation process for Confirmation includes a call to stewardship and Catholic/Christian role modeling. Candidates might be asked to research and select the name of a saint that demonstrates an admiration and respect for that person, with qualities the candidate emulates. You are required to attend religion classes the prior year before Confirmation unless approved by the pastor and/or Coordinator of Religious Education.



Confirmation seals the sacrament of Baptism and the promises made by the candidate's parents and godparents on his/her behalf. Now, it is the candidate who confirms that he/she is truly a disciple of Christ and ready to follow his path, building the Kingdom of God through personal witness and services to others.

**Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 24th, 2017, 7:00PM in the church**  
**Make-up Meeting is Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30PM in the Cafeteria**

Sat. and Sun. March 10 & 11, 2018  
Sunday, May 6, 2018 @ 2:30-3:30 PM  
Sunday, May 20, 2018 @1:30 PM  
Monday, May 21, 2018 @7:00 PM

Confirmation Retreat  
Sponsor/Candidate Reflection  
Confirmation Practice  
Confirmation Celebration

## **RECONCILIATION**

The Diocese of Columbus and St. Pius X parish recommends that children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving Eucharist for the first time. Following this recommendation, all children in Level 2 receive instruction and preparation for individual reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Beyond Level 2, all children continue receiving catechetical instruction for reception of this sacrament, as well. As catechists (parents and teachers) the excitement and joy associated with a child receiving Eucharist can be joined with the recognition that children and adults must always seek forgiveness when they hurt Someone—especially God. The children are provided an understanding of right and wrong and the need to reconcile with God and the community by admitting that, “I am truly sorry for what I have done, how I have hurt my relationship with God and the entire Christian community, and that I want to change.”

Catechists provide the children with the catechesis (information) about the sacrament however it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children receive the sacrament on a regular basis. Ultimately, it is the parents who must prepare their children for the sacrament of Reconciliation because it is they who must teach and reinforce the value, necessity and joy associated with the sacrament. Each year, young people arrive at our higher levels of religious education (Levels 6-8) having NEVER celebrated this sacrament because their primary catechists (parents) have never exposed them to it.

Praying the Act of Contrition with your children at the end of the day helps them understand how humility and sorrow are necessary for any acts of unkindness that they might have committed toward others during that day's events.

St. Pius X parish offers weekly opportunities for receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation—4:00 p.m. every Saturday. St. Pius X and Seton Parishes celebrate two communal Penance services during the year—with several priests available to hear individual confessions. One takes place during Advent and another during Lent. The information concerning the place, day and time is published in the Sunday bulletin a few weeks prior to the service and is also in our PSR monthly newsletter.

A Reconciliation Reflection is presented for families to help them experience Jesus' demonstration of reconciliation in the Gospels. These reflections provide adults and children opportunities to witness the Gospel message, listen to the message of the Gospel, and discuss how Jesus wants us to feel God's overwhelming love and forgiveness in this special sacrament. The procedure for the Rite of Reconciliation is also reviewed for families helping to prepare their children for the sacrament.

**Reconciliation Reflection for Families**  
**Saturday, February 24, 2018**  
**@ 3:15-4:45 PM in the cafeteria**

St. Pius X Parish School of Religion  
Information and Policy Verification  
2017-2018

As parent or guardian, I have read and understand the information and policies contained in this 2016-2017 St. Pius X Parish School of Religion Handbook and I agree to abide by and support the Diocesan and St. Pius X Parish policies contained therein.

Please **print** the family name on the line below  
Then sign your name on the signature line.

Print family name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

On Snow Days would you rather be contacted by?

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Texting \_\_\_\_\_ (Please mark one)

**Personally Identifiable Information Release Form**

**Parents' Consent for Release of Personally Identifiable Information**

The undersigned parents of \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the St. Pius X PSR Program, hereby consent to the release of photographs and name of the minor to be used by St. Pius X Parish for future promotional programs of St. Pius x Parish and the Diocese of Columbus. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the St. Pius PSR Program at 614-864-3505.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature and Date