

## 2023-24 Saint Agnes Homeschool Co-op Schedule and Details

The Saint Agnes Homeschool Co-op will meet each first and third Friday, September through May. Our first co-op day will be Friday, September 1! There are no months this year when a first or third Friday falls on a holiday - so we will meet every single one of them! There is no cost to participate in this co-op.

### **The schedule:**

#### First Friday:

9:30 am: First Friday Mass (Upper Church)

10:30: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 3-7 / Book Club 8+ (book list attached below)

11:00: Sacred Music ages 3-7 / Adoration ages 8+

11:30: Rosary

Noon: Lunch/social time

12:15-1:00 pm: Sacred Music ages 8+

1:00-2:00 pm: High School Literature

#### Third Friday:

10:00 am: Gathering

10:30: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 3-7 / Book Club 8+

11:00: Sacred Music ages 3-7 / Rosary ages 8+ (starting at 11:10 am)

11:30: Exposition/Catechesis/Benediction with Father Moriarty

Noon: Lunch/social time

12:15-1:00 pm: Sacred Music ages 8+

1:00-2:00 pm: High School Literature

### **Notes on the schedule/program details:**

Three big additions!

1. Father Moriarty has added a First Friday All-School Mass at 9:30 am on most First Fridays (not including January and April due to conflicts - but we still might have Mass, stay tuned). We are cordially invited to attend. We specifically asked that he consider this request because many of our families had the desire of attending First Friday Mass as part of co-op. This is win-win for the school and for us!

2. Sacred music classes twice a month. We have secured a music teacher (Mrs. Maranda Boeser) with a degree in Sacred Music from the University of Mary. She will teach music to both younger and older kids - same age splits as Catechesis (3-7) and book club (8+). The plan for the younger kids is to do some basic theory and group singing. The older kids will also get a little bit of music theory and learn part singing using Catholic chant and hymns.

3. High School Literature Class twice a month (with touch-points during interim weeks)  
We will be offering a High School Literature class aimed at 9th-10th graders taught by Amy Schaeffer. This will be a survey class where the kids will study novel, drama, short story, poetry,

epic poetry, and non-fiction from a variety of sources. The reading list will be finalized in early August. The draft reading list with some other notes about the class can be found below.

### **A change from last year:**

At the end of last year, the kids requested two book clubs a month. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will now be taught twice per month, we can fit this into the schedule!

Amy Schaeffer (book club teacher) planned the book list (attached) so that the first Friday book of the month is a shorter book (so students can get to the 11 am Adoration hour) and the third Friday book is a longer book because there is a little more flexibility with the end time.

### **2023-24 Book Club Book List**

September:

- 1st: The Whipping Boy (Sid Fleischman)
- 3rd: Carry on, Mr. Bowditch (Jean Lee Latham)

October:

- 1st: The Hundred Dresses (Eleanor Estes)
- 3rd: The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street (Karina Van Glasser)

November:

- 1st: The Mousewife (Rumer Godden)
- 3rd: The Tale of Despereaux (Kate DiCamillo)

December:

- 1st: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Barbara Robinson)
- 3rd: A Place to Hang the Moon (Kate Albus)

January:

- 1st: The Enormous Crocodile (Roald Dahl)
- 3rd: The BFG (Roald Dahl)

February:

- 1st: The Cabin Faced West (Jean Fritz)
- 3rd: The Witch of Blackbird Pond (Elizabeth George Speare)

March:

- 1st: The Mouse and the Motorcycle (Beverly Cleary)
- 3rd: Son of Charlemagne (Barbara Willard)

April:

- 1st: Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes (Eleanor Coerr)
- 3rd: The Samurai and the Tea (Cathy Brueggeman Beil)

May:

1st: Sideways Stories from the Wayside School (Louis Sachar)

3rd: Julie of the Wolves (Jean Craighead George)

**2023-24 High School Literature Survey Course for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grades  
(as part of the Saint Agnes Homeschool Co-op)**

Taught by Amy Schaeffer

This course will be structured as a survey course that will cover various forms of literature and study a few famous items in each form. The purpose of the course will be to introduce the students to many forms of literature and give them a taste of each one with some really famous examples - at a high school level. This will be more than just a book club, but I want it to feel fun like a book club. Hopefully some of my enthusiasm for the material will rub off. I have structured it so that it is a good springboard to studying each literary form in more depth.

This course will meet in person from 1-2 pm (possibly a little longer - maybe 2:15?) on First and Third Fridays immediately following the Sacred Music choral class for the older co-op kids. We will also have some kind of touchpoint (in person? phone? Zoom?) during 2nd and 4th weeks of the month so that the class has weekly class hours.

Students will have assignments to complete - I am still working on format. Given that this is a high school level class, I am aiming for 2-3 hours of work outside of the class time each week. However, as parents, you will have the freedom to decide what additional work you want your student to complete. I will issue a grade based on what I receive - and that grade can be Pass/Fail or on the traditional grading A-F grading spectrum – again it will be your choice for your student.

After lots of research and reading, I have narrowed down the reading list to the following forms of literature with the specific pieces we will study. This list is still a draft. You will see notes below regarding that. I do not have a specific schedule of when we will read each item for the course yet - that will come in early August with the final reading list. I have not picked specific editions for our use (novels and drama we will likely need to pick one) and some of these are available for free online - many of the smaller items I will provide.

**Novel:** (I will be reducing this to 3)

Lord of the Flies (Golding)

The Man Who was Thursday (Chesterton)

The Call of the Wild (London)

Animal Farm (Orwell)

**Drama:**

Our Town (Wilder)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare)

**Short Story:**

Flowers for Algernon (Daniel Keyes)  
Leningen Versus the Ants (Stephenson)  
The Monkey's Paw (Jacobs)

**Essay:**

Taming the Bicycle (Twain)  
Camping Out (Hemingway)

**Non-Fiction:** (I will be reducing this to 3)

The Gettysburg Address (Lincoln)  
VE Day Broadcast (King George VI)  
Their Finest Hour (Churchill)  
Washington's Farewell Address (Washington)

**Epic Poem:** (we may read only selections of these and/or I may reduce this to two poems)

Beowulf  
The Waste Land (Eliot)  
Morte d' Arthur (Tennyson)

**Poetry** (poet listed - we will do one or two poems by the poet):

Robert Frost (American)  
Emily Dickinson (American)  
Edgar Allen Poe (American)  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (American)  
Dylan Thomas (British)  
William Blake (British)  
Robert Burns (Scottish)  
William Butler Yeats (Irish)

**Sacred Literature:**

Bible as poetry and prose  
Hymns as poetry (Be Thou My Vision; Amazing Grace; Pange Lingua)