



The Diocese of NY & NJ Department of Christian Education announces...

Workshops for Diocesan Church School Teachers, Youth Workers and Clergy

Join us for this special workshop as we heed our beloved Archbishop Michael's direction to "re-examine our Church School programs and parish youth organizations... giving way to more personally involved methods of bringing Christ to our young people".

Vacation Church School: Bringing Back Our Youth and Families



Learn how to plan and hold a successful Vacation Church School (VCS) program, that can be effectively used for one-day or two-day parish youth events and retreats throughout the year, to draw in youth and families who are not regularly attending. Participants will take home two detailed VCS lesson plans to use in their parishes.

New York State Deanery
Saturday, August 20
Saints Peter and Paul Church, Syracuse
10am-2pm
[Click Here to Register](#)

New York City & New Jersey Deaneries
Saturday, August 27
Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers
10am-2pm
[Click Here to Register](#)

Presenter: Kelly Potteiger, Orthodox Vacation Church School Content Creator



Kelly Potteiger received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Penn State University. She and her husband have been Orthodox since 2003. She has 23 years of experience in children's programming within Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Day Camps, Elementary School and Church School Teaching. She has three young children.

Since 2008, Kelly has been a member of Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Mechanicsburg, PA, where she has taught church school, planned children's retreats and the annual Vacation Church School, started their Orthodox Mom's Group, Women's Group, Women's Book Club, and LOL Youth Group. Kelly also writes VCS plans for the OCA website.

Kelly's experience shows that the key to children's programming is the excitement it brings and the memories it leaves with the youth. She says, "Children form a connection with their Orthodox peers and their church community, thus making lifelong friends and relationships. The youth at our parish look forward to Vacation Church School and ask what the theme will be, months beforehand. The older youth are sad when they outgrow the program and frequently return to help plan and run it. It is truly a parish undertaking of quality programming that not only teaches Orthodox theology, but also instills in the youth a lifetime commitment to a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

This event is generously sponsored by the **DDB**.

For more information, contact Matushka Tamara Cowan at tamarancowan@gmail.com