


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter June 26 - July 10, 2024



Our Lady of Sorrows
217 PROSPECT STREET, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

Parish Office

**Summer Hours
(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Monday-Thursday
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Office closed on Fridays**

OLS Summer Hours Reminder

We pray that your summer is off to a fun and relaxing start. Things are a little bit slower around the church as well now that the warmer temperatures have arrived; the parish office is closed on Fridays through Labor Day. Additionally, Mrs. Noll and Mrs. McDonald will be out of the office on vacation sporadically throughout the summer. While they do tend to still check their emails from time to time while away, please be patient when waiting for a reply.



It's Mail Time for Our Rising 2nd and 3rd Graders

We miss all of our CCD friends over the summer, so we are once again sending all of our Rising 2nd and 3rd graders packets of summer Bible stories (along with a letter from Mrs. Noll). The summer is a great time to relax with a great book, so why not relax with some great stories from "The Good Book"!?! Hope your child enjoys

a little old-fashioned mail because the June editions are on their way!

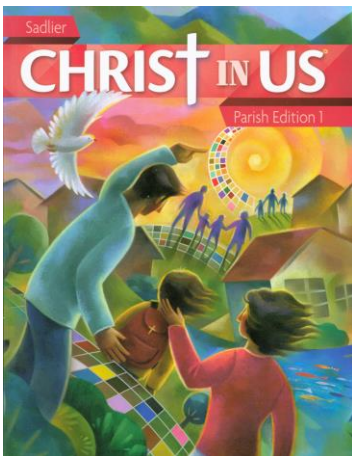


Register for CCD By July 15th and Save

Thank you to all those families who have already registered for CCD. Your early registration is super helpful to us - and it saves you money! Our "early bird" pricing ends July 15th, so don't delay. You are encouraged to **register even if you do not know which day of the week your child will be able to attend** - just let us know by September 1st!

Please **complete one registration form for each child** in grades K-8. Registration for the OLS high school Youth Group is separate and begins in September.

[2024-2025 CCD Registration Form](#)



New Curriculum for CCD

In case you missed the announcement in our last newsletter, OLS will be using a new curriculum this year for our CCD students in grades K-8. If you would like to know more about what you can expect from our new curriculum, click [HERE](#). We think you'll enjoy the freedom of being able to leave your books here at the parish since there is also an online copy of the book. Additionally, it'll be easier for you to engage your family in a faith-based discussion with your kids after CCD because everyone will have been working on the answer to the same "BIG"

question each week. The structure of the new curriculum should also give our catechist more time to devote to the liturgical seasons of the year like Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter which used to get crammed into other chapters. We hope you like this change.



OLS CCD Calendar for 2024-2025 is Now Available

If you are a Type A personality or simply want to take a look at when CCD will be held during the coming school year, you can take a look at the newly approved calendar by clicking [HERE](#). In a nutshell, CCD will begin the week of September 22nd and end the first week in May. Enjoy the summer because the start of the school year will be here before you know it!



Can You Help?

The OLS CCD Program is always in need of men and women willing to share their faith as catechists. If you are interested in helping our program and are available on Monday or Tuesday afternoon from 3:45 - 5:15, please reach out to Jen Noll. Training, teaching materials and mentorship provided. **Our biggest need currently is for a Tuesday afternoon 7th grade catechist for a small (but important) group of kids**, but we can always use help! And being added to our substitute list is a great way to be introduced to the program. Give it a try

Solo catechists pay only \$35 for their family for the entire year. **Team-teaching catechists** splitting

classroom duties with another teacher **pay only \$55** for the entire family.



Homeschooling Connection

If your child is in the OLS homeschooling program and you did not attend an exit interview with Mrs. Noll or reach out to schedule one for the summer, please reach out as soon as possible. Students who do not complete the homeschooling year in its entirety - including the end-of-the-year discussion with Mrs. Noll will not be eligible to participate in the homeschooling program in the coming year.

Click [HERE](#) to see a list of possible discussion topics by grade.



Verso Cristo (Essex County Young Adult Group) New Name, Same Mission

The Essex County Young Adult Group has a new name: Verso Cristo, but it's mission of connecting the young adults in our area to one another and Christ remains the same. There were over 60 people at their last BBQ in June, so they are excited to have even more people join them for their upcoming talent show. If you're in your 20s or 30s, first - congratulations! Pushing 50 isn't great. But second, consider joining this fun group by sharing one of your many "talents". Here's the sign-up link: [Talent Show Sign Up](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK ONE

Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Feast Day: June 29th

On June 29 the Church celebrates the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church.

Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion.

Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith.

St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church.

Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Sts. Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

[Kid Worksheets on the Lives of Sts. Peter and Paul](#)

[Two-Minute Video from the Religion Teacher on The Meaning of St. Peter's Name](#)



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK TWO

St. Thomas, Apostle

Feast Day: July 3

Patron of: The Blind (due to occasional spiritual blindness); Craftsmen

Little is recorded of St. Thomas the Apostle. Thomas was probably born in Galilee to a humble family. He was a Jew, but there is no account of how he became an apostle to Christ. Nevertheless, thanks to the fourth Gospel his personality is clearer to us than some of the other Twelve. Thomas' name occurs in Matthew (10:3), Mark (3:18), Luke (6) and Acts of the Apostles (1:13), but in the Gospel of John he plays a particularly distinctive part. Thomas is often condemned for his lack of belief, but Thomas was equally courageous, willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. He also relentlessly sought the Truth. Like an inquisitive child, he constantly asked questions. And, his wonderful profession, "My Lord and my God," is the clearest declaration of Jesus' divinity in Holy Scripture.

Thomas,

Loyal

Follower

When Jesus announced His intention of visiting the recently deceased Lazarus in Judea—a few miles from Jerusalem and dangerously close for someone as unpopular as He—Thomas said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). When the worried disciples wanted to keep Jesus from going for fear He would be stoned, Thomas, in a moment of bravery not often expressed by the Apostles before Pentecost, rallied the others to stay by their Master come what may.

Thomas,

Inquisitive

Student

Later, in John 14:1-5 it was St. Thomas who raised an objection prior to the Last Supper:

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.”

Thomas said to Him, *“Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”*

With the keenness typical of the Twelve, Thomas misunderstands Jesus’ reference to His death and resurrection. Thomas’ question provides Jesus an opportunity to teach one of the most profound and difficult truths of His ministry. Jesus said to Thomas: (John 14:6) *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

Thomas,

Doubting

Apostle

Lastly, and more famously, St. Thomas is remembered for being absent from the Upper Room the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples after His Resurrection. Thomas dismissed the accounts of the others by saying, *“Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe”*(Luke 20:25). Eight days later Thomas made his act of faith. He fell at the feet of Jesus and said, *“My Lord and my God!”* and Jesus replied, *“Because you have seen me, Thomas, you believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believe”* (John 20:25-29). This incident gave rise to the expression “doubting Thomas.”

Thomas,

Reluctant

Missionary

Accounts of Thomas’ missionary activities are unreliable, but the most widely accepted report holds that he preached in India, although he was reluctant to start the mission. According to the *Acta Thomae*, the apostles divided up the world for their missionary labors, and India fell to Thomas. To this day, Saint Thomas is venerated as the Apostle of India. In fact, there exists a population of Christians along the Malabar Coast, on the western coast of India, who lay claim to conversion by St. Thomas. Their tradition holds that he built seven churches, was martyred during prayer by a spearing on the “Big Hill” near Madras, and was buried in Mylapore, on the east coast of India. Ultimately, St. Thomas’ remains were transported to Ortona, Italy, where they reside today.



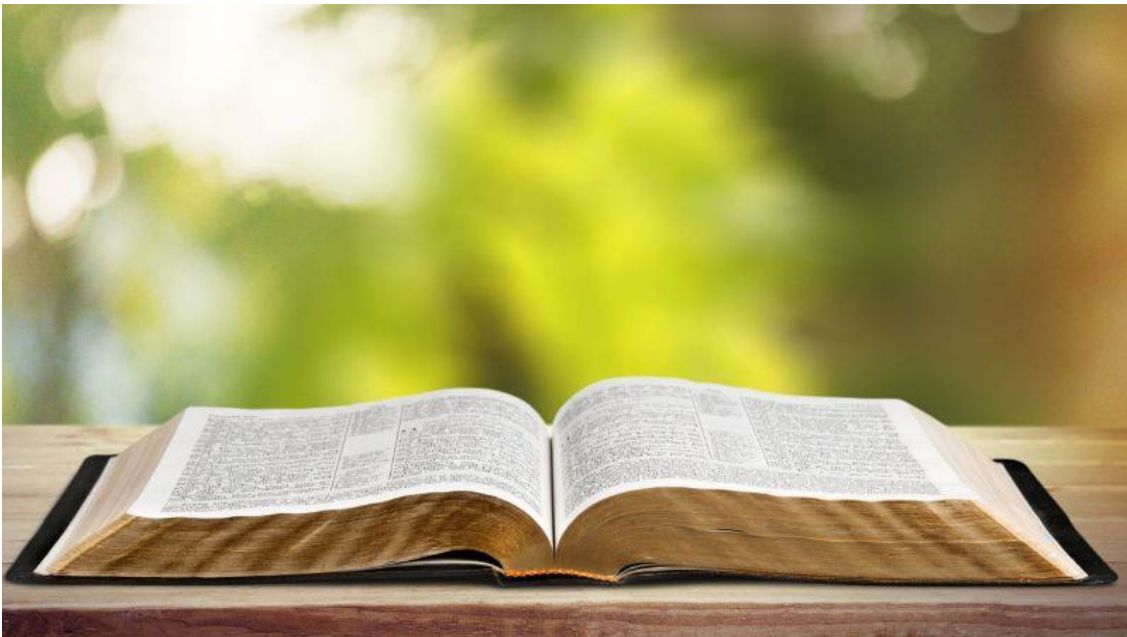
St. Thomas Crafts, Videos and Activities for Kids

Looking for a fun way to keep your kids busy this summer with something that feeds their minds and souls? Give one of the following suggestions designed to teach kids about who St. Thomas was a try. Want a super simple and tasty way to reinforce the story about St. Thomas' desire to put his finger into the marks in Jesus' hands? Serve a food with a hole - think mini-doughnuts, onions rings, peach ring candy, or bagels - you get the idea!

[Two-Minute Video for Kids - Doubting Thomas Story](#)

[St. Thomas Activities and Games for Kids](#)

[Doubting Thomas Craft from Growing Kids in Grace](#)



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass then is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal,

discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word:

[Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Two-Minute Explanation Video on The Raising of Jairus' Daughter from the Religion Teacher](#)

[Two-Minute Kid's Video - Stories of the Bible - Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter](#)

[Readings for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

Living Faith Kids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

JULY 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	SAINT JUNIPERO SERRA, PRIEST		SAINT THOMAS, APOSTLE	INDEPENDENCE DAY	SAINT ANTHONY ZACCARIA, PRIEST SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL	SAINT MARIA GORETTI, VIRGIN AND MARTYR
	1	2			5	6
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q Where did Jesus begin to teach? (SEE JULY 10) ● Mark 6:1-6		SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG, PRIEST AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	A In the synagogue		12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q How did Jesus send out the Twelve? (SEE JULY 19) ● Mark 6:7-13	SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			SAINT CAMELLIUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST	A Two by two.	SAINT APOLLINARIUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q Why did Jesus and the apostles leave by boat? (SEE JULY 27) ● Mark 6:30-34		SAINT BRIDGET, RELIGIOUS	SAINT SHARBEL MAKHLÖF, PRIEST		SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	A To rest.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q What did Jesus do with the loaves? (SEE JULY 31) ● John 6:1-15	SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS	SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST	Word of the month: PASTOR A pastor is a priest who leads a parish.		
28	29	30	31			

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[Download the July Catechist Magazine Calendar HERE](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: What is Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the month of July 2024?

- a) For the gift of diversity in the Church
- b) For the terminally ill
- c) For the new martyrs
- d) For the pastoral care of the sick

Answer: D. While all of the above make excellent prayer intentions, Pope Francis has set aside July 2024 as a time to pray for the pastoral care of the sick. (Options a-c were the intentions from earlier in the year.) During the coming month, whenever you pray for the intention of the Holy Father, you will be praying that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.



Joke of the Week

(Which should help you recall last Sunday's Gospel)



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