

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter July 10 - July 24, 2024



Out of the Office

Mrs. Noll and Mrs. McDonald are both currently out of the office. Mrs. Noll will return on July 18th and Mrs. McDonald will return on July 22nd. While we will be checking emails periodically while away, please be patient while awaiting a response.



Early Bird Registration Discount Ends July 15th

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. You can view the CCD Calendar for 2024-2025 clicking [HERE](#).

[2024-2025 CCD Registration Form](#)

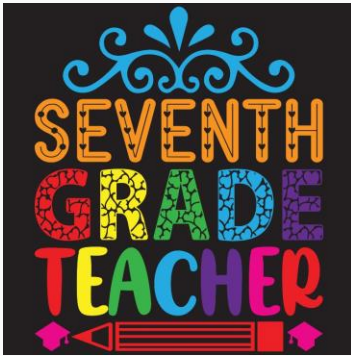


The St. Cecilia Singers are Getting Back Together

Over the summer, OLS's Music Director: Preston Dibble will be working to relaunch the St. Cecilia Singer's: OLS's musical choir for kids in grades 3-8. It is a great opportunity for young people to gather and learn more about music (free singing lessons!!!) as well as the Church and our Liturgy. Here are the specifics:

- Rehearsals will be every Wednesday starting on Sept. 18th
- Upper Church from 3:45 pm - 4:30 pm
- the children will sing periodically at our 10:00 am Family Masses

If your child enjoys singing and you enjoy enrolling your children in an absolutely **FREE** after-school activity, then please reach out to Mr. Dibble at olsmusician@gmail.com.



7th Grade Tuesday Catechist Needed

Have you ever thought about becoming a catechist? If so, this is your lucky year because we have an opening just for you! Our Tuesday grade 7 class (small but important) is currently in need of a catechist for the coming year. Please let us know if you can help.

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. Training, teaching materials and mentorship provided.



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 so that you can schedule a 20 minute discussion. If your children have not yet completed their work for the year, please work with them to catch up so that they are ready for the coming year.



7th Grade Essay Winner Announced

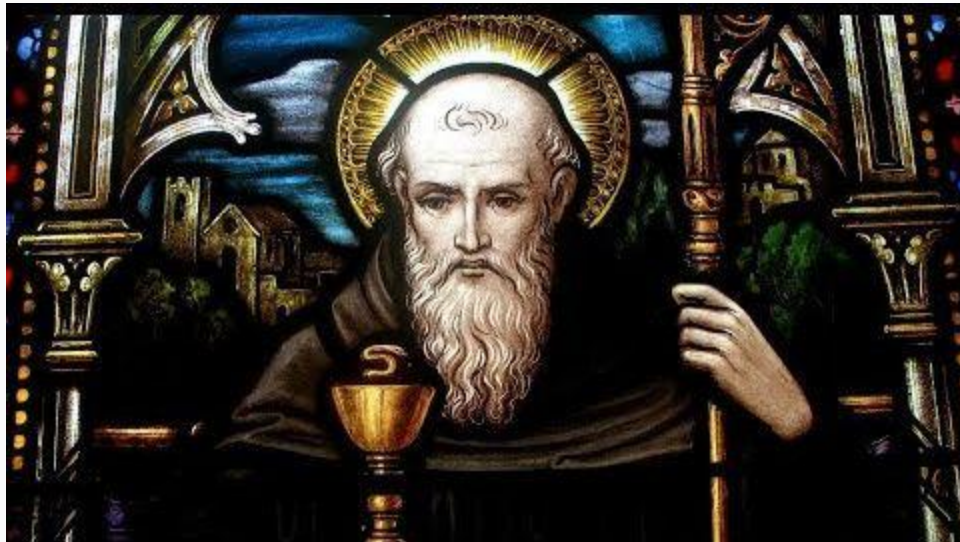
Each year, 7th graders from around the Archdiocese are invited to join an essay contest sponsored by Cardinal Tobin on the topic of priestly vocations. This year's \$1500 scholarship winner was just announced: Clarke Usarzewicz from St. Bartholomew's parish in Scotch Plains. To read more or to view Clarke's video on priests as "spiritual physicians", click [HERE](#). (And yes, that is OLS's priest in residence, Fr. Patrick presenting Clarke with his certificate.)



Road Trip Anyone?

Summer is here, and it's time to travel Catholic America! You'll find vibrant expressions of Catholic faith in every state — in grand cathedrals and teeny chapels, in underwater statues and holy dirt.

These "Top 10 Catholic Cities", as compiled from the 2021 book Monuments, Marvels, and Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America), are ranked by their respective number of holy sites and highlight several attractions in and around each city. Travel within a 150-mile radius of these 10 cities and you'll discover oodles of unique and fascinating holy sites — some sprinkled with good humor and fun trivia. Want to read the complete list? Click [HERE](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK ONE

St. Benedict

Feast Day: July 11th

Patron of: Students and monks, co-patron of Europe

The future, “Father of Monks,” was born in 480 A.D. at Norcia, about 70 miles from Rome. At a young age he left his studies at Rome in pursuit of a life of sanctity and spiritual perfection. He soon settled in the remote area of Subiaco and lived in a cave for three years under the direction of a hermit named Romanus. After the death of Romanus, Benedict accepted the invitation of some nearby monks to be their abbot. The monks, however, were quite wayward and would not take the counsels of Benedict and conspired to poison him. Saint Benedict suspecting their evil intent blessed the goblet of poisoned wine offered him, whereupon it shattered. He then went back into his solitude for a short period of time.

At the age of 31, he began founding monasteries and by the age of 39 there were twelve monasteries to his credit. The most renowned is Montecassino where he wrote for his monks a rule somewhat tempered from the severity of Eastern Monasticism. The “Rule of Saint Benedict” became the norm for all Western Monasticism and is still practiced today by Benedictines the world over. The Benedictine Order has given the Church over 57,000 known saints and 35 popes, of whom 17 are Saints or Blesseds.

Saint Benedict’s twin sister, Saint Scholastica, founded an order for nuns based on the same rule of life. While praying one day, Saint Benedict saw in a vision the death of his sister and her soul rising toward Heaven in the form of a dove. She died on February 10, 543 A.D., 40 days before his death on March

21st. They are both buried in the Cathedral of Montecassino. Pope Saint Gregory the Great-a Benedictine-wrote the life of Saint Benedict.

For more on the life of Saint Benedict, click [here](#).



What is the Way of St. Benedict?

The Camino of St. Benedict is a quiet, contemplative walk away from the large cities. It is mostly off-road, on dirt trails or dirt roads, meandering through small villages and nature. The Way of Benedict begins in the birthplace of St. Benedict, Norcia (Nursia in Latin and English) and traverses through Mt. Subiaco, an important monastery he founded; it ends in Montecassino, where his body is preserved along with his sister, Scholastica. The full walk from Norcia to Montecassino takes 16 days - though a 2016 earthquake has made accessing some of the first stops around Norcia difficult to access.

To learn more about this unique contemplative hiking experience, click [HERE](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK TWO

St. Mary Magdalene

Feast Day: July 22nd

Patron of: Converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners and women

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over if Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed women, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are skeptical this is the same person.

Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her subsequent life, after meeting Jesus, is much more significant. She was certainly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no

person is beyond the saving grace of God. During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him, part of a semi-permanent entourage who served Jesus and his Disciples.

Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry. Mary was present when Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him. She was the first witness to His resurrection.

After the death of Christ, a legend states that she remained among the early Christians. After fourteen years, she was allegedly put into a boat by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, and set adrift without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France, where she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave.

Want to know more?

Click [HERE](#) to be redirected to the *God Who Speaks* and its study of *Apostle to the Apostles: Reclaiming the Story of Mary of Magdala*.



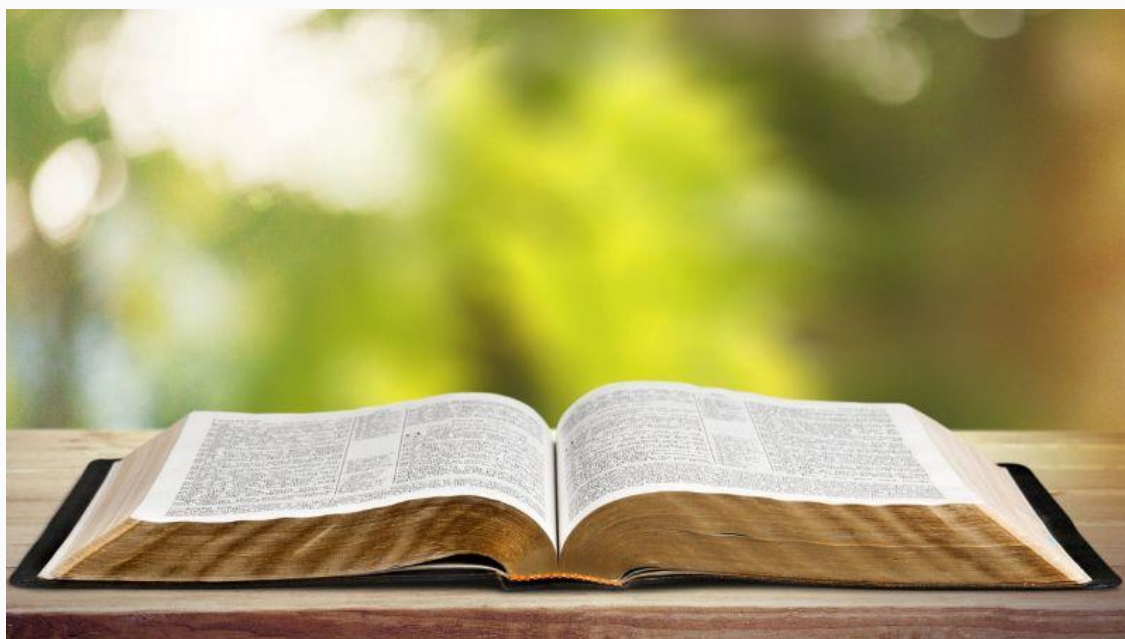
Popular Pilgrimage Site for Mary Magdalene: Sainte-Baume

Medieval accounts suggest that after the Ascension of Christ, several of his closest companions fled persecution in the Holy Land and spent the rest of their earthly life in the South of France. Among them were Sts. Martha and Lazarus of Bethany, St. Maximinus of Aix and St. Mary Magdalene, the latter of whom is regarded as the patron saint of the region of Provence.

According to tradition, Mary Magdalene reached the coast by boat and landed in a city known today as Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. After evangelizing the whole area, in particular the city of Marseille (Massilia), she settled in a grotto nestled in the heart of a nearby mountain, which

would become later the [Sanctuary of Sainte-Baume](#), where she dedicated the rest of her life to prayer. Her tomb, considered the “third vault of Christendom” (after the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and St. Peter’s tomb under the Basilica in Rome), is located in Saint-Maximin, at the foot of the Sainte-Baume mountains, and has been kept by the Dominicans for centuries.

If a trip to Provence isn't in your budget or future, you can learn more about this site, by clicking [HERE](#).



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 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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

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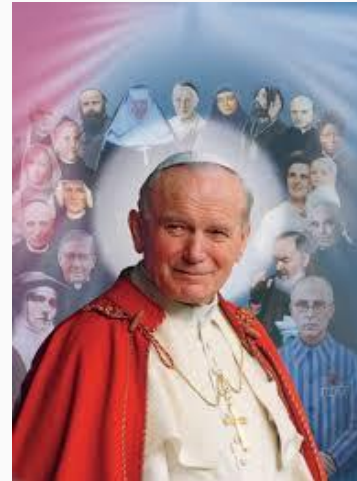
[Download the July Catechist Magazine Calendar HERE](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: St. Benedict, whose feast date the Church celebrates on July 11th, is one of the co-patron saints of Europe. How many other co-patrons are there? (And give yourself a point for each one you can actually name.)

- a) 2
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 8

Answer: c There are 6 co-patron saints of Europe: Sts. Benedict, Cyril and Methodius, Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Siena and Theresa Benedicta of the Cross. The three women were the most recent co-patrons to be included to the list, having been added to the three men by St. Pope John Paul II in October of 1999. To read his letter on the matter, click [HERE](#).



Joke of the Week



Jen Noll

Catechetical Coordinator

jennollols@gmail.com

973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald

Religious Education Assistant

sorrowschurch@gmail.com

973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)

