


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter
August 7 - August 21, 2024



Prayers Needed!!!

Please keep Julian Sherman and his family in your prayers. Julian, a rising fourth grade member of our CCD family, was diagnosed with acute lymphatic Leukemia after he fell ill while attending his older brother's hockey tournament in Boston. The Sherman family has asked for as many people as possible to join in praying for Julian's speedy and total recovery.

On Tuesday, Fr. Andrew drove up to Boston and was able to extend all of the parish's love and support to Julian and his family during this difficult time.

A Go Fund Me site was been established by Julian's godmother to help defray the family's medical costs and living expenses while they are away from home caring for Julian. If you are able to and would like to help financially, please click [HERE](#).

For all of the latest updates on sweet Julian's condition, you can join the Facebook page that has been established to help keep people abreast of all the latest news: [Julian Sherman's Cancer Updates](#).

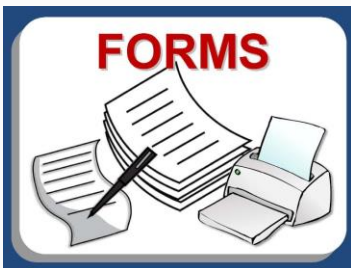
"Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend Julian to your loving care. Relieve his pain, guard him from all danger, restore to him your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise him up to a life of service to you."



CCD Registration is Ongoing

If you have not done so already, please be sure to register for CCD as soon as possible so that we can be sure to have enough catechists for all of our classes. You may register even if you don't yet know your day preference. Just let us know by September 1st. Thank you!

[2024-2025 CCD Registration Form](#)



CCD Forms for the Coming Year

If you'd like to get a jump on the forms required for CCD this year, please see the links below. One piece of good news is that with the online portal associated with our new curriculum, there isn't a Gmail Collection form to have to fill out this year. One less form to complete! Whoo hoo! Though, please note, Mrs. McDonald will be emailing the Archdiocese of Newark's Digital Communication Policy separately next week.

[2024 - 2025 Emergency Contact Form](#)

[2024-2025 Photo Opt-in / Opt-Out Form](#)



August Summer Bible Stories

Our final round of summer Bible story packets will be mailed out next week, so tell your second and third graders to be on the lookout for them! (And a note from Mrs. Noll, of course!) We hope you found these collections to be good reinforcement resources during the long break from CCD.

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!



Our Lady of Sorrows

ST. CECILIA SINGERS

GRADES 3-8

Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons
from 3:45pm-4:30pm

The choir will sing twice per month
at our 10am Family Mass

*For more information and to sign up, please contact
Preston Dibble, Director of Music at olsmusician@gmail.com*



Help Needed on Tuesdays

We continue to look for a 7th grade catechist for our Tuesday class. Additionally, our Tuesday 5th grade catechist is looking for someone to split the responsibility of teaching with due to a change in her schedule. If you can help, please reach out.

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

Time is running short - if your child is in the OLS homeschooling program and you have not yet attended an exit interview with Mrs. Noll for the 2023-2024 school year, please schedule one as soon as possible. She will be unavailable for interviews from August 12-14 and August 24 - September 4.



FREE Catholic Parenting Workshop

I love the great work Catholic Sprouts does, so I am excited to share information with you about their upcoming parenting workshop. Want to feel confident in the job you're doing in raising your child in the Catholic faith? Give *The Confident Catholic Parent* workshop a try this coming Tuesday evening and learn how to do an even better job raising kids of faith - from a woman who's doing it!

Spoiler alert - the most important part of raising Catholic kids is for YOU to develop a life of personal prayer.

You can register for Tuesday's workshop by clicking [HERE](#).



Celebrating Mary in August

If asked to list Marian feast days in August, most Catholics would respond with only “the Assumption.” If asked what other Marian feast days are in August, most Catholics would go blank. That is probably because the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15th, is a holy day of obligation in the United States, and so our attention is drawn to it because we are required to go to Mass that day.

But there are other feast days of Mary throughout the month that we don’t want to overlook. Special days honoring Mary have been part of Catholic Tradition since the end of the first century. To learn more, click [HERE](#)



Faith in Action - St. Lucy's Emergency Shelter

Have you heard about St. Lucy’s Emergency Shelter in Jersey City? The 128-year-old institution, which is operated by Catholic Charities, offers 150 emergency shelter beds, 14 beds for those living with HIV/AIDS, five three-bedroom permanent supportive housing apartments, and 15 permanent supportive housing studio apartments. It also offers a drop-in area where nonresidents can take showers, eat meals, and do their laundry. And for its temporary and permanent residents, the facility provides comprehensive assistance so they can find permanent housing, secure employment, and address any other physical or mental health needs.

Want to learn more about the remarkable work done to help residents in our Archdiocese? Click [HERE](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK ONE

St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

Feast Day: July 10th

Patron of: Cooks, Deacons, the Poor

Attributes in Art: Palm Frond, gridiron

The esteem in which the Church holds Lawrence is seen in the fact that today's celebration ranks as a feast. We know very little about his life. He is one of those whose martyrdom made a deep and lasting impression on the early Church. Celebration of his feast day spread rapidly.

He was a Roman deacon under Pope Saint Sixtus II. Four days after this pope was put to death, Lawrence and four clerics suffered martyrdom, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian.

Legendary details of Lawrence's death were known to Damasus, Prudentius, Ambrose, and Augustine. The church built over his tomb became one of the seven principal churches in Rome and a favorite place for Roman pilgrimages.

A well-known legend has persisted from earliest times. As deacon in Rome, Lawrence was charged with the responsibility for the material goods of the Church, and the distribution of alms to the poor. When Lawrence knew he would be arrested like the pope, he sought out the poor, widows, and orphans of Rome and gave them all the money he had on hand, selling even the sacred vessels of the altar to increase the sum. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he imagined that the Christians must have considerable treasure. He sent for Lawrence and said, "You Christians say we are cruel to you, but that is not what I have in mind. I am told that your priests offer in gold, that the sacred blood is received in silver cups, that you have golden candlesticks at your evening services. Now, your doctrine says you must render to Caesar what

is his. Bring these treasures—the emperor needs them to maintain his forces. God does not cause money to be counted: He brought none of it into the world with him—only words. Give me the money, therefore, and be rich in words.”

Lawrence replied that the Church was indeed rich. “I will show you a valuable part. But give me time to set everything in order and make an inventory.” After three days he gathered a great number of blind, lame, maimed, leprous, orphaned, and widowed persons and put them in rows. When the prefect arrived, Lawrence simply said, “These are the treasure of the Church.”

The prefect was so angry he told Lawrence that he would indeed have his wish to die—but it would be by inches. He had a great gridiron prepared with coals beneath it, and had Lawrence’s body placed on it. After the martyr had suffered the pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he made his famous cheerful remark, “It is well done. Turn me over!”



A Delicious, Summery Way to Celebrate the Feast of St. Lawrence

Who doesn't like grilling in the summer? Okay, maybe grilling isn't the best option in the middle of a rainstorm, but if the weather is clear long enough on the 10th to fire up the grill, cook something in honor of St. Lawrence. St. Lawrence is not only the patron saint of cooks, but he also famously died by being cooked over a gridiron. And be sure to mention to your kids the reasons you're grilling on Saturday!



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK TWO

The Assumption

Solemnity: August 15th, Holy Day of Obligation

What does Catholicism teach about the assumption of Mary? And why is this event contemplated in the fourth glorious mystery? Let us begin by considering a few key points from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

First, in discussing the assumption, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary did not suffer from original sin but was conceived full of grace. According to this doctrine, known as the Immaculate Conception, God's supernatural life dwelt in Mary from the very beginning of her existence.

It is important to emphasize that from a Catholic perspective, the Immaculate Conception is not simply about Mary. This doctrine, which has its roots in early Christianity, ultimately is about the mystery of Jesus Christ. God became man in Mary's womb. Since Jesus truly is the all-holy God, the Second Person of the Trinity, Catholics believe he is worthy to dwell in a pure vessel, a holy temple. Thus, it is fitting that God would prepare Mary as an immaculate dwelling place, full of grace and not stained by sin, for the God-man.

The annunciation scene in Luke's Gospel may at least point in this direction. The angel Gabriel greets Mary, "Hail, full of grace." The Greek word in Luke's Gospel for "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) is in a perfect passive participle form, which would indicate that Mary already has been filled with God's saving grace, even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.⁶ As we will see, the Immaculate Conception will serve as a basis for understanding Mary's assumption.

Second, the Catechism teaches that Mary was taken to heaven when the course of her earthly life was finished. The Church does not declare whether Mary died and then was assumed into heaven or whether she was assumed before she died. It leaves open both possibilities. However, the majority of theologians and saints throughout the centuries have affirmed that Mary did experience death—not as a penalty for sin but in conformity to her son, who willingly experienced death on our behalf. In support of this latter view, John Paul II said, “The Mother is not superior to the Son who underwent death, giving it a new meaning and changing it into a means of salvation.”

Third, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory right at the end of her earthly life. One of the consequences of original sin is the corruption of the body (see CCC, 400; Genesis 3:19). If Mary was full of grace and did not suffer from original sin, it is fitting that she, like her son, would not experience such bodily corruption.

Although there are no explicit proof texts in Scripture for Mary’s assumption, some biblical themes may at least shed light on this doctrine. For example, the notion of being taken up into heaven has some precedent in Scripture. Enoch was taken into heaven without seeing death (see Hebrews 11:5), and Elijah was whisked into heaven by the chariots of fire at the end of his life (see 2 Kings 2:11). If God could assume these righteous men of the Old Testament, it is certainly possible that Jesus could assume his own mother as well.

Even more, since the Bible presents Mary as the first Christian disciple, it is fitting that she would be the first to receive the blessings of following Christ. In the New Testament, Mary is presented as the first to hear God’s word and accept it at the annunciation (see Luke 1:38, 45). She responds to God’s word promptly by going in haste to help Elizabeth. She also describes herself as a servant of the Lord (see Luke 1:38, 48).

Mary remains faithful to her son, following him even to the cross (see John 19:25–27), where she experiences the fulfillment of Simeon’s prophecy at the Presentation: “A sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Luke 2:35).



Sweet Assumption Treats

You know Mrs. Noll loves a good recipe tie in to a feast or a solemnity! Visit [Catholic Icing](#) for a collection of cloud-themed snacks to help you celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This blue jello with Cool-Whip "sky in a glass" is just one of many sweet ways to mark the day Mary was taken up into heaven. Visit [Catholic Icing](#) for more ideas. Or, get creative and see if you can come up with a few of your own.



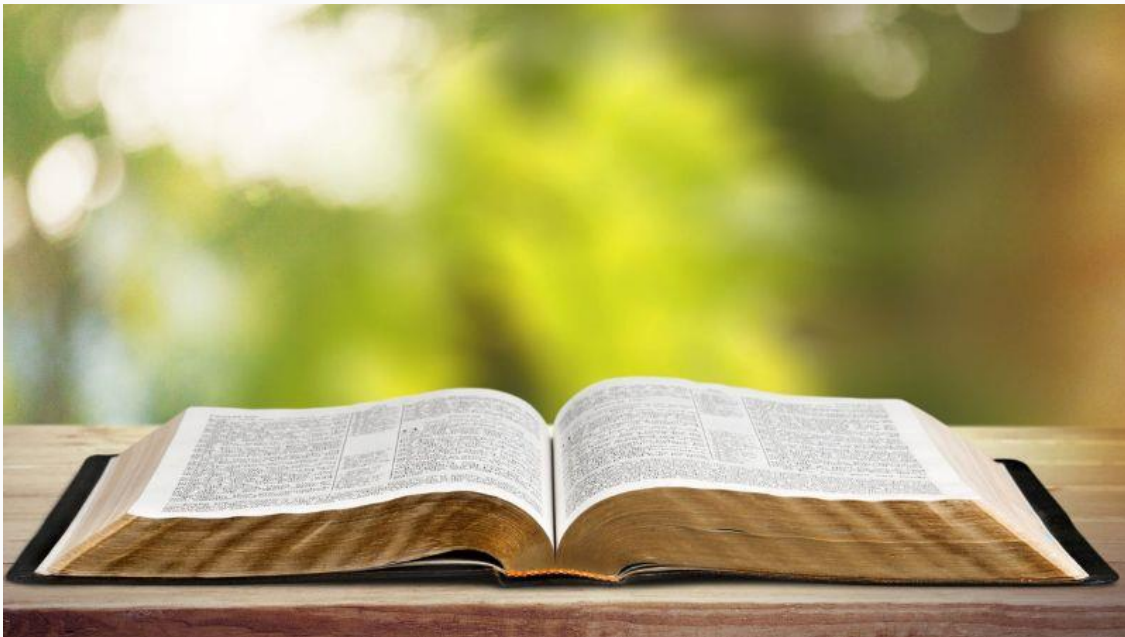
Mass Times for August 15th: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics here in the United States. Help us fill our beautiful church with your presence at one of the following Mass times:

7:00 am

12:00 pm

7:00 pm



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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

LivingFaithKids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

AUGUST 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: <h2>PARABLE</h2> <p>A parable is a story about everyday life. Jesus' parables teach about God.</p>				 SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	SAINT EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMAUD, PRIEST	
Q What did the ancestors eat in the desert? (SEE AUGUST 7) ● John 6:24-35	THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY MAJOR	 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	A Manna SAINT SIXTUS II, POPE AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS SAINT CAJETAN, PRIEST	SAINT DOMINIC, PRIEST	SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, VIRGIN AND MARTYR	SAINT LAWRENCE, DEACON AND MARTYR
Q Jesus said, "Whoever believes has..." (SEE AUGUST 17) ● John 6:41-51	SAINT JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, RELIGIOUS	SAINTS PONTIAN, POPE, AND HIPPOLYTUS, PRIEST, MARTYRS	SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR	 THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	SAINT STEPHEN OF HUNGARY	A Eternal life
Q Where did Jesus say the bread came down from? (SEE AUGUST 22) ● John 6:51-58	SAINT JOHN EUDES, PRIEST	SAINT BERNARD, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	SAINT PIUS X, POPE	A Heaven THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	 SAINT ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN	SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE
Q Who did Simon Peter say Jesus was? (SEE AUGUST 29) ● John 6:50-69		SAINT MONICA	 SAINT AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST		A The Holy One of God

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

Catholic Trivia

Question: Which of the following Old Testament figures was also assumed into Heaven?

- A) Adam
- B) Joshua
- C) David
- D) Elijah



Answer: In 2 Kings 2: 11-12, we learn of the assumption of Elijah in front of the prophet Elisha, *"As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it happen. He cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariot and steeds!" Then he saw him no longer."*

Joke of the Week



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