

# Religious Education



**CCD Family Newsletter**  
**August 21 - September 4, 2024**

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## **One Last Hurrah**

Jen Noll and Colleen McDonald will be out of the office the last week in August on vacation with their families. Jen Noll will be back in the office after delivering her daughter to Spain on September 5th and Mrs. McDonald will be back in the office on September 3rd. Internet access for both is likely to be sporadic, so please be patient when waiting for a response to an emailed inquiry. Enjoy the end of the summer!

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## **CCD Registration**

We are still missing a few registrations. 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.

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## [2024-2025 CCD Registration Form](#)

It would be great if you could be so kind as to let us know which day your child would like to attend CCD by the first week in September when Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Noll are back from vacation and begin switching gears to the creation of class lists. Thanks!

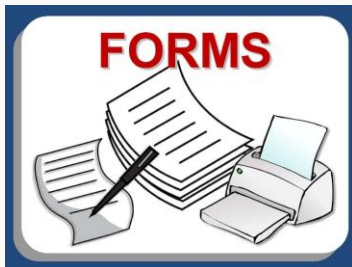
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### **Homeschooling Connection**

If after looking at your child's after-school activities for the fall you had the thought, "Wow. How in the world are we going to fit CCD in this year?" Don't panic. OLS has a flexible homeschooling option available to you to help keep your child's religious education ongoing - even when things get crazy busy. To learn more, contact Jen Noll or take a look at our [2024-2025 Homeschooling Handbook](#).

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### **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. The Archdiocese of Newark's Digital Communication Policy requires a digital signature and was emailed separately by Mrs. McDonald last week. Please be sure to complete that one as well so that your child has access to the *Christ in Us* student portal in the event that we need to move to remote learning for any reason during the school year. Thanks!

[2024 - 2025 Emergency Contact Form](#)

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

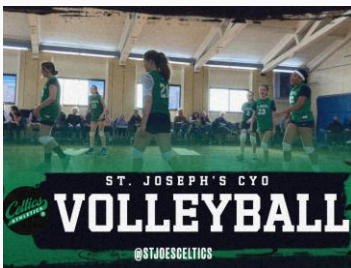
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### Keep Those Prayers Coming!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you've shown the Sherman family during the difficult time since their son Julian was diagnosed with acute lymphatic Leukemia in July. Julian's mom was at Mass this weekend and Julian, according to the latest FaceBook post, Julian "climbed two sets of stairs and he was signed off from the PT to go home. The doctors are now talking to Sloan Kettering in NYC about a treatment plan and transferring him there this week! They will have more details about when they can take him home after the MGH and MSK come up with a plan," Great news! Keep those prayers coming!

If you would like to contribute to the Go Fund Me site established to help defray the family's medical costs and living expenses while they are away from home caring for Julian, please click [HERE](#). For all of the latest updates on sweet Julian's condition, you can join the Facebook page: [Julian Sherman's Cancer Updates](#). (Where you can learn how to purchase one of the cool Julian t-shirts.)



### CYO Girls Volleyball

St. Joseph's CYO Athletics is currently accepting registration for the 2024 Girls Volleyball Team. Teams are open to student-athletes in grades 5-8 who are registered in the parish CCD program. More information is located on the CYO website: [www.stjosephscyo.org/volleyball/](http://www.stjosephscyo.org/volleyball/). Let's go Joes!

Mark Your September Calendars Now!



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](mailto:olsmusician@gmail.com)*

Please join us for our  
Parish and School Picnic!



**Sunday**  
**September 15**

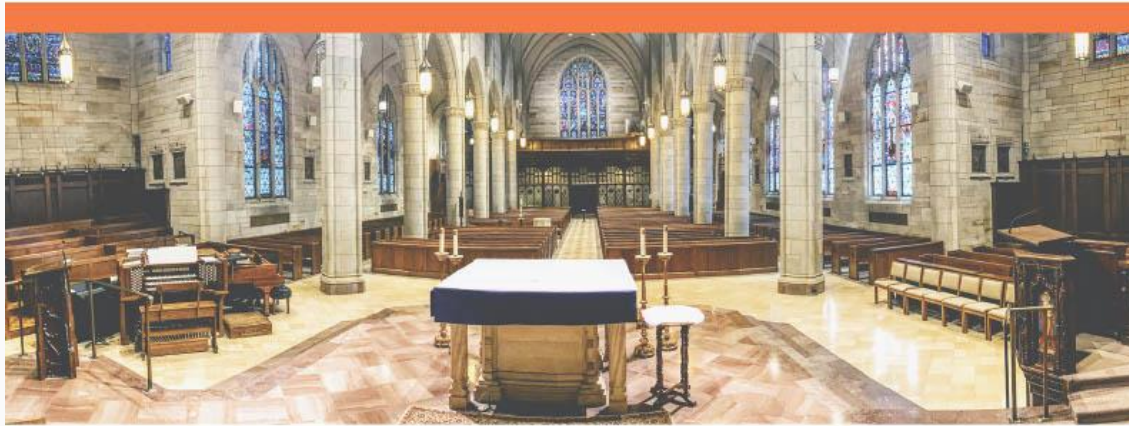
12:30-5pm

\$15 per person  
\$30 for couples/  
families

Please RSVP

Email Michelle Dixon  
[medixon8@gmail.com](mailto:medixon8@gmail.com)

Games and activities for children. All food (including appetizers, sides and desserts) will be provided by the Parish.  
We will also supply water, soda and coffee. BYOB



# OUR LADY OF SORROWS FAMILY MASS



Every Sunday at 10:00 am

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What to expect: family-focused preaching, kid's bulletins, music led by our youth choirs, and family members of all ages serving in the liturgy as gift-bearers, ushers, greeters, and proclaimers.

**Coffee & Donuts and Catholic kid's craft downstairs after Mass on 2nd and 4th Sunday!**

**Serve at this Mass as a family:**

For more information & to sign up to serve, contact a staff member below or scan here:

Colleen McDonald: [sorrowschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sorrowschurch@gmail.com)

Stephanie Sonnick: [olschurchministries@gmail.com](mailto:olschurchministries@gmail.com)





### **Our Class Teaching Roster is Full!**

Thank you to Jane Eke for stepping forward to help teach our Tuesday 5th grade class. Mrs. Eke is a busy mom of three kids and a masters student at Seton Hall so we thank her for taking some time out of her very busy schedule to help our program. Welcome Jane!

I also just got word that we'll have at least one young man (maybe even two!) joining us from the Immaculate Conception seminary this coming year. With some class swapping we are now able to cover all of our classes. Thanks everyone!



### **Using Your Talents to Help Others**

At CCD we talk a lot about using our gifts and talents to benefit others, so I was super excited when the dad of one of our 7th grade students reached out to tell me about a project his daughter Faith was working on. Faith is a puzzle enthusiast and can easily solve a Rubik's Cube . After visiting Ghana last year and seeing the struggles of people living in poverty, Faith decided to combine her love of puzzles with her desire to give back and created [OutPuzzles.com](http://OutPuzzles.com). OutPuzzles is "dedicated to providing high-quality speedcubes that challenge minds and foster a love for problem-solving. With every cube sold, we commit a percentage of our profits to support underserved communities." Check out her site and then have a discussion with your child about how he or she can use their time and talent to make a difference!



# QUEENSHIP OF MARY

August 22nd

## **SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK ONE**

### **The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Feast Day:** August 22nd

The feast of the Queenship of Mary on August 22 is more than just another way of honoring Mary as the mother of Jesus; it is also a reminder that all of us are “kings and queens” in the Kingdom of God—even the youngest of your kids!

Once celebrated on the last day of May (“Mary’s month”), it is now celebrated on the octave day of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (You’ll remember that the Assumption is all about Mary being taken (assumed) into heaven body and soul as the first fruit of Christ’s salvation of humanity.)

The feast of the Queenship of Mary was established in 1954 by Pope Pius XII, but the tradition of celebrating Mary as queen of heaven goes back much earlier, with various saints and Church fathers referring to Mary as “lady” and “queen” as early as the fourth century. The basic idea is that if Jesus is “king,” then it is fitting that Mary, his mother, would share in his reign as queen. This way of understanding the honor due Mary as the Mother of God became especially popular in the Middle Ages, with its emphasis on courtly manners, but it also has a biblical basis. The Book of Revelation describes a woman clothed with the sun and crowned with twelve stars, traditionally understood to be Mary. When the angel Gabriel appears to Mary, he says that her son, Jesus, will inherit the throne of David (Luke 1:32). Later, Mary proclaims her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56), in which she says, “Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me....”

Although the feast day honors Mary, it is also a reminder of our own baptismal call to fully participate in the Reign of God—a call we received when we were baptized as priest, prophet, and king in Christ. Mary’s “coronation” as “queen of heaven” points to the destiny that God wants for each of us: full participation in the glory of heaven.

[4-Minute Video from Scott Hahn on Queenship of Mary](#)

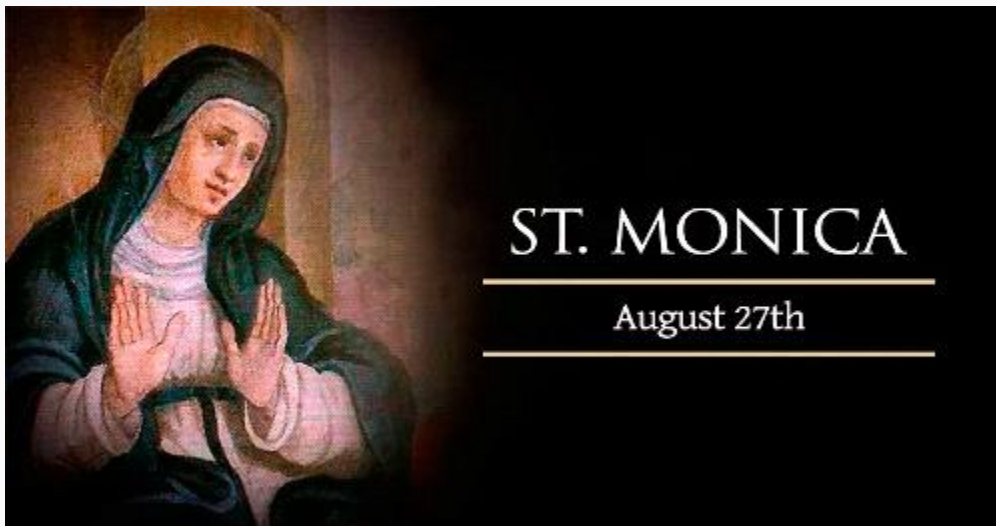
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### Celebrating the Queenship of Mary with Kids

You know I'm obsessed with food ideas for various feasts and readings, so here are some of latest delicious ways to celebrate the Queenship of Mary this Thursday from [Catholic Cuisine](#). Crown shaped sandwiches with pickles for jewels - how cute and easy is that!?! Feel free to substitute meat for peanut butter and jelly with a berry on the crown point. You get the idea - and so will they. Then, make some [paper crowns](#) to wear while you eat representing the fact that we are all important members of the Kingdom of God. (The example I provided includes glitter, but as a mom I *loathe* glitter, so feel free to skip this step if you don't want a messy house!)

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## **SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK TWO**

### **St. Monica**

**Feast Day: August 27th**

**Patron of:** Married women and mothers (particularly mothers of wayward children)

If there were a poster child for the power of prayer, it would be St. Monica, whose feast day we celebrate on Aug. 27. Through her unceasing prayers and unfailing example of how to live a Christ-like life, St. Monica brought about the conversion of both her husband, Patricius, and her son, Augustine, one of the greatest Doctors of the Church.

Monica was born in 332 A.D. in Tagaste, North Africa. Her parents were Christians and she grew up in an atmosphere of devotion and Christian practice. However, her life became much harder when she was married to a man who was a pagan and made no secret of his dislike for Christianity. Patricius had a violent temper and often harassed Monica about her faith. He refused to allow her to have their three children baptized. She was able to teach them about Christianity and showed them how to live a Christian life, in direct contrast to her husband's behavior, which included unfaithfulness to his marriage vows.

Rather than nag her husband, though, Monica was an attentive and devoted wife, obeying Patricius in everything except in matters of faith, where God won out. Her meek behavior and her steadfastness in her faith began to have an effect on her husband. And in time, Patricius' temper cooled and he became more accepting of his wife's Christianity.

Monica prayed continuously for her husband's conversion, and finally, after 16 long years, Patricius was baptized in 370. One year later, he died, but Monica was content that she had done her job by making sure her husband was ready to go home to God.

But she still had her son, Augustine, to worry about. Her other two children, Navigus and Perpetua, had embraced Christianity, become baptized, and entered religious life. But Augustine had taken after his father and decided that a life of "wine, women and song" was more to his liking. Monica shed many tears over Augustine and pleaded with him to turn away from sin. But he ignored her tears, preferring his way to hers and even turning to heretical philosophies.

Monica didn't give up on him. She prayed even more than before. Finally, after 14 years, Augustine converted and turned to Christ. His mother was with him when he was baptized during the Easter celebration in the year 387 in Milan, Italy.

Having achieved her goal of bringing her son to God, Monica felt that her life's work was over. Returning home to Africa, she told Augustine, "Son, for mine own part I have no further delight in anything in this life. What I do here any longer, and to what end I am here, I know not, now that my hopes in this world are accomplished." Soon after, she died, and was buried in the port city of Ostia.

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### Prayer to St. Monica

St. Monica never stopped praying for her children - especially the wayward Augustine, who went on to be one of the greatest Doctors of the Church. In one of the most moving portions of Augustine's *Confessions*, he related how clearly Monica identified her life's mission as delivering her children into the life of faith.

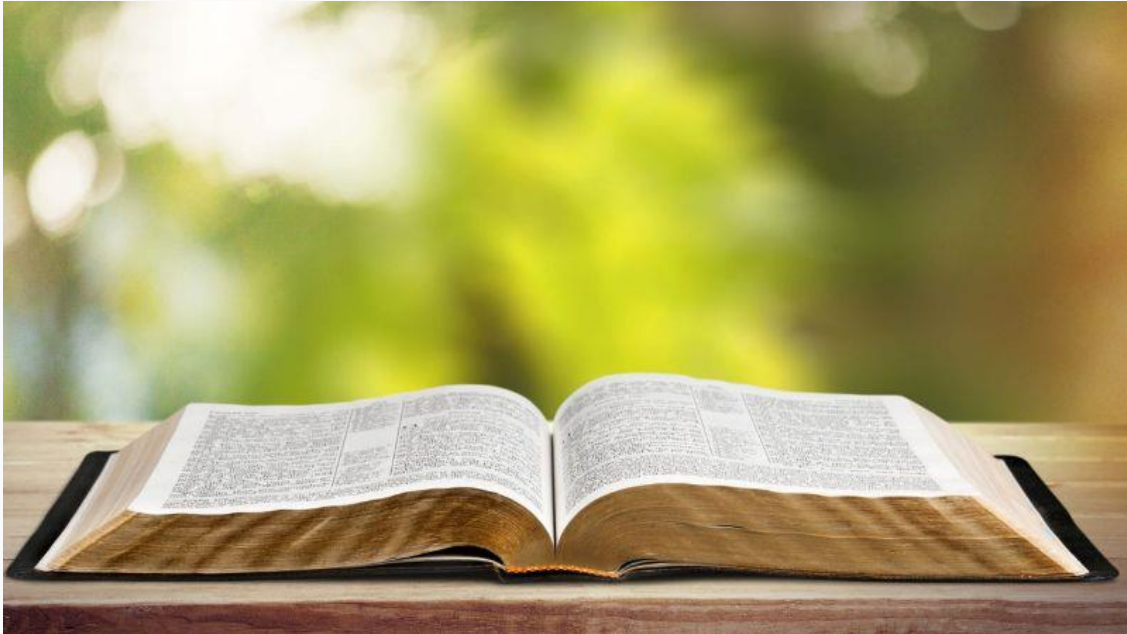
Saint Monica is the patron saint of people in difficult marriages, difficult children, and the conversion of relatives, particularly one's own children. She is the consoling friend in heaven who wholly understands the despair of parents who feel helpless and confused as they watch their children drift away from the church. As Monica prayed and fasted for her children to come to know Christ Jesus, she is our powerful companion and intercessor to all who feel confounded by the "journeys" of their sons and daughters. Give this one a try if your children seem to be struggling with their faith:

*Dear Saint Monica, you were once the mournful mother of a prodigal son. Your faithfulness to prayer brought you and your son so close to God that you are now with him in eternity. By your intercession and God's grace, your son St. Augustine became a great and venerable Saint of the Church. Please take my request to God with the same fervor and persistence with which you prayed for your own son. (Mention your intentions here.)*

*With your needs, worries and anxieties, you threw yourself on the mercy and providence of God. Through sorrow and pain, you constantly devoted yourself to God. Pray for me that I might join you in such a deep faith in God's goodness and mercy.*

*Above all, dear Saint Monica, pray for me that I may, like your son, turn from my sin and become a great saint for the glory of God. Amen.*

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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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Readings for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

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# KIDSCALENDAR

AUGUST 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Word of the month:</b> <b>PARABLE</b> A parable is a story about everyday life. Jesus' parables teach about God.</p>				<p>SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p>	<p>SAINT EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST</p>	
<p><b>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>Q</b> What did the ancestors eat in the desert? (SEE AUGUST 7) ● John 6:24-35</p>	<p>THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY MAJOR</p>	<p><b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>  </p>	<p>SAINT SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS SAINT CAJETAN, PRIEST</p> <p><b>A</b> Manna</p>	<p>SAINT DOMINIC, PRIEST</p>	<p>SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</p>	<p>SAINT LAWRENCE, DEACON AND MARTYR</p>
<p><b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>Q</b> Jesus said, "Whoever believes has..." (SEE AUGUST 17) ● John 6:41-51</p>	<p>SAINT JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, RELIGIOUS</p>	<p>SAINTS PONTIAN, POPE, AND HIPPLYTUS, PRIEST, MARTYRS</p>	<p>SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR</p>	<p><b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>  </p>	<p>SAINT STEPHEN OF HUNGARY</p>	<p><b>A</b> Eternal life</p>
<p><b>TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>Q</b> Where did Jesus say the bread came down from? (SEE AUGUST 22) ● John 6:51-58</p>	<p>SAINT JOHN EUDES, PRIEST</p>	<p>SAINT BERNARD, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p>	<p>SAINT PLUS X, POPE</p>	<p><b>THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> <b>A</b> Heaven</p>	<p><b>SAINT ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN</b>  </p>	<p>SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE</p>
<p><b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>Q</b> Who did Simon Peter say Jesus was? (SEE AUGUST 29) ● John 6:60-69</p>		<p>SAINT MONICA</p>	<p><b>SAINT AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>  </p>	<p><b>THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST</b></p>		<p><b>A</b> The Holy One of God</p>

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

## Catholic Trivia

**Question:** The Feast of the Queenship of Mary was initially established on May 31st - at the very end of the month of May which is devoted to Mary. In which year was it moved to August 22nd?

- A) 1254
- B) 1954
- C) 1969
- D) 2022



**Answer: C 1969.** After Vatican II, in 1969, Pope Paul VI changed the feast to an optional memorial on August 22 to improve the liturgical order of Marian feast days. The Feast of the Visitation moved from July 2 to May 31, closer to the Annunciation, while the Feast of Mary's Queenship moved to the octave of the Assumption, consonant with the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, in which the final mystery, Mary's crowning, follows that of her rising to heaven.

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## Joke of the Week

**Question** - Which tree did God create to fit in his hand?

**Answer** - A palm tree!

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)