

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter
September 11 - September 18, 2024



September 11th Prayer

We pray for all of the people who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. Comfort them and continue to guide them in your hope. Help us to honor the lives of those who died, through our thoughts and our actions, and grant them the happiness and joy of heaven with You. Fill us with love and forgiveness, and help us to live peacefully with each other.

As we see pictures and hear memories of the suffering and confusion of September 11, help us to remember all the good that you have put in Your world. Help us, most of all, to share Your love and promises with those we meet that are suffering and confused. Amen.

(Adapted from Peaceful Remembrance of September 11, 2001 - Forty Days of Prayer for Children)

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

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

Join Us!

The annual OLS Family is coming up this Sunday. RSVP to Michelle Dixon by this evening to make sure we have enough food for everyone. The picnic is a great way to kick off the new school year and reconnect with old parish friends.

Even better, consider attending the 11:30 Mass on Sunday with your family and then heading right over to the picnic. Hope to see you there!

2024				2025			
July	August	September	October	July	August	September	October
November	December	January	February	November	December	January	February
March	April	May	June	March	April	May	June

2024-2025 CCD Calendar

First Day of In-Person Classes

Monday, September 23rd

3:55 - 5:15

or

Tuesday, September 24th

3:55 - 5:15

Start of the CCD Homeschooling Program

Week of September 22nd

Hardcopies of the **CCD calendar for the 2024-2025 year** will be distributed on the first day along with our CCD Handbook. Homeschooling families will receive it when they pick up their child's workbook. If you would like to access it in advance, **please click [HERE](#)**. If you ever need to access it, the CCD Program Calendar can also be found digitally on the OLS website: olschurch.com



Welcome New Families!

Families who are new to CCD are encouraged to attend the upcoming Zoom orientation for new families. Please add these relatively short (20-30 minutes) meetings to your official family calendar so that we can answer any of your questions in advance of your child's first day of class. (Returning families - particularly those of our homeschooling students - are welcome to join as well.)

Traditional In-Person Class Zoom

Sunday, September 22nd

7:00 pm

[New Family Orientation Zoom Link](#)

Homeschooling Program Zoom

Sunday, September 22nd

8:00 pm

[New Homeschooling Family Zoom Link](#)



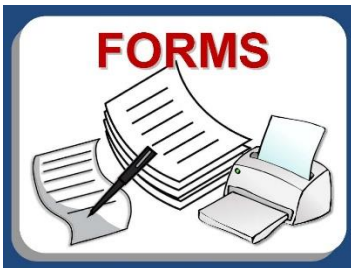
Homeschooling Connection

Our Homeschooling Program has a new look to go along with our new curriculum. New and returning parents are encouraged to attend to Zoom Orientation to the Homeschooling Program on Sunday, September 22nd at 8:00 pm. Here is the link: [CCD Homeschooling Orientation Zoom](#).

CCD workbooks are now available for pick up. They are available for pick up Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 4:00 or before and after Mass on the weekend. The books are located in the hallway opposite the religious education office door. Each family will also receive a packet containing copies of this year's homeschooling handbook and a variety of first day forms and flyers. Please be sure to return the *Handbook Acknowledgement Form* as well as

the *Digital Communication Form* in the event that you have not done so digitally.

To learn more about the Homeschooling Program, contact Jen Noll or take a look at our [2024-2025 Homeschooling Handbook](#).



CCD Forms for the Coming Year

Please complete the following forms as soon as possible. Students will not be allowed to start without an Emergency Contact Form on file for the current year. The Archdiocese of Newark's Digital Communication Policy requires a digital signature and was emailed separately by Mrs. McDonald. 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](#)

Parents who indicated on their registration forms that their children require the use of an Epi-Pen will be contacted by Mrs. McDonald to complete an additional form. While we no longer have a designated snack time at CCD, teachers still occasionally use food to reinforce a particular lesson and Christmas and Year-End parties with food are common as well. Thank you for your cooperation.



Word of Mouth - CCD Registration

We still have a space available in *most* of our CCD classes. Word of mouth is often the best way to remind families that it's time to register for CCD. And kids always have a more enjoyable time going to any activity when their friends are there too. If you know of Catholic families who are not currently registered for CCD, please let them know about our program and forward them the registration link. The more the merrier!

Click [HERE](#) to access our registration form.



CYO Basketball is Back

Boys and Girls in Grades K – 8 who are registered students in the OLS CCD program are invited to play CYO Basketball as part of a shared parish ministry with St. Joseph's in Maplewood. Teams will practice and play games at St. Joseph's Parish Gym from October to March. Additional information and the registration form can be found on the St. Joseph's CYO Basketball web site at www.stjosephscyob.org.

Contact Gerry O'Connor, St. Joseph's Athletic Director, at stjosephcyobb@aol.com, with any questions or to volunteer.



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*

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!

The St. Cecilia Singers is still looking for a few more kids to make them sound even better this year. If your child in grades 3-8 enjoys singing, performing and making friends, the St. Cecilia Singers is a perfect fit. (And if you enjoy a FREE high-quality afternoon activity, then this group is an amazing bargain.)

Contact Preston Dibble to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

open to ages 21-35
Join us for **Happy Hour!**

WITH VERSO CRISTO YOUNG ADULTS

Featuring a "stump a priest" panel
Ask any question of our young priests & see what they say!

Friday, Sept. 20th
7-10pm

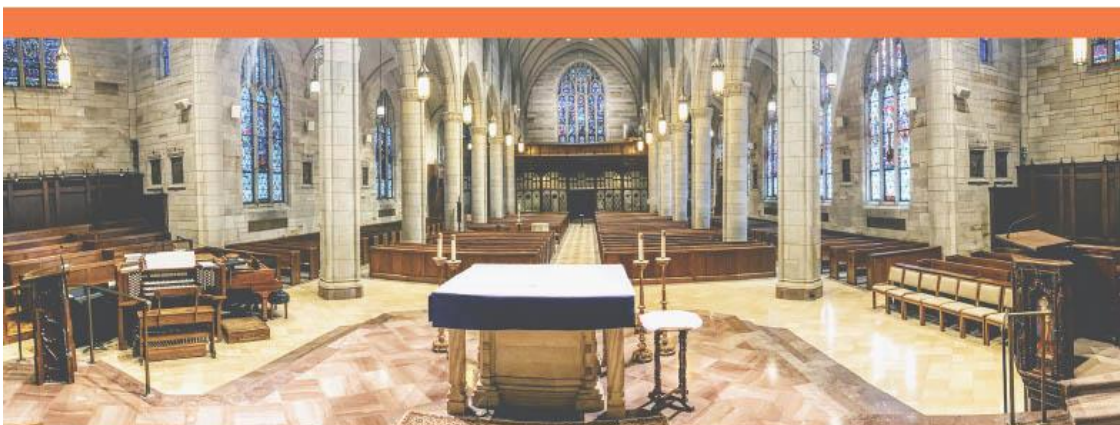
AT:
The Stage House Tavern (Bar Area)
1099 US-22 in Mountainside, NJ 07092

Follow us @versocristo to stay in the loop & DM us for questions!

Calling All Young Adults

(Ages 21-35)

As someone in their 40's for just a few more days, I certainly wish that I was eligible to attend the upcoming Young Adult Happy Hour at the Stage House Tavern in Mountainside! And honestly, who wouldn't enjoy the opportunity to try to "stump a priest"?!? So, if you are still lucky enough to claim the title of "young adult", find a babysitter and join this fun and ever-growing group.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS



FAMILY MASS

Every Sunday at 10:00 am

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
Stephanie Sonnick: olschurchministries@gmail.com





Tips from Parents, Teachers and Students for a New School Year

"The start of a new school year presents opportunities to strengthen spiritual and emotional well-being, setting the tone for a successful and balanced academic journey. However, the new school year is often stressful and anxious for many students and their families. Nine out of 10 parents of children under 18 experience stress during the back-to-school season. This is especially true for those with neurodivergent or diagnosed ADHD, dyslexia, or dyscalculia, according to a 2023 study by Understood.org, a nonprofit serving 70 million Americans with learning and thinking differences.

Jersey Catholic spoke with parents, teachers, and students from across the Archdiocese to gather their top tips for maintaining faith and enhancing mental wellness during the transition back to school." To read more, click [HERE](#) to read the full article.



Think *You* Have Had a Busy September?

"Pope Francis began an 11-day tour of four island nations across Southeast Asia and Oceania last week, an ambitious trek to faraway corners of the Roman Catholic world.

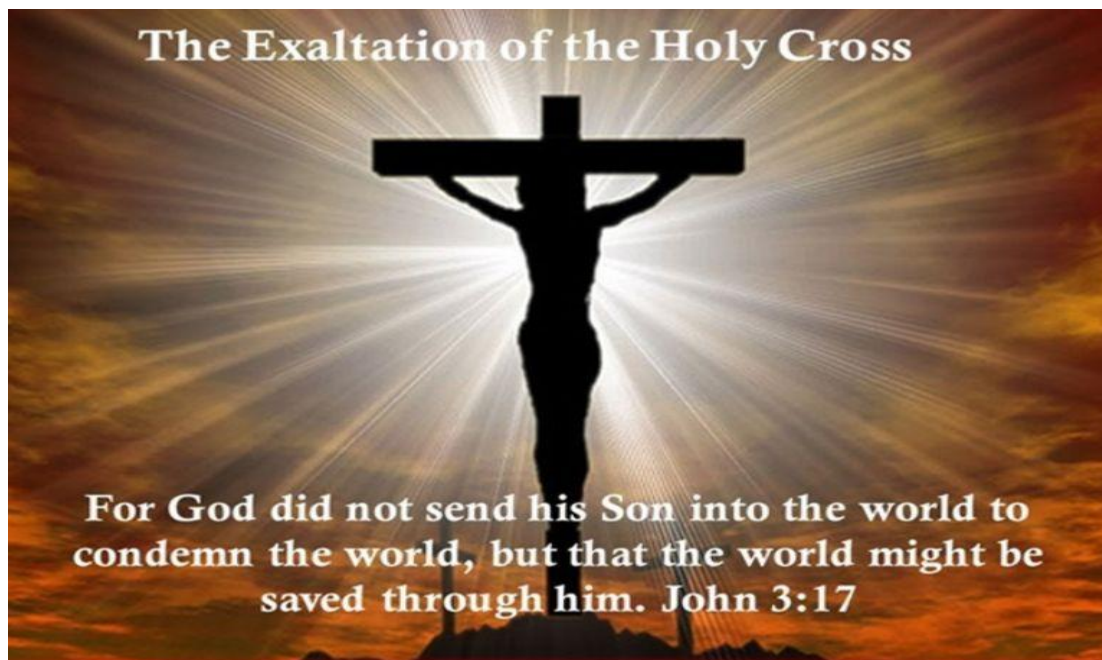
His first stop was Indonesia, a country made up of thousands of islands with the largest Muslim population in the world, as well as millions of people following other religions. There, Pope Francis talked about interfaith dialogue and coexistence, praising Indonesia as nurturing harmony between its different ethnicities, languages and religions, which he compared to the country's rich ecological biodiversity.

On Friday night, he arrived in Papua New Guinea, where thousands stood along the road from the airport to welcome him. In the resource-rich but largely

underdeveloped country, he urged government officials to promote sustainable and equitable development that benefits everyone. He also called for an end to the tribal violence that has plagued Papua New Guinea.

On Sunday, Francis flew to the remote town of Vanimo, on the country's Pacific coast, where he was welcomed by about 20,000 worshipers, some of whom had walked for days from rural villages to get a glimpse of him. Sitting on a stage, the pope wore traditional headgear he'd been presented with, an elaborate creation of fur and feathers. Then he stood to bless the huge crowd, as well as the rosaries and plastic bottles of water they had brought along.

On Monday, the pope landed in East Timor, a predominantly Catholic nation of 1.3 million, to cheers and fanfare from the faithful gathered to meet him. He commended the country's progress throughout the two decades since it emerged from a bloody battle for independence from Indonesian rule. The pope left for Singapore today, the last stop on his trip." (NY Times 09/11) Phew!



SAINT / FEAST OF WEEK ONE

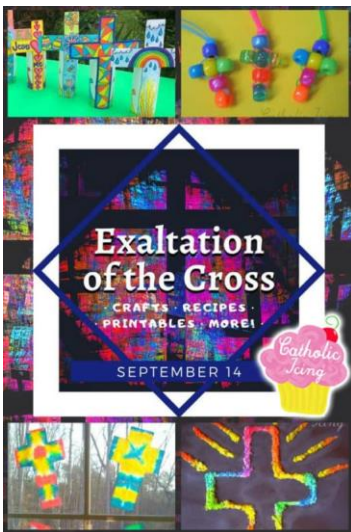
The Exultation of the Holy Cross

Feast Day: September 14th

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

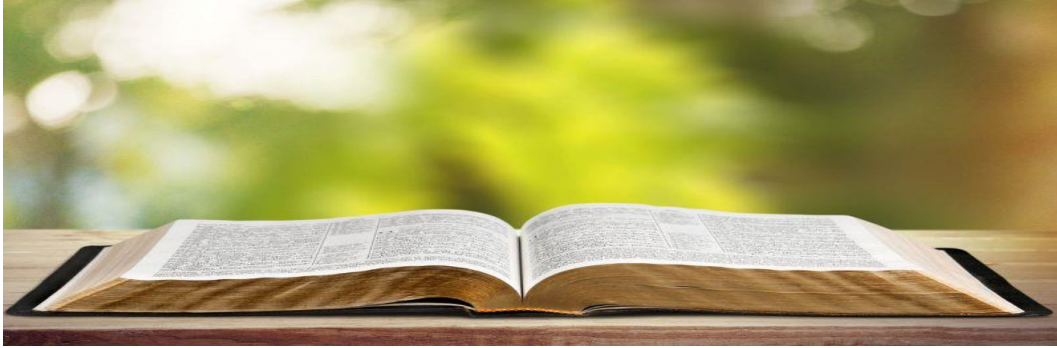
The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.



Celebrating the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross with Kids

The folks over at Catholic Icing have some really great ideas for celebrating the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross with your kids. The first question your kids are likely to ask is, "What does exultation mean?" Let's face it, there simply aren't that many things that we say that we exalt these days. Basically to exalt something as a verb means to lift it high or speak highly of it to the degree of really dignifying and honoring it. This is something we, as Catholic do, with the Cross: the vehicle of our salvation. So, if you are looking for some craft and recipe ideas for helping to nurture your child's devotion to Christ and His Cross, be sure to visit the [Catholic Icing website](#).



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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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



Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies for Kids

I love the high quality videos for kids put out by the Mark Ten Mission. This video series is easy religious educator's dream! Give them a try!

[Liturgy for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time for Ages 3-7](#)

[Liturgy for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time for Ages 8-12](#)

KIDSCALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Q What did the Pharisees question Jesus about? (SEE SEPTEMBER 7)</p> <p>• Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</p> <p>1</p>	<p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>2</p>	<p>SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>A Unwashed hands before eating.</p> <p>7</p>
<p>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Q Whom did Jesus heal? (SEE SEPTEMBER 10)</p> <p>• Mark 7:31-37</p> <p>8</p>	<p>SAINT PETER CLAVER, PRIEST</p> <p>9</p>	<p>A A deaf man with speech impediment.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY</p> <p>12</p>	<p>SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>13</p>	<p>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</p> <p>14</p>
<p>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Q Who did Peter say Jesus was? (SEE SEPTEMBER 18)</p> <p>• Mark 8:27-35</p> <p>15</p>	<p>SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS</p> <p>16</p>	<p>SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINI, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>17</p>	<p>A the Christ.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>SAINT JANUARIUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR</p> <p>19</p>	<p>SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</p> <p>20</p>	<p>SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</p> <p>21</p>
<p>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Q What were the disciples arguing about? (SEE SEPTEMBER 24)</p> <p>• Mark 9:30-37</p> <p>22</p>	<p>SAINT PIETRELCINA, PRIEST</p> <p>23</p>	<p>A who was the greatest.</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS</p> <p>26</p>	<p>SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST</p> <p>27</p>	<p>SAINT WENCESLAUS, MARTYR</p> <p>SAINT LAWRENCE RUZ AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</p> <p>28</p>
<p>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Q Jesus said, "Whoever is not against us is..." (SEE SEPTEMBER 30)</p> <p>• Mk 9:38-43, 47-48</p> <p>29</p>	<p>SAINT JEROME, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>A for us.</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Word of the month:</p> <p>BIBLE The holy book that tells us about God's love for us.</p>				

IMAGES: ADOBESTOCK.COM AND WIKIMEDIA COMMONS FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. LIVING FAITH KIDS IS PUBLISHED BY CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH, A DIVISION OF BAYARD, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.LIVINGFAITHKIDS.COM

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

Catholic Trivia

Question: Instead of the readings established for the twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, which readings will we hear proclaimed from the ambo at OLS on September 15th?

A) Those relating to the finding of Jesus teaching in the Temple as a boy since it's the start of a new school year.



B) Those relating to Our Lady of Sorrows since September 15th is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness of our parish.

C) Those designated for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time since we're ahead of the lectionary.

D) Those designated for the Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time since we're slightly behind other churches.

Answer: C Normally the Sunday feast takes precedence, but if it is the patron feast of the parish the pastor can opt to use the readings corresponding with the parish's feast. Thus, the Mass of Our Lady of Sorrows and not the "normal" Sunday Mass readings will be used. So, be sure to come to Mass and then celebrate Our Lady's feast at the parish picnic.

Joke of the Week

Question - *What school does the ice cream man attend?*

Answer - Sundae School!

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)