


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter
January 1 - January 8, 2024



God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Amen.



It's New Year's Day AND the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

OLS Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule

10:00 am

11:30 am



It's a Jubilee Year!

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin. It is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, or conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ who brings life and grace to humanity.

The 2025 Jubilee officially began on December 24, 2024 at 7pm, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by the Holy Father. The Jubilee Year 2025 is the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord - surely something worth celebrating! The first ordinary Jubilee was proclaimed in 1300 by Pope Boniface VII. Throughout the known world at the time, there was great suffering caused by wars and disease. Among the people there was a great desire to return to a more holy way of living. So with great faith Christians determined to travel (on foot) to Rome to pray at the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to receive the Pope's blessing in order to obtain the grace and strength to carry on. Even in modern times, jubilee

years have a pilgrimage component to them and many people will be traveling to Rome.

For more information and specifics about Jubilee Year 2025, click [HERE](#).



Pope Francis' Reflection on the Jubilee Year: A Grace-filled Opportunity for Encounter

The jubilee year is a time for redemption and renewal. It has deep roots in the Old Testament. In fact, the term "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*: a ram's horn. The sounding of the ram's horn indicated the start of a special year as prescribed by the Law of Moses. Click [HERE](#) to read Pope Francis' Reflection on the Jubilee Year which includes an interesting look at the historical basis for this exciting time period.



CCD Resumes Next Week

Monday, January 6th

Lesson 12: *How do we respond to God's love?*

Tuesday, January 7th

Lesson 10: *How are we strengthened for service to God and others?*

[CCD Calendar](#)



Monday

Lesson 12: *How do we respond to God's love?*

God has placed the desire for happiness in our hearts. In the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us a new way to live in order to be happy, now and forever. By choosing to use God's gifts to love him and serve others, we will live in peace. Reflect on the ways the Beatitudes call you to grow in Christ's love.

Tuesday

Lesson 10: *How are we strengthened for service to God and others?*

No matter what our state in life—married, single, or ordained clergy—we are all called to share in Jesus' priesthood. We show Christ to the world through our actions, words, and prayers, especially in our love for God and others. The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders give us the strength to carry out this mission.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of January 5th

Lesson 11: *How do we know God loves us?*

We hope you enjoyed your Christmas break! Our homeschooling program also starts back up this coming week. Make it one of your family's new year's resolutions to maintain a regular schedule.



Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the

Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- Girls and Boys ages 9-14 may participate in the competition (participants will compete within their age/gender group)
- Registration will take place upon arrival the day of the contest (parent/guardian must be present to fill out registration form)
- *No pre-registration required*
- Any questions please contact Lou Budzyn (kc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE

Knights of Columbus Foul Shot Contest

Not only do the Knights of Columbus run a delicious pancake breakfast, but they're also quite good at running fun athletic events for kids like the annual Foul Shot Contest. If your child is into basketball, see the flyer for details and then come out to the OLS gym on January 10th. That's one fun thing to look forward to in the coming year!



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1st

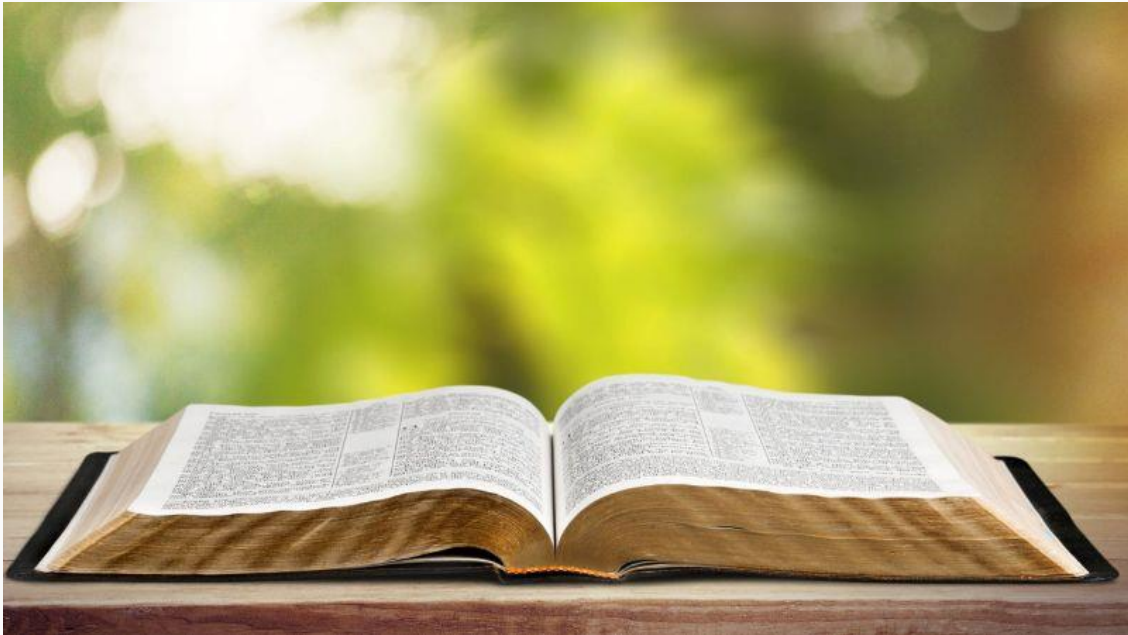
Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st which falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is honored as the Mother of God because she conceived and gave birth to Christ, who is the incarnation of God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human.

Since the first centuries of Christianity, the Church customarily has regarded the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God for a simple, logical reason; By the power of the Holy Spirit, she conceived Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Since the divine Person, God the Son, assumed, or took on, human nature, she is the Mother of God in the fullest since: "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ" (CCC 487). The Church solemnly defined this belief at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus AD 431.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass 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:

[Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - January 1st](#)

[The Epiphany of the Lord - January 5th](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

Catholic Trivia

Question: Mary is also referred to as the _____, which means "Mother of God" or "the one who gave birth to God."

- a) Theotokos
- b) Pacem in Terris
- c) Katholikon
- d) Dei Verbum

Answer: a

Theotokos derives from the Greek terms: *Theos* / 'God'; and *tiktein* / 'to give birth'. Mary is the *Theotokos*, the one who gave birth to God. This single word sums up the meaning of Luke's phrase: 'Mother of the Lord' (Lk 1:43) and represents a counterpoint to John's teaching that the 'Word was made flesh' (Jn 1:14). Usually the term is translated into English as 'Mother of God'. Use of the title, *Theotokos* was formally sanctioned by the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431. The Church declared that both Divine and human natures were united in the person of Jesus, the son of Mary. Hence, Mary may be called *Theotokos*, since the son she bore according to the flesh, Jesus, is truly one of the Divine persons of the Trinity. This Marian title is really a Christological statement, which affirms that the second person of the Trinity, who was born into history as fully human, is really 'God with us'.



Joke of the Week

Question: *Where do you go to do homework on New Year's Eve?*

Answer: Times Square.

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)