



CCD This Week

Monday*

January 26th

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

Tuesday

January 27th

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

*Weather forecasts for Sunday into Monday do not look good (unless you are an avid skier). If the SOMA School District is closed on Monday, CCD classes will also be canceled. If we cancel classes, Mrs. McDonald will email everyone. Please be sure to check your inboxes on Monday.



Gospel Reflection Sticker

Each week, all of our in-person CCD students will receive a sticker with an image relating to our Sunday Gospel reflection when they first enter the church. This week's sticker featured an image of a witness in a trial. **Each week, a great dinnertime follow-up question after CCD is: "Why did Mrs. Noll give you a sticker with X on it?"** The answer to this past week's question is: *John the Baptist's role in salvation history was to point the way to Jesus. One of the main ways he did this was by offering his testimony about who Jesus is and in Sunday's Gospel he testified as to what he had witnessed and that Jesus was the Lamb of God and the Son of God.*



Monday

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

Lesson 11 asks the Essential Question “How do we know God loves us?” An old expression says that mirrors don’t lie. Mirrors reflect back to us who we truly are. Made in God’s image and likeness, all people have a fundamental right to dignity and respect. As children of God, we mirror God’s love as his beloved sons and daughters. This is an important first step in honoring the inherent worth of all people.

Tuesday

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

Lesson 10 explores the Essential Question “How are we strengthened for service to God and others?” The common priesthood of the faithful means that we all have a role in serving one another and the Church. There are different ways to live this vocation, including ordained ministry, marriage, the single life, or as part of a religious community. Whatever your vocation in life, rejoice in the mission that God has given you—one that only you can fulfill with your personality, experience, and gifts.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of January 25th

Lesson 13

As a reminder, if your child is playing CYO basketball, the regular CCD attendance requirement is met by submitting completed Lesson Tests on a weekly basis. Thank you for staying on top of things!



Coffee and Donuts is...

Canceled for Sunday, January 25th

This Sunday, January 25th, was supposed to be a Coffee and Donuts morning. However, with a large snowstorm expected to begin on Sunday morning, Coffee and Donuts has been canceled for the week. (We don't want the poor delivery person getting stuck on the roads!) Thank you for your understanding.

Fear not though donut lovers - an expanded **Coffee and Donuts will return the following Sunday** for a rare 1st Sunday of the month appearance. You'll have to head down to the OLS gym, however, for your baked goods as Coffee and Donuts will now help to close out Catholic Schools Week here at OLS rather than kick it off.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

January 26th - 31st, 2026

Catholic Schools Week

January 26th-31st

Catholic Schools Week is a nationwide celebration that recognizes the contributions of Catholic schools to students, the Church, and our country in the areas of faith formation, knowledge, and service.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Faith and Knowledge meet in many places, but the place you can be certain of their meeting is in a Catholic School. – Archdiocese of Newark

Key Facts about Catholic Education:

Catholic School students are given a challenging curriculum that will help them prepare for a successful future.

A Catholic education values a commitment to service, encouraging students to serve God by serving others.

Catholic Schools work to achieve our goal of academic excellence while proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

Our Lady of Sorrows School

Our Lady of Sorrows School (www.ourladyofsorrowsschool.org) offers Pre-K3 and PreK-4 Programs – Half Day, Full Day, and Extended Day. In addition to our superlative K-8 curriculum featuring Language Arts, Reading, Math (including accelerated math in middle school), Social Studies and Science, we offer the following programs and services:

- Aftercare until 6pm
- Art Club
- Dramatic Arts/Music culminating in a spring musical
- Extracurriculars: Chess, Instrumental Music instruction, Student Council
- February Frenzy Annual Basketball Tournament
- Fine Arts
- Math Club
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Sports: Volleyball, Track and Field, Basketball, Cross Country, Cheerleading
- STEM/STREAM
- Tutoring Program in partnership with Seton Hall Prep



OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL

Pre-K – 8th Grade Catholic Education • South Orange, NJ

[Our Lady of Sorrows School Website](http://www.ourladyofsorrowsschool.org)



Empowering God's Children 2025-2026 Lessons

Thank you to those families who have already had the important conversations with their kids about this year's Empowering God's Children lessons: *Boundaries: You Have Rights!*, and *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*. Gold stars for such a quick response! You can access this year's two lessons at the links below:

Lesson 3 - Boundaries: You Have Rights!

[Grades K-2 Lesson Three](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Three](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Three](#)

Lesson 4 - Secrets, Surprises and Promises

[Grades K-2 Lesson Four](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Four](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Four](#)

After you have talked with your kids in whichever way that you feel is most appropriate given your family's individual dynamics and circumstances, please let us know that you've participated in this important mission by completing this simple, 3-question survey by April 1st: [Empowering God's Children Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Google Form](#). Thank you!



Statement of Three US Cardinals (Including Cardinal Tobin): Foreign policy must respect human dignity, religious liberty

Three US Cardinals released a rare joint statement on Monday regarding American foreign policy, picking up several themes from Pope Leo XIV's Address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See.

The statement was signed by Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago; Cardinal Robert McElroy, Archbishop of Washington; and Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark. You can read the statement by clicking [HERE](#).

8TH ANNUAL
CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN AWARD
FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

ESSAY & VIDEO CONTEST

OPEN TO
7TH GRADERS IN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OR FAITH
FORMATION
PROGRAMS

ESSAY TOPIC:
WHAT IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD?
HOW IS IT A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD?
ESSAY FINALISTS CREATE A 3- TO 4-MINUTE VIDEO
BASED ON THEIR ESSAYS

CONTEST BEGINS JANUARY 26, 2026
ESSAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 5

1st Place: \$1500 cash prize
(plus \$500 cash prize for winner's mentor!)
2nd Place: \$250 cash prize
3rd Place: \$250 cash prize

VISIT NEWARKPRIEST.COM/ESSAYCONTEST FOR DETAILS!

ARCHDIOCESE
of NEWARK
OFFICE OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Newark
Priest

Speaking of Cardinal Tobin... 8th Annual Cardinal Tobin Essay and Video

Each year Cardinal Tobin sponsors a contest for 7th graders in an effort to encourage them to think about priestly vocations. The topic is "What is the Roman Catholic Priesthood and how is it a force for good in the world?" The top prize is \$1500, so if you have a 7th grader who would like to give it a shot, you can learn more by clicking [HERE](#). Flyers for the contest will go home during CCD next week.



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

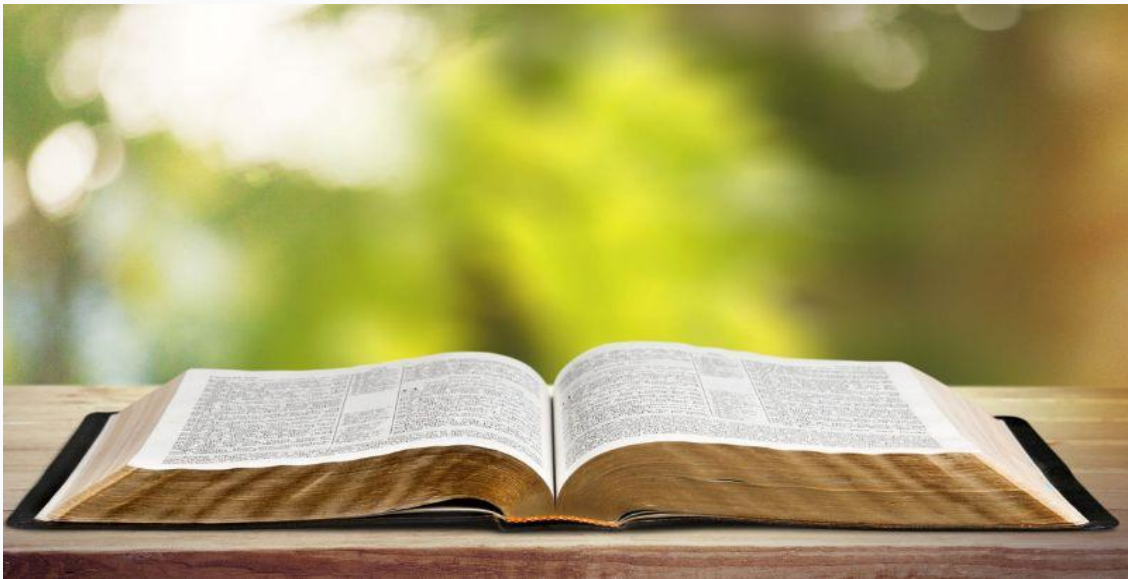
Feast Day: January 24th

Patron of: Writers, Journalists and the Deaf

St. Francis de Sales (1567–1622) was a French bishop, spiritual writer, and Doctor of the Church whose gentle holiness continues to inspire Catholics today. Born to a noble family, he was well educated and could have pursued a prestigious legal career, but he chose the priesthood instead. As Bishop of Geneva—forced to live in exile in Annecy because the city was controlled by Calvinists—Francis became known for his tireless pastoral care, patient evangelization, and deep compassion for those who disagreed with him. He famously used simple pamphlets to explain the Catholic faith, slipping them under doors when preaching was forbidden.

What set St. Francis de Sales apart was his conviction that holiness is possible for everyone, not just monks or clergy. In his classic work *Introduction to the Devout Life*, he taught that laypeople could grow in sanctity right where they are—through daily duties, prayer, and love of neighbor. His spirituality emphasized gentleness, humility, and trust in God’s mercy. “A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrel of vinegar,” he wrote, capturing his belief that kindness is more effective than harshness in leading others to Christ.

St. Francis de Sales invites families to make their homes places of gentle holiness. Parents can model patience, calm speech, and forgiveness, especially in moments of stress or conflict. Family prayer does not need to be elaborate; consistency and sincerity matter more than perfection. By encouraging one another, practicing small acts of kindness, and trusting God with daily challenges, families live out St. Francis' message that love—expressed gently and faithfully—is the surest path to growing together in Christ.



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:

[The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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



Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

Be sure to check out these delightful videos for children featuring this coming Sunday's Gospel:








[Jesus Says Follow Me! \(ages 4-8\)](#)

[Follow Me - Jesus Calls the Fishermen \(ages 8-12\)](#)

KIDSCALENDAR

JANUARY 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: Baptism Baptism makes us children of God and members of God's family, the Church.				SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S DAY  1	SAINT'S BASIL, THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZ, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH 2	THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS 3
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Q What were the gifts given to the child Jesus? (SEE JANUARY 10) Matthew 2:1-12 4	SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP 5	SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE, BELGIUM  6	SAINT RAYMOND OF PENAFORTE, PRIEST 7	A Gold, frankincense and myrrh 8	9	10
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Q What did the Spirit of God look like? (SEE JANUARY 10) Matthew 3:13-17 11	12	SAINT HILARY, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 13	14	15	SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT 16	A A dove.  17
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q What did John the Baptist call Jesus? (SEE JANUARY 20) John 1:29-34 18	19	SAINT FABIAN, POPE AND MARTYR SAINT SEBASTIAN, MARTYR A The Lamb of God 20	SAINT AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR  21	DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN  22	SAINT VINCENT, DEACON AND MARTYR SAINT MARIANNE COPE, VIRGIN 23	SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 24
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Q What was Jesus' first word when he preached? (SEE JANUARY 30) Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17 25	SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS 26	SAINT ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN 27	SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH  28	29	A "Repent" 30	SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST  31

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[Catechist Magazine January Calendar Download](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: The religious order known as the Salesians was founded by which of the following individuals:

- A) St. Andre Bessette
- B) St. John Bosco
- C) St. Francis de Sales
- D) St. Thomas Aquinas



Correct Answer: B

Don Bosco was a follower of Saint Francis de Sales' simple spirituality and philosophy of kindness and established the Society of St. Francis de Sales in his honor in 1859. It is popularly known as the Salesians. Don Bosco established a network of organizations and centers to carry on his work.

Following his beatification in 1929, Don Bosco was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934. Since then, his society has been known as the Salesians of Don Bosco. St. Don Bosco's feast day is only a week after St. Francis de Sales': January 31st.

Joke of the Week

Q: How do we know Peter was a successful fisherman?

A. *By his net income!*

Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jnoll@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
cmcdonald@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)