

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter January 22 - January 29, 2025



CCD in January

Monday, January 27th

Lesson 14: *What turns us away from God's love?*

Tuesday, January 28th

Lesson 13: *How does God teach us to love?*

[CCD Calendar](#)



Homeschooling Connection

Week of January 26th

Lesson 14: *What turns us away from God's love?*

Keep up those submissions! I always enjoy reading your child's responses to the short answer questions.



Gospel Reflection Stickers

On Tuesday, the CCD students were all given stickers with two cans of Coke on them: diet and regular. As an introduction to the Gospel from Sunday, the Wedding Feast at Cana, I told the kids about my recent Christmas beverage blunder. As a house full of diabetics who drink only diet soda, I had loads of beverages, but only diet soda to offer my guests. Several of them were rather upset that I hadn't taken their regular soda preferences into account. Oops! When Jesus was presented with a similar beverage shortage, he was able to do something about it because Jesus is God and, as such, has power over the natural world. When his disciples see what Jesus can do, they really begin to believe. Additionally, he was able to provide for the needs of the party guests in an abundant way that I wouldn't have been able to (at least not without a Costco membership and a credit card!).



Sacramental Preparation Families

First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Tomorrow

Thursday, January 23rd

[1:00 pm Zoom Meeting Invite](#)

[7:00 pm Zoom Meeting Invite](#)

To access the letter which was sent to all Sacramental Preparation Families with program specifics for the next few months, click [HERE](#).

If your child missed CCD or you are a homeschooling family, please make arrangements to pick up your child's envelope with all of the necessary materials so that your family can get started on the journey toward First Eucharist!



Coffee and Donuts After Catholic Schools Week Family Mass

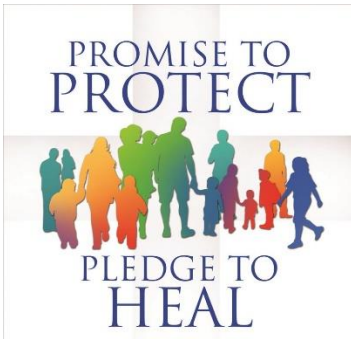
This Sunday Our Lady of Sorrows will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. While your children may not attend the school, you are welcome to join your fellow parishioners in the school gym for an expanded Coffee and Donuts (and pastries). While there, you can also shop the book fair. Enjoy!



February 2nd - Candlemas Get Your Candles Out!

Chances are pretty good that someone gave you some candles for Christmas (especially if you're a teacher, coach or catechist). Before you put them in a drawer or strategically place them around your house, put them aside to be brought into church on February 2nd: The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. These symbols of Christ's Light will be blessed during Mass as it is also Candlemas (though here in the United States we tend to know it as Groundhog Day.)

In an often-dreary February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord brings us the illumination of Christ. To learn more about Candlemas, click [HERE](#) for a National Catholic Register article: *A Day of Light: Candlemas Celebrates the Light of the World.*



Empowering God's Children Parent Workshop

Last week our office sent out an emailed letter to the parents of all K-7th grade students regarding the Empowering God's Children Program. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation. You can access the letter [HERE](#).

If you are interested in attending the Empowering God's Children Parent Education Workshop with Virtus-trained facilitator Diane Beni on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00, please [RSVP HERE](#) or email Jen Noll at jennollols@gmail.com. During the workshop, Ms. Beni will be talking to parents about how to help their children understand their personal physical boundaries and the difference between safe and unsafe touches. It will also help parents teach their kids how to identify the safe versus unsafe adults in their lives. Thanks for partnering with us to help keep kids safe!



OLS Food Pantry Update Continued

The food pantry has completed its transition to indoor food distribution that enables clients to choose what they would like to have (and decline what they do NOT want). This is a big accomplishment. It is much appreciated by our patrons and volunteers. Our purchasing is improved and there is less waste.

Additionally, the pantry has also implemented its teen volunteer crew, which helps clients pack and carry bags to their vehicles. The teens are a wonderful addition to our Saturday volunteer group and are much appreciated by the pantry's patrons, particularly the elderly and disabled.

The Children's Book Pantry operates in conjunction with the food pantry on Saturdays, providing hundreds of books each year to those who most need them. So don't throw away those gently used children's books you may have! The pantry will gladly accept them. You can leave book donations along with food donations on the pantry table by the 4th Street entrance to the church in the pantry bins in the vestibule.

Please note, the pantry's inventory is running low after a very busy holiday season. A list of the pantry's most needed items can also be found on the OLS website at <https://olschurch.com/foodpantry/>. Thanks for your help!



5 More Things to Know about Jubilee Year 2025

Jubilee 2025 is a special Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis, dedicated to the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." This Jubilee is a time for renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth, offering us an opportunity to deepen our faith and experience God's grace in profound ways.

1. The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for "signs of hope" in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people "in difficult situations." Pope Francis has also called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address "ecological debt".

2. Expect an influx of pilgrims in the Eternal City. Italy's National Tourist Research Institute projects 35 million visitors in 2025, nearly triple of its 13 million visitors in 2023.

3. The most popular jubilee pilgrim destinations are likely to include Rome's Christian catacombs and its seven pilgrim Churches – the basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Lawrence, Holy Cross and St. Sebastian – destinations St. Philip Neri popularized in the 16th century with a 15-mile walk. Twelve other Roman Churches are designated “jubilee Churches” intended as gathering spots for pilgrims during the jubilee.

4. Major events are happening in Rome, including jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the Church. The first is the Jubilee of the World of Communications Jan. 24-26, followed by the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel Feb. 8-9. The jubilee also includes gatherings for artists (Feb. 15-18), deacons (Feb. 21-23) and even marching bands (May 10-11). Some of these special gatherings will coincide with major canonizations, such as the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People July 28-Aug. 3.

5. You can expect some jubilee events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed. This year, despite different liturgical calendars, the dates for celebrating Easter align in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, leading some, including Pope Francis, to call for a “decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter,” which was discussed in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Feast Day: January 25th

St. Paul is the Patron Saint of: Writers, Publishers and Missions

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to “present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me” (Colossians 1:28b-29). “For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul’s life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ’s victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

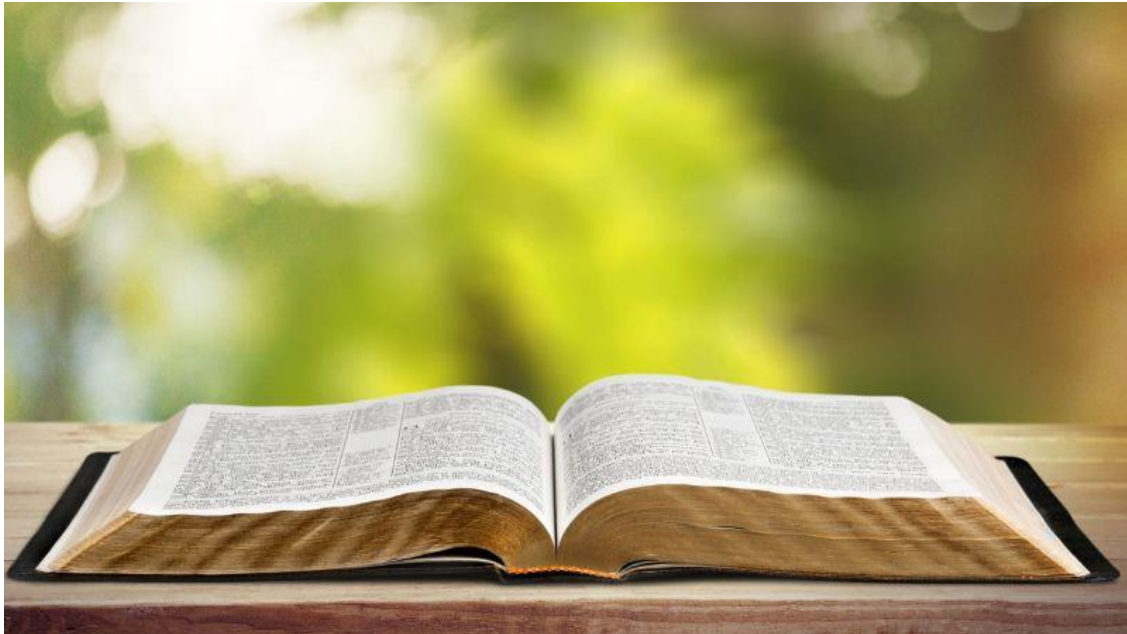
So Paul’s great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more “works” than the Law could ever contemplate.



From Persecutor to Christian: Saint Paul for Kids

Saint Paul wrote more books in the New Testament than anyone else. He is one of the most important leaders in the early Church and responsible for the foundation of many churches throughout the Mediterranean. Before his conversion to Christianity, however, he imprisoned and even killed Christians for believing Jesus was the Messiah. Read to your kids about the story of St. Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-22 and Acts 22:3-16) or [watch the short 3-minute video of Paul's Conversion](#) and then discuss the following questions:

- Why did Saint Paul become such a passionate follower of Jesus Christ?
 - How do people today experience encounters with Jesus Christ like Saint Paul?
 - Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone or believing that they have really changed? When and why?
-



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](#)

[Maryknoll Gospel Reflection for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question:

Sr. Dorothy Stang will be the first American woman to be included in a memorial for modern martyrs in Rome. True or False?



Answer: True

Sr. Dorothy Stang, a religious sister murdered for her work in Brazil almost 20 years ago will be the first American woman to be included in a memorial for modern martyrs in Rome.

Born in 1931, Sr. Dorothy Stang joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Ohio at the age of 17. In 1966, she became a missionary in Brazil and fought for the rights of poor settlers and the protection of the rainforest against loggers and landowners who wanted to exploit its resources. She partnered with the Pastoral Land Commission--an organization of the Catholic Church that works to defend the rights of rural laborers and peasants. As a result of her efforts, the Brazilian state of Para named Sr. Dorothy "Woman of the Year", and she had received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Brazilian Bar Association. But her work was not well received by everyone. On February 12, 2005, hired gunmen shot Sr. Dorothy and left her to die. She was 73 years old.

Just a month shy of the 20th anniversary of her martyrdom, Sr. Dorothy will be honored at a ceremony hosted by the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome. A small container of blood-soaked soil from the place of her murder and one of her sweaters will be added to a permanent memorial at the Basilica of St. Bartholomew on the Island—a church dedicated to the thousands of Christian men and women killed for the faith in modern times.

Joke of the Week

Question: *"What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?"*

Answer: "A cookie sheet!"

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