

Religious Education

CCD Family Newsletter
January 29 - February 5, 2025



Welcome February!

Monday, February 3rd

Lesson 15: *What turns us **towards** God's love?*

Tuesday, February 4th

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

[CCD Calendar](#)



Homeschooling Connection

Week of January 26th

Lesson 15: *What turns us towards God's love?*

Good question! I love focusing on the positive! Can't wait to read your kids' short answer question responses this week...



Gospel Reflection Stickers

If you're old like me, then you remember the Dr. Pepper ad campaign that boasted its soda was *"Just what the doctor ordered!"* Well, in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads from the Prophet Isaiah in his hometown synagogue and proclaims that he is the one sent by God to bring good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, sight to the blind, and freedom to those who suffer. He is the savior sent by God to save us. Even better than what the doctor ordered - the one whom God sent!



Last Call for Empowering God's Children Parent Training Workshop

This Saturday - February 1st

10:00 - 10:45

Anne Seton Room - Lower Church

RSVP BY THIS EVENING

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!



Empowering God's Children Reminder

Attn: Parents in Grades K-7*

Due to the generally low levels of participation at the in-person Empowering God's Children workshops held for the past two years, the Archdiocese of Newark is now asking all families with students in its religious education programs to complete the two Empowering God's Children lessons designated for this year with their children.

This year the Archdiocese of Newark is asking parents to partner with us to teach the two lessons below:

Lesson 1 - Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules: Students learn simple rules about what to do and how to react when someone's touch is confusing, scary, or makes the child or young person feel uncomfortable. Young people start to deal with the real risks they face when they are out in the world and on their own, and they begin to learn where to draw boundary lines in relationships.

Lesson 2 - Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults: Children, young people, and their parents establish basic guidelines for working together to make

certain which friends and other adults in their environment can be trusted to act safely and in the best interest of each child or young person.

Here are the links to the lessons, as well as introductory videos for you:

[Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide: Guide for Caring Adults, Parents and Guardians](#)

[Empowering God's Children Introductory Video - Grade K-5](#)

Lesson 1 - Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules Plans by Grade:

[Grades K-2 Lesson One](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson One](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson One](#)

Lesson 2 - Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults Plans by Grade:

[Grades K-2 Lesson Two](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Two](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Two](#)

Each of the linked lesson plans contains several different options for presenting the core material for each lesson. You do not have to complete all of the options for your child to be considered “trained”. You simply have to present material in the way you, as a parent, feel is the most appropriate given your family’s unique circumstance and dynamic. If you would like our office to make hard copies of any of the lesson plans, please reach out and we would be happy to send them home.

We thank you in advance for partnering with us in our efforts to protect our children. Please reach out to Jen Noll if you have any immediate questions about the material provided.

For more information about how the Archdiocese of Newark’s Department for the Protection of the Faithful is committed to complying with the Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Karen Clark at Karen.Clark@rcan.org.

**Parents of students in grade 8 are not being asked to participate in this at-home training as, after a review of the Health curriculum for the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education by the Archdiocese of Newark’s Department for the*

Protection of the Faithful, it was determined that training of this nature is already being conducted in the public school classroom.

Let us Know if You've Talked with Your Kids about Lessons 1 and 2 - Short Parent / Guardian Acknowledgement Form



Sacramental Preparation Families

Thanks to all of you who met with us via Zoom last Thursday to discuss your child's preparation for First Eucharist. We look forward to working with your family in the next few months in this special way. If you need any help during this process, please reach out. We are here to assist you!

Here is the link to the First Eucharist Parent Meeting Presentation if you would like to access any of the presentation links or videos: [January 23rd First Eucharist Parent Meeting Slideshow](#)



Candlemas / Feast of the Presentation of the Lord February 2nd

This Sunday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast celebrates the occasion when Mary brought the infant Jesus to the

Temple and presented him to the people. Simeon recognized Jesus as the Light of the world, saying, “He is a light to reveal God to the nations.” Therefore, the feast is also called Candlemas, meaning the Feast of Light.

You are invited to bring your own candles from home to one of the Sunday Masses next weekend to be blessed in celebration of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

[3-Minute Video: The Christian Origin of Groundhog Day](#)

Attention Moms!
Join Your Parish Friends for an Exciting Afternoon

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR OLS

Women's Retreat

\$20 per person!

Saturday February 22, 2025
12PM to 4pm (includes Mass and lunch)

Theme: Trust in God, for You are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!



Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin, MD

Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin is a Nationally respected physician, teacher, lecturer and author. In her 40 year career as a specialist in Neonatal Intensive Care, she has been recognized as a top Neonatologist by: US News and World Report, New York Magazine and Catholic New York, and has been featured in a number of TV documentaries. Recently retired as Chairman of Newborn Medicine & Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Columbia University, Dr. Marron-Corwin serves as a Trustee at St. Philomena's Parish, Livingston. She has been an Oblate of St. Benedict at St. Mary's Abbey for the past 25 years. Married for the past 37 years to Dr. Andrew Corwin, they have 3 adult children.

We are so excited to welcome Dr. Mary to speak as a lay Catholic woman and mother on the topic of our retreat this year: "Trust in God, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made!" We know of the joy and zeal that her contributions will bring to our women's community on retreat, and we encourage you to join us for the afternoon!

For questions and registration, please contact
Melanie at: mchambers97@comcast.net

Our Lady of Sorrows Church | South Orange, NJ



Meet Luce

Mascot for the Jubilee Year 2025

“Luce,” the official mascot of the 2025 Jubilee, is a pilgrim who brings a message of hope and welcome to all. Luce, whose name means “light” in Italian, wears a yellow raincoat to symbolize journeying through life's storms. Her boots are muddy from walking with God along the paths of life. The rosary emphasizes the need for pilgrims to grow in prayer and her walking stick provides extra stability and security. Luce represents the Jubilee by being a symbol of community, welcome and sharing.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. John Bosco

Feast Day: January 31st

Patron Saint of: apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents

John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play.

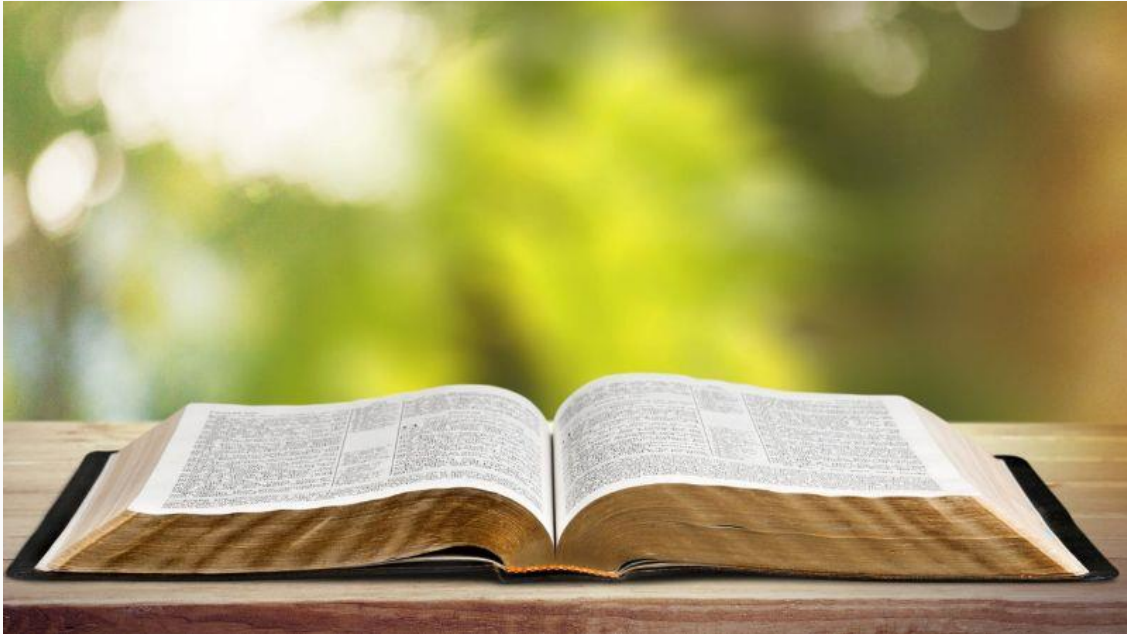
Encouraged during his youth in Turin to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.

After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.

By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.

John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales.

With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.



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:

[Feast of the Presentation of the Lord](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

[Mark Ten Mission Video - The Presentation of the Lord for Kids](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: St. John Bosco's middle name, Melchior, is also the name of one of the...

- a) Apostles
- b) Wise men
- c) Doctors of the Church
- d) Popes

Answer: b The wise men

The Gospel of Matthew, which tells us about the Magi (Matthew 2:1–18), provides no names for them. In fact, even the number of Magi isn't specified there. The presumption in Western tradition has typically been that the reference to three gifts (verse 11) implies three givers; but some Eastern traditions have insisted there were twelve.

Various traditions about their names have arisen. The common Western tradition has identified them as Caspar (also Gaspar, Jaspar, Jaspas, Gathaspa), Melchior (also Melichior), and Balthazar (also Bathasar, Balthassar, Bithisaria). One popular legend has portrayed Caspar as a king of India, Melchior as a king of Persia, and Balthazar as a king of Arabia.

The Western tradition of their names seems to have derived from a Greek manuscript most likely composed about the year 500 in Alexandria, Egypt, and translated into Latin. A second Greek document, from the eighth century, continues that tradition and adds other details. It is presumed to be of Irish origin and was also translated into Latin.



Matthew tells us nothing about the Magi after he reports that they returned to their own country (Matthew 2:12).

Joke of the Week

Question: *"What do you get when you cross a snowman with a shark?"*

Answer: "Frostbite!"

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[**Our Lady of Sorrows Website**](#)