CCD Family Newsletter

October 28, 2026 - November 4, 2026

All Saints Day Procession

Sunday, November 1st
10:00 am Mass

We should all be striving for saintliness! Afterall, the saints inspire, instruct and intercede for us, so let's provide the parish with a little reminder. All the kids of the parish (and any interested adults) are invited to come to our next 10:00 am Mass dressed up as their favorite saint. Just arrive about 15 minutes early for procession instructions and to get lined up. It's a fun way to celebrate All Saints Day and test your creative juices. Plus, the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a costume contest at their breakfast immediately following Mass!

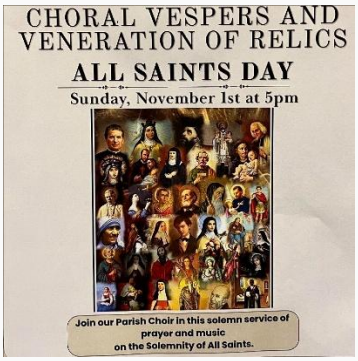
Looking for some easy ideas? The internet is full of awesome and fun ideas or click on one of the links below:

[Catholic All Year: 25 Easy Costumes Made out Of T-Shirts]
[A Catholic Mom's Life]

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 1st
After 10:00 am and 11:30 am Masses
St. Joseph's Hall

The Knights of Columbus Council 4066 will be hosting a delicious pancake breakfast immediately following both the 10:00 am and 11:30 am Masses this Sunday morning. Be sure to join your parish friends after Mass for a hearty meal for a great cause. (I mean, honestly, you cook enough during the week, let the Knights help you out a little so that you can relax on Sunday!) See their very informative flyer for more information about the breakfast, coat drive and, most importantly, their All Saints Day costume contest!



Looking for a More Solemn Way to Mark All Saints Day?

Choral Vespers and Veneration of Relics
Sunday, November 1st at 5:00 pm

Our parish choir is so talented. Let them help you be inspired by the saints through their beautiful music! If your schedule permits, be sure to stop by!

November CCD Schedule

Monday

November 2nd - Chapter 5
November 9th - Chapter 6
November 16th - Chapter 7
November 23rd - Chapter 8
November 30th - Chapter 9

Tuesday

November 3rd - NO CCD (Election Day)
November 10th - Chapter 6
November 17th - Chapter 7
November 24th - NO CCD (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Gospel Reflection Sticker

Each day when students enter CCD they receive a sticker relating to our opening service for Sunday's Gospel. **Please ask your kids to see if they can remember why they received a sticker with "X" on it.**

This week the kids received a sticker with an image of baking supplies on it. When baking, you need to make sure you've added all of the necessary ingredients if you want your end result to turn out delicious. If a key ingredient isn't present in your dish, it's not going to come out right. We talked about how love is the most important ingredient in Sunday's Greatest Commandment Gospel, and that without it, we can't show our love for God or our neighbor. (And in order to make the connection between love and our Fall Food Drive, we tried Cinnamon Rollups with and without the cinnamon.)

Homeschooling Connection

This Week's Assigned Chapter: 6

We hope you can join us at the upcoming 10:00 am All Saints Day Mass! Attending Mass, particularly one of our Masses where kids can participate in a special way, is a great way to stay connected to your parish as a homeschooling family. Use your homeschooling time this week to brainstorm ideas for a costume and process up the center aisle at the start and end of Mass. Hope you can join us!

OLS CCD Fall Food Drive

Our Fall Food Drive is underway! The OLS Food Pantry has asked our CCD program to donate as many spices as we can to help the clients of the pantry spice up their holiday meals. We have been asked to collect new, unopened containers of the following:

- Cinnamon
- Cumin
- Garlic Powder
- Paprika
- Pepper

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Tuesday Fire Drill

We conducted our annual evacuation drill on Tuesday since it was such a nice day. On the whole, the kids did very well. Please remind them of the general importance of:

- Remaining quiet in the halls so that they can hear any important instructions
- Leaving all personal items in the classroom
- Following their classmates out of the building in a calm, yet purposeful manner

---

Dear CCD Families,

On behalf of the Home and School Association of Our Lady of Sorrows School, we are writing to invite you to join us for our annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser on Saturday, November 14th at 6pm, held at the OLS gymnasium.

The Tricky Tray is one of our favorite community evenings: a night of friendship, fun, and trying your luck on a wide range of baskets and prizes. Proceeds directly support our students and school programs.

Our school and our CCD program share one parish, one faith, and one family, and we would be honored to celebrate that together.

There are two ways you can help:

Buy tickets and join us! Tickets are available now! Please visit our website HERE to purchase.

Donate to the prize fund. We welcome new items, gift cards, or a monetary donation toward prizes.

- Please fill out this FORM to donate an item or a gift card by October 30th.
- You can contribute any amount to our prize fund on our website HERE.

Every donation and every ticket makes a difference, and your support means a great deal to our community. Thank you for your generosity, and we hope to see you there!

OLS Crusaders Basketball 2026-2027

CYO Athletics - Archdiocese of Newark

OLS SCHOOL & CCD STUDENTS ONLY

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

CLICK HERE TO PAY REGISTRATION FEES ONLINE

Important Details:

Grades 3-8: Registration fee is $207
Grades K-2: Registration fee is $30

Practices are located at the OLS GYM
1-2 Practices a week (schedule dependent on coaches)

Season runs from early November to middle of March
10-12 regular season games / playoffs in March

Games are played on select weeknights and weekends.
Away games are played at neighboring CYO schools/programs.

Practices start as early as November 16th. Games begin the weekend of December 5th.

Crusader Levels:
K/1st/2nd grade - Little Crusaders Clinic *(Saturday mornings starting in December)**
3rd/4th grade boys & girls teams - Instructional "Pee Wee"
5th/6th grade boys & girls teams - Junior Varsity
7th/8th grade boys & girls teams - Varsity

*Little Crusaders is a clinic offered to grades K, 1 & 2 on Saturday mornings starting in the month of December. The clinic runs from December to mid-February.

Participation Requirements:
ALL FAMILIES MUST HAVE AVAILABILITY TO WORK 2 VOLUNTEER SHIFTS AT THE FEBRUARY FRENZY TOURNAMENT (February 12th - 21st, 2027):

- Frenzy Pep Rally: February 11th, 2027
- February Frenzy Tournament: February 12th - February 21st, 2027

ALL FAMILIES MUST ATTEND A MANDATORY PARENT MEETING TBD IN NOVEMBER. FAMILIES MUST ATTEND 1 DATE OF THEIR CHOICE. MULTIPLE ATTENDANCE OPTIONS WILL BE COMMUNICATED ON A FUTURE DATE.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER COACHES AT EVERY LEVEL. Teams cannot form without two coaches per team. If interested, please reach out to Nick Rego at olsathletics@gmail.com

Each athlete must have completed the following to be eligible to play:

- *Pre-participation physical evaluation filed with school nurse (OLS STUDENTS)*
- *Sudden Cardiac Death Pamphlet Sign off*
- ***CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL HEALTH FORMS***
- ***CYO PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM AND LIABILITY WAIVER***

SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Feast Day: October 28th

St. Simon is the Patron of: tanners, woodcutters, and leather workers

St. Simon's Attributes in Art are: bucksaw, boat, scroll

St. Jude Thaddeus is the Patron of: hopeless causes

St. Jude Thaddeus' Attributes in Art are: green robe, medallion of Christ known as the Mandylion of Edesa, staff

The Church celebrates the feast days of Sts. Simon and Jude on October 28th. Both were among the twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to spread the Good News and help build His Church.

St. Simon the Zealot was known as a man deeply committed to his beliefs. Although little is known about his life before he became an Apostle, his title, “the Zealot,” suggests that he was passionate about his convictions. After encountering Jesus, Simon devoted his life to sharing Christ’s message of love, mercy, and salvation.

According to Christian tradition, they preached the Gospel together in regions like Persia and Mesopotamia. Further traditional accounts state they were martyred together in Persia or Syria around AD 65 with Simon by being sawed in half and Jude by a club or bludgeon.

St. Jude Thaddeus is often called the patron saint of hopeless causes. He was one of Jesus’ Apostles and is traditionally identified as the author of the Letter of Jude in the New Testament. Though the Bible tells us little about his ministry, Christian

tradition remembers him for his missionary work and unwavering faith, even in difficult circumstances.

What can these two Apostles teach our families today? Their lives remind us to be passionate about our faith, remain hopeful when life gets difficult, and serve others with courage and love. Families can follow their example by praying together, standing up for what is right, encouraging one another during challenging times, and trusting God when answers are not immediately clear. When a family member is struggling, feeling discouraged, or facing a seemingly impossible problem, St. Jude reminds us never to give up hope. And St. Simon encourages us to put our faith into action through our everyday choices.

A family activity: At dinner or bedtime, invite each family member to share one challenge for which they need God's help and one way they can show their faith through kindness that week. Then pray together, asking Sts. Simon and Jude to help your family grow in faith, courage, and hope.

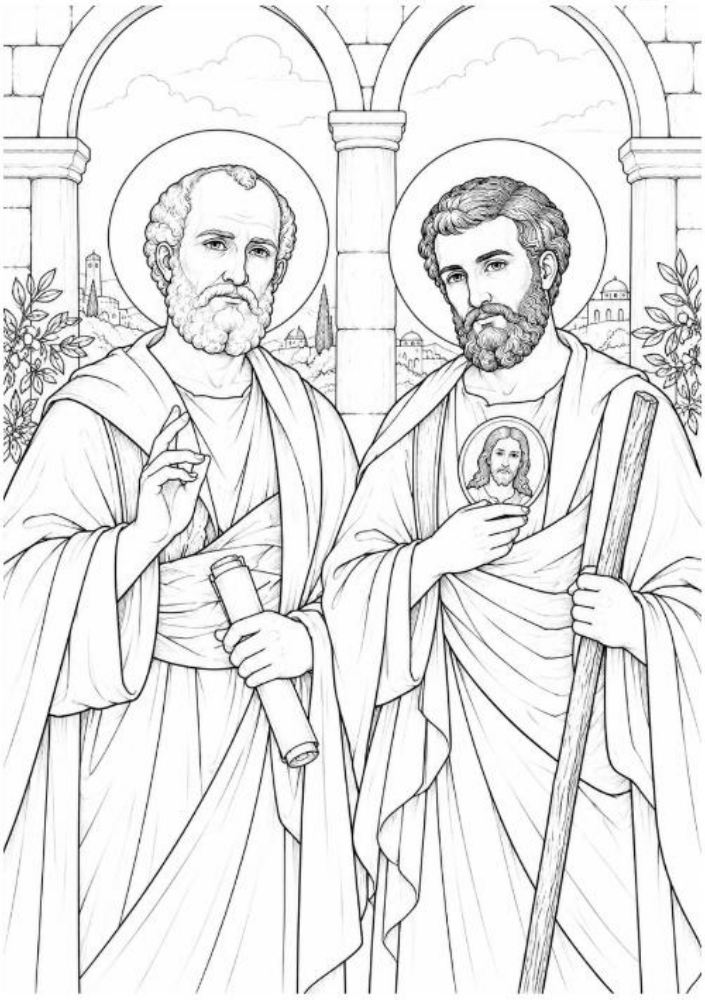
Family prayer: *Saints Simon and Jude, help our family remain faithful to Jesus, courageous in doing what is right, and hopeful in difficult times. Teach us to love one another and share God's goodness with everyone we meet. Amen.*

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

APOSTLES | MARTYRS

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

FEAST
OCTOBER 28TH



WHO ARE THEY?

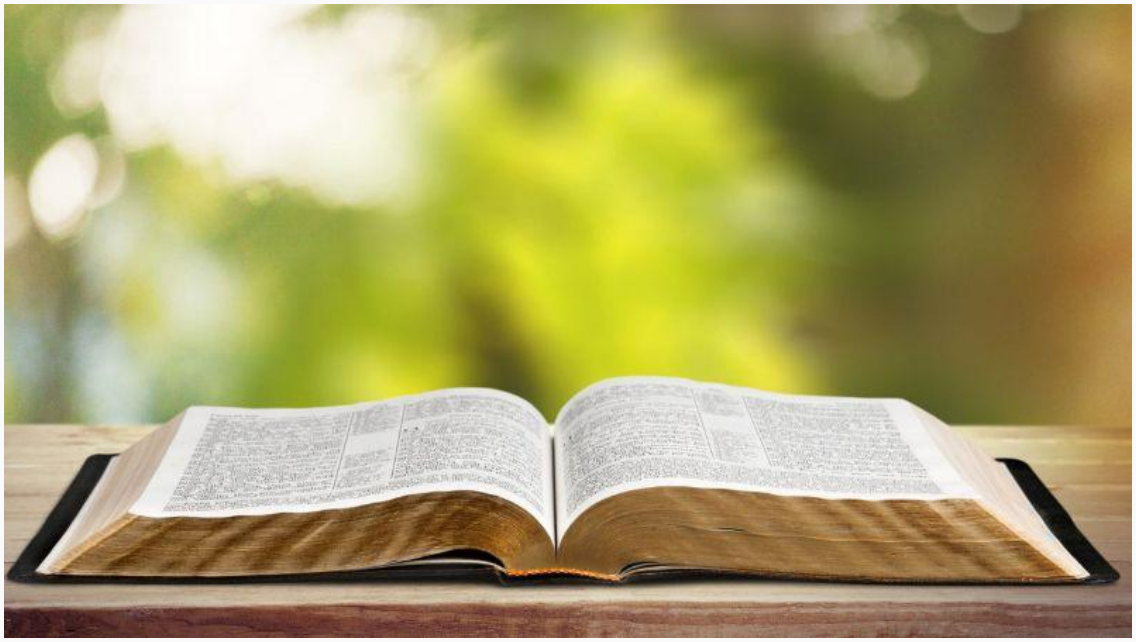
Saints Simon and Jude were two of the twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to be his closest friends and help spread his Good News. They listened to Jesus, witnessed his miracles and learned how to love others by following his example. After Jesus rose from the dead, they bravely travelled to tell others about him, even when it was dangerous to be a Christian. St Jude is now known as the patron saint of hopeless causes, reminding us that no problem is too big to bring to Jesus in prayer!

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you called Saints Simon and Jude to follow you and share your love with the world. Help us to listen to your voice, trust in you with all our hearts and courageously share your Good News with others. Like your Apostles, may we always stay close to you and never be afraid to show our faith. Amen.

SAINT MISSION

St Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes. Is there something in your life that feels difficult? Perhaps someone you love is unwell, a friendship is struggling, or you are worried about something. Your mission is to bring this worry to Jesus in prayer, asking St Jude to pray with you. Remember, nothing is impossible for God, and we can always trust in his love!



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 this week:

USCCB: Solemnity of All Saints
Loyola Press: Sunday Connection
Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy

All Saints Day Resources

As Catholics, we look to the saints to inspire, instruct and intercede for us. Studying the saints is also fun and easy because they are so accessible! You can help you children have a better understanding of these "holy helpers" by taking a look at some of these great resources. (They're also good for "brushing up" your own understanding.)

A Colossal Set of Resources on All Saints Day (Raising Little Saints Blog)

All Saints Day Resources (The Catholic Toolbox)

Saints Activities (Loyola Press)

All Saints Day Activities and Lesson Plans (Loyola Press)

All Saints Day Resources (Sadlier)

Celebrating the Saints: 4 Ways to Be a Catholic Superhero (Catechist's Journey)

Ideas for Helping Families Celebrate All Saints' Day (Catechist.com)

The Ultimate All Saints Day Part Post (Paper Dali)

Catholic Saints Research Project (Ave Maria Press's Engaging Faith Blog)

Ten Assignments for All Saints Week (Ave Maria Press's Engaging Faith Blog)

Catholic Saints Birthday Project (The Religion Teacher)

All Saints Coloring Page (Catholic Playground)

A Class Litany of the Saints (The Religion Teacher)

All Saints Day Games

All Saints Day Scavenger Hunt (Shower of Roses)

All Saints Day Party Games (Catholic Icing)

5 All Saints Day Game Ideas (Training Happy Hearts)

All Saints Day Game Ideas (Holy Heroes)

All Saints Day Party Game Ideas (Party Like a Saint)

Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

This week, join the Mark Ten Mission in celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints! In the Gospel, you'll hear Jesus teaching us how he wants us to live and Greg will help you discover what it means to be holy and how we can become saints. You'll also learn about the month of November and how we can pray for those who have died.

Can You Be a Saint? (Little Liturgy for Kids 7 and Under)
Can I be a Saint? (Little Liturgy for Kids 8 and Up)

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Family companion

The Harvest of Kindness

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THEME: *Sharing what we have and cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit*				**1** Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus **READ:** *Galatians 5:22. The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy.*	**2** The Holy Guardian Angels **DO:** *Donate a can of food to a food pantry ("To feed the hungry").*	**3** **PRAY:** *For farmers who grow our pumpkins and apples.*
4 **READ:** *Luke 17:5. Lord, increase our faith!*	**5** Saint Faustina Kowalska; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos **ACTIVITY:** *Draw a leaf. Write a person's name on it and pray for them.*	**6** Saint Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher **DO:** *Say "please" and "thank you" all day.*	**7** Our Lady of the Rosary **PRAY:** *Hail Mary, full of grace. Pray the Rosary today.*	**8** **PLAY:** *Unscramble* CEEPA.	**9** Saint Denis and Companions; Saint John Leonardi **READ:** *Matthew 7:12. Do to others what you want them to do to you.*	**10** **DO:** *Help rake leaves or sweep the porch.*
11 **READ:** *Luke 17:11-19. Only one leper came back to say thanks. Be that one.*	**12** Saint Carlo Acutis **PRAY:** *For those who are sick in the hospital ("To visit the sick").*	**13** **DO:** *Make a card to send to a nursing home.*	**14** Saint Callistus I **READ:** *Isaiah 40:8. The grass withers, but God's Word stands forever.*	**15** Saint Teresa of Jesus **PLAY:** *Unscramble:* OYJ. *Share your happiness.*	**16** Saint Hedwig; Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque **ACTIVITY:** *Leave a happy note in a family member's lunchbox or shoe.*	**17** Saint Ignatius of Antioch **PRAY:** *Jesus, help me to be patient when I have to wait.*
18 **READ:** *Luke 18:1. Pray always and do not lose heart.*	**19** Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions **DO:** *Let someone go ahead of you in line.*	**20** Saint Paul of the Cross **READ:** *Romans 12:10. Honor one another above yourselves.*	**21** **DO:** *Offer to help wash the dishes after dinner.*	**22** Saint John Paul II **PRAY:** *For children who are hungry today.*	**23** Saint John of Capistrano **PLAY:** *Unscramble:* IEVG.	**24** Saint Anthony Mary Claret **ACTIVITY:** *Go for a walk and thank God for the beautiful colors.*
25 **READ:** *Luke 18:9-14. God loves a humble heart.*	**26** **DO:** *Say a prayer for someone you find hard to like.*	**27** **READ:** *Ephesians 4:32. Be kind and compassionate to one another.*	**28** **PRAY:** *For the leaders of our country.*	**29** **DO:** *Put away your laundry without complaining.*	**30** **ACTIVITY:** *Draw a pumpkin. Inside, write "God's Light Shines in Me."*	**31** **PRAY:** *For all people to be safe tonight.*

Unscramble Answers: 11/18: Peace, 10/15: Joy, 10/22: Give

Catholic Trivia

Question:

At 5:00 pm on All Saints Day the OLS parish choir will host *"Choral Vespers and Veneration of Relics."*

The word Vespers comes from a Latin word meaning?

A. Light

B. Praise

C. Evening

D. Peace

Answer: C The word "Vespers" comes from the Latin vesper, meaning "evening." For centuries, Christians have gathered at the close of the day to pray the psalms and give thanks to God. On All Saints Day, this ancient tradition reminds us that prayer unites the Church on earth with the saints in heaven. Vespers is one of the principal hours of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's official daily prayer. Traditionally prayed in the evening, it includes psalms, a hymn, Scripture, intercessions, and the Magnificat, Mary's beautiful song of praise. What a fitting way to celebrate All Saints Day, joining the Church's prayer as we honor the holy men and women who have gone before us!

Joke of the Week

Question: *What's a hamburger's favorite holiday?*

Answer: St. Patty's Day, of course!

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