CCD Family Newsletter

October 7, 2026 - October 14, 2026

Our Eucharistic Rosary Congress Concludes Today

7:00 pm Benediction & Guest Speaker

Today is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. There is still time to mark the occasion by participating in adoration and our hourly recitation of the Rosary. (Mrs. Noll will be leading the Rosary at the top of the 4:00 pm hour if you'd like to join her.)

The Rosary Congress officially concludes this evening at 7:00 pm with benediction and a guest speaker: Brother Charbel, CFR, a member of the Congregation

of the Friars of the Renewal (Blessed Sacrament Friary, Newark). Hope you can join us.*

*We know how busy being a parent is and that it can be difficult to come out to the church on a school night. Here is a great resource called *A Rosary for Parenting Littles: The Joyful Mysteries*. If you've ever felt overwhelmed as a parent and are looking for a way to realign your soul with God's purpose for you, give this Rosary a try. The announcement of each of the mysteries has a poignant author's reflection on how the fruits of the mystery have become manifest in her parenting of little ones. Then pray the special intention before each of the ten Hail Mary's, asking for the fruit of that mystery in ten realities of parenting.

10:00am Family Mass w/Coffee & Donuts

Sunday, October 11th

It's already the 2nd Sunday of the month - which means it's time for our next kid-participation Family Mass with Coffee and Donuts. If your child would like to help out, please reach out to Colleen McDonald and let us know. There's a job for every age! And after Mass be sure to head down to St. Joseph's Hall for Coffee and Donuts. This week's craft will focus on the *Parable of the Wedding Feast.*

No Monday CCD This Week

Monday

October 12th - NO CCD (Columbus Day)

October 19th - Chapter 3

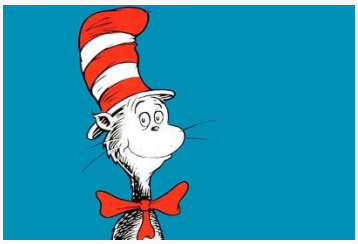
October 26th - Chapter 4

Tuesday

October 13th - Chapter 3

October 20th - Chapter 4

October 27th - Chapter 5



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 The Cat in the Hat on it. Why? Well, in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Wicked Tenants. The parable is about people who continue to reject God, but that God continues to constantly reach us despite continued rejection. We used the examples of famous authors (like Dr. Seuss) who continued to reach out to publishers despite having their work repeatedly rejected.

OLS CCD First Day Packets

Please return the following items in your child's first-day packets by October 20th:

- Our **Handbook Acknowledgement Form** which was attached to the Family Handbook or Homeschooling Handbook**.**
- A copy of this year's **Digital Policy**. This form needs to be signed and returned annually in order for us to be able to assign homeschooling students to a Google Classroom class and for in-person students to be able to access online chapter assessment when they are out of class for any reason.

First Reconciliation Follow-Up

It was wonderful to see so many of you this Sunday at our First Reconciliation Inscription Mass and activity. I didn't know if we'd be able to locate all 100 of our missing sheep, but we did it! Hope you and your kids had fun and enjoyed the treats.

If you would like to review any of the information from our parent meeting or share any of the videos with your children, I am linking the presentation here: 2026 First Reconciliation Parent Meeting.

As a reminder, the next big Reconciliation event is the **mandatory** retreat which will be held on Saturday, November 21st from 9:15 am - 11:45 am. Please plan on bringing the completed Learning Reinforcement Worksheets to the retreat.

Attention Homeschooling Families

Workbooks will be available for pick up through Thursday afternoon. If you need to make arrangements to get your child's workbook, please contact Jen Noll.

If you have not already done so, please provide our office with the Gmail that your child will be using for CCD homeschooling so that we can assign him or her to a Google Classroom class. As a reminder, we need to have your Digital Communication Form on file before your child can access our digital offerings.

Early Dismissal

If your child needs to leave early, please let us know. Please send religious education department staff (and not solely your child) an email, note or text and we'll make a note of the dismissal time on the appropriate attendance sheet. The individual who is picking your child up must meet him or her in the OLS School cafeteria and physically sign him or her out of the building. This new policy is in keeping with the Archdiocese's renewed emphasis on security. Thank you for your understanding.

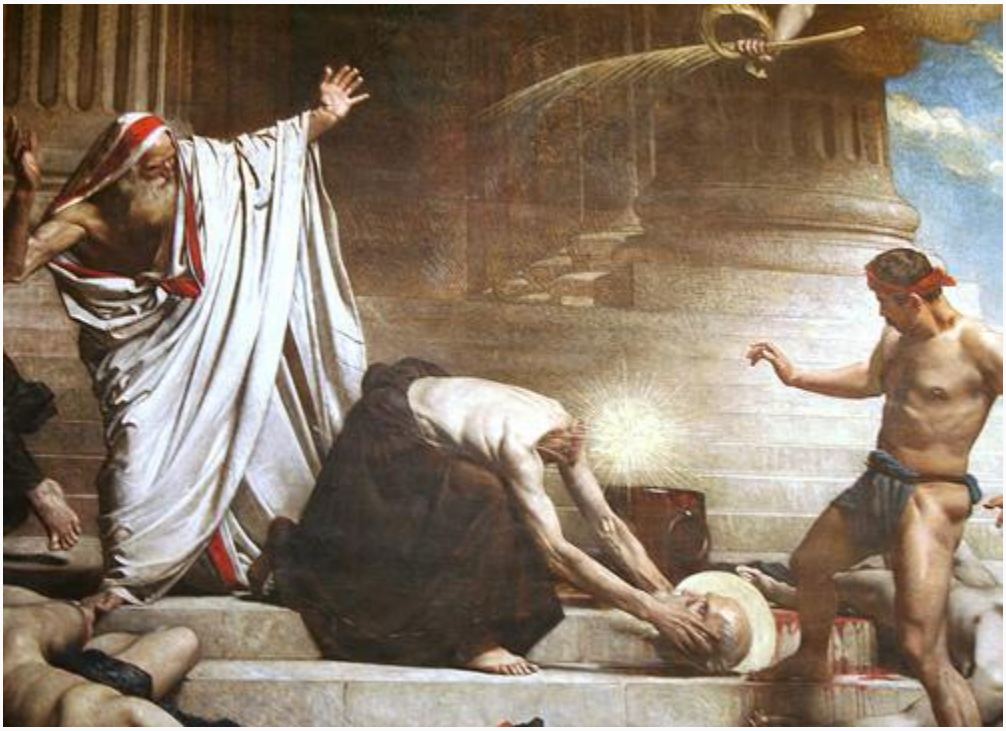
Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

Everyone is welcome in the liturgies of the Archdiocese of Newark. However, some individuals with disabilities and their families don't feel comfortable attending their local parish masses. This can be for different reasons. Some people have increased sensitivity to sounds and smells, some people need to move around more than other people, and some people make more vocalizations than others. So, either people stay away because attending Mass is too uncomfortable and/or because of experiences in which they felt unwelcome and that they didn't belong. This may include individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as autism, sensory processing disorder, Down Syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

Inclusive Family—Sensory Friendly Masses offer some modifications to help individuals with disabilities and their families with these experiences to feel comfortable and welcome attending Mass. Parishes hosting Sensory Friendly—Inclusive Family Masses (SF—IFM) are going "the extra mile" to ensure that individuals with disabilities feel welcome, valued, appreciated, and supported. People from the larger community are encouraged to attend. For more information about Inclusive Family—Sensory Friendly Masses, including the 2026-2027 schedule, click HERE.

Thinking About a Catholic High School?

Attention families of 8th grade students planning to attend Catholic High School in Fall 2027! The High School Placement Test (HSPT) administered as part of the Cooperative Admissions Program for Catholic High Schools in the Archdiocese of Newark will be given on Friday, November 6, 2026. Registration information for the HSPT exam is online at www.njcoopexam.org. The deadline to register for the Cooperative Admissions HSPT is October 23, 2026. For more information about the Cooperative Admissions Program, go to https://www.catholicschoolsnj.org/hs-admissions.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Denis, bishop and martyr

Feast Day: October 9th

Patron of: Paris, France

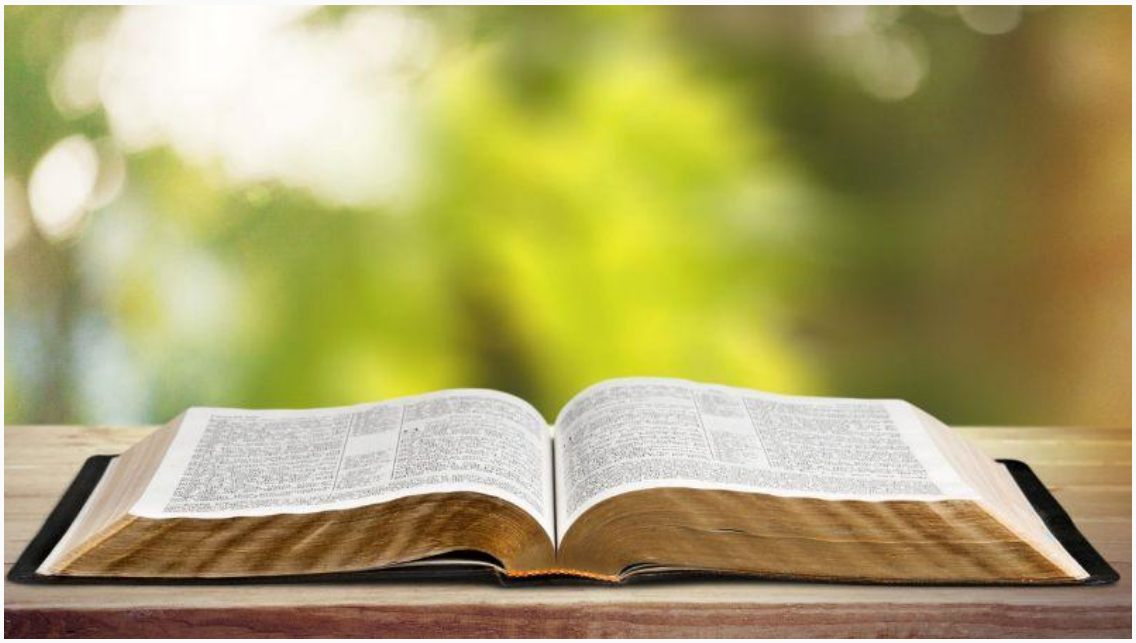
Attribute in Art: Cephalophore (martyr carrying his own head)

St. Denis was a Christian missionary and bishop who lived in the third century and is remembered as the first bishop of Paris. He traveled from Rome to Gaul (modern-day France) to spread the Gospel at a time when being a Christian could be dangerous. Through his preaching and example, many people came to know and follow Christ.

Eventually, Denis and his companions were arrested and sentenced to death for their faith. According to tradition, Denis was beheaded on Montmartre, a hill in Paris whose name means “Mountain of Martyrs.” The remarkable part of the story is what happened next: tradition says that Denis picked up his own head and walked several miles while continuing to preach about Jesus before finally collapsing. Whether every detail of this ancient story can be verified or not, its message is clear: St. Denis was so committed to Christ that even persecution could not silence him.

So what can St. Denis teach our families? Most of us will never be asked to make the kind of sacrifice he did, but we are all given opportunities to be witnesses to our faith. We can be like St. Denis when we stand up for what is right, speak kindly when others are unkind, forgive when it is difficult, and make time for prayer even when life gets busy. Faith isn't only something we practice at church—it is something we carry with us wherever we go.

This week, ask your family: “What is one small way we can show others that we follow Jesus?” Then look for an opportunity to put your answer into action. St. Denis reminds us that sometimes the most powerful way to share our faith is simply to live it courageously, one small choice at a time.



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: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Loyola Press: Sunday Connection
Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy
MaryKnoll Brothers Reflection: Too Busy for Joy

Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

Everyone is invited into the joy of the kingdom of God. In this Little Liturgy, Jesus shares a parable about a king holding a wedding feast. The strange thing is some people ignore his invitation and refuse to come. The king decides to invite everyone he can find. This week's video helps us to know that we are all invited into the joy and love of God, both now on earth and in heaven.

The Greatest Party Ever (Little Liturgy for Kids 7 and Under)
Heaven Touches Earth (Little Liturgy for Kids 8 and Up)

Catholic Trivia

Question:

Our guest speaker at the conclusion of our Rosary Congress is a member of a mendicant order who lives in a friary in Newark, NJ. A mendicant order is a Catholic religious community that renounces all property ownership both individually and collectively, relying entirely upon public charity (alms) for daily survival while engaging in active, public ministry rather than cloistered isolation. Which of the following is NOT a mendicant order?

a) Augustinians
b) Benedictines
c) Carmelites
d) Dominicans

Answer: B The four primary and historically recognized four great mendicant orders are the Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites and Augustinians, followed by several other significant orders recognized by the Catholic Church. The Benedictines, in contrast, are a contemplative monastic order.

Joke of the Week

Question: *Who helps little pumpkins cross the road to school?*

Answer: A crossing gourd!

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Our Lady of Sorrows Website