

# CCD Religious Education



**CCD Family Newsletter**  
**December 4 - December 11, 2024**

*YOU'RE INVITED*

*Our Lady of Sorrows  
Christmas Pageant*

*Like the Wise Men of old,  
the children of Our Lady of Sorrows  
have a special gift to offer:*



*All the people of the parish,  
their relatives and friends  
are invited to join the  
children of the OLS parish and school  
as they present the  
the 2024 Christmas Pageant*



*Sunday, December 8, 2024  
at 4:30 PM in the Church*





## Final Week of CCD for 2024

**Monday, December 9th**

Reconciliation Grades 3-8

Flex Day\* (Suggestion - Lesson 23: Christmas)

**Tuesday, December 10th**

Reconciliation Grades 3-8

Flex Day\* (Suggestion - Lesson 23: Christmas)

### CCD Calendar

\*As a reminder, "Flex Days" are not optional in terms of attendance. They are simply days where catechists have a choice about the material to be covered in class. While the calendar suggests a deeper dive into Christmas (Lesson 23), catechists can also take the time to do things like review a previous topic, work on an extensive craft project or conduct a service project.



## Homeschooling Connection

**Week of December 8th**

Chapter 23 - Christmas

### **Christmas Collection**

All of the families in our homeschooling program are encouraged to participate in all of our service projects and collections. Please help us in our Christmas collection for homebound members of the parish. (See flyer below.) Items may be left in the collection bin in the vestibule of the church. Thank you!

## Reconciliation

In-person CCD students will be celebrating Reconciliation the afternoons of December 9th and 10th. If you would like to bring your child by for confession, we can put him or her in the beginning of the CCD student line and you can be on your way back home quickly. If those days don't work with your family schedule, you can always bring your child to Reconciliation Saturday afternoons from 12:45 - 2:00 in the church. As a reminder, Catholics are asked to celebrate Reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

## Calendar

Like our in-person students, our homeschoolers also have the last three weeks of the calendar year off from CCD. *However*, if your child is not up to date on their work, it is strongly encouraged that you take some time over the next few weeks to catch up.



## Gospel Reflection Stickers for the Week

Many people are surprised when they walk into Mass on the First Sunday of Advent and find it to be a little bit more subdued than they were expecting. They are often doubly surprised to hear that the Gospel is once again about the end of days and Jesus' second coming. The Gospel points out that many people will be too distracted by things like eating, drinking and worrying to recognize the signs of the end of the world.

To highlight the idea of the dangers of distraction, our Opening Service started with a game of Family Feud asking the kids to identify the top eight causes of distracted driving. Spiritual distraction is just as dangerous! And much like highway hypnosis, we can often be so caught up in the day to day routines of life that we forget about God. Thankfully, Jesus offers us an antidote to distraction: prayer!

## It's Almost Showtime!

You might be surprised to learn how many kids know the plot of *Frosty the Snowman* or *Elf* better than they know the actual story of Christmas. Participation in the church's annual pageant is a great way to help the HUGE idea of the incarnation stick in your child's brain. It's not too late to sign up. Our only rehearsal is this Friday from 4:30 to 7:00 for the bigger kids and 6:00 - 7:00 for kids in grades K-3.

### Help Bring Christmas Joy to our Parish at our Annual Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 8, 2024



This Advent, the children of Our Lady of Sorrows can help prepare the hearts of everyone in the parish for the coming of Jesus Christ in a very special way: by participating in the OLS Christmas pageant. The birth of our Savior is VERY BIG news worth sharing with everyone! Please help us deliver this exciting message by having your child participate in our upcoming pageant. It's a fun way for kids to learn about their faith and a great opportunity for them to share their many talents - acting, singing and storytelling - with others. The commitment is minimal, costumes are provided and the photos are always PRICELESS!

Please email Colleen McDonald at [sorrowschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sorrowschurch@gmail.com) if your child in grades K-8 would like to participate. Or sign up electronically via the SignUpGenius!

#### Pageant Roles

**K and Grade 1:**  
Lambs

**Grade 2:**  
Angels

**Grade 3:**  
Shepherds

**Grades 4 and Up:**  
Central Figures

\* Costumes Provided for  
All Cast Members



#### Pageant Schedule

**Practice**  
**Friday, December 6th**  
4:30 - 7:00 pm (Grades 4-8)  
6:00 - 7:00 pm (Grades K-3)  
upper church

**Pageant Day**  
**Sunday, December 8th**  
Central figures  
arrive 3:00 pm, upper church  
Sheep, Angels and Shepherds  
arrive 4:00 pm, St. Joseph's Hall

#### Pageant Showtime 4:30 - 5:00 pm

Join us for our Christmas Pageant Pizza Social immediately following the show in St. Joseph's Hall  
\$25 per family

[Sign Up to Participate in the Pageant Here](#)



## Post-Pageant Pizza Social

Sunday, December 8th

*around 5:00 pm*

Dinner and a show - it's a thing. Be sure to reserve your spot for all the post-pageant pizza party fun today. What better way is there to cheer on our cast than to hang out and eat pizza with your friends from the parish?!?

Thanks in advance to catechist Liz Ebert and her family for organizing the pizza social for the past several years. Liz's youngest child is now in high school, and she'd love to pass this fun and easy event on to another family. **If you can help Liz with this one-time a year event, please let us know.** (We had found someone, but she's having a baby in just a few weeks and is moving!)

[RSVP for Pizza Party HERE](#)

## Last Week for our Christmas Goodie Bag Collection

Thank you to all of you who have sent your children in with items for our Christmas Goodie Bag Collection. If you would still like to donate, there is still time as our collection ends on Tuesday, December 10th: our last day of CCD.

# CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAG COLLECTION

## TO BENEFIT OLS' HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS


Please donate the item(s) listed next to your child's grade. Items will be collected at CCD until December 10th.

- K & GRADE 1:** 2 BOXES OF SHORTBREAD OR HOLIDAY COOKIES
- GRADE 2:** 1 BOX OF TISSUES **AND** 1 CAN OF COFFEE
- GRADE 3:** 1 SMALL JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER **AND** 1 SMALL JAR OF JELLY
- GRADE 4:** 2 SMALL BOXES OF TEA BAGS
- GRADE 5:** 1 BAG OF HOLIDAY CHOCOLATES **AND** 1 PACKAGE OF SNACK-SIZED FRUIT CUPS OR APPLESAUCE
- GRADE 6:** 1 LIP BALM **AND** 1 BOX OF HOT CHOCOLATE
- GRADE 7:** 2 SMALL TUBES OF HAND CREAM
- GRADE 8:** 2 SMALL BOTTLES OF SOAP

**NO BULK-SIZED ITEMS PLEASE!  
ANY EXCESS ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
OLS FOOD PANTRY.**

## Mark Your Calendars Now!

Our parish has something for everyone this Advent. Look at all our offerings and then plan on signing up for all those of interest! We hope to see you at an event or two!



PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!

# ADVENT AT OLS

+ our Christmas Mass Schedule

CHECK OUR BULLETIN AND WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

<p><b>Sunday</b> December 1st</p> <p><b>Advent Wreath Blessing and Decorating</b></p> <p>11am-12:30pm (after 10am Mass)</p> <p>Have your wreath blessed and decorated at this favorite family-friendly event.</p> <p>RSVP: Teresa G. at <a href="mailto:teresa.geis@gmail.com">teresa.geis@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Monday</b> December 2nd</p> <p><b>Parish Penance Service</b></p> <p>7:00pm-8:00pm</p> <p>Come receive the Sacrament of Confession and have your sins forgiven!</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> December 4th</p> <p><b>Women's Advent by Candlelight</b></p> <p>7:00pm-9:00pm</p> <p>A night of prayer and fellowship for women to focus on the Reason for the Season.</p> <p>RSVP: Colette G. at <a href="mailto:adventbycandlelightols@gmail.com">adventbycandlelightols@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> December 7th</p> <p><b>Waiting with Mary: A Morning of Reflection</b></p> <p>8:30am-12:30pm</p> <p>Includes breakfast, a talk by guest speaker Fr. Doug Milewski, adoration, Mass &amp; confessions. Babysitting available!</p> <p>RSVP: John R. at <a href="mailto:maryleads2@aol.com">maryleads2@aol.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> December 8th</p> <p><b>Children's Christmas Pageant</b></p> <p>4:30pm-5:00pm</p> <p>Join us as our parish children re-enact the Nativity story. <b>Family Pizza Social immediately following!</b></p> <p>Contact Jen N. at <a href="mailto:jennollols@gmail.com">jennollols@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Monday</b> December 9th</p> <p><b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)</b></p> <p>Mass Times: 7:00 am 9:30am (School Mass), 12:00 noon and 7:00pm.</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> December 15th</p> <p><b>Carol Sing with Live Nativity</b></p> <p>4:00pm-5:30pm</p> <p>Join our parish choirs and the Gramercy Brass in our annual Carol Sing. Followed by a live nativity on the plaza. All are welcome - no RSVP needed.</p>	<p><b>+ CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE +</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve):</b> 4pm, 7pm, 10pm ("Midnight Mass")</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day):</b> 8am, 10am, 11:30am</p>

## The Prefect Way to Get into the Holiday Spirit

### Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, December 15th!

Be sure to set aside some time on Sunday the 15th to enjoy the OLS choirs presenting some of the most beautiful music of the year. Our St. Cecilia Singers will be performing, so come out to cheer them on. (They are rather cute.) And afterward, be sure to visit with the animals and the OLS Youth Group as they present the "living nativity".

# CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
217 PROSPECT STREET  
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ

Please join Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Music Ministry for our annual Carol Sing and Living Nativity presented by the parish Youth Ministry. Our parish choirs will lead us into the Christmas Spirit with the Gramercy Brass Quintet, Harp, Flute and Kristin Johnson at the organ.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

4:00PM







## **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2024**

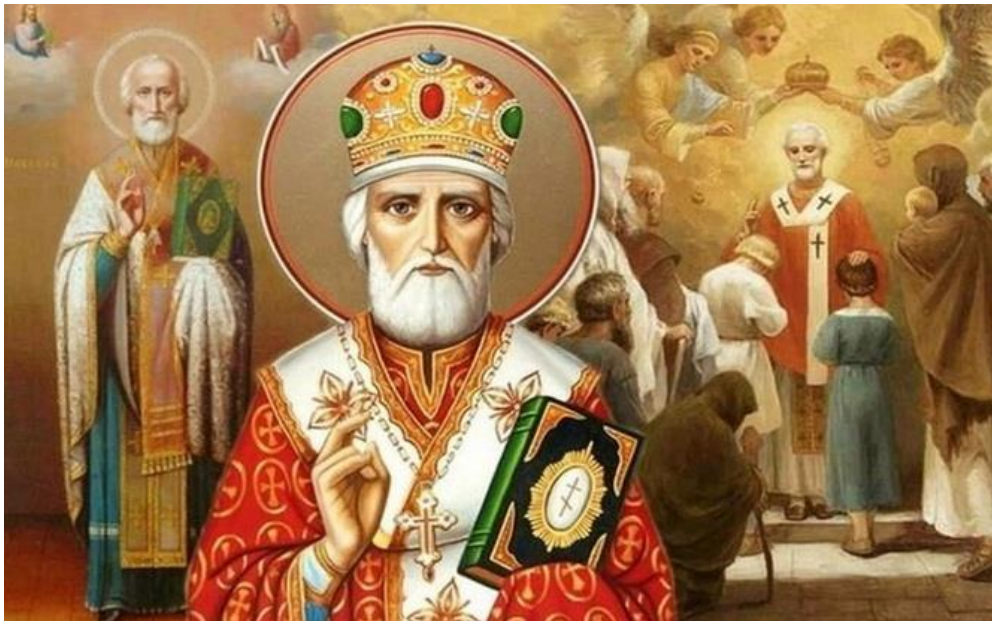
Our Blessed Mother is recognized and celebrated in a special way on Dec. 8, 2024, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Since Dec. 8 falls on a Sunday, and because all Sundays take precedence, **the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this year will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 9.** Mass times at OLS are as follows:

7:00 am

9:30 am (OLS School Mass - All are welcome)

12:00 pm

7:00 pm



## **SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK**

**St. Nicholas**

**Feast Day:** November 6th

**Patron Saint of:** Children, Unmarried People, Fishermen, Pawnbrokers, and the Falsely Accused

**Attributes in Art:** Bishop's clothes including mitre and staff, white beard

Saint Nicholas was the bishop of Myra (modern-day Turkey) in the fourth century. Very little is known about his life as a bishop, but many miracles have been attributed to his intercession and many stories have been passed down about his deeds.

One thing is certain, Saint Nicholas is known for his generosity. After his parents died, Saint Nicholas gave away all his inheritance to the poor.

Then there was a man in Myra with three beautiful daughters. In the ancient world a father needed to give money to the men who married his daughters. This money was called a dowry. Without a dowry, the girls would have to become slaves to make ends meet. This man didn't have any money and he didn't think he would ever be able to help his daughters get married.

St. Nicholas heard about the family's troubles, but the man refused to receive any gifts from him. So, Saint Nicholas came to the man's house at night with a bag full of gold. Stockings were hung by the fire to dry throughout the night. Saint Nicholas threw the gold through the window and they miraculously landed inside the stockings. With this gold the daughters were finally able to get married.

This story is the reason many Christians today still set shoes out on Saint Nicholas Day and hang stockings on their fireplaces for Christmas.

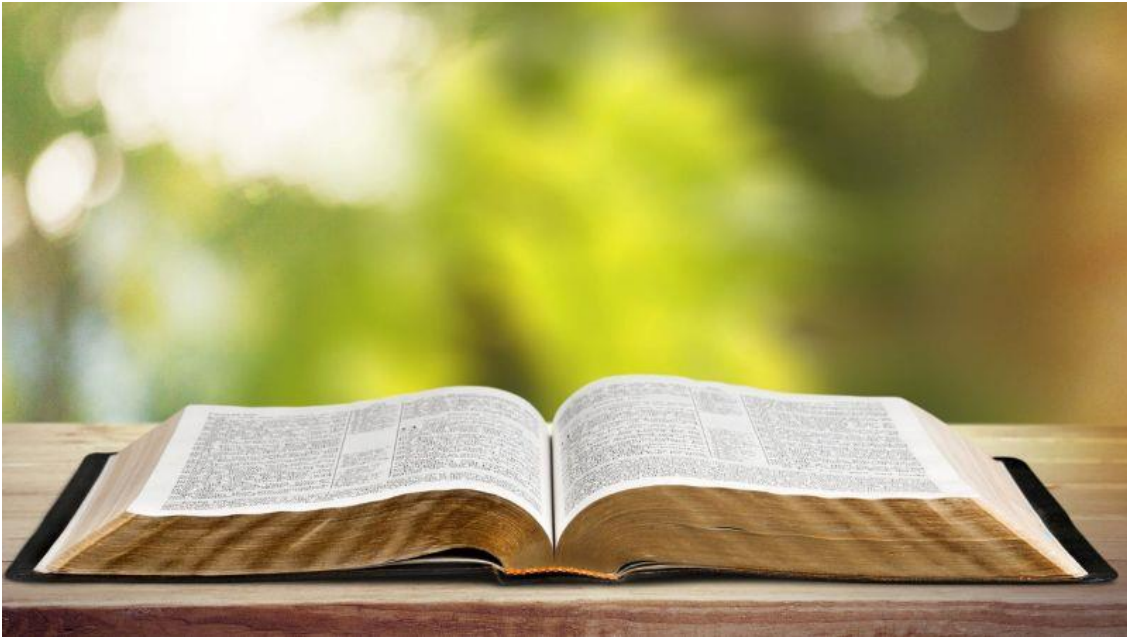


## St. Nicholas versus Santa Claus

I bet your kids could tell you a hundred "facts" about Santa Claus, but how about St. Nicholas? Help them know more about the bishop whose life the legend of Santa Claus is based on by checking out some of the following ideas from around the internet:

- [St. Nicholas Prayer](#) (Loyola Press)
- [St. Nicholas Pre-schooler Crafts](#) (The Kennedy Adventures)
- [St. Nicholas Activities and Prayer Service](#) (Sadlier)
- [St. Nicholas Ideas, Printables, and More!](#) (Catholic Icing)

- [Celebrating St. Nicholas](#) (Catholic Digest)
- [St. Nicholas Classroom Activities](#) (St. Nicholas Center)
- [St. Nicholas Feast Day Traditions](#) (Koala Mom)
- [Meet Saint Nicholas](#) (Teaching Catholic Kids)
- [Celebrating St. Nicholas Day](#) (Blessed Is She)



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass then is 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:

[Second Sunday of Advent](#)  
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)  
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

## Mark 10 Mission Video - Little Liturgy for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

Living Faith Kids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

# KIDSCALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> Who will come in a cloud with power? (SEE DECEMBER 6)</p> <p>● Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</p> <p><b>1</b></p>		<p>SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p><b>4</b></p>		<p><b>A</b> The Son of Man</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> Who was the son of Zechariah? (SEE DECEMBER 11)</p> <p>● Luke 3:1-6</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>OUR LADY OF LORETO</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>SAINT DAMASUS I, POPE</p> <p><b>A</b> John (the Baptist)</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p>SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> How will the Christ baptize? (SEE DECEMBER 17)</p> <p>● Luke 3: 10-18</p> <p><b>15</b></p>		<p><b>A</b> with the Holy Spirit and fire.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>				<p>SAINT PETER CANSIUS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p><b>21</b></p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> Who traveled to see Elizabeth? (SEE DECEMBER 28)</p> <p>● Luke 1:39-45</p> <p><b>22</b></p>		<p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p>SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</p> <p><b>A</b> Mary</p> <p><b>28</b></p>
<p>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</p> <p><b>Q</b> How many days were Jesus' parents looking for him? (SEE DECEMBER 30)</p> <p>● Luke 2:41-52</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>A</b> Three days</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p>SAINT SYLVESTER I, POPE</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Word of the month:</b></p> <p><b>CRÈCHE</b></p> <p>Models of people and animals present at Jesus' birth.</p>			

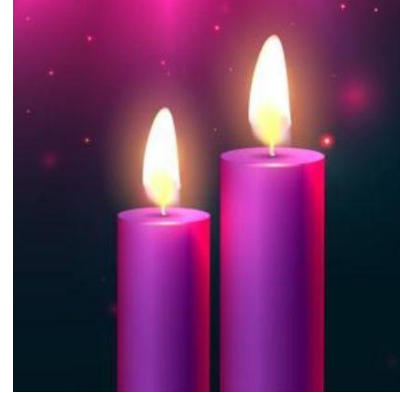
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[Download the December Catechist Magazine Calendar HERE](#)

## Catholic Trivia

**Question:** The first purple candle, which we lit last Sunday, was called the "Prophecy Candle." This Sunday we will light the second purple Advent candle. It also has a special name. It is called:

- a) the Bethlehem Candle
- b) the Candle of Truth
- c) Gabriel's Candle
- d) the Shepherd's Candle



**Answer: a** The second candle on the Advent wreath is often called the "Bethlehem Candle," and it represents how Jesus' arrival on Earth signaled the arrival of true peace. Emmanuel – God with us – the very presence of God in human form, made peace possible. We can now access "peace that surpasses human understanding."

## Joke of the Week

**Question:** *How do you feel when you can't get to the chocolate in your Advent calendar?*

**Answer:** Foiled!

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)