

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter December 11 - December 18, 2024



A Triumph!

Congratulations to our 2024 OLS Christmas Pageant cast and crew! It was a great show and everyone in attendance was impressed by how well these 71 kids from the school and the CCD program came together to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' birth.

If you missed the big show, consider bringing your kids to see the Youth Group present the Living Nativity immediately following Sunday's 4:00 pm Carol Sing. No matter how many animals they have on the rectory lawn though, I am certain that our pageant sheep were cuter!



CCD Resumes in January 2025

Monday, January 6th

Lesson 12: *How do we respond to God's love?*

Tuesday, January 7th

Lesson 10: *How are we strengthened for service to God and others?*

CCD Calendar



Homeschooling Connection

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.



Forgiveness - Better Than Stickers!

We held an abbreviated Opening Service this week at CCD so that we could do a group Examination of Conscience before students in grades 3-8 celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So, no stickers, but lots of forgiveness which, quite frankly, is much better.

If you would like to celebrate Reconciliation prior to Christmas, priests can be found in the church from 12:45 - 2:00 Saturday afternoons. You can also call the church office to schedule an appointment.



Multiple Basketball Offerings

Knights of Columbus Foul Shot Contest

See Flyer Below for Details

St. Joe's CYO Basketball Clinic

There is still time for CCD students in Grades K, 1 and 2 to sign up for the St. Joseph's Basketball Clinic.

The clinic is on Saturday mornings at St. Joseph's. 2nd grade from 8:30 to 9:30 and K & 1 from 9:30 to 10:30. For more info contact Gerry O'Connor at stjosephcyobb@aol.com.



Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the

Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- Girls and Boys ages 9-14 may participate in the competition (participants will compete within their age/gender group)
- Registration will take place upon arrival the day of the contest (parent/guardian must be present to fill out registration form)
- *No pre-registration required*
- Any questions please contact Lou Budzyn (kc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE



Thank You!

Thank you to all those families who participated in this year's Christmas Goodie Bag Collection to benefit the homebound members of the OLS community. Collected items, along with a dish towel, poinsettia and Church calendar will be delivered this weekend. We hope that they put a smile on everyone's faces and let them know that we are thinking of and praying for them!

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



OLS Christmas Carol Sing

Join Us!

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 be sure to come out to cheer them on. (They are rather cute.)

And afterward, stop by the rectory lawn and visit with some donkeys and goats as the OLS Youth Group presents the "living nativity." Refreshments will be served.



First Mass Held at the Reopened Notre Dame Cathedral

December 8th

The archbishop of Paris, Laurent Ulrich, on Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated the first Mass during which the altar of the restored cathedral was consecrated following the fire that ravaged the church in April 2019.

At the Mass, which was attended by the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, some 170 bishops from the country and from around the world concelebrated with Ulrich as well as one priest from each of the 106 parishes of the Archdiocese of Paris and one priest from each of the seven Eastern-rite Catholic churches.

If you would like to watch the inaugural Mass, click [HERE](#). If you fast forward to about an hour into

the recording, you can watch the archbishop placing relics of St. Marie Eugenie Milleret, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, St. Catherine Labouré, St. Charles de Foucauld, and Blessed Vladimir Ghika into a recess in the altar before consecrating the altar.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Lucy, virgin and martyr (aka Santa Lucia)

Feast Day: December 13th

Patron Saint of: The blind / Those with vision issues

Attributes in Art: Palm branch, eyeballs on a plate

Every little girl named Lucy must bite her tongue in disappointment when she first tries to find out what there is to know about her patron saint. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions. The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a

popular song has her name as its title, and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today's pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life.

Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Lucy's, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been crucified by the Romans after his own people turned him over to their authority. Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity.

What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found, but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged.

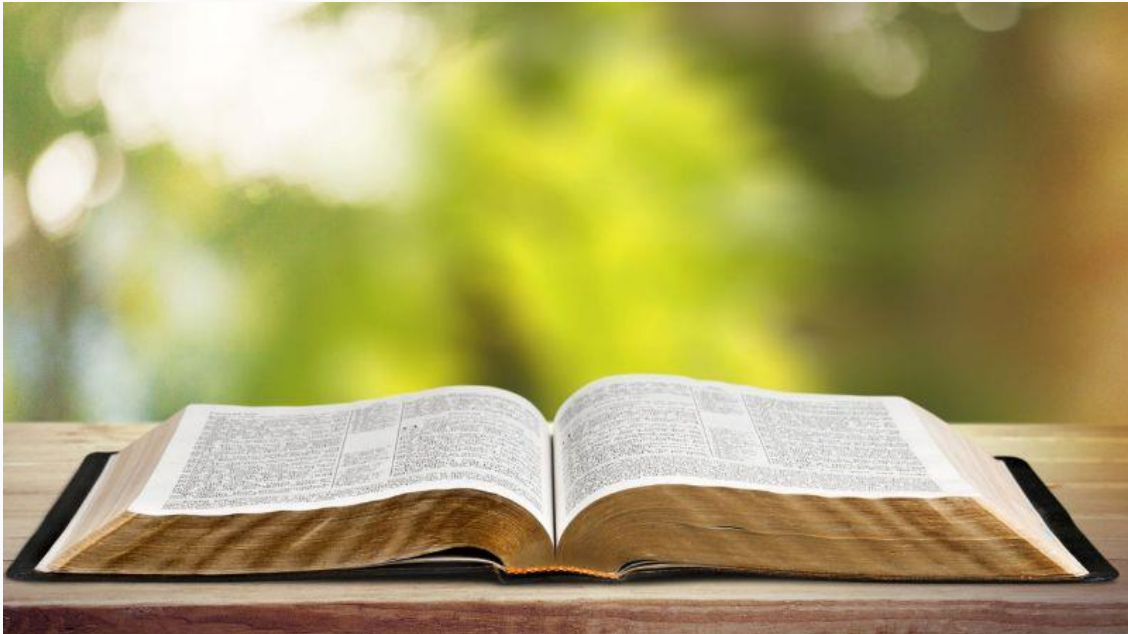
Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight.



Kids LOVE Celebrating the Feast of St. Lucy!

Here are a few resources you can use to teach your kids about Saint Lucy and the light of Christ during this Advent season:

- [Saint Lucy's Candles Ornament Meditation](#) (Look to Him and Be Radiant)
 - [Saint Lucy's Day Crafts, Costumes, and Cooking](#) (Catholic Icing)
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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:

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

[Mark 10 Mission Video - Little Liturgy for the 3rd Sunday of Advent](#)

KIDSCALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who will come in a cloud with power? (SEE DECEMBER 6)</p> <p>• Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</p> <p>1</p>		<p>SAINTE FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</p> <p>3</p>	<p>SAINTE JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>4</p>		<p>A The Son of Man</p> <p>6</p>	<p>SAINTE AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>7</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who was the son of Zechariah? (SEE DECEMBER 11)</p> <p>• Luke 3:1-6</p> <p>8</p>	<p>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p> <p>9</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF LORETO</p> <p>10</p>	<p>A John (the Baptist)</p> <p>11</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</p> <p>12</p>	<p>SAINTE LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</p> <p>13</p>	<p>SAINTE JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>14</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q How will the Christ baptize? (SEE DECEMBER 17)</p> <p>• Luke 3:10-18</p> <p>15</p>		<p>A with the Holy Spirit and fire.</p> <p>17</p>				<p>SAINTE PETER CANSIUS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>21</p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who traveled to see Elizabeth? (SEE DECEMBER 26)</p> <p>• Luke 1:39-45</p> <p>22</p>		<p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>23</p>	<p>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>25</p>	<p>SAINTE STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</p> <p>26</p>	<p>SAINTE JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</p> <p>27</p>	<p>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</p> <p>A Mary</p> <p>28</p>
<p>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</p> <p>Q How many days were Jesus' parents looking for him? (SEE DECEMBER 30)</p> <p>• Luke 2:41-52</p> <p>29</p>	<p>A Three days</p> <p>30</p>	<p>SAINTE SYLVESTER I, POPE</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Word of the month:</p> <p>CRÈCHE</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: Last week, Pope Francis was gifted a new pope mobile from which automobile manufacturer?

- a) Chrysler
- b) Ford
- c) Mercedes Benz
- d) BMW



Answer: C

Pope Francis got an early Christmas gift from Mercedes Benz last week: an electric-powered pope mobile! Mercedes has been providing popes with pope mobiles since the first was given to Pope Pius IX in 1930. A team of specialists from different Mercedes locations worked for almost a year with representatives from the Vatican to build a car tailored to the Pope's needs.

The new electric car includes a rotating seat and handcrafted interior furnishings. Additionally, it offers all-wheel drive, designed particularly for the low speed the pope mobile is often driven through St. Peter's Square during public audiences. The Pope's new and improved car is also equipped with a retractable roof to protect him from the elements. The right side back door is built on rotating hinges, while the left is completely welded.

One of the main priorities for the new pope mobile was zero emissions, as the Vatican plans to convert all its vehicles to emission-free by 2030.

Joke of the Week

Question: *What do you call a blind reindeer?*

Answer: I have no eye deer!

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)