


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter December 18 - December 25, 2024



2024 Christmas Mass Times at OLS

Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00 pm Family Mass with St. Cecilia Singers and Youth Choir

7:00 pm Mass with Cantor

9:30 pm Concert with Parish Choir and Gramercy Brass Quintet

10:00 pm Solemn Mass

Christmas Day - December 25th

8:00 am Mass with Cantor

10:00 am Mass with Cantor

11:30 am Mass with Parish Choir



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.



OLS Carol Sing 2024

Our annual Carol Sing and Live Nativity was truly spectacular! We are so blessed at OLS to have such a wonderful music ministry. It is composed of 3 choirs: the St. Cecilia Children's Choir, the Youth Choir (high school), and the Parish Choir. All of them are directed by our Director of Music, Preston Dibble. He was assisted by: Kristin Johnson, who played organ and piano; Katie Andrews, on the harp; and John Romeri, on flute. They were joined by the amazing Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York. The beautiful music helped to remind us of the real reason for this holy season: the Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Carol Sing will be available on the parish's YouTube channel very soon.



Living Nativity

It was great to see so many of our CCD alum participating in the Living Nativity. These OLS Youth Group leaders, who meet regularly on Wednesday and Sunday evening to plan and lead discussions and experiences for their freshman and sophomore peers did a great job on a cold winter's night reenacting the scene in the stable of Bethlehem. They also did a good job controlling some wayward sheep and a kooky donkey named Seth. Well done. So great to see them living out their faith and being witnesses for the entire parish.



Forget Gingerbread Houses! Try This Instead.

Need something to do with the kids once they are home from school? Looking for an easy Christmas Craft focused on Jesus' birth to do with Grandma while she's here visiting? Try making this easy graham cracker nativity! Click [HERE](#) for instructions for this and other kid-friendly DIY nativity options.



Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

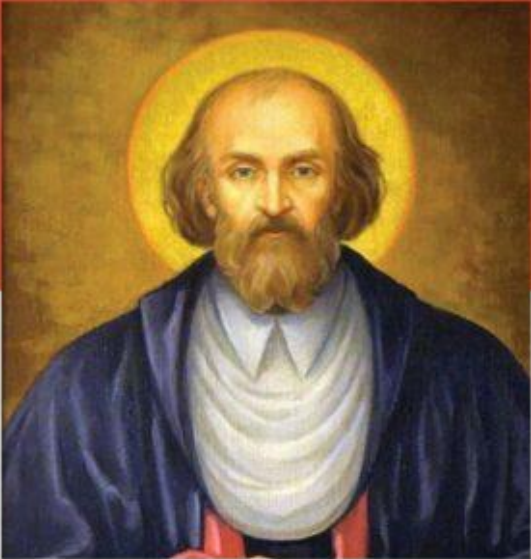
Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- 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 (lc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE

Knights of Columbus Foul Shot Contest

Not only do the Knights of Columbus run a delicious pancake breakfast, they're also quite good at running fun athletic events for kids like the annual Foul Shot Contest. If your child is into basketball, see the flyer for details and then come out to the OLS gym on January 10th. That's one fun thing to look forward to in the coming year!




#SomethingGoodIsOnTheWay

SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

Always live happy and glad,
that is how God wants it.

December 23



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

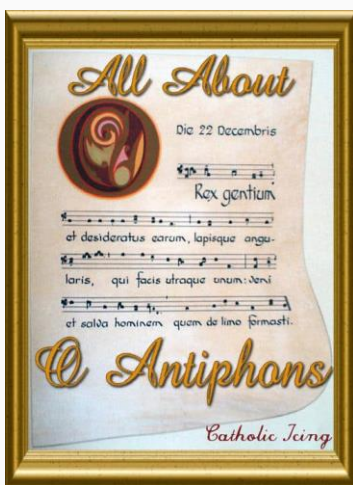
St. John of Kanty (aka John of Cantius)

Feast Day: December 23rd

Patron Saint of: Poland, Lithuania

John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life.

John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. Later John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.



O Antiphons - An Advent Tradition

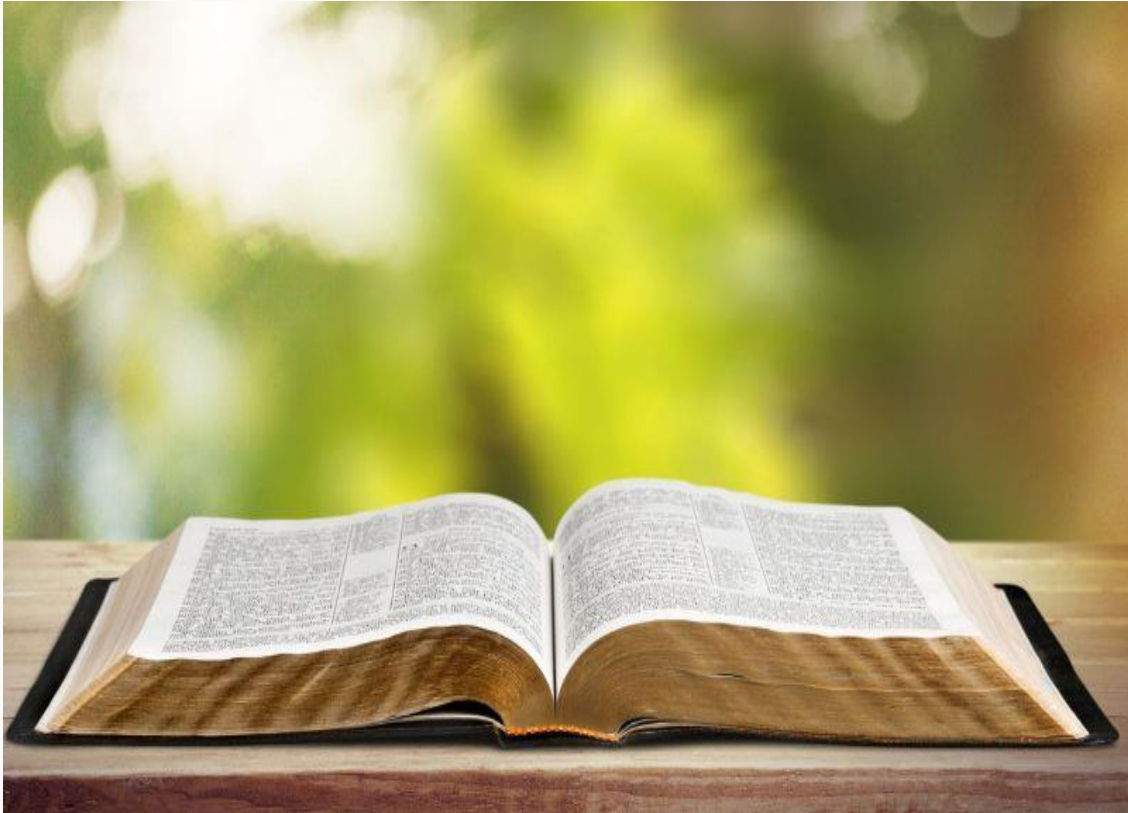
The O Antiphons are rich with meaning and make a truly wonderful Catholic tradition. Before you get overwhelmed, you should know that they do not *need* any kind of craft or manipulative to participate- you can simply pray and sing them.

Each night for the octave (8 days) before Christmas, we ask Christ to come, and call him by a different name. Each of these names starts with "O," such as "O Come O Come Emmanuel." An antiphon is a liturgical composition, and they are traditionally sung. Therefore, they are called the O Antiphons.

The O Antiphons started yesterday on Dec 17 and run through Dec 24. This time is known as the "second part of Advent" or "The Golden Nights." The O Antiphons are taken from the Liturgy of the Hours (specifically, evening prayers,

or “vespers”). So because they are traditionally said in the evening, there is not one for Dec 24 because the evening on Christmas Eve is already the vigil of Christmas, so we are no longer waiting.

For more information about the O Antiphons, click [HERE](#) and to download an O Antiphon activity pack, click [HERE](#).



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:

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Loyola Press: Sunday Connection
Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy

Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies - 4th Sunday of Advent

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

KIDSCALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Q Who will come in a cloud with power? <small>(SEE DECEMBER 6)</small></p> <p>• Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</p> <p>1</p>		<p>S SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>S SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>4</p>		<p>A The Son of Man</p> <p>6</p>	<p>S SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>7</p>
<p>Q Who was the son of Zechariah? <small>(SEE DECEMBER 11)</small></p> <p>• Luke 3:1-6</p> <p>8</p>	<p>S THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>S OUR LADY OF LORETO</p> <p>10</p>	<p>A John (the Baptist)</p> <p>11</p>	<p>S OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</p>  <p>12</p>	<p>S SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</p> <p>13</p>	<p>S SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>14</p>
<p>Q How will the Christ baptize? <small>(SEE DECEMBER 17)</small></p> <p>• Luke 3: 10-18</p> <p>15</p>		<p>A with the Holy Spirit and fire.</p> <p>17</p>				<p>S SAINT PETER CANISUS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p>  <p>21</p>
<p>Q Who traveled to see Elizabeth? <small>(SEE DECEMBER 28)</small></p> <p>• Luke 1:39-45</p> <p>22</p>		<p>S CHRISTMAS EVE</p>  <p>24</p>	<p>S THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY</p>  <p>25</p>		<p>S SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</p>  <p>27</p>	<p>A Mary</p> <p>28</p>
<p>Q How many days were Jesus' parents looking for him? <small>(SEE DECEMBER 30)</small></p> <p>• Luke 2:41-52</p> <p>29</p>	<p>A Three days</p> <p>30</p>	<p>S SAINT SYLVESTER, POPE</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Word of the month:</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CRÈCHE</h2> <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:

Which of the following titles for the Messiah is NOT one of the O Antiphons?

- a) O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
- b) O Adonai (O Lord),
- c) O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- d) O Albus Rex (O White King)



Answer:

D. O Albus Rex is NOT one of the O Antiphons, but rather two of the few Latin words Mrs. Noll knows.

Each of the O Antiphons highlights a different title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. A particularly fascinating feature of the O Antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation, when read backwards, forms an acrostic in Latin: the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel in reverse form the Latin words: ERO CRAS.

These can be understood as the words of Christ, responding to his people's plea, saying "Tomorrow I will be there."

Saying the O Antiphons as a family, whether during grace at meals, in front of the manger scene, or in front of the Christmas tree, is a wonderful Advent devotion. To make this devotion even more fruitful, read and meditate together on the Scripture texts on which the antiphons are based

Joke of the Week

Question: *What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar?*

Answer: He got 25 days!

Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jennollols@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
sorrowschurch@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)