


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter
December 25 - January 1, 2024



Merry Christmas!

Thank you, God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who came to live as one of us. Help us to live in his light and to walk in his way. Amen.



Christmas Day Mass Times at OLS

8:00 am Mass with Cantor

10:00 am Mass with Cantor

11:30 am Mass with Parish Choir



Christmas Tree Symbolism

The Christmas tree has a special meaning in the Christian tradition. The evergreen tree stays green all year long. It reminds us of eternal life, even in the cold of winter. It symbolizes the life that Jesus gives to those who believe in Him. This life is everlasting, just like the evergreen tree.

The lights on the Christmas tree also have a deep meaning. Jesus called Himself the “light of the world.” The lights on the tree remind us of this promise. They are a symbol of the light that Jesus brings into a world that is often dark. Just as the lights shine in the night, Jesus’ love and hope shine in our hearts

When we see the Christmas tree, we can think about how Jesus brings us life and light. The tree is more than just a decoration. It is a symbol of God’s love for us. It points us to Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. This makes the tree an important part of our holiday traditions.

If you haven't blessed your Christmas tree, don't worry! It's not too late - the Christmas season has technically just begun! Click [HERE](#) for more information on how to bless your Christmas tree and add a beautiful new tradition to your holiday celebration.



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

There are a few families who have fallen a bit behind with their CCD homeschooling work. Please make an effort to catch up if you are one of the families whose child has fallen behind. If you have questions about the homeschooling program or need assistance of any kind, please reach out to Jen Noll.



With Your Free "Formed" Subscription

One more Christmas gift! Did you know that as parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange you have free access to all of the Catholic content available on [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org)?

Simply go to [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org) and create an account. Click on "Sign up as a parishioner". When prompted to ask for the name of your parish, select Our Lady of Sorrows South Orange. You will then have access to great, free Catholic content.

Though I love *Frosty the Snowman*, this holiday season be sure to put on a few videos that illustrate the actual reason for the season. Check out Formed.org and share the stories of your faith with your kids.



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 groups)
- 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, but 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!



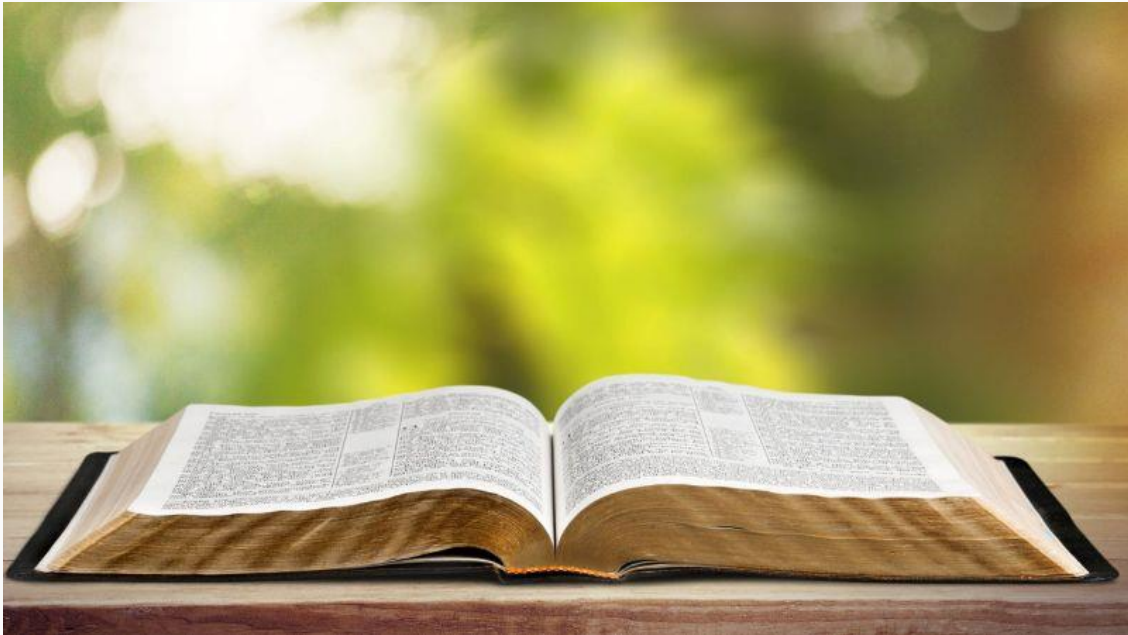
SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

December 25th

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us.



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 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:

[The Nativity of the Lord](#)
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

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 CANISUS, 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>24</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> <h2>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: Who was the first person to invent a string of electric Christmas lights?

- a) Alexander Graham Bell
- b) Thomas A. Edison



- c) Nikola Tesla
- d) Edward H. Johnson

Answer: d

Thomas Edison, inventor of the first successful practical light bulb, created the very first strand of electric lights. During Christmas 1880, strands of lights were strung outside his Menlo Park, New Jersey, laboratory, giving railroad passengers traveling by their first look at an electrical light display. But it would take almost 40 years for electric Christmas lights to become a tradition.

Before electric Christmas lights, families used candles to light their Christmas trees. This practice was dangerous and led to many home fires. In 1882, Edward H. Johnson, Edison's friend and partner, put together the very first string of electric lights meant for a Christmas tree. He hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs and wound them around his Christmas tree. Not only was the tree illuminated with electricity, but it also revolved.

Joke of the Week

Question: *What did the grumpy sheep say when his friends wished him a merry Christmas?*

Answer: Baaaaaah Humbug!

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)