

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter February 12 - February 19, 2025



CCD in February

Remaining Mondays

February 17th

NO CCD - President's Day Break

February 24th

Lesson 17: *Why do we pray?*

Remaining Tuesdays

February 18th

NO CCD - President's Day Break

February 25th

Lesson 16: *What is Prayer?*

[CCD Calendar](#)



Homeschooling Connection

Week of February 16th

No CCD - President's Day Break - Enjoy!

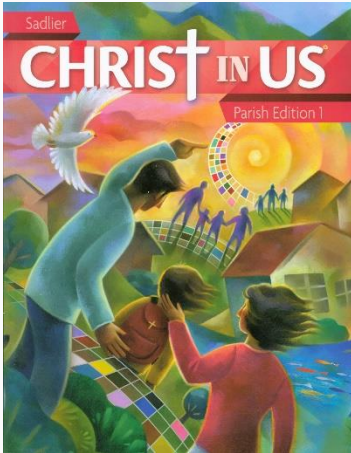
If your children have fallen behind in their work, please use the long weekend to catch up!



Gospel Reflection Stickers

Ask your children if they can tell you why they received a sticker with a weirdo fish stew on it. This Sunday's Gospel was the story of the call of Simon Peter, a fisherman. At our Opening we discussed how several of the apostles (Peter, Andrew, James and John) were fishermen who were tasked by Jesus to become fishers of men and not just fish. We then discussed the idea that the apostles would have fished for all sorts of fish - not just the kind of carp and tilapia favored by the Jews in the area. The smaller, less desirable fish were used to make "garum": the ancient world's most popular condiment made from fermented fish pieces and guts. Our big takeaway: we ALL have an important contribution to make. God can use the gifts of even the smallest of us to create something wonderful.

Garum's closest readily available modern-day equivalent in terms of taste is apparently Worcestershire Sauce. Mrs. Noll is fine with cooking with it, but does not recommend drinking it straight.



Christ in Us Make Up Work

Just a reminder that when your children are absent from CCD, that they are still able to stay on track with the rest of their peers by completing the lesson assigned in their *Christ in Us* student portal. Through the portal, students have access to the online version of their workbooks, so they have everything they need - as long as you have access to a computer, tablet or phone.

Missed assignments are generally posted the next day following a student's absence from class. All parents were sent information about how to login to their child's account. In case you need the information again, here you go:

OLS's parish login

page: <https://www.christinus.com/@PAR070795454>.

(It's a good idea to bookmark this.)

All students have been assigned a unique username and password to be used with the *Christ in Us* student portal.

- Student username = first initial of first name and last name (ie: Rebecca Noll's username = rnell)*
- Student password = student

*In the event that multiple children in the same family also have the same first initial, the username will be the student's complete first and last name, all lowercase (ie: Rebecca and Rachel Noll's usernames = rebeccanoll and rachelnoll).



There's NO CCD This Week

Consider Reading the Bible with Your Kids

I really liked the short article "[Help! I don't feel confident with the Bible: Resources and Ideas for You and Your Family](#)". Consider this rather unusual argument put forth in the article in favor of spending a few minutes with your kids and scripture: "*The Bible covers every kind of situation in life, not only joy, serenity and comfort, but rage, despair and doubt. Reading the Bible with our children helps them to see that all these are acceptable emotions: being angry with God when something terrible happens is not only human, it's biblical.*" How did Jonah, Job or Elijah handle being angry with God? Open that Bible with your kids and find out!



Empowering God's Children Reminder

Attn: Parents in Grades K-7*

Due to the generally low levels of participation at the in-person Empowering God's Children workshops held for the past two years, the Archdiocese of Newark is now asking all families with students in its religious education programs to complete the two Empowering God's Children lessons designated for this year with their children.

This year the Archdiocese of Newark is asking parents to partner with us to teach the two lessons below:

Lesson 1 - Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules: Students learn simple rules about what to do and how to react when someone's touch is confusing, scary, or makes the child or young person feel uncomfortable. Young people start to deal with the real risks they face when they are out in the world and on their own, and they begin to learn where to draw boundary lines in relationships.

Lesson 2 - Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults: Children, young people, and their parents establish basic guidelines for working together to make certain which friends and other adults in their environment can be trusted to act safely and in the best interest of each child or young person.

Here are the links to the lessons, as well as introductory videos for you:

[Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide: Guide for Caring Adults, Parents and Guardians](#)

[Empowering God's Children Introductory Video - Grade K-5](#)

Lesson 1 - Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules Plans by Grade:

[Grades K-2 Lesson One](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson One](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson One](#)

Lesson 2 - Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults Plans by Grade:

[Grades K-2 Lesson Two](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Two](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Two](#)

Each of the linked lesson plans contains several different options for presenting the core material for each lesson. You do not have to complete all of the options for your child to be considered "trained". You simply have to present material in the way you, as a parent, feel is the most appropriate given your family's unique circumstance and dynamic. If you would like our office to make hard copies of any of the lesson plans, please reach out and we would be happy to send them home.

We thank you in advance for partnering with us in our efforts to protect our children. Please reach out to Jen Noll if you have any immediate questions about

the material provided. For more information about how the Archdiocese of Newark's Department for the Protection of the Faithful is committed to complying with the Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Karen Clark at Karen.Clark@rcan.org.

*Parents of students in grade 8 are not being asked to participate in this at-home training as, after a review of the Health curriculum for the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education by the Archdiocese of Newark's Department for the Protection of the Faithful, it was determined that training of this nature is already being conducted in the public school classroom.

[Let us Know if You've Talked with Your Kids about Lessons 1 and 2 - Short Parent / Guardian Acknowledgement Form](#)

Attention Moms!

Join Your Parish Friends for an Exciting Afternoon

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR OLS

Women's Retreat

\$20 per person!

Saturday February 22, 2025
12PM to 4pm (includes Mass and lunch)

**Theme: Trust in God, for You are Fearfully and
Wonderfully Made!**



Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin, MD

Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin is a Nationally respected physician, teacher, lecturer and author. In her 40 year career as a specialist in Neonatal Intensive Care, she has been recognized as a top Neonatologist by: US News and World Report, New York Magazine and Catholic New York, and has been featured in a number of TV documentaries. Recently retired as Chairman of Newborn Medicine & Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Columbia University, Dr. Marron-Corwin serves as a Trustee at St. Philomena's Parish, Livingston. She has been an Oblate of St. Benedict at St. Mary's Abbey for the past 25 years. Married for the past 37 years to Dr. Andrew Corwin, they have 3 adult children.

We are so excited to welcome Dr. Mary to speak as a lay Catholic woman and mother on the topic of our retreat this year: "Trust in God, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made!" We know of the joy and zeal that her contributions will bring to our women's community on retreat, and we encourage you to join us for the afternoon!

For questions and registration, please contact
Melanie at: mchambers97@comcast.net

Our Lady of Sorrows Church | South Orange, NJ

MEANING OF THE LOGO

of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION
SECTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL
QUESTIONS REGARDING
EVANGELIZATION IN THE WORLD

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.





SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Feast Day: February 17th

Invoked to: aid in the imitation of the charity and patience of Our Lady of Sorrows

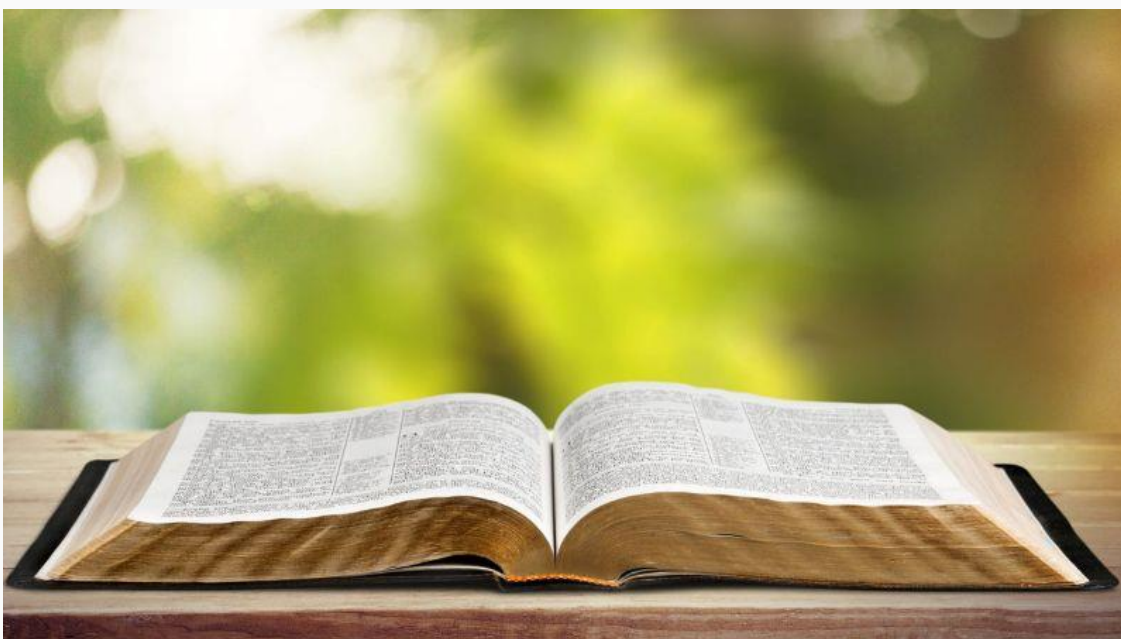
Can you imagine seven prominent men of Boston or Denver banding together, leaving their homes and professions, and going into solitude for a life directly given to God? That is what happened in the cultured and prosperous city of Florence in the middle of the 13th century. The city was torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless.

In 1240, seven noblemen of Florence mutually decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. Their initial difficulty was providing for their dependents, since two were still married and two were widowers. Their aim was to lead a life of penance and prayer, but they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic

Orders. Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in parochial work, teaching, preaching, and other ministerial activities.

Within a short time ten thousand people had enrolled in the Servite Order. Some of the first foundations were at Siena, Pistoia, Arezzo, Cafaggio, Prato, and Lucca. Many parts of the world saw foundations established over the subsequent years. In the 19th century it reached England and USA. The order developed the three most common devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows: the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows, the Black Scapular of the Seven Dolours of Mary and the Novena to Our Sorrowful Mother.



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:

[Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

[Maryknoll Brother's Gospel Reflection: Woeful Riches, Blessed poverty](#)

[Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies: Jesus is Always With You](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: Which of the following organizations was the largest recipient of funds from USAID: United States Agency for International Development?

- A) Catholic Relief Services
- B) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- C) Global Relief Team
- D) World Health Organization

Answer: A

Many of you will be familiar with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and its Operation Rice Bowl as it was our CCD Program Lenten Collection beneficiary in 2023. That year our program raised \$834.27 to help those in dire need around the globe.



CRS is currently bracing for major cuts tied to the current administration's shutdown of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The organization was founded by Catholic bishops in the United States with a mission to "assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas." An email from CRS CEO Sean Callahan sent Monday noted that USAID supplied about half of the Catholic group's \$1.5 billion budget.

To learn more about Catholic Relief Services or to make a donation, click [HERE](#).

[Vatican News Article](#): *Caritas Asia Vows to Sustain Services Amid USAID Cutbacks*

Joke of the Week

Question: *"What would you get if you crossed a vegetable with the US's first president?"*

Answer: "George Squashington!"

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)