

# Religious Education



## CCD Family Newsletter February 19 - February 26, 2025



### Last CCD Class in February

**Monday, February 24th**

Lesson 17: *Why do we pray?*

**Tuesday, February 25th**

Lesson 16: *What is Prayer?*

[CCD Calendar](#)



### Homeschooling Connection

**Week of February 23rd**

Lesson 17: *Why do we pray?*

Maintaining a close relationship with anyone requires communication - usually the better the level of communication, the closer the relationship is. Prayer helps to maintain and sustain our relationship with God. Teaching your children to pray is one of the most important things that we as parents are tasked with, so this is a very important unit. I hope you find that in working with your child you grow closer not only to one another, but to the Lord.



## **Coffee and Donuts Anyone?**

**Sunday, February 23rd**

After the 10:00 am and 11:30 Masses

Combining your need for a sugar and caffeine fix with your Sunday Mass obligation - delicious! Join your parish family in St. Joseph's Hall immediately following the 10:00am or the 11:30am Mass for Coffee and Donuts. As usual, there will also be a religious craft or activity for the kids. Hope you can make it!



## **Pope Francis Hospitalized with Double Pneumonia**

Pope Francis, 88, was admitted to the hospital last Friday for treatment of bronchitis which has now turned into double pneumonia. Please keep the Holy Father and all of those who are sick in your prayers.

---



## **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](mailto: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](#)



**Mark Ten Mission - Pilgrims of Hope Little Liturgies**

---



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

### **The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**

**Feast Day: February 22nd**

When the pope cautions world leaders, pleads for peace, or condemns social injustice, people listen and respond. What makes the world listen to this man? The answer lies in Scripture and in Tradition. Peter is named first among the apostles of Jesus; he was often their spokesman and leader; he was the first to preach after Pentecost; and he was the leader in defending Christ and his message. Peter was at the Transfiguration and in the garden.

He proclaimed to Jesus, “You are the Christ,” and Christ singled him out:

“[S]o I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:18–19)

Jesus prayed for Peter that he might strengthen his brothers. (Luke 22:32) And Jesus gave Peter a threefold commission to “[f]eed my sheep.” (John 21:15–17)

From the beginning, the specialness, or primacy, of Peter has been recognized. On the feast of the Chair of Peter, we celebrate our unity as a Church. We celebrate the love, presence, and protection of Christ for us, the Church. The title Chair of Peter refers to the chair from which a bishop presided, a symbol of his authority. When the title refers to Saint Peter, it recalls the supreme teaching power of Peter and his successors. It is from the chair, from the pastoral power given him, that the pope shepherds Christ's flock.

## National Catholic Register Article: 9 Things You Need to Know About the Chair of St. Peter



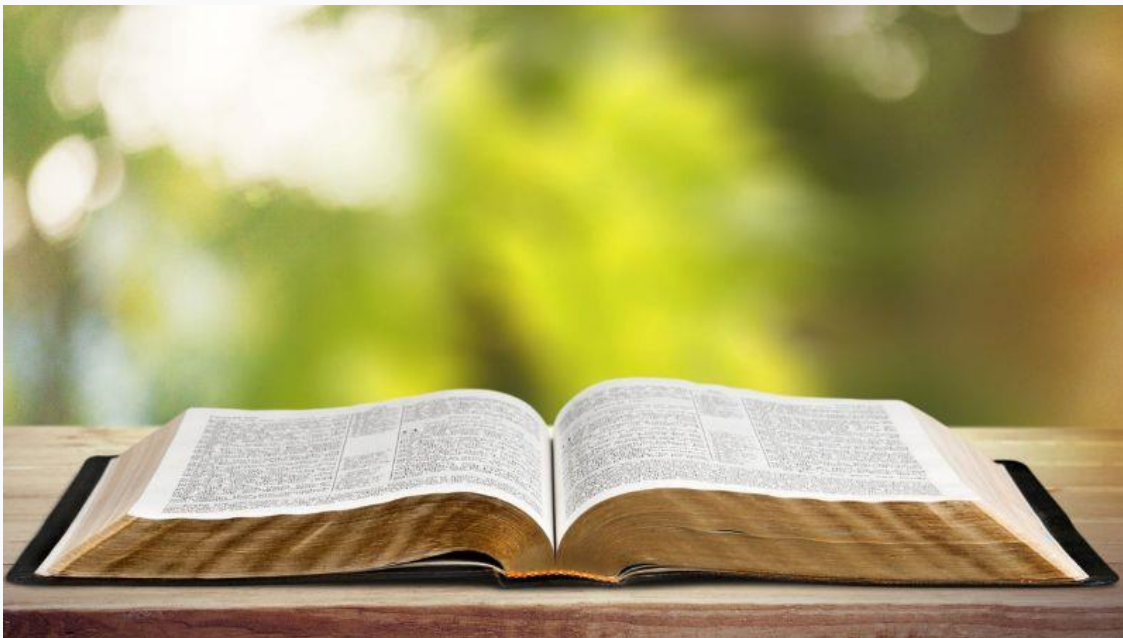
### **Teach Your Child About St. Peter Through Visio Divina**

I was pleasantly surprised two weeks ago when I subbed for Grade 1 and they totally rocked an introductory Lectio and Visio Divina exercise. In order to set the mood, I turned off the classroom lights and asked the kids to turn on their individual tea lights on at the desks before slowly reading each of four scripture stories about St. Peter. Then the students viewed and contemplated an image corresponding with the story I had just read. Finally, I asked them to respond to the four following questions:

1. What part of the story jumped out at you?
2. What part of the image do you like the best?
3. What does this story tell you about St. Peter?
4. What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Their reflections were spot on and insightful. (For instance, they looked at the image on the right and asked "Where's Jesus? He was in the story, why isn't he in the boat in the picture?") And, perhaps most unexpectedly, the guided reflection in the dim lighting captured the attention of even the squirmiest 1st grader. Your kids CAN prayerfully engage with scripture! Give it a try at home!

---



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:

[Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)  
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)  
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

---



---

## Catholic Trivia

**Question:** In the history of the Church, there have been 266 popes, from St. Peter to Pope Francis. Some popes have been members of particular religious orders. Which religious order can claim the most popes as one of their own?



- A) Augustinians
- B) Benedictines
- C) Cistercians
- D) Dominicans

**Answer: B** The Benedictines can claim the most popes by far with 17. Pope Francis is the only Jesuit pope. In order, the religious orders that popes have belonged to are as follows:

- 17 Benedictines
  - 6 Augustinians
  - 4 Canons Regular
  - 4 Franciscans
  - 4 Dominicans
  - 2 Conventual Franciscans
  - 2 Cistercians
  - 1 Caldomese
  - 1 Jesuit
-

## **Joke of the Week**

**Question:** *"What was one sheep overheard telling another sheep on Valentine's Day?"*

**Answer:** "I love ewe!"

**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\*\*](#)