

Religious Education

CCD Family Newsletter
February 5 - February 12, 2025



Welcome February!

Monday, February 10th

Lesson 15: *What is prayer?*

Tuesday, February 11th

Lesson 14: *What turns us toward God's love?*

Monday and Tuesday

February 17th and February 18th

No CCD - President's Day Break

[CCD Calendar](#)



Homeschooling Connection

Week of February 9th

Lesson 16: What is prayer?

Homeschooling families - this is your unit to really shine! Communication is the cornerstone of any relationship. Prayer is the way that we communicate with God. Help your children develop and strengthen their relationship with God by praying with your children at home. If you don't have a prayer routine, the unit on prayer is a great time to start!



Gospel Reflection Stickers

On Sunday, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. During the Presentation, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 40 days after his birth to be presented to God in the Temple where they offered sacrifice to God. During our opening service, we discussed how we might be familiar with the concept of someone or something being "presented" to a larger group through the use of sound effects or sounds in movies (the trumpet heraldry being the most popular). I asked them to imagine the trumpet sound being played as Mary and Joseph walked into the Temple, "Presenting - Jesus! The Savior of the World!"



We LOVE Seeing Your Child, BUT...

For the health of the other students in our program as well as our catechists, please keep your children home from CCD if they have had a fever or have been vomiting within the 24 hours prior to the start of CCD - just like the policy in the public schools. While we love seeing your children each week, learning is a lot more effective when everyone involved is healthy.

One of the reasons we moved to our new curriculum is so your family can access the online version of the workbooks from home if your children are sick. Don't worry, we'll be sure to post missed assignments to their *Christ in Us* portal for them to be able to make up work when they are feeling better. Thanks!



Attn: Sacramental Prep Families First Eucharist Inscription Mass Sunday, February 9th

10:00 Family Mass

11:00 Coffee and Donuts

All of our sacramental preparation families should plan on attending our First Eucharist Inscription Mass for a commissioning and blessing after the homily to officially "kick off" (no SuperBowl pun intended) their period of preparation. Then, be sure to stop by our table at Coffee and Donuts immediately following the Mass to pick up your gift from the parish.



Coffee and Donuts

After the 10:00 and 11:30 Masses

St. Joseph's Hall

Honestly, who doesn't like donuts!?! Feed your spirit in the upper church at Mass and then feed your sweet tooth in St. Joseph's Hall immediately following the Mass at Coffee and Donuts.

Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Noll will be available for questions about the CCD Program after they give out this year's First Eucharist gifts. Or, just stop by our table near the entrance to St. Joseph's Hall to say hello.



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



Meet Luce's Friends

Mascot for the Jubilee Year 2025 Companions

Luce's dog, Santino (Italian for "little saint"), a dove named Aura (Italian for breeze), and a guardian angel named Jubi (diminutive of Jubilee) provide inspiration and protection. Luce's friends on pilgrimage with her are Fe (Faith in Spanish), Xin (Truth in Japanese), and Sky.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Scholastica, Virgin

Feast Day: February 5th

Patron Saint of: Benedictine nuns, education, convulsive children,
protection from rain or storms

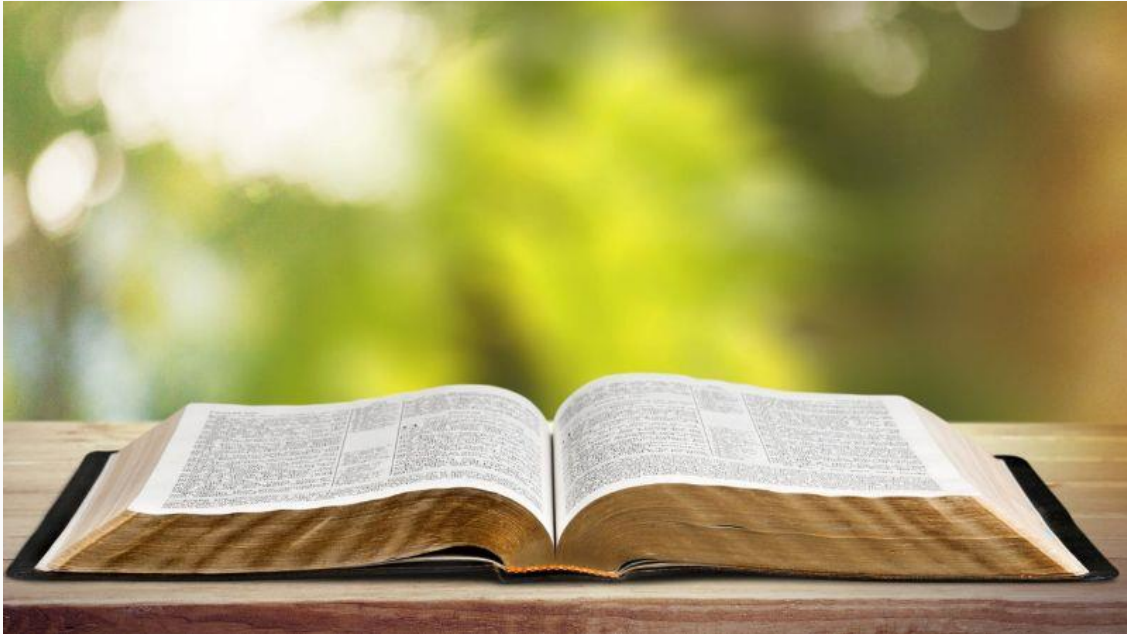
Saint Scholastica was the twin sister of Saint Benedict. Benedict studied in Rome but then decided to devote all of his life to the search for God. He organized several community dwellings and finally established a very important monastery at Monte Cassino. Then Scholastica helped her brother found a community of religious women about five miles south of his monastery.

Scholastica and Benedict visited together only once a year. They would spend the day praying and speaking of God and the spiritual life.

When Benedict said he had to return to the monastery, Scholastica begged him to stay and talk awhile longer. Benedict refused, saying that his rule required that the monks be in their monastery at night. Heartbroken, Scholastica folded her hands, put her head on the table, and quietly wept and prayed. As she prayed, a storm began, so terrible that no one could venture out. "What have you done?" Benedict exclaimed to his sister. She explained that since he had refused the favor she has asked, she had turned to God instead, and God granted it. Benedict and Scholastica continued their conversation and prayer until morning.

Three days later, Scholastica died. The brother and sister had enjoyed their final conversation. Benedict had her buried in the tomb he had built for himself.

St. Gregory the Great said of Scholastica, "She could do more because she loved more."



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:**

[Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

["Discovering Hope in Uncharted Waters" MaryKnoll Gospel Reflection](#)

[Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies: Follow Me!](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: This coming Sunday's Gospel contains one of the greatest fishing stories of all time. Which of these three main species of fish caught by the disciples in Lake Gennesaret (aka The Sea of Galilee) is also known as "St. Peter's Fish"?

- a) Carp
- b) Catfish
- c) Tilapia

Answer: c

In April 2010 fishing was banned in the Sea of Galilee. This was the first time in 5,000 years the Sea did not provide fish for the local population. Fishing stocks had diminished due to overfishing and a virus had infected the most important fish, a species of tilapia known locally as St. Peter's fish. In 2013 one million healthy tilapias were released into the Sea to try to revive the species and the waters, as the fish feeds on a toxic weed that grows in the Sea.

The Sea of Galilee (also known as Lake of Gennesaret) is a fresh water lake in Israel 13 miles long and seven miles wide. Since biblical times the lake has been an important source of protein for the surrounding land and beyond. The fishing industry flourished in the time of Jesus with the ruling tetrarchs Herod and Philip, sons of King Herod, who made great investments in the industry and provided a stable political environment for it to grow. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus states that there were more



than 230 fishing boats working the Sea during that period.

The Apostles Peter and Andrew and their cousins were part of this highly successful industry. They owned their boat and had a house in the city of Capernaum, an extraordinary accomplishment in a land dominated by large estates and menial labor. The apostles fished for three main species: St. Peter's fish, carp, and catfish. The Jews did not eat catfish because it was considered "unclean," as it did not have fins and scales (Leviticus 11:19). However they were able to sell catfish to Greek communities on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee.

Joke of the Week

Question: *"What's the most popular breakfast in winter?"*

Answer: "Frosted Flakes!"

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](#)