

Religious Education

Give your child the gift of faith!



CCD Family Newsletter March 11, 2026 - March 18, 2026



Remaining CCD Dates in March

Mondays

March 16th - Lesson: 16

March 23rd - Lessons 25/26 & Reconciliation

March 30th - NO CCD: Easter Break

Tuesdays

March 17th - Lesson: 16

March 24th - Lessons: 25/26
& Reconciliation

March 31st - No CCD: Easter Break



Gospel Reflection Sticker

Each week, all of our in-person CCD students receive a sticker with an image relating to our Sunday Gospel reflection when they first enter the church. This week's sticker featured the image of a refreshing glass of water. **Each week, a great dinnertime follow-up question after CCD is: "Why did Mrs. Noll give you a sticker with X on it?"** In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus and his disciples are hot and tired while on a journey, so they stop by a well in Samaria where Jesus has a very illuminating conversation with a woman who is an outcast. Jesus tells her that he is the living water come down from heaven for the forgiveness of sins. Thus, the water. You get it...



This Week's Essential Question:

Lesson 16: What is prayer?

This week students from both of our in-person days will all be studying the same essential question: *What is prayer?* After CCD, please ask your children if they can answer this essential question of our faith. You should hear something like the following back: Prayer is a two-way relationship between God and us. Something amazing happens when we invite God into our lives. Over time we begin to recognize God's mysterious movement in our lives. Our friendship with God deepens. We hear his gentle words of love. Both personal prayer and communal prayer—prayer we pray together as a community—help us to feel and remember God's presence. Some of our most meaningful experiences of prayer happen within the community of the Church.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of March 15th

Lesson 18: *How do we pray?*

Unit 4 is all about prayer making it one of the easiest units for you to make a part of your family's routine. Lesson 18 focuses on the question, "How do we pray?" Be sure to discuss your prayer routine with your children and discuss how it might be different during the season on Lent.

Last Call for OLS' St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Mrs. McDonald and her friends at the parish throw quite a fun party. Be sure to RSVP by this evening if you would like to attend this year's St. Patrick's Day Dinner so that they can be sure to have enough corned beef and cabbage for everyone. It's THE social event of the season. Don't miss out!

Mark Your Calendars - And please join us for:



Our Lady of Sorrows
Saint Patrick's Day Dinner

March 14th 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Our Lady of Sorrows Gymnasium

Bring the family for a night of fun and enjoy
Corn Beef and Cabbage from Town Hall Deli, Hot dogs and Chips for the kids.
Keg of Irish Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee and Dessert
Irish Dancers, Bagpipers, Face Painting and Raffles to entertain adults and children

 **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** 

Yes, we want to share in some Irish Cheer on March 14, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Number of people: Adults _____ Children _____

To be seated with (name of person's table/8 per table):

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

If you would like to pay by credit card, please indicate below and you will be sent
an invoice from Square Deposit

Pay by Credit card: _____ Email: _____

(\$30 per Adult or \$70 per Family)

* Family max is 2 adults and children under 16 years of age

Please send reservations
no later than **March 10th**
to:

Marli Craig
560 Summit Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

or you can drop them off at
the parish office

Questions, Call Marli at:
(973) 943-0079 or you can
email her at:
marli@newtexas.com



Let Someone Else Take Cook Dinner Next Friday

Looking for a little variety in your Friday evening Lenten fare? Well, look no further because the OLS School is running an awesome event to help break up the monotony of cheese pizza Fridays during Lent: its annual fish fry! Come out and support the OLS School and have a delicious dinner cooked on site by the Chippery. Yum!

OLS Fish Fry

from the Chippery in Union



FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

6:00PM - 8:00PM

**DINE IN (OLS CAFETERIA) OR TAKE OUT!
BYOB IF YOU DINE IN!**

ORDER DUE DATE - MARCH 15TH

\$20 - FISH AND CHIPS/COLE SLAW/TARTER SAUCE

\$5 EACH - PIZZA AND MAC AND CHEESE (DINE IN ONLY)

Pay by check or use the QR Code below to pay by credit card

Name: _____

Cell #: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

of Fish & Chips _____ # of Pizza _____ # of Mac & Cheese _____

Please send checks to:

**Our Lady of Sorrows School, Attn: Megan Smith,
172 Academy, South Orange, NJ 07079**

Questions: send an email to olsschoolhsa@gmail.com



Catholic Relief Services Lenten Collection

For those of you who will be joining us in our Lenten collection, we will start to collect CRS Rice Bowl boxes when we return to CCD after Easter on April 13th and 14th. Thanks! If you would like to drop it off at the Main Office prior to then, you may. (The general idea is for you to donate with your children throughout the season of Lent.)



Catholic Relief Service Project Timor-Leste

Each week during Lent we'll be highlighting some of the amazing work done around the globe through the Catholic Relief Service (CRS). Our CCD program will be working to educate students and their families about the work CRS does and help to raise funds for it this Lent. This week's focus project comes to you from Timor-Leste. Haven't heard of Timor-Leste? (Don't feel bad, because it's relatively new! It was the first country created in the 21st century after having gained independence from Indonesia

in 2002.) Please share these stories of hope with your children. Together we can be Jesus' hands in the world to help build the Kingdom of God.

Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

WEEK 4: TIMOR-LESTE
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities assumed. When someone is living in poverty, as Catholics, we have a responsibility to help.

A STORY OF HOPE FROM TIMOR-LESTE

Most teenagers don't start their day by collecting water, feeding pigs or tending gardens. But for 17-year-old Adriana from Batar, Timor-Leste, these are daily responsibilities. In a region often mentioned in connection with famine, she has the responsibility of being a mother.

Adriana has made a crop plan to get to school and she doesn't always have enough healthy food to eat. Her family's income from coffee farming isn't enough to buy the rice and vegetables she needs to sustain her community's food security.

Though she has a lot of responsibilities, Adriana has some responsibilities to her school. She has to be a good student and help her classmates. She has to be a good friend and help her classmates. She has to be a good citizen and help her community.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has a high unemployment rate and a high poverty rate.
- For downloadable photos, visit crisisbowling.com and watch the video at crisisbowling.com/week-4.



CRS Prayer Petitions for the 4th Sunday of Lent

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

For Adriana—who we met through CRS Rice Bowl—and for all young people looking for opportunities for a brighter future. We pray to the Lord ...

For our community, may we lift our voices to advocate for just policies that help our sisters and brothers overcome the challenges of hunger and poverty and build thriving futures. We pray to the Lord ...

Batar Da'An - Timor Leste

Batar Da'An is a satisfying stew made of squash, beans and corn and is beloved in Timor-Leste. Though it uses simple ingredients it is packed with flavor and healthy nutrients. It is perfect for the cooler weather and couldn't be easier to make. Click [HERE](#) for the recipe.





First Eucharist Retreat

Saturday, March 21st

9:15 am- 11:45 am

This is a friendly reminder that our First Eucharist Retreat is coming up in just over two weeks. Please continue to work with your children on their *God's Gift: Eucharist* materials. The corresponding "Learning Reinforcement" worksheets and your child's completed First Eucharist banner is due at the retreat. Please do not wait until the last minute to finish these two important items. See you on the 21st!

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK
OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

A life-changing experience for married couples.

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:9

WHY ATTEND?

Rediscover your desire. Build a daily prayer life as a couple. Deepen your love.

- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO PRAY**
Prayer will become a daily expression of love between you and your spouse – a way to invite God deeper into your relationship.
- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO CONNECT**
Share, listen, and reflect together to deepen your emotional and spiritual connection.
- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE**
By seeing your marriage through the lens of faith, you will discover how your love reveals the presence of Christ in your everyday life.

Don't miss this transformative experience!

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

St. Mary Church
Parish Hall
17 Monsignor Owens Pl.
Nutley, NJ 07110

9:30 AM to 6 PM
(ends with Mass at 5 PM)

\$75 per couple
(includes light morning refreshments, catered lunch, workbooks, and all supplies)

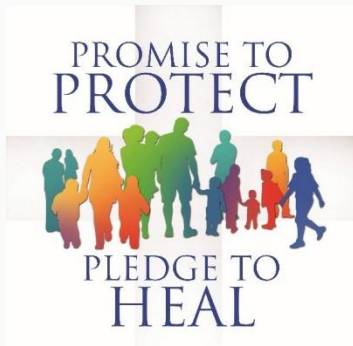
Registration Deadline:
March 14, 2026

marriage encounter
Family Life Ministry
ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS AND REGISTER TODAY!

Marriage Retreat

Kids are the BEST! But, let's face it, it can be difficult nurturing your marriage when you're also trying to keep a bunch of little humans alive and thriving! If you are able to find a sitter, consider taking some time out of your crazy schedules to focus on your marriage. See the flyer for more details about this upcoming retreat sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark.



Conversations that Matter Empowering God's Children Lessons

It's already March. Please help us by having important conversations with your kids about this year's Empowering God's Children lessons: *Boundaries: You Have Rights!*, and *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*. You can access this year's two lessons at the links below:

Lesson 3 - Boundaries: You Have Rights!

[Grades K-2 Lesson Three](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Three](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Three](#)

Lesson 4 - Secrets, Surprises and Promises

[Grades K-2 Lesson Four](#)

[Grades 3-5 Lesson Four](#)

[Grades 6-8 Lesson Four](#)

After you have talked with your kids in whichever way that you feel is most appropriate given your family's individual dynamics and circumstances, please let us know that you've participated in this important mission by completing this simple, 3-question survey **by April 1st**: [Empowering God's Children Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Google Form](#). Thank you!



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. Patrick

Feast Day: March 17th

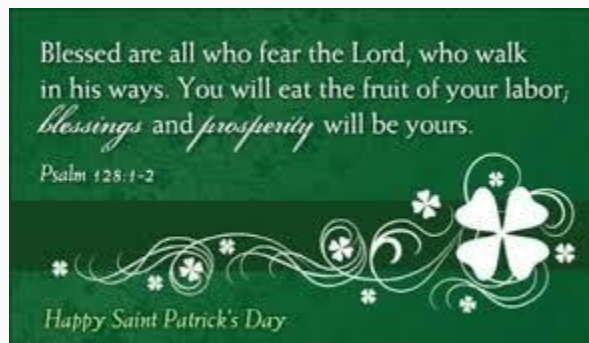
Patron of: Ireland

Saint Patrick is often remembered with shamrocks, parades, and the color green, but his real story is far more powerful. As a teenager, Patrick was kidnapped from his home in Britain and taken to Ireland as a slave. During those difficult years he turned to prayer and grew deeply in his relationship with God. After eventually escaping and returning home, Patrick later felt called by God to go back to Ireland—not for revenge, but to share the Gospel with the very people among whom he had once suffered.

Patrick's life reminds us that God can bring great good even out of painful experiences. His courage, forgiveness, and trust in God transformed a dark chapter of his life into a mission of faith and hope. He is also known for using the simple image of the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity—showing how powerful faith lessons can come from everyday things.

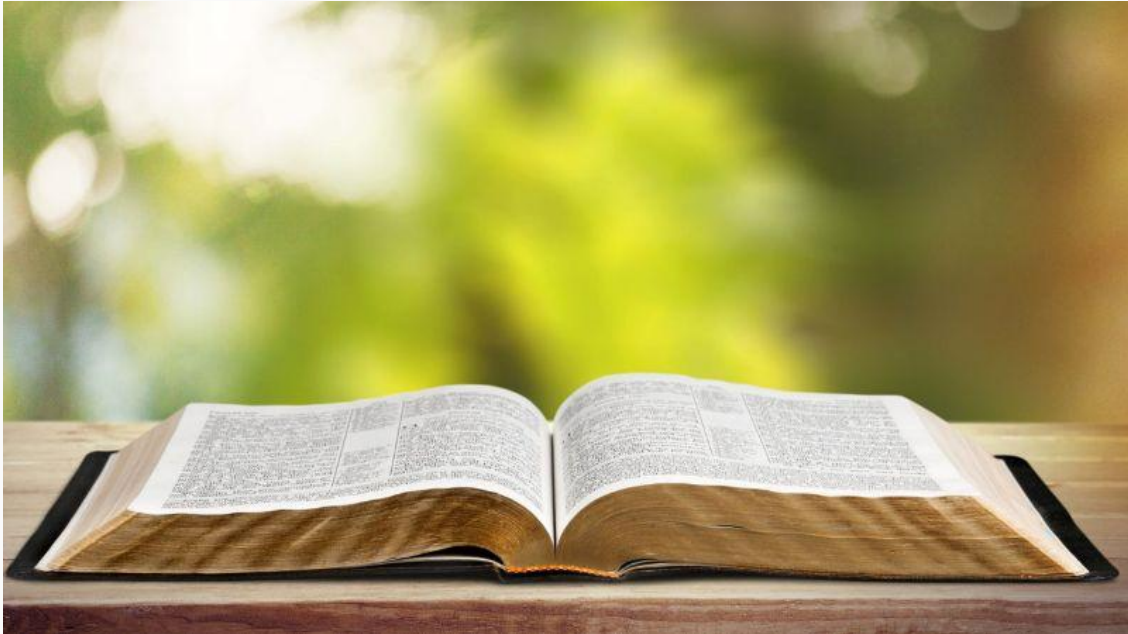
Families can take inspiration from St. Patrick by practicing forgiveness, trusting God during challenges, and finding simple ways to talk about faith in daily life. Whether it's praying together, pointing out God's presence in nature, or sharing stories of the

saints, small moments can become powerful opportunities to pass on faith. Like St. Patrick, each family is called to be a witness to God's love right where they are.



St. Patrick's Day for Kids

St. Patrick's Day is the most popular feast day here in the US. You can capitalize on all the buzz surrounding it by adding a little well-placed catechesis into your celebrations on the 17th. Click [HERE](#) for Catholic Icing's collection of St. Patrick's Day resources for kids. The best and most simple thing you can do with your kids to honor St. Patrick this year is teach them how to make a reverent Sign of the Cross.



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:

[Fourth Sunday of Lent](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

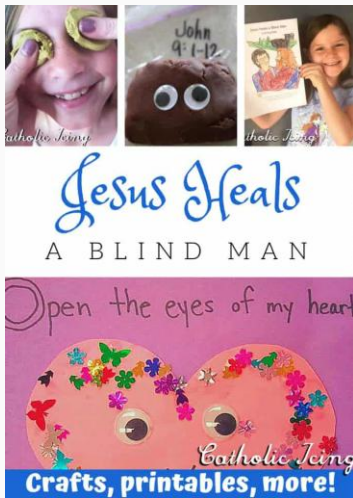
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)



Mark 10 Mission Videos for Kids

[Jesus Heals the Blind Man \(Kids under 8\)](#)

[Laetare! The Joy of Seeing Jesus \(Kids 8-12\)](#)



Jesus Heals a Blind Man Ideas for Families

Teaching your kids the stories of the gospels is so important and we know that kids learn the best when you make it fun and relevant for them! The story of Jesus healing a blind man coming up this Sunday, so check out the crafts and activities for the story of Jesus heals a blind man from Catholic Icing and really bring the gospel to life for your kids. Click [HERE](#) for some great ideas.



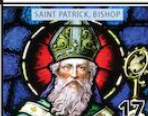




March Catechist Magazine Calendar

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

KIDSCALENDAR

MARCH 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Q Who appeared and talked with Jesus? (SEE MARCH 6)</p> <p>Matthew 17:1-9</p> <p>1</p>	2	<p>SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN</p> <p>3</p>	<p>SAINT CASIMIR</p>  <p>4</p>	5	<p>A Moses and Elijah</p> <p>6</p>	<p>SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS</p> <p>7</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Q Where did Jesus meet the woman of Samaria? (SEE MARCH 11)</p> <p>John 4:5-42</p> <p>8</p>	<p>SAINT FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS</p>  <p>9</p>	10	<p>A Jacob's well (in Sychar)</p> <p>11</p>	12	13	14
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Q Where did Jesus ask the blind man to wash? (SEE MARCH 20)</p> <p>John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38</p> <p>15</p>	16	<p>SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP</p>  <p>17</p>	<p>SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>18</p>	<p>SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>  <p>19</p>	<p>A In the Pool of Siloam</p> <p>20</p>	21
<p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Q Who is the dead man that Jesus raised? (SEE MARCH 28)</p> <p>John 11:1-45</p> <p>22</p>	<p>SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP</p> <p>23</p>	24	<p>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</p>  <p>25</p>	26	27	<p>A Lazarus</p>  <p>28</p>
<p>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</p> <p>Q Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss? (SEE MARCH 30)</p> <p>Matthew 26:14-27:56</p> <p>29</p>	<p>MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK</p> <p>A Judas</p> <p>30</p>	<p>TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Word of the month:</p> <h2>Crucifix</h2> <p>A cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it.</p> 			

Images: adobeistock.com and wikimedia commons from the public domain and artwork from Jim Barrows. Living Faith Kids is published by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayaid, Inc. For more information, go to www.livingfaithkids.com

[Download the March 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: Which common snack food is traditionally associated with the season of Lent?

- a) Popcorn
- b) Pretzels
- c) Nuts
- d) Potato chips

Answer: b (Pretzels)

Pretzels have been connected to Lent for more than a thousand years. According to tradition, early Christian monks in Europe made a simple bread from flour, water, and salt—ingredients that were permitted during the strict Lenten fasting rules of the time. They shaped the dough to look like arms crossed in prayer, which was a common posture for Christians while praying. Because the Latin word for “little reward” is *pretiola*, the monks gave these treats to children who learned their prayers, and the name eventually became “pretzel.”

Over time, pretzels became a special Lenten food because they contained none of the rich ingredients that were traditionally avoided during the season, such as eggs, milk, or butter. The prayer-like shape also made them a reminder that Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and turning our hearts back to God—making this simple snack a small but meaningful symbol of the season. So, the next time your children ask you for a snack, bust open a bag of Herr's pretzels and give your children both a treat and a little Lenten catechesis.



Joke of the Week



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