



First Eucharist Retreat

This Saturday, March 21st

9:15am - 11:45am

Our mandatory **First Eucharist Retreat** is **this Saturday**. We look forward to spending the morning with you and your child. Please bring the following items with you to Saturday morning's retreat:

- Your child's completed "Learning Reinforcement" worksheets
- Your child's completed pew-marking banner
- A wallet-sized current photo of your child for our poster of First Communicants



Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, March 22nd

After the 10:00 am and 11:30 am Masses

Join us for Coffee and Donuts after Mass this Sunday! It's a great way for your kids to see their friends from CCD (and old Mrs. Noll too). Thanks in advance for all of the kids who have offered to help at our 10:00 am Family Mass!



One Week of CCD - Then Break!

Mondays

March 23rd - Lessons 25/26
& Reconciliation (Grades 2-8)

March 30th - NO CCD: Easter Break

April 6th - NO CCD: Easter Break

Tuesdays

March 24th - Lessons: 25/26
& Reconciliation (Grades 2-8)

March 31st - No CCD: Easter Break

April 7th - No CCD: Easter Break



Gospel Reflection Sticker

Each week, all of our in-person CCD students will 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 woman with a mud mask. **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, we see the story of Jesus healing a blind man by applying mud made out of the Lord's own spit to the eyes of the man. Jesus healed the man's physical ailment but also gave him an even greater gift: the gift of faith. Lent is a great time to work on our own spiritual blindness as we practice the three Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



This Week's Essential Question:

Lesson 17: Why do we pray?

This week students from both of our in-person days will all be studying the same essential question: ***Why do we pray?*** This lesson helps students to know that we pray to show our love and trust in God. Over the centuries, many holy men and women have studied and reflected deeply on what prayer is and how to pray. They have shared with us the wealth of their knowledge and experience as people of prayer. They are a part of the Sacred Tradition of the Church, through which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray. Our trust in God grows through our prayerful participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Church. The lesson concludes by stating that the most profound connection we have with God is in the Eucharistic celebration, which is the fullest or most complete expression of the Church's communal prayer.



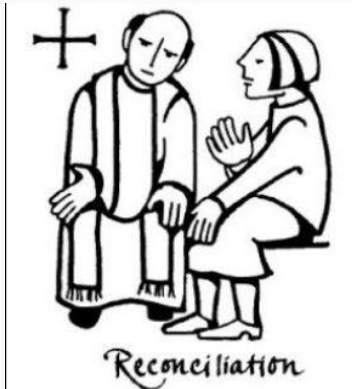
Homeschooling Connection

Week of March 22nd - Lesson 25: Triduum

Help your child prepare for the start of Holy Week by focusing on the events of the **Triduum** through your study of **Lesson 25**.

Your child is invited to join us to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during CCD on Monday or Tuesday this coming week. Simply bring your child to the church at 4:00 and we will put him or her at the front of the line so that you don't need to wait around for long.

Your child will not be assigned any work the **weeks of March 29th or April 5th for Easter Break**.



Reconciliation at CCD

Each year during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, the children in CCD celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Students in grades 2-8 will have the opportunity to go to Confession this coming week on both Monday and Tuesday. In order to make sure there is enough time for all the children, we will not be holding our usual Opening Prayer Service and Gospel reading. We will, however, still be meeting in the church for general announcements.

Classes tend to be relocated on days of Reconciliation. If your child needs to arrive to CCD late, please walk him or her in.

We will do a group Examination of Conscience, but you are encouraged to help your children analyze their choices before CCD drop-off. Additionally, as this is probably only the second time our 2nd graders will be celebrating Reconciliation, you might find it helpful to review the steps in the sacrament with them.

Here's a helpful tool: [Examination of Conscience and Reconciliation Overview](#).

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.



Operation Rice Bowl 50 Years of Charity

CRS Rice Bowl began during Lent 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, as an ecumenical response to the problem of world hunger—specifically in response to the drought in the Sahel region of Africa. Monsignor Robert Coll coordinated the effort with leaders of Allentown’s Protestant and Jewish communities.

CRS Rice Bowl was adopted as a national program in 1976, under the auspices of Catholic Relief Services in preparation for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Nearly \$5 million was raised that year. In 1977, it was voted by Bishops in United States to be the official program of Catholic Relief Services.

Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 130 different countries. Twenty-five percent of donations stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million.

[CRS Rice Bowl Retro Commercial Celebrating 50 Years](#)

Start Thinking about the Summer Celtics Basketball Camp

Celtics Basketball Camp will once again be held this summer at Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange for 5 weeks in June and July. Camp is open to Girls and Boys currently in grades 2-7. Camp days include fundamental skills instruction, games, contests, prizes, awards, and a camp T-shirt. The hours are 9 am to 3 pm

For more information and to register: www.stjosephscyo.org/celtics-basketball-camp/ or send email to celticsbasketballcamp@gmail.com with any questions.



🏀 NBA Division – Grades 2–4 🏀 NCAA Division – Grades 5–7

CELTICS BASKETBALL CAMP

AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS IN SOUTH ORANGE

JOIN US FOR 5 EXCITING WEEKS OF BASKETBALL CAMP TO LEARN SKILLS, PLAY GAMES, AND HAVE FUN!

June 22 – 26
July 6 – 10
July 13 – 17
July 20 – 24
July 27 – 31



Register now at <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/513431>
Email Questions to: celticsbasketballcamp@gmail.com

Enhance your game with expert coaching and engaging activities designed for youth girls and boys in grades 2nd–7th with some basketball experience.



- CREATE A FAMILY ACCOUNT IN TEAMSNAPE
 - ADD EACH CHILD SEPARATELY
 - REGISTER BY CURRENT GRADE:
 - REGISTER USING A LAPTOP OR COMPUTER
- EARLY BIRD (BEFORE MARCH 15)**
\$375 PER WEEK*
- STANDARD (AFTER MARCH 15)**
\$400 PER WEEK



Conversations that Matter

Empowering God's Children Lessons

It's already March. Please help us by having an important conversation 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](#)

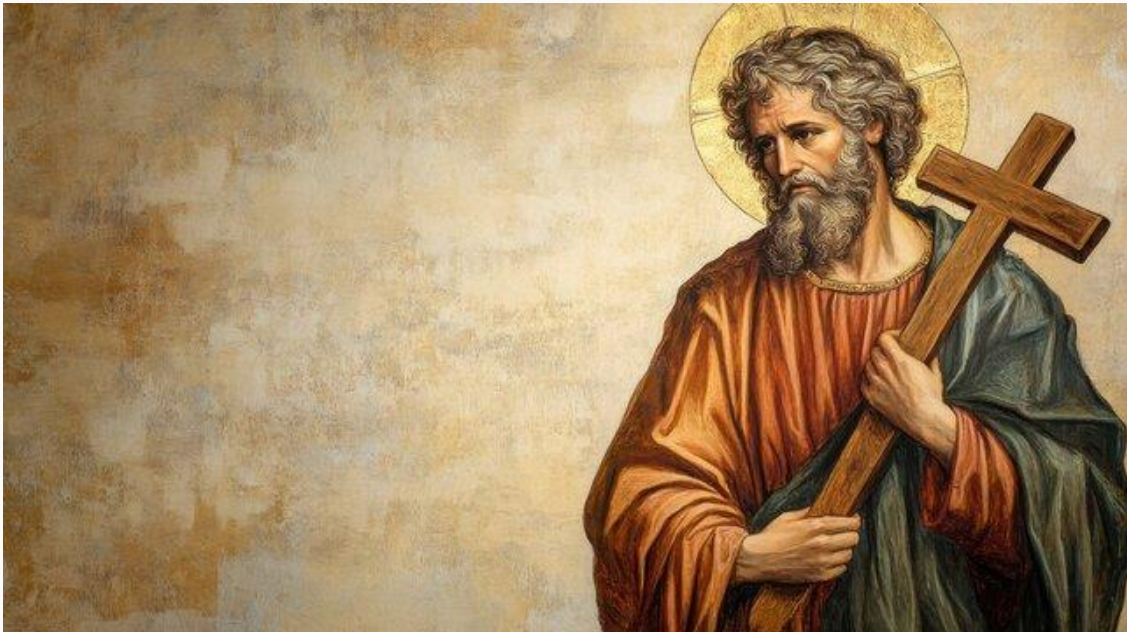
[Grades 3-5 Lesson Four](#)

[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. Joseph, *Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Feast Day: March 19th

Patron of: The Universal Church

Saint Joseph is one of the most quiet yet powerful figures in the Gospels. Though he speaks no recorded words in Scripture, his actions reveal a man of deep faith, courage, and trust in God. Chosen to be the earthly guardian of Jesus and the husband of Mary, Joseph faced uncertainty and challenge with remarkable humility. When he learned of Mary's unexpected pregnancy, he chose compassion over judgment. When God spoke to him in dreams, he responded immediately by taking his family to safety in Egypt and later returning home when it was safe. His life was marked not by recognition or prestige, but by faithful obedience in the ordinary moments of family life.

For parents today, St. Joseph offers a powerful model of quiet leadership and steadfast love. He reminds us that holiness is often lived out not in grand gestures, but in daily sacrifices—providing for our families, protecting them, and guiding them with patience and integrity. Joseph did not have all the answers, yet he trusted God enough to take the next right step. In a world that often values control and certainty, his example

encourages us to lean into faith, especially when parenting brings unexpected challenges or difficult decisions.

Perhaps most importantly, St. Joseph shows us that being present matters. He was there—attentive to Mary, devoted to Jesus, and faithful in his responsibilities. As parents, we are called to do the same: to be present to our children, to model trust in God, and to create a home rooted in love and faith. By following St. Joseph’s example, we can grow in patience, courage, and trust, becoming the steady and loving presence our children need.



St. Joseph for Kids

St. Joseph’s feast day (March 19) is a great opportunity to engage kids with hands-on activities that connect faith and fun. Here are a few ideas that work well for elementary-aged kids:

Build a “Carpenter’s Workshop” Craft

Since Saint Joseph was a carpenter, kids can decorate small wooden craft kits (like birdhouses or picture frames) or even create simple “tool belts” out of paper bags. You can tie this into a lesson about how Joseph used his skills to care for Jesus and Mary—and how we can use our talents to serve others.

St. Joseph Altar (Table) Activity

Inspired by the Italian tradition of St. Joseph’s Table, have kids help create a simple classroom or home “altar” with bread, flowers, and symbols of service. They can make paper lilies (a symbol of St. Joseph) or draw pictures of things they are thankful for. You might also invite them to bring in a non-perishable

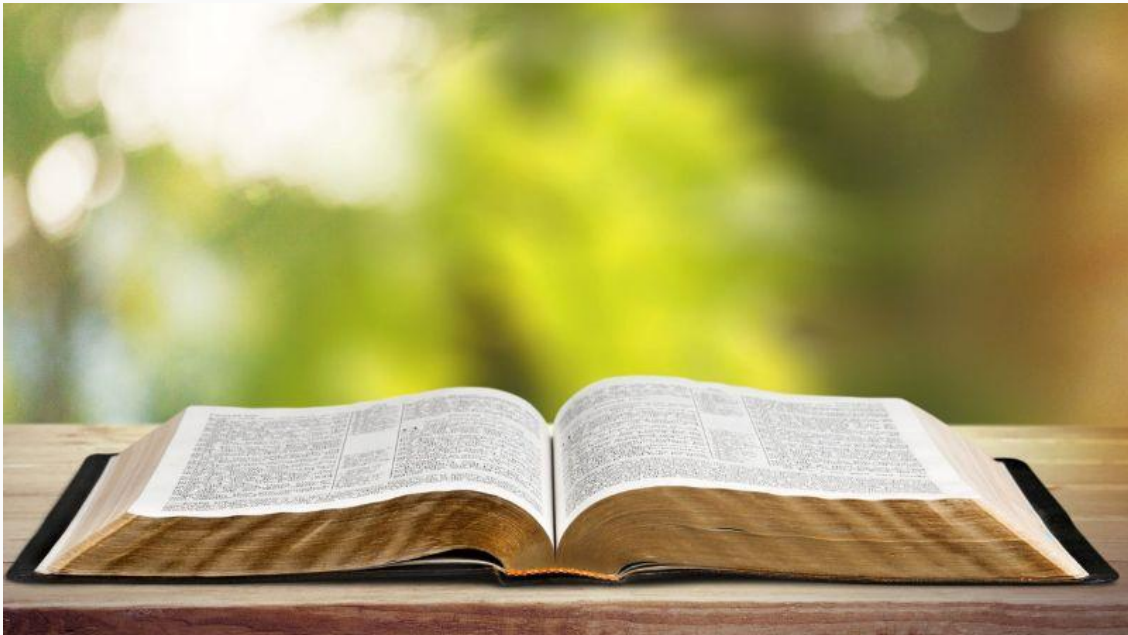
food item to donate, connecting the activity to caring for those in need.

Dream Mobile Craft

Joseph listened to God through dreams, so kids can create a “dream mobile” using paper clouds, stars, and string. On each piece, they can write or draw ways they can listen to God—through prayer, helping others, or making good choices. This helps connect Joseph’s story to their own lives in a tangible way.

“Walk in Joseph’s Shoes” Game

Set up simple scenarios (sharing, telling the truth, helping at home), and have kids talk about what St. Joseph might do. You can turn it into a movement game where they step forward if they think the action reflects Joseph’s virtues like courage, kindness, or obedience.



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 Lent](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers Reflection: *Unbound: Love that Liberates*](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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



Mark 10 Mission Videos for Kids

[Lazarus Raised from the Dead \(Kids under 8\)](#)

[Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead \(Kids 8-12\)](#)



Veiled Statues for the Start of Passiontide

When you enter the church on Sunday, you'll notice that things will look a bit different: all of our statues will be covered. The veiling of statues during Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent, has been a common practice in many parishes for centuries. Just like the changing liturgical colors in the church are a visual cue for the passing of the Church's seasons, the veiling of statues is also a visual reminder that something momentous is drawing ever closer.



Palm Sunday at OLS **Sunday, March 29th**

We will once again process with palms into the church as a community before the 10:00 am Mass (weather permitting).

Please meet in front of the rectory on the 29th at 9:45 am.

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>			

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[Download the March 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: In the gospel reading for this Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent, Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. How many days had Lazarus already been dead?

- a) 2 days
- b) 4 days
- c) 20 days
- d) 40 days

Answer: b 4 days



Joke of the Week

I always wanted to be a Gregorian Monk,



but I never got the chants.

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