





## Homeschooling Connection

### *Week of March 29th*

Your child will not be assigned any work the **weeks of March 29th** or **April 5th** for **Easter Break**. If you have fallen behind on your work, however, you may find that the next few weeks present an excellent opportunity to catch up on missed assignments. After all, this coming week is the most important one of the Church year, so talking about one's faith couldn't happen during a better time!

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## Your Children Received God's Grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation This Lent.

### *Have You?*

If the answer to this question is, no, no worries! Join us tonight (3/25) for our parish's Lenten Penance Service. If this evening doesn't work with your schedule, again, you're in luck. See our Holy Week flyer for additional times for Confession prior to Easter.

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JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF...

# *Penance & Adoration*

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
in the Upper Church

*All Are Welcome*

*Begins with Sung Evening Prayer*

*“Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.”*

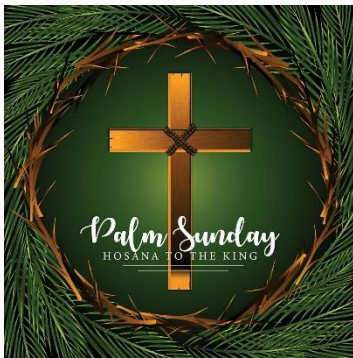
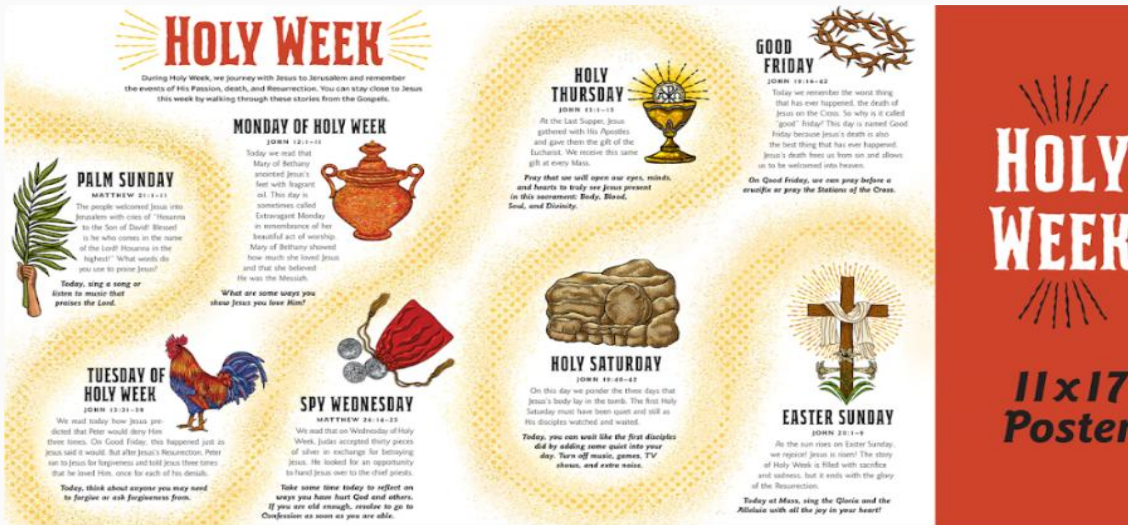
*- St. John Paul II*

## Holy Week at OLS

CCD isn't in session next week, but that's not because there isn't anything happening here at the church for you and your children! Without CCD, your family should have more time in your busy schedules to make room for our church's additional Holy Week offerings, many of which are geared toward kids. Please review the schedule and see where you can perhaps add a trip or two to your usual routine.

Join us for  
**Holy Week and Easter**  
 here at Our Lady of Sorrows

<p><b>Palm Sunday</b> March 29<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Normal Mass Times</p> <p><b>Procession with Palms before 10am Mass (weather permitting)</b> Meet in front of the Rectory by 9:45am!</p>	<p><b>Holy Monday</b> March 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7am: Mass</p> <p>12pm: Mass</p> <p>12:30-3pm: Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><small>Chrism Mass at 8pm at Cathedral Basilica in Newark</small></p>	<p><b>Holy Tuesday</b> March 31<sup>st</sup></p> <p>7am: Mass</p> <p>7:30-8am: Confessions</p> <p>12pm: Mass</p>	<p><b>Spy Wednesday</b> April 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p>7am: Mass</p> <p>12pm: Mass</p> <p>12:30-1pm: Confessions</p>
<p><b>Holy Thursday</b> April 2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>9am: Sung Morning Prayer</p> <p><b>7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper</b></p> <p>Church open until 11pm for Prayer</p>	<p><b>Good Friday</b> April 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>9am: Sung Morning Prayer</p> <p>12-1pm: Confessions</p> <p><b>3:00pm: Service of the Lord's Passion</b> (Holy Communion distributed)</p> <p><b>7:30pm: Living Stations of the Cross with Parish Choir</b></p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday</b> April 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p>9am: Sung Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:45am: Blessing of Easter Foods</p> <p>10am: Egg Hunt &amp; Family Social w/ Crafts</p> <p><b>8pm: Solemn Vigil Mass of Easter</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b> April 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Masses at 8am, 10am, and 11:30am</b></p> <p><i>He is Risen</i></p>



**Palm Sunday Family Mass**  
**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> - 9:45 am**  
*Sidewalk in Front of the Rectory*

Join your parish friends in front of the rectory at 9:45am this Sunday before our Family Mass to receive your palms and process into the church for Palm Sunday.

**This Week's Flyers**

You might not be so surprised to learn that sometimes when we pass flyers out at CCD that they don't actually make it out the door and into your hands. So, if you are among the many parents whose kids left their flyers here at CCD, fear not! Below, please find some of the opportunities that we'd particularly like to highlight for your kids.

In particular, our Egg Hunt and Family Social is always a big hit, so be sure to set aside the morning of Holy Saturday for some fun. And don't miss the Living Stations of the Cross with Choral Reflections on the evening of Good Friday. It is hands down one of the most beautiful and powerful ways to reflect upon our Lord's Passion. It is also a great opportunity for our middle schoolers to see the Youth Group in action, so definitely be sure to attend if you have a 7th or 8th grader!

**HOLY SATURDAY** **9:45 AM** **UPPER**  
**APRIL 4TH** **OUR LADY OF SORROWS** **CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL BLESSING**  
**OF THE EASTER BASKETS**

**ŚWIEÇONKA**



**EASTER BASKETS BLESSING**

**WHAT IS ŚWIEÇONKA?**

- Świeçonka is a traditional Polish custom.
- It is pronounced "Sveen-Tsonka".
- Świeçonka refers to the Easter foods taken to church, in baskets lined with linens, for blessing on Holy Saturday.
- Each food in the basket is symbolic of the life, death, or resurrection of Christ.
- Świeçonka also refers to the meal at which the blessed foods are eaten on Easter morning.
- This meal is considered the first breakfast in the traditions of many nationalities, serving to "break-the-fast" of the season of Lent.
- Świeçonka is a meal of celebration and joy.

**WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY EASTER BASKET?**

For those wishing to participate in the Świeçonka, the following is a guide to familiarize yourself with this traditional Polish custom. Feel free to alter the foods listed below and bring your own interpretation of the Easter breakfast in a basket to be blessed.

**CUSTOMARY EASTER BREAKFAST FOODS**

**Hardboiled Eggs** - Eggs have long been regarded as a symbol of new life. The emergence of a newborn chick from the shell is a sign of the new life Christ provided through His resurrection. It has also been compared to His emergence from the tomb on Easter morning. Poles cut the first egg into pieces so that all may share the egg, symbolizing our sharing of Christ with each other. **Salt** is a symbol of prosperity, and that we are the "salt of the earth" (St. Matthew 5:13) and is sprinkled on the egg. **Pepper** and **horseradish** are reminiscent of our Lord's passion and may be sprinkled on the eggs.

**Ham, Pork, Kielbasa** - All of these types of pork were forbidden under the dietary codes of the Old Testament. Since our Lord comes to fulfill the law, the old makes way for the new. One main element of the Świeçonka ceremony is the blessing of those formerly forbidden foods, emphasizing the "New Covenant" which Jesus Christ established for all by His death and resurrection.

**Bread or Babka** - This is a round loaf of bread topped with a frosting cross. This symbolizes the bread of the Eucharistic meal.

**Butter** (or Paschal Lamb) - The lamb is featured carrying a banner emblazoned with a cross. The symbolism of the lamb has many meanings. Our Lord proclaimed, "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11). St. John the Baptist proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). The lamb, a sacrificial animal in ancient times, portrays Christ as victorious through this presentation. This lamb may also be made of dough or cast plaster.

**Vinegar** - Reminds us of the sour wine given to Jesus as He hung upon the cross.

**Wine** - Reminds us of Jesus' blood, particularly His request to drink of His blood.

Questions: Contact Jen Noll at [jen@olschurch.com](mailto:jen@olschurch.com)

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 4TH**

**EGG HUNT**  
**FAMILY SOCIAL**




**Meet The Easter Bunny**  
**Hunt for 1300+ Eggs**  
**Enjoy a Light Breakfast**  
**Visit Fun Craft & Activity Stations**

**Egg Hunt**  
**10:00 am**  
**Location: Church Lawn Near the Playground**  
**(In case of rain, the egg hunt will be held in the lower church)**

**Family Social**  
**Immediately following the Egg Hunt**  
**Location: St. Joseph's Hall**

Questions? Email Jen Noll [jen@olschurch.com](mailto:jen@olschurch.com)  
**Suggested Donation - \$10 per child, no more than \$25 per family - Collected at Event**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**LIVING STATIONS OF**  
**THE CROSS**  
**WITH CHORAL REFLECTIONS**



**APRIL 3RD**  
**7:30 PM**

Join us for a moving evening of prayer and reflection as the OLS Youth Group presents the Living Stations of the Cross. Through prayerful dramatization, our young people bring to life Christ's journey to Calvary, inviting us to walk with Him in a powerful and personal way.

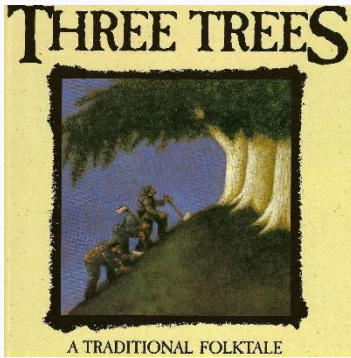
This sacred experience is enriched by choral reflections offered by our parish choir, whose music deepens the atmosphere of reverence and contemplation. All are welcome to come and enter more fully into the spirit of the Lord's Passion.



**Kids in Grades K-8 are Invited to Help at an Upcoming**  
**OLS FAMILY MASS**  
**10:00 AM**  
**This Month We Need Help On:**  
**April 12th**  
**April 26th**

**Students in K-3: Greet and Welcome Before Mass,**  
**Hand Out Bulletins after Mass**

**Students in Grades 4-8: Usher or Read the Prayers of the Faithful**  
**If your children are interested in sharing their gifts with the parish,**  
**please email Colleen McDonald at [cmcdonald@olschurch.com](mailto:cmcdonald@olschurch.com). Thanks!**



## Thanks Easter Bunny!

If the "Easter Bunny" in your house is getting ready to do a little basket shopping, consider adding one of Mrs. Noll's favorite children's books to the list. The Take of Three Trees is Christian folktale about three trees on a mountain with big dreams - becoming a treasure chest, a mighty ship and a tale beacon pointing to God. When cut down, they are made into a manger, a small boat, and a cross. Though initially disappointed, they find higher purpose serving Jesus: holding him, carrying him, and displaying his love.

(I challenge you not to cry while reading.)



## 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 through out the season of Lent.)



**CELTICS BASKETBALL CAMP**  
 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 EXCITTING 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](mailto: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.

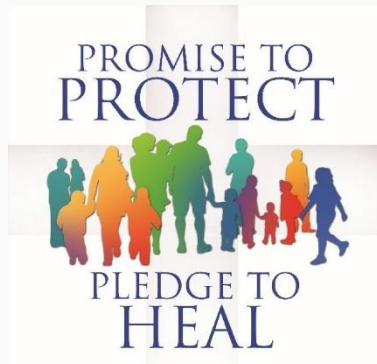
• CREATE A FAMILY ACCOUNT IN TEAMSAP  
 • ADD EACH CHILD SEPARATELY  
 • REGISTER BY CURRENT GRADE  
 • REGISTER USING A LAPTOP OR COMPUTER

EARLY BIRD (BEFORE MARCH 15) \$25 PER WEEK  
 STANDARD (AFTER MARCH 15) \$400 PER WEEK

## 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 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit [www.stjosephscyo.org/celtics-basketball-camp/](http://www.stjosephscyo.org/celtics-basketball-camp/) for more information and to register. You can also email [celticsbasketballcamp@gmail.com](mailto:celticsbasketballcamp@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Empowering God's Children Lessons

Your participation is critical. 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](#)

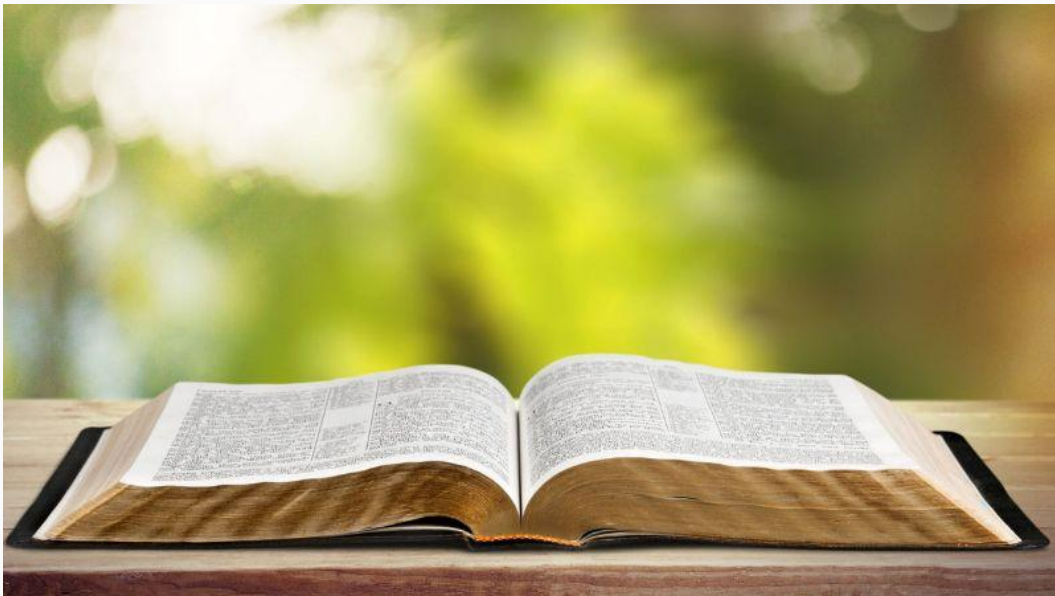
### Lesson 4 - Secrets, Surprises and Promises

[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!



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.





## 10 Things to Do with Your Palm Sunday Palms

Despite all of my best efforts, I just can't seem to master the simple art of making a palm cross, so my palms always remain long and fairly unruly throughout the year. I like to tuck mine behind the framed watercolor of Notre Dame over my bed. But, if you're better than I am at following visual directions, click [HERE](#) for Catholic Icing's creative use of Palm Sunday palms.

Remember - no matter how you chose to "style" them, the palms we receive at Mass on Palm Sunday are blessed sacramentals, so you should never just throw them out. Burning is the preferred method of disposal, but burying them is also acceptable.



## Additional Statues Veiled for Passiontide

Last week when you entered the church on Sunday, you likely noticed that our crucifix was covered by a large purple cloth. This week when you attend Mass you'll notice that even more statues in the church have been veiled. 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. It's also a great "I Don't Spy" style teaching tool for your kids.


Ask them if they can recall what was under each one of the cloths...


## 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><b>Q</b> Who appeared and talked with Jesus? (SEE MARCH 6)</p> <p>Matthew 17:1-9</p> <p>1</p>	2	<p>SAINT KATHARINE DREKEL, VIRGIN</p> <p>3</p>	<p>SAINT CASIMIR</p> <p>4</p>	5	<p><b>A</b> Moses and Elijah</p> <p>6</p>	<p>SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS</p> <p>7</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> 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, BLESSED</p> <p>9</p>	10	<p><b>A</b> Jacob's well (in Sychar)</p> <p>11</p>	12	13	14
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> 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 CYBIL 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><b>A</b> In the Pool of Siloam</p> <p>20</p>	21
<p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><b>Q</b> Who is the dead man that Jesus raised? (SEE MARCH 28)</p> <p>John 11:1-45</p> <p>22</p>	<p>SAINT TORIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP</p> <p>23</p>	24	<p>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</p> <p>25</p>	26	27	<p><b>A</b> Lazarus</p> <p>28</p>
<p>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</p> <p><b>Q</b> 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><b>A</b> 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: iStockphoto.com and wikipedia.com users from the public domain and artwork from Jim Burrows. Living Faith Kids is published by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc. For more information, go to www.livingfaithkids.com

[Download the March 2026 Calendar Here](#)

## Catholic Trivia

### Question:

In Palm Sunday's Gospel, the people in the crowd cheer and wave palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Palm branches were a symbol of victory and kingship in the ancient world. By waving them and laying them on the road, the crowd was honoring Jesus as a king—though many did not yet fully understand the kind of king He would be. They also shouted "Hosanna!" But what does "Hosanna" actually mean?

- a) "Nice donkey!"
- b) "Save us!"
- c) "Praise be to God!"
- d) "Glory to God in the Highest!"

**Answer: b** The words we pray at Mass are chosen with such care and purpose. *Hosanna* is one of those words. It simply means 'Save us' in Hebrew, but in the nearly 3,000-year-old Biblical tradition it stood as a one-word prayer calling out for a Messiah. We sing *hosanna* each Mass as part of the 'holy, holy, holy' prayer, when we ask Jesus to come and renew us once more in the New Covenant of His Body and Blood. We also sing *hosanna* on Palm Sunday when we celebrate and recall Jesus' dramatic entry into Jerusalem during the original Holy Week. We hear the crowd saying, '*Hosanna, Son of David!*' and we join in because we believe Jesus is the Chosen One, the Messiah come to establish a new age of God's grace. In short, we say *hosanna* because God has answered our one-word prayer with a One Word answer: Jesus.



For a two minute explanation of the significance of the word Hosanna, click [HERE](#).

### Joke of the Week



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