

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter

March 26 - April 2, 2025

(In "rose" this week for Laetare Sunday!)



This Week at CCD

Monday, March 31st

NO CCD: Eid al-Fitr (District Closed)

Tuesday, April 1st

Lesson 19: *What helps us to pray?*

CCD Calendar



Why Do We Have Monday Off From CCD?

You might be thinking, "Wait a second! Eid al-Fitr" isn't a Catholic holiday. Why do my kids have it off from CCD?" First, you are correct; Eid al-Fitr is NOT a Catholic holiday. The Maplewood - South Orange Public School District has Monday, March 31st off for Eid al Fitr. Long

experience has taught us that if we have CCD on a day when the public schools have a long weekend off that attendance plummets. As a result, there will be no CCD for the Islamic holiday of Eid al Fitr. Eid al Fitr is a holiday marking the end of the dusk to dawn fasting of Ramadan. As such, it is a great opportunity to talk about the very Catholic Lenten pillar of fasting.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of March 30th

Lesson 25: The Triduum

This year the Triduum begins on Thursday, April 17th. By working with your child on Lesson 25, your children will be ready for these three holy days.

- As a reminder, homeschooling families are asked to participate in our service projects and collections when possible. This year the CCD program is collecting low-sugar breakfast cereal for the OLS Food Pantry. You can place your donation in the collection box in the vestibule of the church between now and April 8th. Thank you in advance for your participation.
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Super Short Parent / Guardian Acknowledgement Form



Empowering God's Children Final Reminder

Attn: Parents in Grades K-7*

OLS needs to complete an Archdiocesan Safe Environments audit by the end of the week. Please let us know if you have spoken with your children about these two important lessons so that we can count your children in our final tally.

THANK YOU!

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](#)

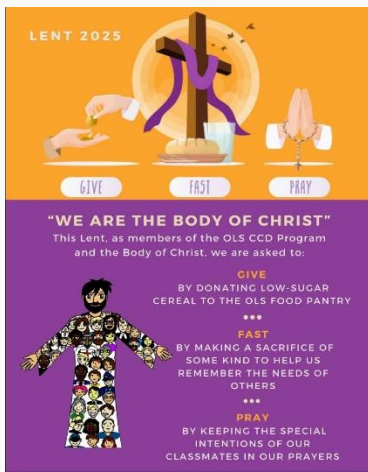
[Grades 3-5 Lesson Two](#)

[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.



2025 OLS CCD Lenten Initiative

This Lent please help reinforce your children's understanding of the three main pillars of Lent, **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**, by participating in the CCD program's 2025 Lenten Initiative. We will be collecting breakfast cereal until our final CCD class before Easter break: April 8th. Thank you to everyone who has sent breakfast cereal into CCD. We are up to 9 bags or about 60 boxes.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning

Click [HERE](#) for the full article on the topic of "spiritual spring cleaning" during the season of Lent. Want some fast and effective tips for a mid-Lenten spiritual tidying up of your practices? Consider these:

- Missed the start of Lent? No bother – start whenever you can – even an imperfect attempt is better than none.
 - Make a plan. Make it achievable. And write it down. Poorly defined goals tend to get lost in the clutter of life.
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- Keep forgetting to honor your Lenten promise? Diarize it. Set the alarm on your phone. Put sticky notes on the bathroom mirror. Pen it on the back of your hand. Get an accountability partner (kids make excellent ones!)
- Regressed to bad habits? Just start over. Don't let the evil one discourage you – recommit regularly to your Lenten promise.
- Struggling to stay motivated? Bolster your Lenten promise by offering it for an additional cause. e.g. the comfort of a sick friend, the suffering of a particular family, the work of a missionary etc.



Pope Francis - Back at the Vatican

Welcome home to the Holy Father. After 38 days in Gemelli Hospital, Pope Francis was finally able to return to the Vatican after battling a series of serious respiratory issues. Please continue to keep Pope Francis' full recovery in your prayers.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Braulio

Feast Day: March 26th

Patron of: Aragon

St. Isidore recognized the young nobleman Braulio as an outstanding graduate of his college at Seville in Spain and took him under his wing. He made Braulio his colleague, a peer to whom he submitted his books for editing. Isidore ordained him and appointed him bishop of Saragossa in 631.

St. Braulio maintained the pattern of life he had learned earlier as a monk. He lived simply, dressed in rough clothes, ate sparingly, and gave alms generously. He collaborated with Isidore in completing the conversion of the Visigoths from Arianism and in renewing church order in Spain.

Forty-four of Braulio's letters that have survived give us a good picture of the saint and his ministry. He counseled priests on liturgical and pastoral questions. Sometimes he discussed complex theological matters like the resurrection of the body. Often he consoled relatives and friends on the death of loved ones. In his most famous letter he defended the Spanish bishops to Pope Honorius I, who had accused them of laxity. Braulio's sense of humor bursts forth in letters requesting manuscripts, teasing friends who failed to visit, and lightly reprimanding an arrogant young priest who was to succeed him.

Braulio is remembered as an eloquent preacher. We can almost hear the power of his voice in this letter to his brother Frominian, who wanted to resign his office as abbot:

"I am shocked that you are so upset by all these routine scandals that you prefer to spend your life in silence rather than to stay in the duties entrusted to you. Where will your blessed perseverance be if your patience fails? Remember the apostle who said: "All who want to live piously in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (see 2 Timothy 3:12). Endurance exists not only in confessing the name of Christ by sword and fire and various punishments. But differences in customs, insults of the disobedient and barbs of wicked tongues and various temptations are also included in this kind of persecution. There is not a single occupation that is without its dangers...Who will guard against wolves if the shepherd does not watch? Or who will drive away the robber if the watchman sleeps? You must stick by the work entrusted to you and the task you have undertaken. You must hate the sins, not the people. Even though tribulation brings us more than we can endure, let us not be afraid as if we were resisting with our own strength. We must pray with the apostle that God give us "the way out with the temptation" (see 1 Corinthians 10–13)..."

He prepared a list of the works of St. Isidore and reportedly completed some of his master's unfinished works. St. Braulio went partially blind in 650 and died in the same year.

This Sunday is Laetare Sunday

Struggling with your Lenten resolution (I know I am!), rejoice! Easter is on its way!

What is Laetare Sunday? The fourth Sunday of Lent

ALSO KNOWN AS:

Mothering
Sunday,
Refreshment
Sunday,
Mid-Lent
Sunday,
Mi-Carême,
Mediana or
Rose Sunday



Laetare means **to rejoice**

The day takes its name from
the opening words of today's Mass:

"Laetare, Jerusalem"

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem"

Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 66:10-11



What's different?

- Priests may wear
rose vestments at Mass
- Flowers may adorn the Altar
- The organ may be played

Why celebrate it?

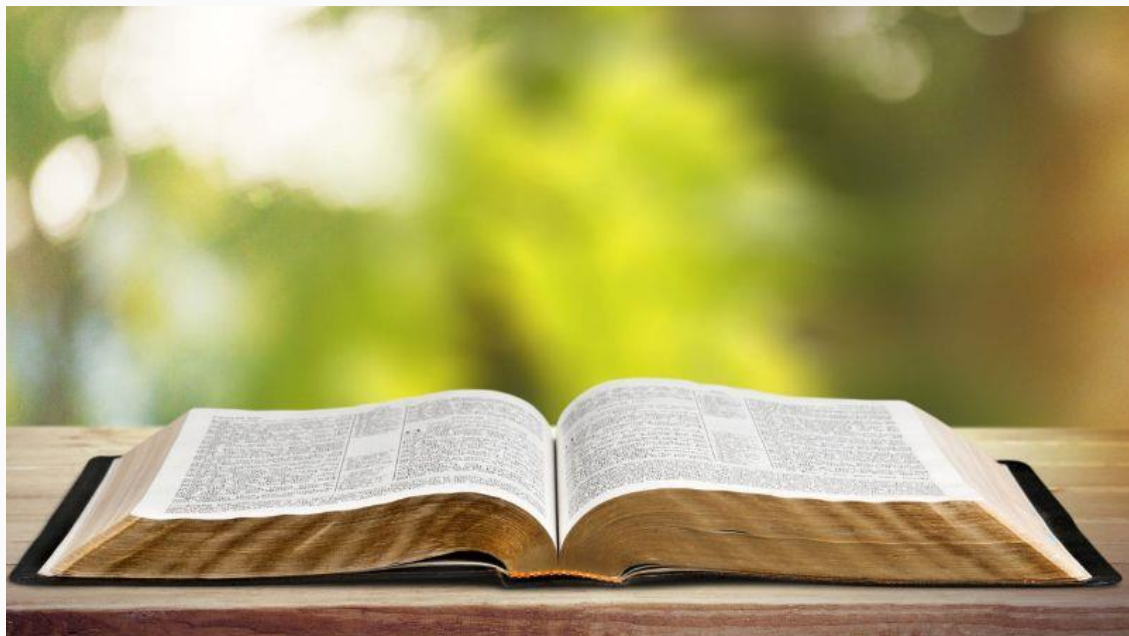
Laetare Sunday provides us **encouragement** as we
progress toward the end of Lent. Today is a small
break from the penitential season that reminds us of
the joy and hope ahead at Easter.



Archdiocese
of Toronto

www.archtoronto.org

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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 Ten Mission - The Parable of the Lost Son](#)

MaryKnoll Brothers: It's About Forgiveness, Even If...

LivingFaithKids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: TEMPTATION A strong urge to do something we know is wrong.						
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jesus said, "Every tree is known by its fruit." <small>(SEE MARCH 6)</small> Luke 6:39-45	SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN	SAINT CASIMIR	ASH WEDNESDAY	A Its own fruit.	SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS	SAINT JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT What did Jesus eat in the desert? <small>(SEE MARCH 10)</small> Luke 4:1-13		A He ate nothing.				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Who did Jesus take up the mountain? <small>(SEE MARCH 21)</small> Luke 9:28b-36	SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP	SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	A Peter, James and John		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT What kind of tree is Jesus talking about? <small>(SEE MARCH 27)</small> Luke 13:1-9		THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD				A A fig tree.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT How many sons did the father have? <small>(SEE MARCH 31)</small> Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	A Two.			Living Faith Kids helps children explore, learn about the Catholic faith and grow as follower of Christ.		
30	31			Subscribe online at www.livingfaithkids.com		

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[Click Here to Download the March Calendar from Catechist Magazine](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: Laetare Sunday is also known as:

- A) Prodigal Sunday
- B) Floral Sunday
- C) Mothering Sunday
- D) Acceptance Sunday



Answer: C

Laetare Sunday is also known as Mothering Sunday - particularly in the UK.

It is St. Paul's words in the Mass of the day that gives Mothering Sunday its name. He speaks of "that Jerusalem which is above . . . which is our mother," On this day, everyone paid a solemn visit to his mother church and left an offering there at the high altar.

During the 16th century, people in the UK used to return on the 4th Sunday in Lent for a service to their 'mother church' - the main church or cathedral of the area. This was either the church where you were baptised, or the local parish church or more often the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "*a-mothering*", although whether this term preceded the observance of Mothering Sunday is unclear.

In later times, 'Mothering Sunday' became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together, since on other days they

were prevented by conflicting working hours, and servants were not given free days on other occasions.

Children and young people who were given this day off so they could visit their families, would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers. Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers. By the 1920s the custom of keeping Mothering Sunday had tended to lapse in most of Europe.

Joke of the Week



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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)