



CCD in March

Mondays

March 9th - Lesson: 15

March 16th - Lesson: 16

March 23rd - Lessons 25/26 & Reconciliation

March 30th - NO CCD: Easter Break

Tuesdays

March 10th - Lesson: 15

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 the World Series Trophy (aka the Commissioner's Trophy). **Each week, a great dinnertime follow-up question after CCD is: "Why did Mrs. Noll give you a sticker with X on it?"** Well, to introduce the season of Lent, we talked about how Lent is a little bit like baseball's spring training - which also began around the same time. In this past Sunday's Transfiguration gospel, Jesus changes his appearance and allows the disciples to view his godliness. It's like they were allowed to see the "trophy" of Easter in advance so that they could keep their thoughts on the glory of Easter when things get tough, like during a long baseball season.



This Week's Essential Question:

Lesson 15: What turns us toward God's love?

This week students from both of our in-person days will all be studying the same essential question: *What turns us toward God's love?* After CCD, please ask your children if they can answer this essential question of our faith. You should hear something like the following back: *God invites us to share in his glory, yet often we take that gift for granted. We turn toward God when we reject sin and accept grace in our lives. Whatever God asks of us, he also gives to us: when he calls us to serve him, God also gives us the grace to do so. Recall a time when God's grace gave you the strength to make a wise choice, overcome a weakness, or extend a helping hand to someone in need.*



Homeschooling Connection

Week of March 1st

Lesson 17

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 17 focuses on the question, "Why do we pray?" How to pray is, perhaps, the most important thing that we as parents teach our children. So, pray. And pray often together. (Our mini-Jesus bags can help. See below.)



Adorable Lenten Prayer Reminders

Be sure to ask your children where they chose to put their mini-Jesus bags and who they decided to pray for this Lent. Please help support them in their prayer efforts by reminding them to pray and, perhaps, even joining them in their prayer intentions.

Lenten Calendar Addition

Pasta Dinner and Stations of the Cross

The OLS council of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a (meatless, of course) pasta dinner at 6:00 pm this Friday before the Stations of the Cross. This is also an opportunity for your child to show off their reading skills by doing the reading at one of the stations. Please RSVP to the Knights if you or your family is interested in attending or if your children would like to participate in the Stations in a special way.

Pasta Dinner & Family Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 6, 2026

- Pasta Dinner (no meat) served at 6:00 pm in St. Joseph's Hall
- Followed by Stations of the Cross in the Main Church at 7:00 pm

Seeking youth readers. All are welcome.

No charge. Donations welcomed.

To help manage head count, please RSVP to Council4066@gmail with number attending.

*Dear Jesus, what have we done to deserve
so much of your love?*

You gave yourself totally to us and died on a Cross because you love us. Through our sufferings within our family life, help us to come closer to you. We offer you this prayer by reflecting on the Stations of the Cross and specially praying for our family and all families around the world.



Sponsored by:

Knights of Columbus, Council 4066, Regina Pacis

Council4066@gmail.com



**Knights of
Columbus®**

RSVP Today for OLS' Most Popular Social Event

March. The month when everyone seems to have a little Irish in their blood! Be sure to RSVP early for OLS's most popular social event of the year so that you don't miss out on:

- a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner cooked by Town Hall Deli
 - our world-traveling Irish step dancers (several of whom also attend CCD here at OLS)
 - a seasonal sound of Irish bagpipers
 - face painting for the kids
 - a fun time with friends both old and new
-

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





Catholic Relief Service Project Guatemala

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 the country of Guatemala. 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.

[Empowering Growth in Guatemala 2-Minute Video](#)

WEEK 3: GUATEMALA

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

We are called to build a society in which the needs of people who are most poor and vulnerable are considered first. Jesus tells us that wherever we help our sisters and brothers in need, we do this for him.

A STORY OF HOPE FROM GUATEMALA

In the Guatemala, many in the community are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are unemployed, and many are struggling to make ends meet. In Central America, Maribel is a woman who has been struggling for many years. But then she met the CRS Rice Bowl. When she was pregnant, her husband had to travel far to find work. Maribel stayed home to care for herself and her children. She joined a CRS program that offered nutrition classes. She learned how to make healthy choices for her family. She also learned about family planning. Now she has more control over her life. She is able to work and care for her family.

For all the support they've given us, we are grateful. The love and care of the program, Family Promise, and the practice of giving, will have been able to improve our family's health, nutrition, and financial well-being.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Guatemala is located in the Dry Corridor, which is an area that experiences extreme weather patterns in the form of droughts, hurricanes, and floods.
- Guatemala has volcanoes, mountains, and beautiful tropical beaches and the Caribbean Sea.
- The official language of Guatemala is Spanish.

For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch the video at crsricebowl.org/week-3.



CRS Prayer Petitions for the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

For Maribel—whom we meet through CRS Rice Bowl—and for all parents striving to feed their children with nutritious food. May their families have healthy and hunger-free futures. We pray to the Lord...

For members of our own community who are hungry and do not know where their next meal will come from, that we may encounter them in their need. We pray to the Lord...

Tostadas - Guatemala

Though often eaten as an appetizer in Guatemala, tostadas are also great served as a snack or a fast meal on a busy night. Toppings are spread across three tortillas, leaving room to play with any additions you may want. Click [HERE](#) for the recipe.



Family Promise of Essex County

Family Promise of Essex County envisions a community in which every family has a home and the chance to build a better future.



Help OLS Support Family Promise of Essex County this Lent

Looking for an organization a bit closer to home to support with your almsgiving efforts this Lent? Look no further! Our Lady of Sorrows will once again be supporting families experiencing homelessness

through Family Promise of Essex County.

Our parish will be preparing meals and shopping for groceries for several families. The meals and grocery items need to be brought to the lower church the evening of Monday, March 16th or the morning of Tuesday, March 17th. They will then be delivered to the Family Promise office on the 17th. The volunteer roles include:

- Cooks to prepare part of a meal.
- Individuals to donate gift cards
- Shoppers to provide requested grocery items.
- Volunteers to help accept and store meals and groceries on Monday evening (March 16) or Tuesday morning (March 17).

Sign-up sheets are in the church vestibule if you want to check them out after Mass. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Nelson at annanelson202@gmail.com or (973) 477-9546.

Thank you in advance for your support for these families this Lent!



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!



March Family Masses

If your children would like to help at one of our special upcoming Family Masses, please reach out to Colleen McDonald. We have someone to read the Prayers of the Faithful on March 8th and 22nd, but we still need greeters and ushers. Let us know if your children are available - thanks!



We Are His Witnesses *Letter from Cardinal Tobin*

Many of you may be wondering, "What's happening with that *We Are His Witnesses* initiative that I was hearing so much about in the fall?" Well, the short answer is: the Archdiocese of Newark has determined that it needs more time than it initially thought it would to accurately determine where the Church in our area is now, where it needs to go and how it gets there. As a result, there will still be an announcement made by the Archdiocese on June 12th about the *We Are His Witnesses* initiative, but it will be smaller in scope than first believed. To read Cardinal Tobin's letter to the faithful on the status of We are His Witnesses, click [HERE](#).

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK
OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

"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 5 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

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 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. Frances of Rome

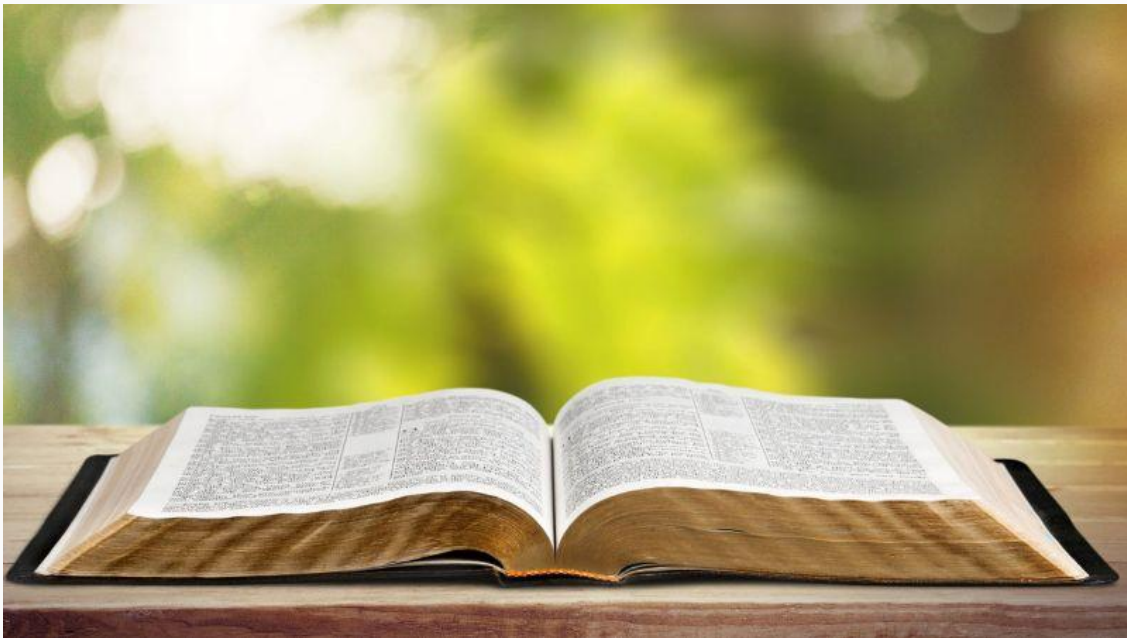
Feast Day: March 9th

Patron of: Motorists, Widows

Frances of Rome (1384–1440) was a wife, mother, mystic, and founder who shows us that holiness is not reserved for convents and monasteries—it can flourish right in the middle of family life. Born into a noble family in Rome, she felt called to religious life at a young age, but in obedience to her parents she entered an arranged marriage. Rather than resent her vocation, Frances embraced it wholeheartedly. She became a devoted wife to Lorenzo Ponziani and a loving mother, while also serving the poor and the sick throughout the city—especially during times of plague and war. After her husband’s death, she founded a community of women known as the Oblates of Mary, but she never stopped seeing her first vocation as wife and mother as the path God used to shape her into a saint.

St. Frances of Rome reminds us that family life—with its carpools, dinner dishes, homework help, and daily challenges—is holy ground. She teaches parents that marriage and parenthood are not obstacles to growing in faith; they are powerful opportunities for it. Frances balanced prayer and service with the demands of her

household, showing that small acts done with great love matter deeply to God. During busy seasons, especially in Lent, families can follow her example by weaving simple prayer into daily routines, serving others together, and approaching the ordinary tasks of home life with patience and generosity. Her life reassures us that sainthood often looks less like extraordinary miracles and more like extraordinary faithfulness in the middle of ordinary days.



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:

[Third Sunday of Lent](#)

Loyola Press: Sunday Connection


Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy


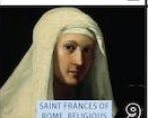
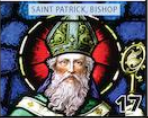




March Catechist Magazine Calendar

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 CECILIA</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>	18	<p>SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>19</p>	<p>SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>  <p>20</p>	<p>A In the Pool of Siloam</p> <p>21</p>
<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>	23	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 26:14-27:66</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: What does the word "Lent" actually mean, and how does it relate to our clocks "springing forward"? (Consider this your friendly reminder for Sunday)

Answer: Historically, the season of Lent was named after the time of year when the days were physically lengthening as winter turned into spring. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word *lencten*, which literally means "spring" or "lengthening". Just as we "spring forward" during Daylight Saving Time to take advantage of more evening light, the Church uses the season of Lent as a time for us to "lengthen" our spiritual lives and stretch toward the light of the Resurrection. Many spiritual writers refer to Lent as a "spiritual spring"—a time of renewal and new growth, much like the physical world coming back to life as the sun stays out longer.

Joke of the Week

A man took his young son to a baseball game. During the game, he asked the boy, "So, what are you going to give up for Lent this year?"

The boy thought for a moment and asked, "I don't know, Dad. What are you giving up?"

The father replied, "I've decided to give up liquor."

A few innings later, a vendor came by, and the father ordered a beer. The son looked shocked and said, "Hey! I thought you were giving up liquor!"

The dad quickly answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm only giving up *hard* liquor."

The boy nodded thoughtfully, popped a stick of gum in his mouth, and said, "Okay then. I'm giving up hard candy."

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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)