





## Homeschooling Connection Week of April 5th

Your child will not be assigned any work the week of **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!

There are only 3 weeks of CCD left in our catechetical year for our homeschooling families: April 12th, April 19th and April 26th.



## "Spy" Wednesday at OLS

**7:00 am Mass**

**12:00 pm Mass**

**12:30 - 1:00 pm Confessions**

**"Spy" Wednesday Video:**

[The Meaning of "Spy" Wednesday](#)

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## Holy Thursday at OLS

9:00 am Sung Morning Prayer

7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

(Church will remain open for prayer until  
11:00 pm)

### Last Supper Videos for Kids:

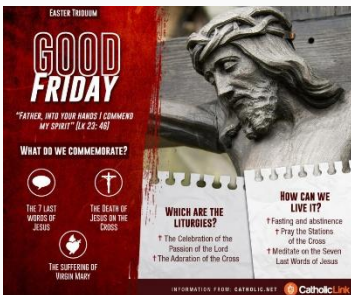
[Saddleback Kids \(Last Supper\)](#)

[The Last Supper from The Bible Miniseries](#)

[Jesus of Nazareth \(The Last Supper\)](#)

### Craft Idea:

[Last Supper Place Mat](#)



## Good Friday at OLS

9:00 am Sung Morning Prayer

12:00 - 1:00 pm Confessions

3:00 pm Service of the Lord's Passion

7:30 Living Stations of the Cross

### Friendly Reminder:

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Catholics aged 18-59 must observe fasting by eating only one full meal and two smaller, meat-free meals that together do not equal one full meal. Additionally, all Catholics aged 14+ must abstain from meat entirely. Liquids, including coffee and milk, are allowed, but snacking between meals is not.

**Mrs. Noll Recommends:**

The Youth Group's presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross is a great way for your child to learn about the Lord's Passion and Death. It is also a wonderful opportunity for your children to see teenagers living out their faith. I urge you to attend this powerful evening of reflection.

**Simple Suggestion:**

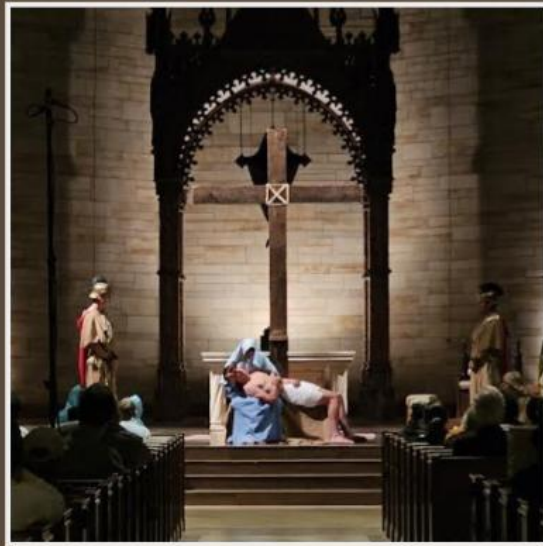
Jesus hung on the cross from noon until 3:00 pm. You can show Jesus your solidarity (and get a better appreciation of just how long Jesus was on the cross for our sins) by maintaining 3 hours of silence in your house. Nothing to buy - just a simple but profound recognition of Christ's sacrifice.

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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.



## Holy Saturday at OLS

9:00 am Sung Morning Prayer

9:45 am Blessing of the Easter Baskets

10:00 am Egg Hunt and Family Social with  
Crafts

8:00 pm Solemn Easter Vigil

### Hop to It!

The Geis family helped the Easter Bunny stuff **1367** eggs. (Thanks Geises - that takes longer than one would think!) That's a lot of candy and treats! Be sure to stop by for our hunt and then stay for some bagels and munchkins as well as some fun catechetical crafts.

### Easter Vigil = Fire!

At the start of the Easter Vigil, a new fire is kindled outside the church to symbolize Christ as the Light of the world rising in victory over darkness and sin. From this fire, the Paschal candle is lit and then carried into the darkened church, representing the light of Christ spreading to the faithful. As the flame is shared, it reminds us that Christ's resurrection brings hope, life, and illumination to all.

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## Holy Saturday Kids Crafts

We have some really great kids crafts all prepped and ready to go for our Holy Saturday Family Social - like this Easter cross constructed out of pool noodles! Be sure to stop by and grab some refreshments while your kids work on some of the following:

- Easter Cross: Stay Afloat with Christ
- Create Your Own Paschal Candle
- The Easter Story Paper Doll Set
- The Colors of Holy Week Priestly Vestments
- Holy Week Egg Mobile
- Pull Apart Bible Verse Easter Egg

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
APRIL 4TH

**9:45 AM**

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS**

**UPPER CHURCH**

**ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKETS**

**ŚWIĘCONKA**



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

For those wishing to participate in the Święconka, 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 Święconka 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 His 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) can call at [jeff.groves@stjosephs.org](mailto:jeff.groves@stjosephs.org)

**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@stjosephs.org](mailto:Jen.Noll@stjosephs.org)  
Suggested Donation - \$10 per child, no more than \$25 per family - Collected at Event



## Easter Sunday at OLS

### Easter Sunday Mass at:

8:00 am

10:00 am

11:30 am

Jesus's tomb was empty, but our church certainly won't be! Be sure to arrive a few minutes early to be sure you get a parking space to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!



## Divine Mercy Sunday at OLS

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, focuses on God's boundless mercy and forgiveness, revealed through Jesus Christ. It is rooted in the visions of St. Faustina and invites the faithful to trust in God's mercy, seek reconciliation, and show mercy to others.

### This year, Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12th

2:30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

3:00 pm Praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet



## **OLS School Track and Field Team Open to CCD Students**

Did you know that along with the recent changes to the CYO program here at OLS that you child is also eligible to participate on the school's Track and Field team? Here are the details:

The track team is open to boys and girls in grades K - 8.

There will be three practices a week at Floods Hill in South Orange (Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-7:00pm; Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am)

Meets are on select weekends from late April through early June.

Events include: shot put, javelin, meter sprints, meter long distance, meter relays (grades 3-8) ; fun run (grades K-2)

### **Track and Field Parent Committee**

The track and field program needs volunteer coaches for this season. Please consider helping out. Practice

dates will be determined by coaching availability. Roles needed include

*Conditioning Coaches*: in charge of practices, sets the workouts for each practice, determines running event placement for each athlete

*Field Event Coaches*: in charge of practices, establishes the field events for each athlete

*Team Managers*: runs the TeamSnap account, registers rosters for meets, works with Athletic Director to obtain payment for meets, communicates school to school

*Meet Helpers*: coordinates with coaches & team manager at meets to ensure each athlete is ready for their events at meets

## [Register for OLS Crusaders Track & Field](#)



### **Empowering God's Children Lessons**

**Your participation is critical. If we do not have enough parents having these discussions at home, we may need to devote a CCD class to the Empowering God's Children lessons. As a parent myself, I feel strongly that the home is the best place for discussion of this nature, so please help us by having an 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](#)

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!



## **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.)



**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 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](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.

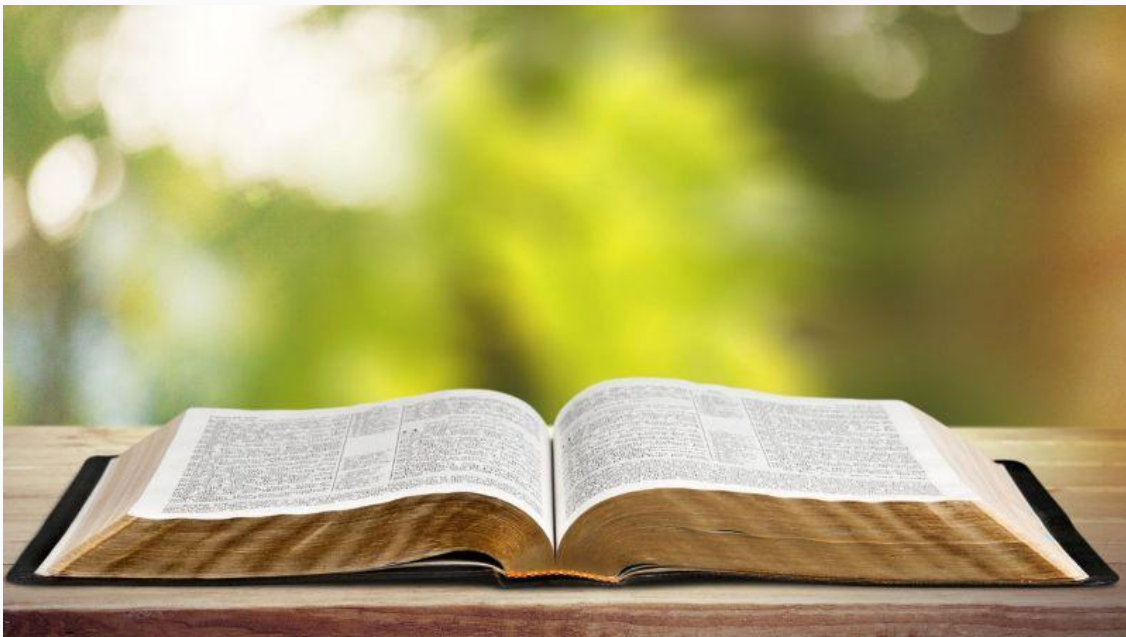
- CREATE A FAMILY ACCOUNT IN TEAMSAP
- ADD EACH CHILD SEPARATELY
- REGISTER BY CURRENT GRADE
- REGISTER USING A LAPTOP OR COMPUTER

EARLY BIRD (BEFORE MARCH 15) \$375 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.



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 church.

**Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the  
Liturgy of the Word:**

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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



**Mark 10 Mission Videos for Kids**

[What is Easter? He is Risen!](#)

[Easter Sunday: He is Risen!](#)

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**April Catechist Magazine Calendar**

# KIDSCALENDAR

APRIL 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Word of the month:</b> <b>Passion</b> Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross.			WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Where did Jesus say his disciples would see him? (SEE APRIL 7) Matthew 28:1-10 <b>5</b>	MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER <b>6</b>	TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER In Galilee <b>7</b>	WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER <b>8</b>	THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER <b>9</b>	FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER <b>10</b>	SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER <b>11</b>
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY What words did Thomas say to Jesus? (SEE APRIL 16) John 20:19-31 <b>12</b>	SAINT MARTIN L, POPE AND MARTYR <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	"My Lord, and My God!" <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER The two disciples were walking towards which village? (SEE APRIL 24) Luke 24:13-35 <b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	ST. ANSELM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	ST. GEORGE, MARTYR ST. ADALBERT, BISHOP AND MARTYR <b>23</b>	ST. FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST AND MARTYR Emmaus <b>24</b>	ST. MARK, EVANGELIST <b>25</b>
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Who is the gate for the sheep? (SEE APRIL 27) John 10:1-10 <b>26</b>	Jesus <b>27</b>	ST. PETER CHANEL, PRIEST AND MARTYR ST. LOUIS GRIGNON DE MONFORT, PRIEST <b>28</b>	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH <b>29</b>	ST. PIOUS V, POPE <b>30</b>		

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[Download the April 2026 Calendar Here](#)

## Catholic Trivia

### Question:

On March 28th, Pope Leo became the first modern pope to visit which Roman Catholic European country?



- a) Albania
- b) Croatia
- c) France
- d) Monaco

**Answer: d Monaco** Unlike many modern European nations, Monaco officially recognizes the Catholic Church as the state religion. Only a tiny handful of countries still have Catholicism as their official state religion in law including Vatican City, Malta, Costa Rica, and Liechtenstein. Monaco is the last European country whose constitution declares “the Catholic, apostolic, and Roman religion” as the state religion, making Pope Leo’s visit a spotlight on Europe’s final officially Catholic state. Click [HERE](#) to read [10 Catholic Facts about Monaco](#) from EWTN News.

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## Joke of the Week



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