



Thank You Easter Bunny!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Holy Saturday Egg Hunt and Family Social! The Easter Bunny worked overtime to lay 1367 stuffed eggs on the church's side yard for this year's hunt. (And I hear that he is hoping to make even more for next year!) Thank you to the entire Geis family for helping the Easter Bunny out and to all the volunteers who helped run our craft stations. Special thanks also go out to Rebecca Noll (who interestingly is the same height as the Easter Bunny) and staff members Colleen McDonald and Stephanie Sonnick for being part of our amazing team here at OLS.



"Coffee and Donuts" This Sunday

Yes, it's called Coffee and Donuts - and there are sure to be plenty of both this Sunday in St. Joseph's Hall. But if sweets aren't your thing, no worries! There's also plenty of bagels, juice, fruit and fun, so be sure to join us after either the 10:00 am or the 11:30 am Masses this Sunday. As always, there will also be a craft for the kids to work on while you take a minute or two to engage in some adult conversation. Hope to see you there!



Only 4 CCD Classes Left!

Monday

April 13th - Lesson 17

April 20th - Lesson 18

April 27th - Lesson 19

May 4th - Lesson 20

Tuesday

April 14th - Lesson 17

April 21st - Lesson 18

April 28th - Lesson 19

May 5th - Lesson 20



Essential Question

Lesson 17: Why do we pray?

Lesson 17 asks the 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 April 12th

Due to the difference in holiday schedules, there are only **3** weeks of CCD left in our catechetical year for our homeschooling families: the weeks of April 12th, April 19th and April 26th.



Catholic Relief Services Lenten Collection

For those of you who joined us in our Lenten collection for Catholic Relief Services, we will start collecting **CRS Rice Bowl boxes** when we return to CCD **this week on April 13th and 14th**. Thank you for supporting this amazing, life-saving organization.

Did you know that Catholic Relief Services is one of the most efficient organizations in the world. 93% of the money CRS spends goes directly to programs that benefit the poor overseas. In fact, CRS strives for efficiency in all that it does. Under its [Guiding Principles](#), based on Catholic social teaching, it follows the tenet of subsidiarity: Most problems can be handled more effectively at a lower level by people who are closer to the issue and have a better understanding of it. In many of the countries where CRS works, its local Church partners represent an efficient network already on the ground which allows it to mobilize quickly to distribute food, emergency supplies and information, often within hours of a disaster.



OLS School Track and Field Team Open to CCD Students

As a CCD student, your child is eligible to participate on the OLS 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](#)



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 TEAMSAP
• 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

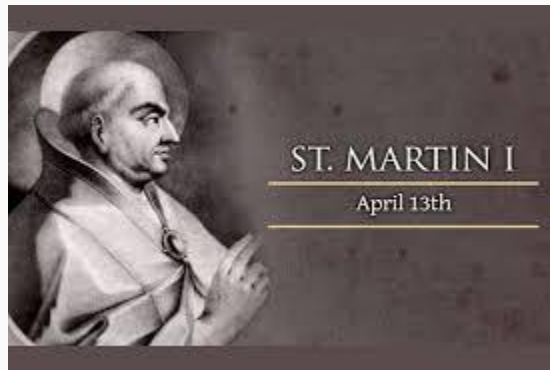
Celtics Basketball Camp will once again be held this summer at Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange for 5 weeks in June and July. Camp is open to Girls and Boys currently in grades 2-7. Camp days include fundamental skills instruction, games, contests, prizes, awards, and a camp T-shirt. The hours are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

Visit www.stjosephscyo.org/celtics-basketball-camp/ for more information and to register. You can also email celticsbasketballcamp@gmail.com with any questions.



"Space and Humanity at the Crossroads"

On the occasion of the launch of the NASA Artemis II mission on April 1, 2026, the Caritas in Veritate Foundation has released a video featuring reflections on the purpose of exploring the universe, bringing into dialogue science, theology, and international law, as well as the principles that should govern humanity's relationship with it and among human beings in the face of this work of God. Click [HERE](#) to view.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Patron of: Exiles, Imprisoned People

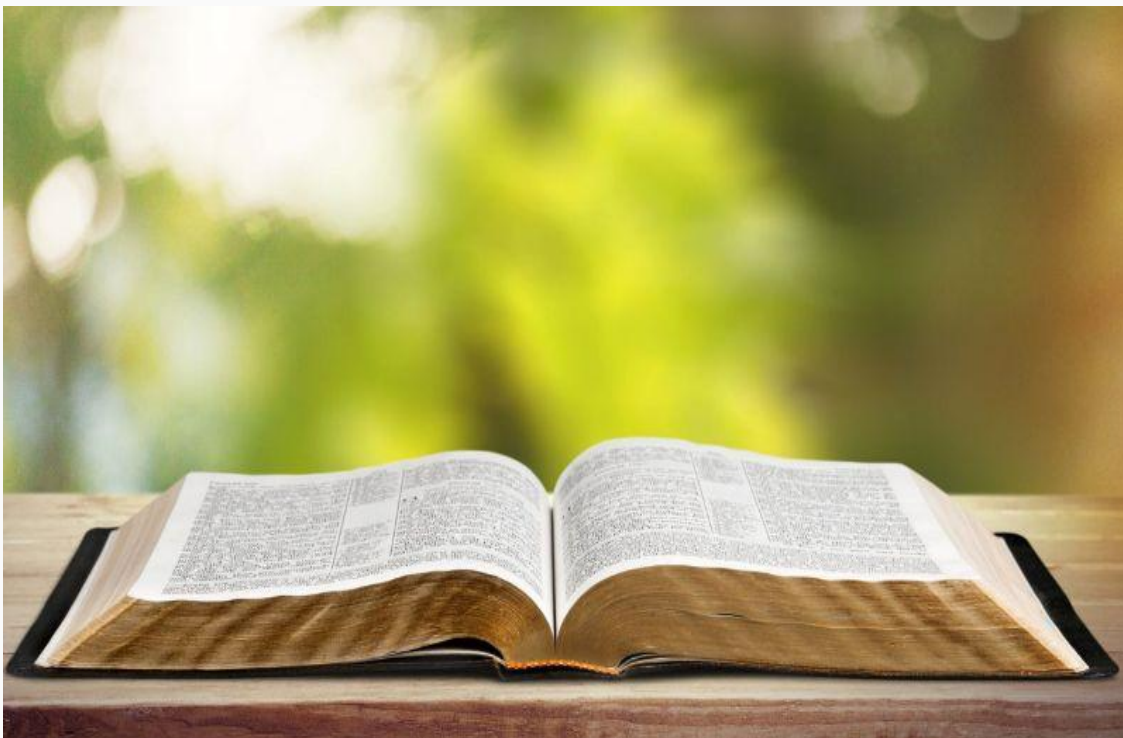
Feast Day: April 13th

Pope Martin I, whose feast day is celebrated on April 13, was a courageous leader of the Church during a time of great political and theological conflict. As pope in the 7th century, he firmly defended the truth about Christ against a false teaching known as Monothelism, which claimed that Jesus had only one will instead of both a human and divine will. Despite intense pressure from the emperor to remain silent, Martin I chose faithfulness to Christ over personal safety. He was arrested, exiled, and ultimately died from the harsh conditions he endured—making him one of the last popes honored as a martyr.

For families today, St. Martin I offers a powerful example of standing firm in truth, even when it is difficult or unpopular. Parents, in particular, are called to be the

primary teachers of the faith in their homes. Like St. Martin I, they may sometimes face cultural pressures that challenge Catholic beliefs or values. His witness reminds us that teaching children to know, love, and live the truth requires both courage and consistency, even in small, everyday moments—whether that means prioritizing Sunday Mass, modeling forgiveness, or having honest conversations about faith.

St. Martin I also demonstrates the quiet strength of perseverance. He did not seek conflict, but when faced with it, he responded with conviction rooted in prayer and trust in God. Families can imitate this by fostering a home grounded in faith, where prayer, patience, and mutual support help each member grow stronger. In honoring St. Martin I, we are reminded that holiness often looks like steadfast love and courage in the face of challenge—something every family is called to live out together.



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:

[USCCB: Second Sunday of Easter](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers Easter Season Reflections](#)

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



Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

If you haven't come across the Divine Mercy devotion before or aren't sure how to welcome children into it, you will really appreciate these videos. The Mark 10 Mission shares the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter and then links it to the miraculous Divine Mercy image. In the reflection, they explain some of the history and symbolism of the image and lead a decade of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Give it a try!

[Jesus Won't Forget You \(For Children Under 8\)](#)

[Jesus I Trust in You \(For Children 8-12\)](#)



Divine Mercy Sunday for Kids

The best way to truly celebrate this devotion with your kids is to understand it yourself, so here's a quick look at Divine Mercy Sunday:

- The image of Jesus has a red ray and a blue ray coming out of his heart. One symbolizes water, and one symbolizes blood.
- St. Faustina is the Polish Catholic nun who had the apparition of Divine Mercy Jesus, which is why she often depicted holding the image.
- St. Pope John Paul II is the pope that canonized St. Faustina and instituted Divine Mercy Sunday, so he is also associated with the day.
- When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, he came with the message “Jesus, I Trust In You”
- St. Faustina kept a diary where she wrote a lot about Divine Mercy, and it is often referred to in reference to the image.
- The “Divine Mercy Chaplet” is a prayer that can be prayed using a rosary, but is shorter and prays much faster. You can find [directions for praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet here](#). Or jump in and start praying along with this [video](#).

- The Divine Mercy novena, starts on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Families are encouraged to attend confession the week of Divine Mercy Sunday. You can read about the special graces received by celebrating Reconciliation [here](#).

Catholic Icing Divine Mercy Sunday Activities for Kids



Divine Mercy Sunday at OLS

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated annually 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 this Sunday:
April 12th**

2:30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
3:00 pm Praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

April Catechist Magazine Calendar

Living Faith Kids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

APRIL 2026



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

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[Download the April 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: How many days is the Catholic Easter season?

- a) 3 days
- b) 8 days
- c) 40 days
- d) 50 days



Answer: d Easter isn't just one day, it's an entire season! The liturgical season of Easter lasts 50 days. It is the second longest season in the Church calendar. Each year, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox and ends with the celebration of Pentecost. 50 days - that gives us a long time to be joyful!

Joke of the Week

Q: Why didn't Thomas believe his friends when they told him that Jesus has risen from the dead on Easter Sunday?

A: He thought it was an egg-zageration.

Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jnoll@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
cmcDonald@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)