

Religious Education

Give your child the gift of faith!



CCD Family Newsletter

May 28 - June 11, 2025



CCD Registration for 2025-2026 Now Open

We encourage you to **register your child as early as possible**. Early registration helps to ensure that your child can be placed in a class on the day of your choice. Additionally, the volume of expected students impacts the number of volunteers we need to recruit and train as well as the types of spaces we are able to use and the number of workbooks we need to purchase. Your early registration is therefore greatly appreciated. (Plus, you'll save \$30!)

You are encouraged to **register even if you do not know which day of the week your child will be able to attend** - just let us know by September 1st!

Please **complete one registration form for each child** in grades K-8. Registration for the OLS high school Youth Group is separate and begins in September.

2025-2026 OLS CCD Registration Form



Register Now for Early Bird Pricing!

Register Before July 15th, 2025

- 1 Child - \$150
- 2 Children - \$240
- 3+ Children - \$325

Register After July 15th, 2025

- 1 Child - \$180
- 2 Children - \$270
- 3+ Children - \$355

Families who would like to request financial assistance or be placed on a payment plan should contact Colleen McDonald at sorrowschurch@gmail.com

All requests are kept confidential.



Basic 2025-2026 Details

There are **25 weeks of instruction** in the CCD year. The complete weekly calendar will be set by the parish at the end of June.

Classes are expected to **begin Monday, September 29th and Tuesday, September 30th.**

Traditional, in-person classes for Grades 1-8 will be offered on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

- Kindergarten is only offered on Monday.
- Grade 7 is only offered on Tuesday.

You do not need to indicate your Monday or Tuesday day preference in order to register (though that would be very helpful) - just let us know by September 1st.

Monday and Tuesday classes will run from 3:55 - 5:15 pm. Our Opening Prayer Service and Gospel Reading will once again be held in the upper church. Catechists will then lead their students down to the OLS School for grade-based instruction. Dismissal will take place at 5:15pm from the OLS School.

OLS will continue to offer a **parent-led homeschooling option** for parents who would like to take a more active role in the faith-lives of their children. Please note - the homeschooling program is not an independent study and parental involvement is critical to your child's full participation. Students in the homeschooling program use the same curriculum as their in-person counterparts. Participants are asked to meet with Mrs. Noll in May or June for an end-of-the-year discussion. The fee for the homeschooling program is the same as that of the in-person program.



Please Schedule Your End-of-the-Year Discussion

It's that time of the year once again! As per the directives established by the Archdiocese of Newark, children in parish homeschooling programs are asked to meet with a parish representative at the end of the year in order to maintain connection with the parish and to ensure that a thorough catechesis has taken place. If your child was a member of the OLS Homeschooling Program for the 2024-2025 school year (and not simply a few months due to a sports conflict), you should have received a SignUpGenius with information to schedule your year-end discussion with Mrs. Noll.

For those of you who might be new to the homeschooling program, please don't worry! This is not a test, but a faith-based discussion about some of the big topics of the year. Our new curriculum centers around the four pillars of the church, so that's how we'll focus our discussion:

- **The Creed** - Who is God and how have you seen Him active in your life this past year?
- **The Sacraments** - How are the ups and downs of our life reflected in the Church's liturgical calendar? How have you encountered Jesus in the sacraments?
- **Moral Formation** - What are some of the tools we have to make good decisions and how have you used them in your daily life?
- **Prayer** - What is your life of prayer like? How do you respond to God's invitation to be close to him?

[Sign Up for a Discussion Here!](#)



Final OLS Family Mass of the School Year Sunday, June 8th 10:00 am

Our final OLS Family Mass of the 2024-2025 school year will be held on Sunday, June 8th at 10:00am. Family Masses will resume in September when all of our usual volunteers have returned from their summer holidays and camps. (Though rest assured, families are ALWAYS welcome here at OLS at each and every Mass during the year.)

Be sure to join us after the Family Mass for Coffee and Donuts in St. Joseph's Hall. As always, there will be a craft set up for our young parishioners.

Additionally, if your child has assisted during our Family Mass as a lector, reader of the Prayers of the Faithful, altar server, usher or greeter, be sure to stop by our table in St. Joseph's Hall to pick up a little thank you gift on behalf of the parish. We thank all of our youth volunteers for modeling stewardship for the rest of us!



On Saturday, May 31st, 40 students in the OLS Youth Group will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 5:30pm Mass. Please join us in keeping them and their families in your prayers.

Zoey Josephine Birjah Rooplal
Aaliyah Charbel Buttros Brown
Alesha Helena Buttros Brown
Ava Rose Casciaro
James Joseph Chamberlin
Julian John Chapman
Jack Christopher Clammer
Nora Francesca D'Andrea
Quincy Rose Dottin
Teddy Theophilus Fardin
Eric Peter Farrell
Catharine Seraphim Froelich

*Tai Pier Giorgio Gousse
Lawrence Oscar Romero Hartman
Landon Luke Heney
William Ignatius Johnston
Hugh Thomas Kelly
Brendan Andrew Kouyoumdjian
Gavin Stephen Lubomski
Oriana Christina Lucas
Sahana Theresa Lynch*

*Dylan Matthew Maguire
Ava Rose Maloney
Emily Rose Mattson
Brendan Damien McKeon
Grace Catherine Nelson
Phoebe Grace Perlman
Liam Michael Peterson
Zachary Pio Roche
Olivia Rose Roskin
Phineas Louis Salzmann
Joseph Sebastian Schmidt
Miles Francis Simon
John Regis Solgan
Luke Denis Spoerel
Rorygrace Cecilia Thompson
Evan Andreia Waller
Chaz Mark Webber
Jake Francis Wilkes
Amelia Catherine Williams*



OLS Parish Office Summer Hours

Please be advised that the parish office will once again be closed on the Fridays of summer, beginning Friday, June 6th and ending with Friday, August 29th.



Make Your Opinions Known!

Have you completed the DMI yet? DMI stands for Disciple Maker Index - a tool inviting parishioners to reflect on where they are on their journey of discipleship and enables parish leadership to make data-driven decisions to help parishioners grow in their faith. Share your perspective now to help strengthen our parish community and better prepare OLS for the future!

To complete the DMI, click [HERE](#).

Did You Know? *

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. To obtain an indulgence, the usual conditions must be met. If you want to learn more, join us and find out!



Pilgrimage with OLS to the Holy Doors at our Cathedral!

Join us for Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, followed by a guided Tour of the Cathedral, a picnic lunch - and the chance to walk through the Holy Doors and gain the indulgence* for this Year of Jubilee.

Sunday, June 1st
11am - 4pm (includes Mass)

Interested? Send questions/RSVP to OLS Ministry Associate
Stephanie Sonnick at: olschurchministries@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 27th



Pope Leo in the News

In his first days, Pope Leo XIV is already shaping his papacy. Here's how the past four popes spent their first weeks: [READ](#)

How did a boy from Chicago become the 267th Successor to Peter? Follow Pope Leo XIV's timeline: [READ](#)

Pope-eroni! Pope Leo XIV's favorite pizza joint is a local Chicago gem: [READ](#)

Drawing from his Augustinian roots, Pope Leo XIV is calling us to love Christ together. Find out how: [READ](#)

Our new pope ventured out and visited the grave of St. Paul the Apostle, the great evangelizer: [READ](#)

What exactly is the Ring of the Fisherman? [READ](#)

Pope Leo XVI's Inauguration Mass in One Minute: [WATCH](#)

English version: Full Homily of Pope Leo XIV at his Inauguration Mass: [WATCH](#)



Fr. Mike Schmitz Videos

Fr. Mike (Bible and Catechism in a Year Podcast) is a very accessible Catholic speaker. To hear his new perspectives on the papacy, click on the videos below.

[We've Got a New Pope! What's Next?](#)

[How the Holy Spirit Guides the Election of the Pope](#)

Young Adult Barbecue

A red poster for a 'Barbecue & Bonfire' event. It features illustrations of food items like ribs, corn, and a burger. The text is in white and yellow. The event is for Verso Cristo Young Adults, the 3rd annual summer opener in Essex County, co-sponsored and open to all in their 20's and 30's. Activities include BBQ foods, fire pits, games, and a blind auction. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or drink to share. The event is on Saturday, June 14th, from 7:00pm to 10pm, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079.

Verso Cristo Young Adults'

BARBECUE & BONFIRE

Our 3rd annual summer opener in Essex County, co-sponsored and open to all in their 20's and 30's!

BBQ FOODS – FIRE PITS GAMES – BLIND AUCTION

Bring a side dish or drink to share!

Saturday, June 14th
7:00pm - 10pm

Location:
Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
217 Prospect Street
South Orange, NJ 07079



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. Paul VI, Pope

Feast Day: May 29th

Patron of: Archdiocese of Milan

Born near Brescia in northern Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini was the second of three sons. His father, Giorgio, was a lawyer, editor, and eventually a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. His mother, Giuditta, was very involved in Catholic Action.

After ordination in 1920, Giovanni did graduate studies in literature, philosophy, and canon law in Rome before he joined the Vatican Secretariat of State in 1924, where he worked for 30 years. He was also chaplain to the Federation of Italian Catholic University Students, where he met and became a very good friend of Aldo Moro, who eventually became prime minister. Moro was kidnapped by the Red Brigade in March 1978, and murdered two months later. A devastated Pope Paul VI presided at his funeral.

In 1954, Fr. Montini was named archbishop of Milan, where he sought to win disaffected workers back to the Catholic Church. He called himself the “archbishop of the workers” and visited factories regularly while overseeing the rebuilding of a local Church tremendously disrupted by World War II.

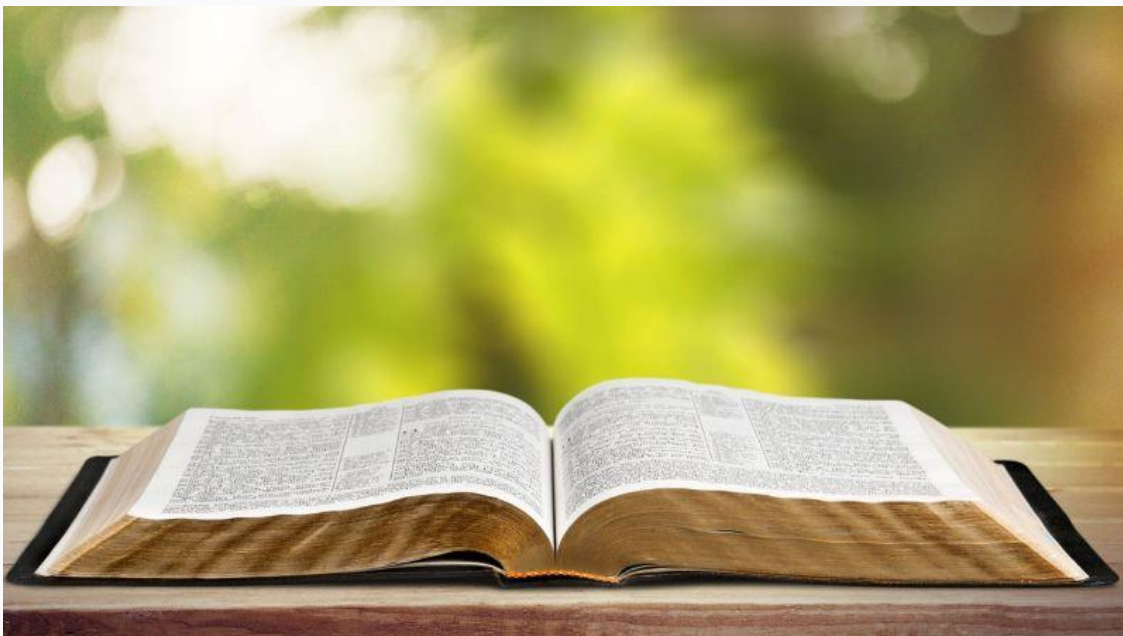
In 1958, Montini was the first of 23 cardinals named by Pope John XXIII, two months after the latter’s election as pope. Cardinal Montini helped in preparing Vatican II and participated enthusiastically in its first sessions. When he was elected pope in June 1963, he immediately decided to continue that Council, which had another three sessions before its conclusion on December 8, 1965. The day before Vatican II concluded, Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras revoked the excommunications that their predecessors had made in 1054. The pope worked very hard to ensure that bishops would approve the Council’s 16 documents by overwhelming majorities.

Paul VI had stunned the world by visiting the Holy Land in January 1964, and meeting Athenagoras, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in person. The pope made eight more international trips, including one in 1965, to visit New York City and speak on behalf of peace before the United Nations General Assembly. He also visited India (1964), Colombia (1968), Uganda (1969), and seven Asian countries during a 10-day tour in 1970.

Also in 1965, he instituted the World Synod of Bishops, and the next year decreed that bishops must offer their resignations on reaching age 75. In 1970, he decided that cardinals over 80 would no longer vote in papal conclaves or head the Holy See’s major offices. He had increased the number of cardinals significantly, giving many countries their first cardinal. Eventually establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and 40 countries, he also instituted a permanent observer mission at the United Nations in 1964. Paul VI wrote seven encyclicals; his last one in 1968 on human life—*Humanae Vitae*—prohibited artificial birth control.

Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo on August 6, 1978, and was buried in St. Peter’s Basilica. He was beatified on October 19, 2014, and canonized on October 14, 2018. Since 2019 his liturgical feast has been celebrated on May 29.

[5-Minute Video: 60 Years of Pope Paul VI: A Legacy of Holiness and Reform](#)



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:

[Seventh Sunday of Easter](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

[Eighth Sunday of Easter - The Ascension](#)



Resources for the Ascension of the Lord

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates Jesus' ascension into Heaven.

Historically, this holy day has been celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday – the Thursday in the sixth week of Easter. Most U.S. dioceses, however, have moved the celebration of the Ascension to the seventh Sunday of Easter. For this reason, it is now often referred to as “Ascension Sunday.” The day of celebration – Thursday or Sunday – seems to vary from diocese to diocese and country to country in 2025.

The Archdiocese of Newark is one of the dioceses in the country which celebrates this solemnity on Sunday, June 1st this year. Be sure to attend Mass with your child this Sunday so that he or she has a better understanding of this important piece of the paschal mystery. You can also click on one of the resource links below:

[Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies for Ages 4-8](#)

[Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies for Ages 8-12](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers: Passing the Torch](#)

[Article: Three Questions at the Heart of the Ascension](#)


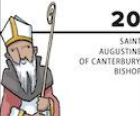
[Article: The Ascension and Accompaniment](#)

LivingFaithKids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

MAY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: REPENT To turn away from sin and turn toward God.				 SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER 1	SAINT ATHANASIUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 2	SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES 3
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Q How many fish were caught in the net? (SEE MAY 7) John 21:1-19 4	5	6	A 153	7	8	SAINT JOHN OF AVILA, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH SAINT DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST 10
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Q Jesus said, "My sheep hear _____." (SEE MAY 16) John 10:27-30 11	SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS SAINT PANCRAZ, MARTYR 12	 OUR LADY OF FATIMA 13	SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE 14	 SAINT ISIDORE 15	A "my voice." 16	17
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Q What is the new commandment? (SEE MAY 24) John 13:31-33a, 34-35 18	19	SAINT BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST 20	SAINT CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS 21	SAINT RITA OF CASCIA, RELIGIOUS 22	23	A Love one another. 24
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Q Jesus said, "Whoever loves me will _____." (SEE MAY 28) John 14:23-29 25	SAINT PHILIP NERI, PRIEST 26	 SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP 27	A "keep my word." 28	 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 29	30	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 31

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

Catholic Trivia

Question: Pope Leo XIV may be the first American pope, but who was the first pope to visit America?

- A) Pope Leo XIII
- B) Pope John XXIII
- C) Pope Paul VI
- D) Pope John Paul II

Answer: C

Pope Paul VI made history by becoming the first pope to visit the United States on October 4, 1965. His visit was primarily focused on addressing the United Nations and urging a message of peace. He spent 14 hours in New York City, where he met with President Lyndon B. Johnson, delivered a speech at the UN, and celebrated Mass at Yankee Stadium.

[Watch Pope Paul VI's Pilgrimage to the US](#)



Joke of the Week



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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)