

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter

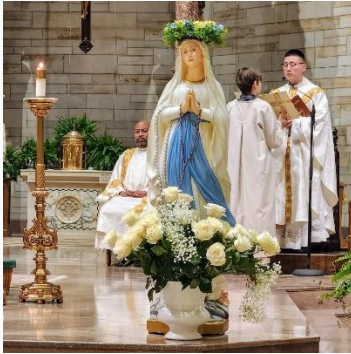
May 7 - May 14, 2025

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.
THANK YOU.



CCD Resumes in September

The 2024-2025 catechetical year concluded this week. Registration for the coming year will begin after Memorial Day. Learning about your faith never ends though! We hope to see you and your children at Mass and at our upcoming parish events. This weekend's Mother's Day Family Mass features Coffee and Donuts immediately following Mass. Join us!



May Crowning

Sunday, May 11th

10:00 am Family Mass

May is the month of Mary and May 11th is Mother's Day, so it is the perfect day to crown Mary. Join us at 10:00 am Family Mass to witness the First Communicants place a crown of flowers on our statue of Mary, a symbol that she is Queen of Heaven and Earth.

If your child is one of our 42 First Communicants, please let Mrs. McDonald know if you will be joining us so that she can be sure we have enough flowers!



Thanks!

On behalf of all the catechists and staff members of the OLS CCD program, thank you for sharing your children with us once again this year! It has been an honor to serve the Lord by helping your children encounter Him in their own lives.

Thanks too for all the goodies, notes and flowers which were sent in on the last day. I know that they were very much appreciated by all the catechists.

During our final Opening Service of the year we also took a few moments to recognize several groups of students:

- **8th Graders** - We'll miss you! (One of my favorite moments of the week was when our Kindergarten and 8th grade catechist took a photo with one of our students to represent his first and last year in the program.)
- **Proclaimers** - This year we had student volunteers proclaim the Gospel each week. They did a great job and it was wonderful to see them use their gifts in service of the Lord and their friends.
- **Perfect Attendees** - We know that the kids in our program lead very busy lives, so perfect attendance is particularly impressive (as is avoiding germs)



*Thank You to our
Catechists &
Volunteers*

I would like to once again acknowledge our devoted team of catechetical volunteers who honestly work very hard in sharing the Good News with your children. These dedicated men and women take time out of their busy schedules 25 times a year to witness their faith to your children. They may come from all walks of life, but their love for the Gospel and service to your children binds them all together.

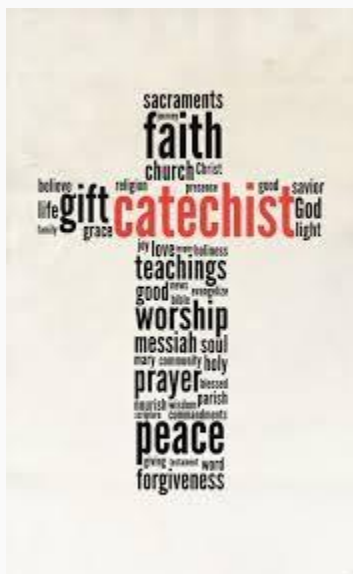
And while she may not lead a particular class, as always, I need to give a very loud and public shout out to Colleen McDonald whose constant and unwavering dedication to the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows is truly remarkable. Chances are good that if you've attended any event on our parish campus, Mrs. McDonald had a behind-the-scenes part in its execution. We are forever indebted to her.

Monday

Eileen Pucillo (K)
Kate Walker (1)
Kathryne Squilla (2)
Kathleen O'Rourke (2)
Margaret Johnston (3)
Domenic DeStefano (3)
Genevieve Serrette (4)
Tierney Norris (5)
Tom Maddi (5)
Fr. Andrew (7)
Benjamin Suarez (7)
Vicki Robertson (8)

Tuesday

Eileen Pucillo (1)
Liz Ebert (2)
Maria Pollard (3)
Maria Santoliquido (4)
Nicole Hooks (5)
Jane Eke (5)
Virginia Archibald (6)
Tom Dickerson (7)*
Vicki Robertson (8)



A Few Notes About Our Catechists

Our Tuesday 7th grade catechist, Tom Dickerson, has been in and out of the hospital since December. Please keep him in your prayers.

Thank you too to substitute catechists Agathe Lorenceau, Jane Kachmar-Desonne and Nora Van De North who have graciously offered to fill in our staffing gaps when needed and Nancy "The Food Pantry Lady" Piasecki for helping to man the cafeteria during our "topsy turvy" days. Thanks too to Larry Pucillo for his CCD set up assistance each week.

A quick look at our catechist list reveals several things:

- We have two catechists who graciously volunteered to teach BOTH days: Eileen Pucillo and Vicki Robertson.
- Several of our catechists have been active members of our catechetical team for many, many years.

I point out these two items to say that our program is volunteer run and is always in need of additional help. Please use the coming weeks to reflect upon your schedule for the upcoming year to see if there is a way that you might be able to perhaps become more involved in our program. Team teaching is a GREAT way to start. Please give joining our team some prayerful consideration. Your children will thank you for it (though probably years from now).



Homeschooling Connection

If you've been keeping up with your child's assigned work, congratulations! You're all done! If you have not been quite as diligent, please use the next few weeks to finish up the homeschooling year. Our end of the year discussion schedule will be published shortly.



Gospel Reflection Sticker

Our final CCD sticker of the year was a birthday cake with red frosting to match the ENORMOUS cake we celebrated the final CCD day of the year with. As the final chapter we studied centered around Pentecost, frequently referred to as the "birthday of the Church," it was an apt way to mark the final day of classes. The Gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Easter also provided us with a stark contrast in the lives of the apostles prior to the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Prior to Pentecost we see the disciples back to catching mere fish once again. After Pentecost, they will be set aflame and be able to truly go about their mission to become "fishers of men".



First Communion Information

Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers as they enter their final days of preparation. Our **First Communion Masses are scheduled for: 10:30 am and 2:30 pm on Saturday, May 10th** in the event that you would like to attend and support them on their faith journeys.

I look forward to seeing all of our First Communicants for rehearsal tonight or tomorrow depending upon your selected Mass time.

- Mandatory **practice for the 10:30 am Mass is Wednesday, May 7th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.**
 - Mandatory **practice for the 2:30 pm Mass is Wednesday, May 8th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.**
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The Papal Conclave Begins Today

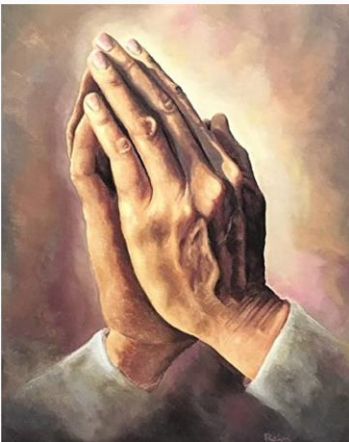
- The Conclave has begun. Read about what happened in the final days of preparations here: [READ](#)
 - There are 133 Cardinals entering the Sistine Chapel tomorrow. *The National Catholic Register* provides the top 10 papal contenders you should know (just in case - though Jorge Bergoglio wasn't really on most people's shortlists in 2013): [READ](#)
 - Learn how Pope Francis shaped the College of Cardinals: [READ](#)
 - The conclave is cloaked in secrets, including what they eat. Can't have a cardinal passing notes through the ravioli ... find out what the potential popes-to-be eat: [READ](#)
 - Check out this map of the Vatican with key locations for the conclave: [READ](#)
 - How locking cardinals in a room until they elect a pope became known as the conclave: [READ](#)
 - Bishop Barron Discusses Papal front-runners with EWTN: [WATCH](#)
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Statement from Cardinal Tobin

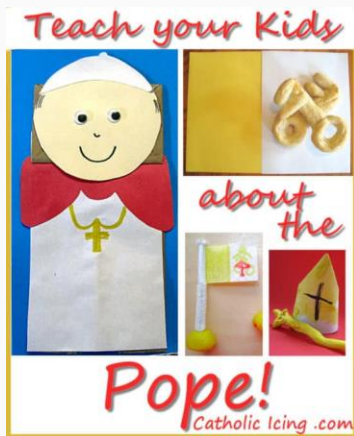
“...Let us give thanks for his life, his witness, and his love for the People of God. And may we honor his memory by building a Church that reflects the face of Jesus — merciful, welcoming, and always near to those on the margins.” Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark

Click [HERE](#) for the statement from Cardinal Tobin on the death of Pope Francis. Cardinal Tobin is one of the Cardinal electors who will be selecting the new pope.



Prayer for a New Pope

*O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



The Pope for Kids

Now is a very exciting time to be a Catholic kid. You can help your kids learn about the pope through some of the great crafts, activities and worksheets on the kid-friendly websites below.

[Catholic Icing - Pope Activities](#)

[Look to Him and Be Radiant - Pope Resources](#)



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Feast Day: May 10

Patron of: Andalusia, Spain

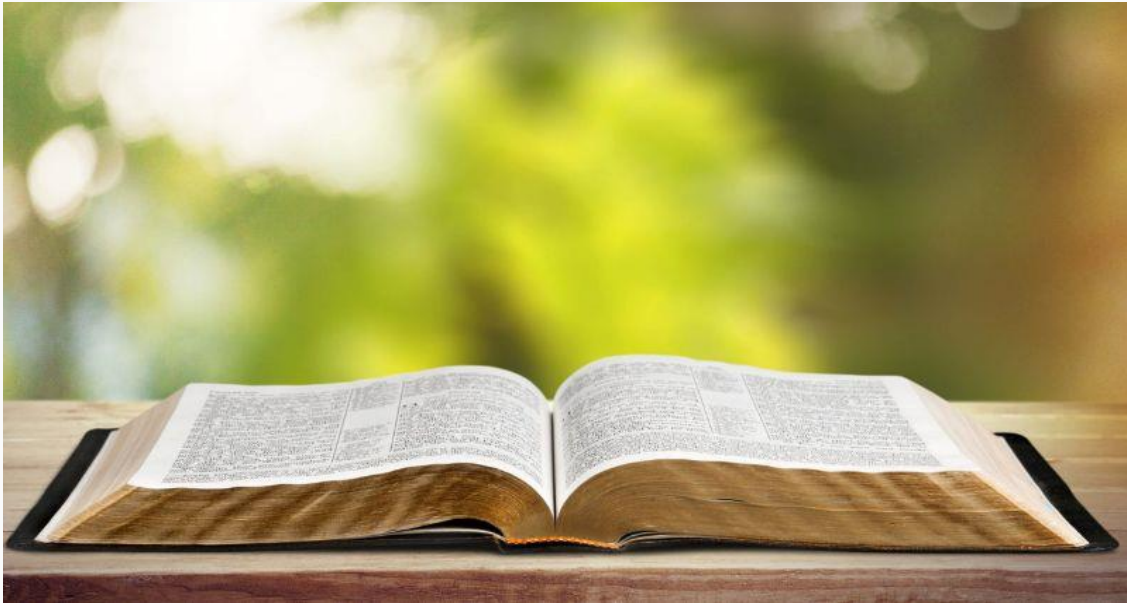
Born in the Castile region of Spain, John was sent at the age of 14 to the University of Salamanca to study law. He later moved to Alcala, where he studied philosophy and theology before his ordination as a diocesan priest.

After John's parents died and left him as their sole heir to a considerable fortune, he distributed his money to the poor. In 1527, he traveled to Seville, hoping to become a missionary in Mexico. The archbishop of that city persuaded him to stay and spread the faith in Andalusia. During nine years of work there, he developed a reputation as an engaging preacher, a perceptive spiritual director, and a wise confessor.

Because John was not afraid to denounce vice in high places, he was investigated by the Inquisition but was cleared in 1533. He later worked in Cordoba and then in Granada, where he organized the University of Baeza, the first of several colleges run by diocesan priests who dedicated themselves to teaching and giving spiritual direction to young people.

He was friends with Saints Francis Borgia, Ignatius of Loyola, John of God, John of the Cross, Peter of Alcantara, and Teresa of Avila. John of Avila worked closely with members of the Society of Jesus and helped their growth within Spain and its colonies. John's mystical writings have been translated into several languages.

He was beatified in 1894, canonized in 1970, and declared a doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012.



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 Easter](#)
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)




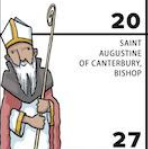

MaryKnoll Brothers 4th Sunday Resource: Recognizing the Voices that Matter

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

KIDSCALENDAR

MAY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: <h2 style="margin: 0;">REPENT</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">To turn away from sin and turn toward God.</p>				 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? <small>(SEE MAY 7)</small> • John 21:1-19 4	5	6	A 153 7	8	9	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 ____." <small>(SEE MAY 16)</small> • John 10:27-30 11	SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS SAINT PANCRAS, 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? <small>(SEE MAY 24)</small> • 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 ____." <small>(SEE MAY 28)</small> • 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:

The word "conclave" comes from the Latin "cum clavis" meaning what?

- A) with charity
- B) with faith
- C) with keys
- D) with authority

Answer: C - with keys

"Conclave" comes from a Latin phrase meaning "with a key", as the College of Cardinals are ceremonially locked in the Sistine Chapel until a new pope is elected. This is a practice in use since 1274. From the start of the Conclave until its end, they have no contact with the outside world.



Joke of the Week



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