

## Give your child the gift of faith!



**July 9 - July 23, 2025**



## Register By July 15th for Discount

Be sure to register by July 15th for CCD in order to take advantage of the "early bird" pricing discount. Your early registration helps us ensure that we have enough volunteer catechists and that we order enough books for the coming year. Thanks!

# Religious Education

Give your child the gift of faith!



## CCD REGISTRATION

2025 - 2026

Allow our catechists the privilege of helping your child develop a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ through the OLS CCD program.



### Calendar

**25 Total Classes**

#### Classes Begin

Last week in September

#### Classes End

First week in May

Homeschooling option available



### Timing

#### Monday Classes

Grades K-6 & 8  
3:55 - 5:15 pm

#### Tuesday Classes

Grades 1-8  
3:55 - 5:15 pm



### Cost

#### Register By July 15th

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

#### Register After July 15th

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

Register on the OLS website



olschurch.com



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[Register HERE for CCD](#)



## Interested in CYO Athletics?

Many of our parish families whose children played CYO basketball and volleyball for the St. Joseph's Celtics were heartbroken to learn of the end of that vibrant program following the rental of the St. Joe's gym to the YMCA. As a former Celtics mom myself, I was very upset by the thought that there would no longer be a place for the kids of our parish to play sports with their Catholic peers. So, I was very encouraged by a meeting which was held on Monday evening with members of the OLS Church staff, the OLS School administration, parents and athletic department along with a handful of devoted St. Joe's volunteers to discuss the *possibility* of opening the OLS School Crusaders teams to members of the OLS CCD program.

**If your child is interested in playing on a combined parish and school team, as part of the Archdiocese of Newark's CYO Athletics league, please be sure to complete the interest form which will be emailed to you in the coming days. Your timely response to this survey is essential. Once the interest level and the ages of the possible players has been determined, Nick Rego, OLS Athletic Director, will be able to evaluate whether or not it is feasible to open up its Crusaders sports program to additional players given the constraints placed upon gym usage by practices, games and OLS School functions.**

(And for those of you who might be wondering who the Catholic patron saint of sports is, you can direct your prayers for a combined season to St. Sebastian.)



## OLS Parish Office Summer Hours

The parish **offices are closed on Fridays from now through August 29th**. Daily Masses (7:00 am and 12:00 pm) and Adoration (beginning after noontime Mass and ending with Benediction at 3:00 on Mondays and Fridays) will still take place in the church.

**Jen Noll will be out of the office from July 14th - July 17th**. If you need assistance during that time, please reach out to Colleen McDonald.



## Everyone Needs a Break Now and Then - Even the Pope!

What are you doing for the summer is a very popular question this time of the year. Have you ever wondered where the Pope might go to rest and recharge? Well, the answer is Castel Gandolfo, the papal villa located 16 miles outside of Rome. Pope Leo will be staying there from July 6th - July 20th and August 15th - 17th. If you'd like to see the beautiful location (especially the gardens!) of the Pope's holiday and to learn more about Castel Gandolfo, see below:

[History and Art of Pope's Summer Residence in Castel Gandolfo](#)

[CNN Travel Video: Let's See Where the Pope Will Spend His Summer Holiday](#)

[Welcome! The Pope Begins His Summer Holidays at Castel Gandolfo](#)



## 5 Ways to Keep Your Catholic Faith Alive While Traveling

Summer travel presents families with unique opportunities to renew and express their lives of faith. Ascension Presents has some great ideas (along with corresponding links) for turning your upcoming summer trips into mini-pilgrimages. Check out their ideas [HERE](#).



### Saint / Feast For Week 1

**St. Benedict**

**Feast Day:** July 11th

**Attributes in Art:** A bell and a raven

**Patronage:** Monks, Europe, Students, Poisoning Victims

St. Benedict is often called the father of monasticism in the Roman Catholic Church, but his influence extends beyond monasteries—the rule of life he wrote 1,500 years ago is still a pillar of Christian spirituality today.

He was the twin brother of St. Scholastica—the two were born in 480 to a noble family in Italy. Benedict was educated in Rome, but as a young man became repulsed by the laziness and promiscuousness of his classmates. In about 500, he left the city to live in the countryside about 40 miles away. There, he met a hermit living nearby, St. Romanus, who saw something special in Benedict. He encouraged the young man to take on a life of solitude and offered him the use of a cave near his hermitage in an area known as Subiaco, and Benedict lived there for three years.

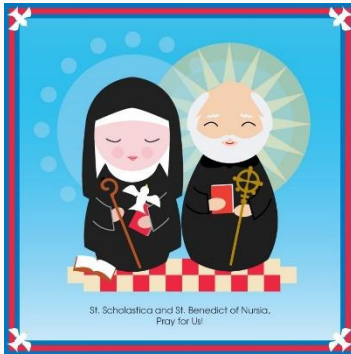
Soon, people in the region started hearing stories of Benedict's holiness and wisdom, and many sought him out. When the abbot of a nearby monastery died, the monks asked Benedict to lead them. He agreed and imposed on them a strict way of life. They soon changed their minds about him and tried to poison him. On the first attempt, they poisoned his drink. Benedict received the cup, and when he blessed it, the cup broke (notice this cup in the painting of him from the Basilica, shown below). Undeterred, they poisoned his bread next. When he received it, he blessed it, and a raven flew by and stole it away.

Benedict returned to Subiaco and gathered people around him, founding 12 different monasteries and transforming the region into an area of learning and spirituality. In 525, Benedict left Subiaco and settled in Monte Cassino between Rome and Naples. He destroyed a temple to Apollo there and evangelized the people living nearby. He eventually built the famous monastery and wrote a rule of life for its monks. This "Rule of St. Benedict" has shaped Christian spirituality and monastic life for centuries.

The Rule offers practical advice for living a Christ-like life and for the administration of a monastery. It is based on common sense and encourages moderation, especially in asceticism and discipline. Prayer (especially with the psalms), study, work, obedience, stability, zeal, community, and hospitality are benchmarks of the Rule, which can be summed in the famous phrase, *ora et labora*, "pray and work."

Benedict grew in holiness and became famous for his holiness and wisdom. He advised kings and popes and could read people's consciences. He had the gift of prophecy and worked miracles. He died on March 21 in 543, but this date almost always falls in Lent, so the Church moved his memorial to July 11.

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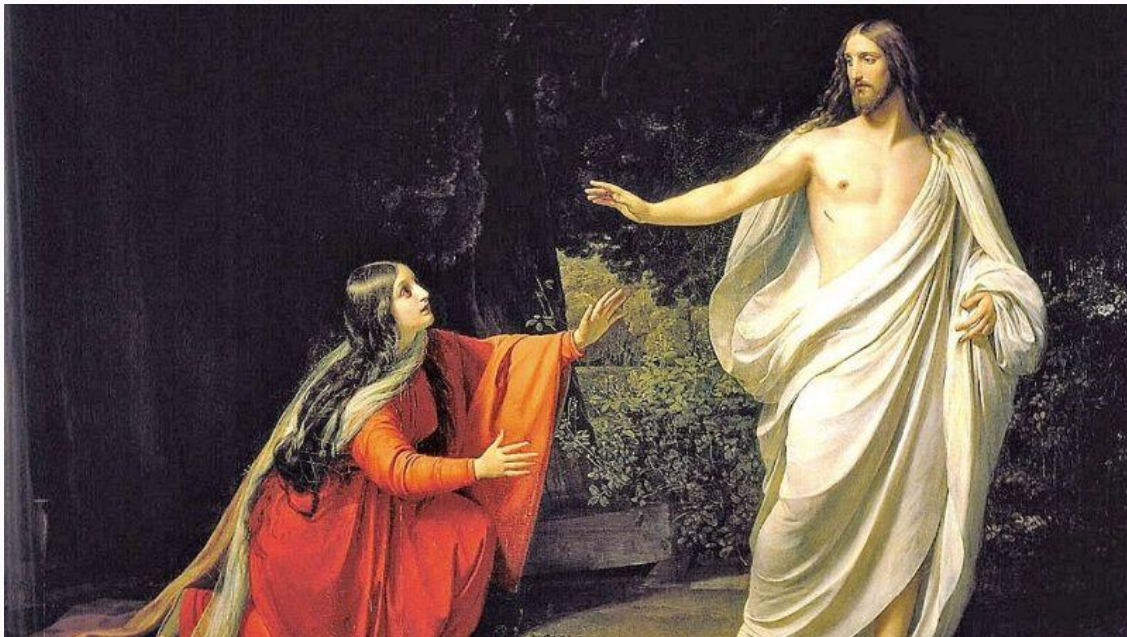


## St. Benedict for Kids

Just in time for the upcoming feast of St. Benedict, I read this interesting article from Teaching Catholic Kids entitled "[What Does the Rule of St. Benedict Offer Families?](#)" No, your house probably doesn't operate with the same strictness as a monastery, but there are lessons from monastic life that can be applied to your home. Check out the article and then let me know if you've been able to apply the "kitchen server of the week" idea!

[20-Minute Video for Kids: Story of St. Benedict](#)  
[Video Reading of Tomie DePaola's Book The Holy](#)  
[Twins](#)

[Real Life at Home St. Benedict Coloring Page](#)



## SAINT / FEAST FOR WEEK 2

### St. Mary Magdalene

**Feast Day:** July 22nd

**Patronage:** Repentant Sinners, Hairdressers, Perfumers

St. Mary Magdalene has been called the second-most important woman in the Gospels, after Jesus' mother, Mary. The Gospels mention her 12 times, more than most of the apostles.

Her name comes from her origin in Magdala, a region in northern Galilee. The Gospels of Mark and Luke tell us that Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. After that, she traveled with Jesus and his followers and played a prominent role in witnessing Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. She remained at the foot of the cross when most of Jesus' followers left him, and she is remembered for her courage in faithfully standing with Jesus even as he faced death.

Mary Magdalene is the only person noted by all four Gospels as testifying to Jesus' resurrection. John and Mark portray her as the first witness of the resurrection, and St. Thomas Aquinas honored her with the title "the Apostle to the Apostles" because she was the first to share the news of the resurrection.

For generations, tradition confused Mary Magdalene with two other women of the Gospel. She is not the same person as Mary of Bethany, who is the sister of Martha and Lazarus. She is also not the unnamed woman of Luke's Gospel (7:36-50), who was uncritically assumed to be a prostitute. Both of these other women anoint Jesus' feet with oil, which is why Mary Magdalene is often mistakenly portrayed with a jar of ointment.

We do know that Mary Magdalene was a pillar of the early Christian community, a faithful follower of Jesus who was healed by him, and one of the first people to witness and share the good news. Various traditions compete to tell the story of what happened to Mary Magdalene in her later life. One legend has it that she retired to Ephesus with Jesus' mother, Mary. Another has it that she was transported to France with others and evangelized that area.

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## St. Mary Magdalene for Kids

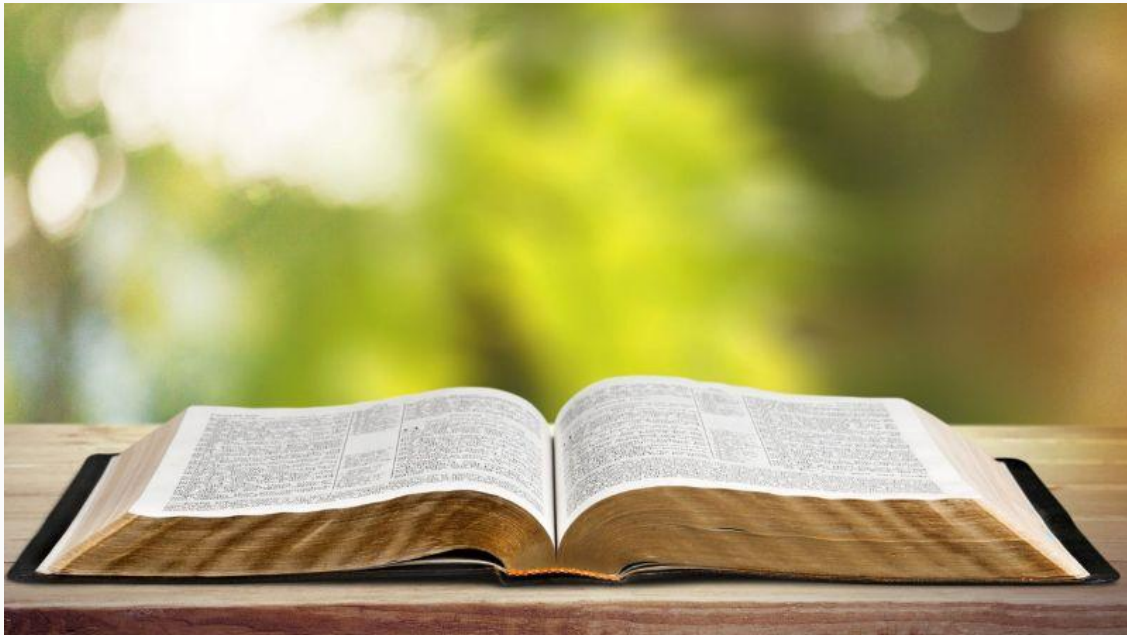
Jen Noll's Confirmation name is Madeleine (the French version of Magdalene), so July 22<sup>nd</sup> is a time to stop and think about the life of the extraordinary woman known as "The Apostle to the Apostles". Want to have something fun to look forward to after all the hype of the 4th of July has settled down - focus on the 22nd! And be sure to pick up (or make your own) madeleine cookies! Yum!

[Feast of Mary Magdalene Recipes](#)

[8-Minute Video for Kids: Story of Mary Magdalene](#)

[Mary Magdalene Kids' Info Sheet](#)

[Mary Magdalene Coloring Page](#)



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:

[15th Sunday of Ordinary Time - July 13th](#)  
[The 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time - July 20th](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)  
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)  
[MaryKnoll Brothers Reflection: Won't You Be My Neighbor?](#)



## Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies

In this Little Liturgy, children will hear the story of a man injured on the road to Jericho. It is, of course, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Share this video with your children to help them know that Jesus is always there to help them. And challenge them to come up with ways that they can help others.

[Little Liturgy for Ages 4-8](#)  
[Little Liturgy for Ages 8-12](#)

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## Catholic Trivia

**Question: The medal of St. Benedict is also known as...?**

- a) The Monk's Medal
- b) The Devil-Chasing Medal
- c) The Medal Most Holy
- d) The Believer's Medal

**Answer: b**

The St. Benedict Medal is one of the oldest and most revered medals used by the Church. It is engraved with symbols representing St. Benedict on the front, and a cross with initials of a Latin prayer of exorcism on the back.

During his life, St. Benedict performed many miracles by the power of God, often driving out the devil through the instrument of the cross. As many physical and spiritual miracles have been attributed to the devout use of the St. Benedict Medal, it is often called the “devil-chasing medal” (Ball, Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals, 1991).

Though lay people may not conduct exorcisms, they are permitted to use the St. Benedict Medal as a means of protection against evil, trusting in the power of God through the intercession of the Church.

The St. Benedict Medal is a sacramental of the Church, meaning its power comes forth from the merits of Jesus Christ, from the prayers of St. Benedict, from the blessing of the Church, and from the faithful interior disposition of those who use it. It should be used with faith in Christ, trusting in the prayers of



St. Benedict and the power of God, not regarded superstitiously ([CCC, 2111](#)).

[8-Minute Video: The St. Benedict Medal Explained](#)  
[EWTNVatican.com Article: The Popes and the Power and Significance of the St. Benedict Medal](#)



## WHAT THE ST. BENEDICT MEDAL MEANS



### **CRUX SANCTI PATRIS BENEDICTI (CENTER TEXT)**

The Cross of Holy Father Benedict.

### **EIUS IN OBITU NOSTRO PRAESENTIA MUNIAMUR (OUTSIDE EDGE TEXT)**

May we be strengthened by his presence in the hour of our death.

### **EX S M CASSINO MDCCCLXXX (BELOW IMAGE OF BENEDICT)**

From Holy Monte Casino 1880.

### **PAX (TOP)**

Peace.

### **SMQLIVB (LEFT SIDE, CLOCKWISE)**

What you offer me is evil. Drink the poison yourself!

### **VRNSMV (RIGHT SIDE, CLOCKWISE)**

Begone satan! Never tempt me with your vanities!

### **CSCML (VERTICAL CROSS)**

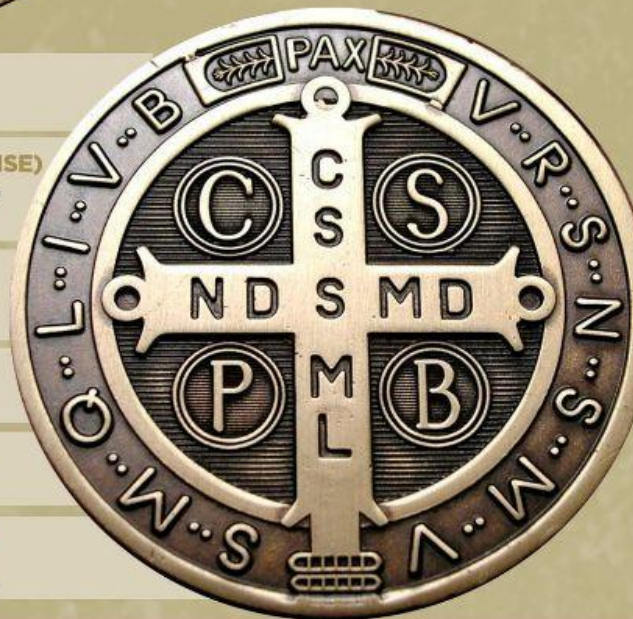
May the holy cross be my light!

### **ND SMD (HORIZONTAL CROSS)**

May the dragon never be my leader!

### **CSPB (FOUR QUADRANTS)**

The Cross of Holy Father Benedict.



[WWW.CATHOLICNEWSAGENCY.COM](http://WWW.CATHOLICNEWSAGENCY.COM)

## **Joke of the Week**

Q: *Where do sheep go on vacation?*

A: The Baaaa-hamas.

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**[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)**