

# Religious Education

Give your child the gift of faith!



## CCD Family Newsletter

July 23 - August 6, 2025



### Interested in CYO Athletics?

Is your child interested in playing on a combined parish and school team as part of the Archdiocese of Newark's CYO Athletics league? If so, please be sure to complete the [2025 OLS Crusaders Interest Form](#) by August 1st. 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.

Thank you to all those families who have already responded. Clearly there is a lot of excitement about this possibility!

## CCD Registration for 2025-2026 Continues

Thank you to all of the parents who have already registered their children for the coming catechetical year. Your early registration helps us ensure that we have enough teachers and workbooks for all of our incoming students. We know that activity schedules aren't released until we get closer to the fall. As such, you do NOT need to designate a Monday or Tuesday day preference at the time of registration. If you could let us know by September 1st, that would be appreciated though. Looking forward to seeing many returning faces this fall!

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## 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](#)



## 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 Mass and ending with Benediction at 3:00) will still take place in the church.



## Want to Raise the Next Pope? *Start with Prayer!*

Pope Leo XIV recently offered marriage advice to a young American couple days after their wedding, sharing how he was blessed by the example of his own parents who prayed the rosary together every day.

Newlyweds Cole and Anna Stevens received Pope Leo's personal blessing for their marriage during one of the pope's first general audiences, just four days after their wedding in Alabama. To watch the exchange in which the pope speaks of his own parents' lives of prayer and the importance of finding your family's preferred prayer style, click [HERE](#).

And the Pope's advice is excellent (I mean, he is the pope so I know we shouldn't be surprised). We know that the rosary isn't for everyone, so we frequently tell parents and kids to work to find the style of prayer

that works best for them and their own personal relationship with Jesus. Make it a summer of experimentation and find the form or forms of prayer that work best with your family's routines and preferences.



## Jubilee of Youth July 28 - August 3, 2025

The Jubilee of Youth will be celebrated from July 28 through August 3, 2025. In the spirit of the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Church is dedicating this time to young people—calling them to encounter Christ, deepen their faith, and walk the path of holiness with joy. While your own "youth" might not be able to travel to Rome this year to celebrate the Jubilee Year, there is a celebration called the Mass which takes place here at Our Lady of Sorrows *every day* (technically except Good Friday). You can also highlight this special year by utilizing some of the catechetical activities for the Jubilee Year 2025 put out by the Canadian Bishops. Just click [HERE](#).



## **Saint / Feast For Week 1**

### **Sts. Mary, Martha and Lazarus**

**Feast Day:** July 29th

**Patronage:** Siblings

*(Martha is also the patron saint of cooks, homemakers and restaurant servers)*

Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were evidently close friends of Jesus. He came to their home simply as a welcomed guest, rather than as one celebrating the conversion of a sinner like Zacchaeus or one unceremoniously received by a suspicious Pharisee. The sisters felt free to call on Jesus at their brother's death, even though a return to Judea at that time seemed to spell almost certain death.

Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11:25-27).

No doubt Martha was an active sort of person. On one occasion, she prepares the meal for Jesus and possibly his fellow guests and forthrightly states the obvious: All hands should pitch in to help with the dinner. The Lord recognizes that Martha is “worried about many things,” also noting that Mary, who has spent the preparation time at Jesus’ feet listening to his words “has chosen the better part.” John 12:1-8 describes Mary’s anointing of Jesus’ feet at Bethany, an act which he praised highly.

Immediately after we are told that the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus “because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.” Lazarus was the one of whom the Jews said, “See how much he loved him.” In their sight Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Legends abound about the life of Lazarus after the death and resurrection of Jesus. He is supposed to have left a written account of what he saw in the next world before he was called back to life. Some say he followed Peter into Syria. Another story is that despite being put into a leaking boat by the Jews at Jaffa, he, his sisters, and others landed safely in Cyprus. There he died peacefully after serving as bishop for 30 years.

It is certain there was early devotion to the saint. Around the year 390, the pilgrim lady Etheria talks of the procession that took place on the Saturday before Palm Sunday at the tomb where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. In the West, Passion Sunday was called *Dominica de Lazaro*, and Augustine tells us that in Africa the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus was read at the office of Palm Sunday.

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## St. Lazarus Activities for Kids

In its 2021 decree on combining veneration of Mary and Lazarus with Martha, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said, “In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death.” While those of us who are used to hosting gatherings might be able to relate most with St. Martha, kids definitely respond to the story of Jesus' raising of his friend Lazarus. Share Lazarus' story with your child and use some of that summer downtime to work on a fun Lazarus / Mummy craft.

[5-Minute Video: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead](#)

[Mummy Paper Plate Tracing Craft](#)

[Painted Rock Mummies](#)

[Mummy Pizzas with String Cheese Bandages](#)

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## SAINT / FEAST FOR WEEK 2

### St. Ignatius of Loyola

**Feast Day:** July 31st

**Patronage:** The Jesuits, Soldiers, Spiritual Retreats

The founder of the Jesuits was on his way to military fame and fortune when a cannonball shattered his leg. Because there were no books of romance on hand during his convalescence, Ignatius whiled away the time reading a life of Christ and lives of the saints. His conscience was deeply touched, and a long, painful turning to Christ began. Having seen the Mother of God in a vision, he made a pilgrimage to her shrine at Montserrat near Barcelona. He remained for almost a year at nearby Manresa, sometimes with the Dominicans, sometimes in a pauper's hospice, often in a cave in the hills praying. After a period of great peace of mind, he went through a harrowing trial of scruples. There was no comfort in anything—prayer, fasting, sacraments, penance. At length, his peace of mind returned.

It was during this year of conversion that Ignatius began to write down material that later became his greatest work, the *Spiritual Exercises*.

He finally achieved his purpose of going to the Holy Land, but could not remain, as he planned, because of the hostility of the Turks. Ignatius spent the next 11 years in

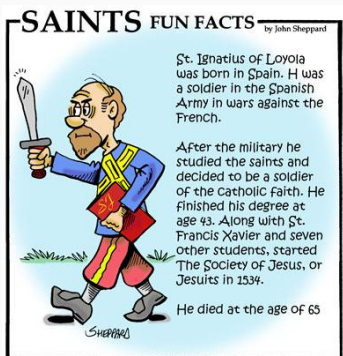


various European universities, studying with great difficulty, beginning almost as a child. Like many others, his orthodoxy was questioned; Ignatius was twice jailed for brief periods.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others—one of whom was Saint Francis Xavier—vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. If this became impossible, they vowed to offer themselves to the apostolic service of the pope. The latter became the only choice. Four years later Ignatius made the association permanent. The new Society of Jesus was approved by Pope Paul III, and Ignatius was elected to serve as the first general.

When companions were sent on various missions by the pope, Ignatius remained in Rome, consolidating the new venture, but still finding time to found homes for orphans, catechumens, and penitents. He founded the Roman College, intended to be the model of all other colleges of the Society.

Ignatius was a true mystic. He centered his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity—the Trinity, Christ, the Eucharist. His spirituality is expressed in the Jesuit motto, *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*—“for the greater glory of God.” In his concept, obedience was to be the prominent virtue, to assure the effectiveness and mobility of his men. All activity was to be guided by a true love of the Church and unconditional obedience to the Holy Father, for which reason all professed members took a fourth vow to go wherever the pope should send them for the salvation of souls.



## St. Ignatius of Loyola for Kids

Teach your kids (and yourself) about the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola by watching the video below.

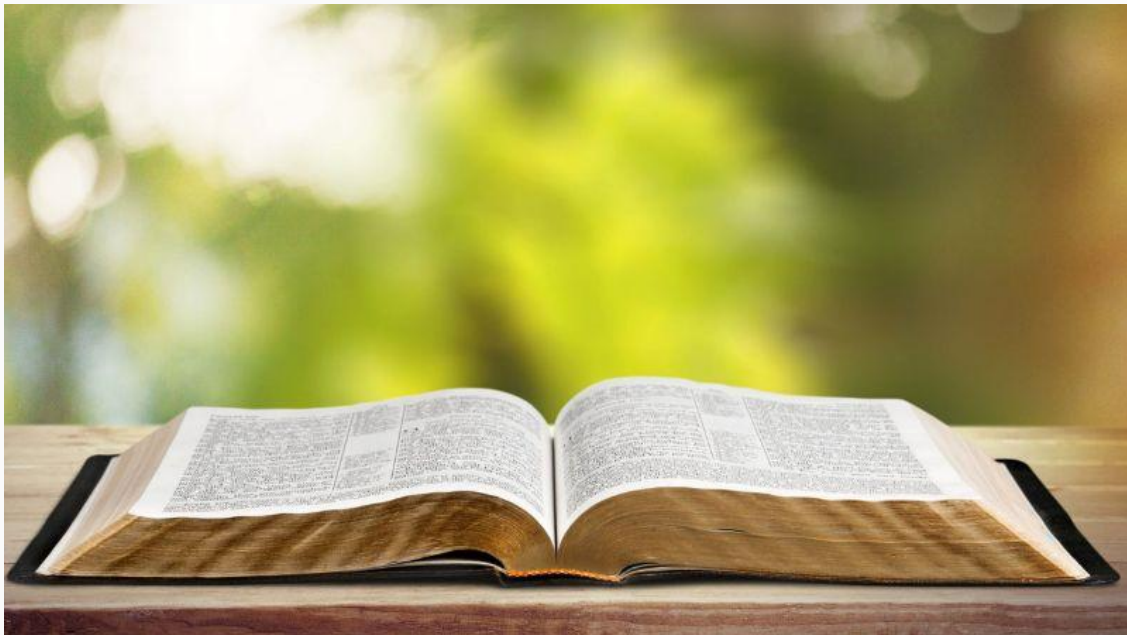
### [9-Minute Video: Finding God in All Things, the Story of St. Ignatius of Loyola](#)

Then, introduce Ignatius' Daily Examen into your family's routine. A daily examen is a prayerful method of “checking in” on how well we are living out our Christian faith on a daily basis. Developed by St.

Ignatius of Loyola more than four hundred years ago, the Examen invites us to reflect on how God has been present in our day, how we have responded to that presence, and how we might grow in holiness.

The daily examen is a powerful tool for kids for spiritual growth. It not only teaches kids that God is near, present in every moment of their lives, but helps them recognize the many manifestations of that presence. Moreover, it teaches kids to examine their own response to God's presence, for better or worse, in their thoughts, feelings, and actions. And finally, it teaches them to make this examination in a spirit of gratitude.

Learn more about how to use the Daily Examen to enrich your child's prayer life by clicking [HERE](#). To try different variations of the examen, click [HERE](#).



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:

[17th Sunday of Ordinary Time - July 27th](#)

[18th Sunday of Ordinary Time - August 3rd](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

[MaryKnoll Brothers Guide for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#)



**Mark Ten Mission Little Liturgies**

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# KIDSCALENDAR

JULY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Word of the month:</b> <b>PASTOR</b> A priest who leads a parish.		SAINT JONIFRICO SERRA, PRIEST 1		SAINT THOMAS, APOSTLE 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY 4	SAINT ANTHONY ZACCARIA, PRIEST SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL 5
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <b>Q</b> What did Jesus ask the disciples to say when entering houses they stayed in? (SEE JULY 8) ● Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 6		<b>A</b> Peace to this household. 8	SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHANG BONG, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS 9		SAINT BENEDICT, ABBOT 11	12
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <b>Q</b> How much money did the man pay the innkeeper? (SEE JULY 11) ● Luke 10:25-37 13	SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN 14	SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 15	OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL 16	<b>A</b> Two silver coins 17	SAINT CAMILLOUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST 18	19
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <b>Q</b> What were the names of the two sisters? (SEE JULY 25) ● Luke 10:38-42 20	SAINT LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 21	SAINT MARY MAGDALENE 22	SAINT BRIDGET, RELIGIOUS 23	SAINT SHARREL MAKHLI, PRIEST 24	<b>A</b> Martha and Mary 25	SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 26
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <b>Q</b> What did the man in the story wish to borrow? (SEE JULY 28) ● Luke 11:1-13 27	<b>A</b> Three loaves of bread 28	SAINTS MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS 29	SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 30	SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST 31	31	

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[Download the July Catechist Calendar HERE](#)

## Catholic Trivia

**Question:** St. Ignatius of Loyola and his companions founded the Society of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits in 1540. The Society did not originally intend to establish schools, but before long they were led to start colleges for the education of the young men who flocked to join their religious order. Today, the Jesuits are still known for their role in education where emphasis is placed on learning through community service, interdisciplinary courses and the engagement of faith, theology, philosophy and ethics studies.



How many Jesuit colleges and universities are there currently in the United States? (And bonus points if you can guess which one of them Mrs. Noll's youngest daughter, Rebecca, will be attending this fall.)

- a) 8
- b) 27
- c) 35
- d) 44

**Answer:** B (Award yourself 10 bonus points if you guessed Rebecca Noll would be attending Fairfield University in a little over a month.)



## Joke of the Week

Q: What do you get when you combine a herd of elephants with a school of fish?

A: Swimming Trunks!

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