



Catholic Schools
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CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK **2021**

January 31 - February 6

#CSW21



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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 JANUARY 31, 2021**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Peter P. Fornal—Month's Mind

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Hon. Edward P. Beard—Memorial
 9:00AM Teresa Romano—Memorial
 10:30AM Cheryl J. Zola—3rd Anniversary

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Weekday
 7:30AM Elena L. Bernstrom—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Presentation of the Lord
 7:30AM Fr. John Rainone—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Weekday; St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Weekday
 7:30AM Dec'd Members of Pundys & Dikinis Families—Mem

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

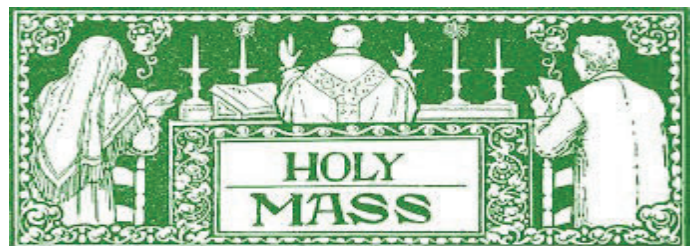
St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
 7:30AM Edna Hart—23rd Anniversary
 9:00AM Deceased Faculty of OLM School

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
 8:30AM Victoria Primavera—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Dr. George Cooper—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Hon. James P. McStay—Memorial
 9:00AM Bruce Hart—7th Anniversary
 10:30AM Gerald E. Celio—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

During this last week of January we celebrate the Annual Catholic Schools Week. It is a time to highlight the exceptional work done in our Catholic schools across the country. It also highlights the excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts of our parish school.

OLM School students are speaking at all weekend Masses about their experiences at the school. We thank the many families who have chosen a Catholic Education for their children. We also thank our outstanding Principal, Patrick McNabb, and our dedicated and hardworking faculty at OLM School.

It has been a challenging year for our school community due to the COVID Pandemic. However, they have done an excellent job keeping the school open and safe. Our students have been able to come to all day in-person classes since September.

This wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous leadership of Mr. McNabb, the steadfast dedication of our faculty, our staff's hard work, and the cooperative support of our OLM school parents and students. We thank them for all they do to ensure our students are learning in a healthy and safe environment.

After all, knowledge and learning are essential. However, they are not the same as wisdom and moral character. We know that Barbarians come in all shapes and sizes, some wearing expensive suits with good diction and often with outstanding academic and professional credentials.

The word "education"

itself is derived from the Latin *educare*, meaning "to bring up or train." It in turn comes from the Latin *e-* ("out") and *ducare* ("to lead or guide"). True education aims to lead people out of ignorance, dishonesty, and brutishness to the refinement of their humanity and intellect in the virtues.

This goal is what chiefly distinguishes Catholic education, if taught correctly, from much of modern learning. Even the finest of minds are incomplete, blank slates, without a purpose and moral framework for the facts at their command. And, as the saying goes, nature abhors a vacuum. Some purpose, no matter how selfish or perverse, inevitably fills a person's inner void.

History teaches us that all purposes and all moral frameworks are not equal. Some lead to violence and suffering and often worse. Their understanding of the human person is limited from the outset by God's absence and exclusion. The goal of Catholic education, in contrast, is to fill the soul with the presence of its loving Creator.

So theology is not an "add on" subject in a Catholic school. It's the priority of the mission and it needs to inform and guide every other academic subject and element of the school day. It guides OLM every day as we strive to be scholars and saints.

Our students at OLM, and indeed all students, are the children of a loving God with an eternal destiny. They must radiate throughout their lives the great words of St. Irenaeus: "The glory of God is man fully alive."

The ultimate purpose of Catholic Schools is not to get students into Harvard or Yale, Notre Dame or Villanova — all of them great universities, but no automatic guarantee of anyone's humanity — but rather to get them into heaven.

Heaven is not some childish imaginary fairyland, but the intensely real and beautiful embrace of the God who made us, sustains us, and longs for us to become the men and women he intended us to be. Not simply scholars but most importantly to become saints. That's why we're in this world. And its important to remember during this Catholic Schools Week.

Join with us at the Catholic Schools Week Mass, on Friday at 9:00 AM via Livestream. We offer Holy Mass for all those who have supported and benefited from Catholic Education, especially at OLM School and pray for our school community.

In your name, I welcome Sister Soledad Salgado, FAS, to OLM this week. Sister has been assigned to work with Sisters Lourdes and Emma. She has been working at Scalabrini Villa. Read more about her and her life in this week's bulletin. Say hello, and welcome, when you see her around the parish. Welcome to OLM, Sister Soledad!!

Stay safe. Be well. Do good. Celebrate Catholic Schools Week and OLM School!! God Bless.

Ask Father

Why should a person in mortal sin not receive the Eucharist?

Every Catholic is obliged to go to Sunday Mass each and every week. Yet, it is not the case that a person must receive the Eucharist at every Mass. In fact, in some cases it would be spiritually harmful to receive our Lord in the Eucharist. For instance, if a person is in a state of mortal sin, then they should not receive Holy Communion until after they have made a good confession (“except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible [canon 916]”).

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians: “A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Mortal sin is a free deliberate choice that kills the life of grace in a person. The Eucharist strengthens the life of grace, but it does not restore it. First the person must make another free deliberate choice to repent and follow Christ again. Confession has the power to restore that life provided that the person repents. Without this dynamic, the person stands as a house divided; a contradiction.

St. Paul continues: “That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying.” Paul references the declining church attendance among the Corinthians. He connects the unworthy reception of Holy Communion to a sick spiritual life that eventually leads to a dead spiritual life. The unworthy reception of the Eucharist begins to sicken the person because mortal sin prevents its healing effects. Hence their desire for the Eucharist lessens, the Mass and the entire spiritual life becomes a chore. Much the same way a person sick in hospital loses their desire and taste for food.

The Church denies the Eucharist to people in order to help them realize their serious spiritual state. At this point, forbidding a person to receive Holy Communion simply affirms what is already true and what the person has done to himself. Coming to Mass, but not receiving develops a hunger for the Eucharist. Such hunger helps to push out any sinful desires that may have gripped the person and increase their desire for Confession. Hopefully the person cries out: “O God, it is you I seek! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, like a dry weary land without water.”

Some argue that they receive Communion in grave sin so that people will not think that they have done some heinous sin. This is not spiritually helpful because it puts personal embarrassment above love for our Lord. The Church gives us a solution. One of the reasons that the Church has the hour fast before Mass is so that people cannot think poorly of others who do not receive. For all we know a person who does not receive Communion did not keep the fast.

If we want to live healthy spiritual lives and if we want Catholics to start coming back to Mass, we must preach the need for both Confession and the Eucharist. If we want our spiritual lives to deepen and grow, then we must regularly confess and abstain from the Eucharist when necessary.

Weekly Collection

January 24, 2021

Weekly.....	\$20, 100.00
EFT.....	\$3,643.00
	Total=\$23,743.00
Outreach.....	\$252.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$130,470.00

January 26, 2020

Weekly.....	\$11,312.00
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Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Visit the parish website today to find out how the consistency of signing up for Parish Giving™ helps our community prosper.



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially **Jeffrey Ferland and Alfred J. Petteruti** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy last week.

May they rest in peace.

WELCOME SISTER SOLEDAD

We are happy to announce that Sr. Soledad Simbe Salgado, who has been working at the Scalabrini Villa Nursing Home, is to now reside at the OLM Franciscan Covent and work with the FAS Sisters at OLM. She begins her ministry here on Monday, February 1, 2021 and will move into the convent this week.

Sister was born in the Philippines and is the fourth of five children. She joined the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters in 1962. She is now a perpetually professed Sister. She holds B.S and M.A. Degrees in Education and over the years she has done pastoral work, taught religion and served as a principal. She has worked in various diocesan, parish and FAS schools at both the elementary and secondary level in the Philippines and United States.



Sister Soledad arrived in the U.S. in 1988 to serve in the Diocese of Providence at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Woonsocket, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1994. Following her pastoral work at Our Lady of Victory, she then served briefly in the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois before being assigned in 1995 as a religion teacher at St Joseph School in York, Nebraska. Following her work there, she was assigned to the staff of St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Lincoln, Nebraska until 2001. In 2001 through 2006, Sister took a leave to care for her aging and infirm father. She then served until 2008 at the FAS Motherhouse in the Philippines.

In 2008, she returned to Illinois to work as a member of the staff of the Bishop of Peoria. From 2009 until 2019, she served again as a religion teacher at St. Joseph School in Nebraska. In August 2019, Sister joined the pastoral staff at the Scalabrini Villa Nursing Home, working along with 3 other FAS Sisters.

We are most grateful to Mother Josephine, Superior of the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters, for assigning Sr. Soledad to Our Lady of Mercy Church and School. May God bless her pastoral ministry here to OLM.



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

Catholic Schools Week

January 31-February 5

Student Speakers at Weekend Masses, 1/30-31

Sunday, January 31: Alumni Mass at 9am & Virtual Open House from 10am-12pm

Monday, February 1: OLM School Spirit Day

Tuesday, February 2: Student Appreciation Day

Wednesday, February 3: Community Outreach Day & Community Zoom Meeting at 7pm

Thursday, February 4: Parent Appreciation Day

Friday, February 5: Teacher Appreciation Day & First Friday Mass at 9am (Livestream)

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Caroline Ameliann Guardendi,
and her parents, Andrew and Melissa.

“Dear brothers and sisters: this child reborn through Baptism, is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is. Through Confirmation she will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, she will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.”—The Rite of Baptism

Ash Wednesday 2021

How Will Ashes Be Distributed?

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments of the Holy See in Rome has issued the following COVID-19 protocol concerning the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Ashes



will be blessed and distributed as follows:

1. The priest says the prayer for the blessing of ashes from the ritual found in the Roman Missal and sprinkles the ashes with Holy Water
2. Then, the priest addresses the whole congregation and only once says the formula, applying it to all in general: *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return or Repent, and believe in the Gospel."*
3. The priest then sanitizes his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes the ashes by sprinkling them on top of the head of each one without saying anything. Without any physical contact between priest and recipient and without saying anything directly in front of each person, this method assures the health of both priest and parishioners.



Ash Wednesday • February 17, 2021

Masses with the distribution of ashes
7:30AM, 12:05PM (*live-streamed*) and 7:00PM
Confession: 11:45AM - 12:00PM & 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests

Daily Masses during Lent

Monday - Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

Confessions during Lent

Monday - Friday 11:45AM - 12:00PM
Mondays 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests
Saturdays 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM

Lenten Mission

Sunday, March 7 – Wednesday, March 10 (*live-streamed*)
"Living for the Other Side"
Father James Mary Sullivan, O.P. & Father Justin Mary Bolger, O.P.
Dominican Friars of St. Pius V Church, Providence
Mission Preachers

Lenten Special Events at Our Lady of Mercy

SOLEMN SAINT PATRICK DAY MASS
Wednesday, March 17 • 12:05PM (*live-streamed*)
The Most Reverend Robert J. McManus,
Bishop of Worcester, Celebrant & Homilist
Irish Music & Readings in the Irish Language.
Mass & Homily in English

SOLEMN SAINT JOSEPH DAY MASS
Friday, March 19 • 12:05PM (*live-streamed*)
The Most Reverend Robert C. Evans,
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Celebrant
The Reverend Monsignor Anthony Mancini,
Rector of the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, Homilist
Mass celebrated in Italian with Italian Hymns. Homily in English.

Saturday, March 27 • 9:00AM – 3:00PM
All Day Confessions with 4 Confessors per hour

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The **#WHATSMYNAME** Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

**In Remembrance of
Samantha Josephson**



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