

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK





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THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 26, 2019

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Mass of Anticipation for The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Nora Weaver—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM John Joseph O'Conner—Memorial
 10:30AM Evelyn & Fred Buoro—Memorial
 5:00PM Jessica Roberts—Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Weekday; St. Angela Merici, Virgin & Religious Foundress

7:30AM Ellen Murray—Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Fr. Thomas J. McElroy—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Weekday

7:30AM Msgr. Edward F. Egan—16th Anniversary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Weekday

7:30AM John Bosco Rhee—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

St. John Bosco, Priest

7:30AM Dec'd of Pundys & Dikinis Families—Memorial

9:00AM OLM School Dec'd Alumni, Faculty & Benefactors

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Weekday; BVM

8:30AM John Kennedy—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for the Presentation of the Lord

4:00PM Jake Downey—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Presentation of the Lord

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

9:00 AM Diane Manning—1st Anniversary

10:30AM Cheryl Zola—2nd Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

This weekend we kick off Catholic Schools Week at OLM! Students from our parish school are speaking at all Masses about their experience at OLM School. The 9:00AM Mass will include many of our school families and alumni in attendance. Following the Mass, there is an Open House at OLM School from 10:00am until Noon.

I encourage every parishioner to stop by and see all the great things going on in our school. We have an outstanding faculty and our young saints and scholars are a source of great pride for our parish. Whether you went to Catholic School or OLM School or not, stop by and take a tour, meet a few students and enjoy some coffee and donuts! It's well worth the time and effort to view firsthand the great education and the living faith at OLM School!

Annually sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and also to the nation. There are some impressive statistics available in the bulletin about the contribution Catholic Schools make to our nation, take a look and take some pride in what Catholic Schools.

There is no doubt Catholic Schools require a tremendous amount of sacrifice to continue making their great contributions to our Church and nation. They require a financial sacrifice by parishes, parents and

faculty. They require a sacrifice of time by the faculty, parents, and students too. They also require a sacrifice of talent by faculty, parents and students. All done in order to develop the future saints and scholars of our Church and world.

Even though I am a product of twelve years of public education, I firmly believe such a sacrifice is well worth it. The world today has great need of the educational excellence and living faith offered at Catholic Schools. God continues to be pushed out of our society by rapidly growing secularism, new fangled ideologies permeate our educational system and political correctness runs amok as truth and tradition are rejected.

Catholic Schools are the faith-filled alternative to these societal trends. Catholic Schools seek to develop virtues, discipline, duty, commitment, character, excellence and scholarship in a faithful, nurturing, safe and loving environment.

At Catholic Schools the truth of the Faith is not ridiculed or dismissed by rather cherished and proudly taught in our classrooms. God is not banned but rather invited every day by our students and faculty with prayer, devotions and the Sacraments. Jesus Christ is not just a mere historical figure but rather the living heart and true center of the school as students learn from the greatest teacher of all, the Savior of the World!

A recent study conducted for the Fordham Institute compared children in Catholic schools with those in public schools and other private schools, religious and secular.

The authors found statistically meaningful evidence that students in Catholic schools exhibited less disruptive behavior than their counterparts in other schools. The authors write that students in Catholic schools "*were more likely to control their temper, respect others' property, accept their fellow students' ideas, and handle peer pressure.*" In other words, they exhibited greater self-discipline.

The study's authors also concluded, that "*the power of religion positively influences a child's behavior.*" Religion isn't the only way to foster such self-discipline but they suggest it's more effective compared to most of the alternatives in channeling youthful energy into productive self-control.

At OLM School, each day our budding saints and scholars are taught to be self-disciplined. In other words, charitable, honest, generous, kind, considerate, polite, judicious, temperate, chaste, modest, obedient, prudent, as well as faithful, hopeful and loving! These are the virtues and discipline that produced some of the greatest saints and scholars of our Church and world!

Come see what OLM School offers. Speak with our students and faculty and I think you'll agree that Catholic Education is worth the sacrifice especially at OLM! Be well. Do Good! God Bless.

Father Healey



What is Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week was first introduced by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in 1974. It is an annual event which typically takes place on the last Sunday in January. The theme for this year is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Here at Our Lady of Mercy we have a week filled with events starting with an Open House this Sunday, January 29th. The purpose of this week is to emphasize the value and necessity of Catholic education to families and young people, as well as how it contributes to the Church, the community and to our nation. It is a time to showcase Our Lady of Mercy School and the many benefits of an education rooted in the Catholic faith.

Education has always been an essential part of the mission of the Church. After the Fall of the Roman Empire it was the monasteries which preserved and handed on the knowledge of Rome, Greece and other ancient cultures. It was the Church who invented the first universities in the Western world in Paris, Bologna, Oxford, Padua, and so on. Members of the Church have been behind advancements in all major areas of study and the Church herself funds the progress of science and the arts. Education is listed as one of the spiritual works of mercy.

What sets Catholic schools apart from other types of schools? Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI stated: “It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of our lives becomes clear.” Essentially what Benedict is pointing out is that Catholic education provides its students with a vantage point; a way of looking at the world that takes in all aspects of the mystery of life. Very often students are presented with only half the picture. The essential reality that we are bodily and spiritual beings formed to be in communion with God who has taken on our nature is left out. They seek to teach truth to students and omit Truth itself. At Our Lady of Mercy our children pray, learn about their faith, the dignity of every human life, the value of sacrifice and selflessness, and the virtues (most importantly the virtues of faith, hope and love).

I invite everyone to support Catholic Schools Week and particularly Our Lady of Mercy School. Regardless if you have children or not pay a visit to the school during open house and see the good work that is being done; the school is an integral part of our parish.

Weekly Collection

January 19, 2020

Weekly.....	\$14,279.00
EFT.....	\$1,828.00
	Total=\$16,107.00
Outreach.....	\$138.00
Catholic University of America.....	\$1,836.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

**Thank You for Your Support!
May God Bless Your Generosity!**

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



Second Collections
This Week: Saints & Scholars Collection
Next Week: Building & Grounds



Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000
Pledged To Date=\$1,453,375
Total Number of OLM Parishioners=2,120
Total Number of Pledges=326
Average Pledge=\$4,458

Due to the spread of the influenza/flu virus and upon the strong recommendation of Medical experts, the Sign of Peace is to be suspended at all Masses at Our Lady of Mercy Church until further notice. Please pray for the health and well-being of all parishioners during this time.



Religious Education NEWS

• **January 26:** NO RE CLASS THIS WEEKEND. DREs are on the OLM Pilgrimage to the Holy Land! All RE Classes resume next Sunday at regularly scheduled times.

*As we are on pilgrimage to the Holy Land,
please pray for us as we for you!
Mickey St. Jean & Doug Green*



Outreach Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items especially during the winter season. Please drop your donations in the Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for your support.

• **OLM Bereavement Group meets Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:00PM** in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are most welcome to join us for prayer and support.

• **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



• **Sunday, January 26 •**

OLM SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE, 10am-12pm

www.olmschool.org

Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week:

• **Monday, January 27:** OLM School Spirit Day! OLM School Book Fair begins!

• **Tuesday, January 28:** OLM Student Appreciation Day!

• **Wednesday, January 29:** OLM School Community Outreach Day

• **Thursday, January 30:** OLM School Parents Appreciation Day!

• **Friday, January 31:** Catholic Schools Week Mass at 9am; OLM Teacher Appreciation Day!



We offer our prayerful condolences to the family of **Kent Q. Quitevis** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLM last week.



Catholic School Education

176 Dioceses with Catholic schools



TOTAL NUMBER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS:

two million students

in preschool, elementary and secondary schools



High School Graduation Rate

99%

New Catholic Schools that opened in the 2015-2016 academic year:

14

A Gift to the Nation: Based on the average public school per pupil cost of **\$12,608** Catholic schools provide more than **24 billion dollars** a year savings for the nation.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

78.4 percent

of Catholic schools serve students with mild to moderate special needs.

The total, full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools is



151,101.

Student Diversity:

20.3%

are racial minorities,

16.1%

are Hispanic/Latino

Staffing Ratio (National Average) **13:1**

School Waiting Lists 1,795

Top 10 Cities with Highest Catholic School Enrollment: **Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Boston, St. Louis, New Orleans**

Currently, **27 states** and the District of Columbia have legislation that provides some form of financial assistance to parents to help them choose a private or faith-based education for their children. Currently there are **59 publicly-financed programs** (vouchers, scholarships, education savings accounts and tax relief) available to assist parents with financial resources that enable them to exercise choice in their selection of a school for their children.



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