



## Saints & Scholars ...so that Mercy may flourish

*The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students so that they may be true to their condition as Christ's disciples and as such work effectively for the evangelization of culture and for the common good of society ~ Pope St. John Paul II*

### Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, 2/1**

Community Service Day  
Scholastic Book Fair

**Thursday, 2/2**

Parent Appreciation Day

**Friday, 2/3**

Teacher Appreciation Day  
9:00am First Friday Mass - Formal Uniform

**Monday, 2/6**

5th and 8th Grade ACRE Testing

**Tuesday, 2/7**

8:15am Weekly School Mass

**Wednesday, 2/8**

2:45pm Faculty Meeting

**Thursday, 2/9**

NAEP Assessments - 8th Grade

**Saturday, 2/11**

Father/Daughter Dance

**Tuesday, February 14**

Mobile Loaves and Fishes - 5th Grade



"Only in Christ can men and women find answers to the ultimate questions that trouble them. Only in Christ can they fully understand their dignity as persons created and loved by God. Jesus Christ is "the only Son from the Father...full of grace and truth."

~ Pope St. John Paul II on Education

### Principal's Message

Catholic Schools week is here! We are in the midst of celebrating Catholic education since its inception in the U. S. in the late nineteenth century, and OLM school in particular since its founding in 1951 by Father Francis Brady. What is so unique about what we do in our schools? Foremost, we celebrate our Catholic faith and heritage, without which we'd be just be another brick and mortar building. We seek to make of our students "Saints & Scholars" who serve our school, our parish and the "greater good" with their God-given talents. We desire to thoroughly educate and nourish every child's body, mind and soul. I am truly grateful each and every day for the dedicated faculty and parental support that makes OLM the wonderful community that it is. I invite all parishioners to visit us this week and join us in our celebration of sixty-five years of Catholic education at OLM.

### Father's Corner

January has been a busy month at Our Lady of Mercy School and in particular we ended January and began February with Catholic Schools Week. I never went to Catholic school growing up, but I understand its importance. When I was in public school I was 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 was left out. I was taught to seek the truth, but Truth itself was left out. Fortunately 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).

## Our Lady of Mercy School

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### Parish

olmparish.org  
Daily Readings:  
uscc.org/readings  
Catechism of the  
Catholic Church  
usccb.org/catechism

### Web References

#### Academic ~ General

Khanacademy.com  
(online tutorials for  
many subjects)

#### Literacy

**Seussville** features  
Dr. Seuss's books,  
games and activities,  
videos and much,  
much more!

**Starfall** is an  
educational  
alternative to other  
entertainment  
choices for children."

#### Mathematics

**Fact Monster** - Fact  
Monster is a free  
reference site for  
students, teachers,  
and parents.

**Puzzle Maker** -  
Create your own  
content related  
puzzles.

**Art of Problem-  
Solving:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
and up; videos are  
organized, clear and  
free!

## Early Childhood

In January, Pre-K 4 learned about penguins, winter and space. They had fun pretending to walk like penguins and imagined where they would go in space if they were astronauts. In February, they hope to get some snow so they can bring their snowsuits to school. They are looking forward to sending out Valentines to their classmates. The kindergarten class is reading lots of animal books, creating winter art, learning about how family and friends help teach about God, and practicing math with calendar questions. They are looking forward to making sock puppets for the classroom theater, and dancing to each other's favorite songs. If you heard honking in our parking lot last month, you may have heard our first graders acting like geese during a winter ecology program provided by Casey Farm. Our first graders learned what many local animals do to survive during winter. Mrs. Ryan's second graders are busy preparing their 100th day of school creations. We will be celebrating the big day next week. A few have arrived in the classroom and they are amazing! We are all looking forward to celebrating our 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day in February, as well as spending time with our families during vacation.

## Intermediate Grades

After a very successful Spelling Bee, the third graders have moved on to work on their biography reports. Each student read a biography about someone they feel has influenced our world in a positive manner. The students did a great job pulling together the information they got from reading as well as adding pictures and other related items to make their project unique. The fourth graders have been working extremely hard in all subject areas and should be proud of the great progress they are making in the second trimester. In Mathematics, they are truly becoming "Masters of Fractions" and are confident in their ability to order, compare and reduce fractions. In Religion, they are currently exploring each of the Ten Commandments in depth while utilizing their new religion series, Jesus Our Guide. They are looking forward to hosting the next First Friday Mass during Catholic Schools Week. We are all excited to share in the many fun moments that this special week has to offer! Fifth graders have been busy reflecting on what makes Our Lady of Mercy School such a special place. Catholic Schools Week began on January 29th. We discussed how we can inspire others and promote loyalty so that mercy may flourish in our world. Our writing pieces expressed what loyalty meant to us. We also posted pictures of how our fifth graders inspire others with their activities and through living their faith. Our fifth graders are proud members of the OLM school community of faith, knowledge, and service.

## Middle School

January was another busy month for the Middle School. Visits to classrooms saw students working on book jackets and poetry, studying the Ten Commandments, participating in the Prayer for Life, investigating Newton's Three Laws, and preparing for semester exams in Math and History. The 8th graders anxiously awaited their acceptance letters from area Catholic High Schools. We are pleased to announce that all students have been accepted to the schools of their choice. A special congratulations to Dylan Brunner and Casey McQuesten who received scholarships to Bishop Hendricken! Congratulations to all!

### OLM Spelling Bee



### Patriot's Biggest Fans! GO PATS!

