



## 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, 12/6**

No After School  
Extended Day - All students dismissed at 2:30pm  
St. Nicholas Day

**Friday, 12/8**

9:00am  
Formal Mass/FORMAL UNIFORMS - Immaculate Conception Holy Day (4th Grade Hosting)

**Monday, 12/11**

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
1:00pm

School Confessions

**Tuesday, 12/12**

8:15am  
Weekly School Mass

**Wednesday, 12/13**

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

**Friday, 12/15**

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
7:00pm

Christmas Pageant

**Monday, 12/18**

7:00pm  
Christmas Pageant (Snow Date)



“Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope...”

~ Pope Benedict XVI

### Principal's Message

Be Merry, Be Safe and Be Prepared! As we approach the winter season, a few important reminders are in order. First, you'll note that the parking lot has new directional arrows (thanks to Mr. Anderson). As the weather worsens, please be mindful of the morning traffic pattern and make sure if you have a child in Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, to walk them to at least the cones or better yet the entrance door. Regarding “snow days”, we attempt to follow the EG cancellation schedule. You can check our school webpage or turnto10 for updates/cancellations. A message is also sent to your phone, so please make certain your contact information is up to date. If there is a cancellation, core content area faculty will, at their discretion, post grade appropriate “snow day” work for students to complete at home to ensure continuity in curriculum. Finally, weather and field conditions permitting, (temperature/wind chill above 20 degrees) we will attempt to get the children out to recess each day (and don't forget the MS “movement break”). A warm hat, winter jacket and gloves are required, so please plan accordingly. Thanks and Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

### Father's Corner

As Charlie Brown asks: “Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” Linus van Pelt: “Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about... Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger... That is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.” This important truth is why we celebrate Christmas. Yes, we will buy each other gifts (in imitation of the three Magi), but do not forget what Christmas is all about: God giving us the greatest gift of all, when He came down from heaven, as Linus so beautifully quoted above. So that when we give gifts to each other, we imitate God's act of free and undeserved love toward us on that night He came down to earth.

## 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!

**Art** - This year, in the OLM art room, artists are going to undertake a study of art and Catholicism, arts and crafts, art and technology and art and other cultures, as well as integrating art with other disciplines. All artists will be creating imaginary towers so that viewers can examine and interpret the development of artistic growth from grade 1 through grade 8. Grades 5 through 8 will commit to a sketch work project every month, and eventually create a masterpiece at home. Please feel free to check out the art department website at [dcampbell@olmschool.org](mailto:dcampbell@olmschool.org).

**Library** - The OLM library curriculum strives to engage and excite readers of all ages! Our younger learners, Pre-K through K, enjoy story time, songs and introduction to early literacy skills. Previewing, predicting, connecting with text, discussing story elements and retelling of stories fill our time together. This age group also enjoys centers or choice time during our library/literacy class. Our Pre-K 4 students will soon be making their official OLM Library Cards and begin checking out books after Christmas break! Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders have spent the first part of the year exploring beginning chapter books and meeting the characters in these early chapter book series. The goal is to help students get "hooked" on a character or series and create the desire to read more and more! 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students read Freckle Juice with Mrs. Cambio and continue to enjoy reading longer picture books during story time and the autonomy of selecting library books. Grades 3-5 are participating in novel studies this year. Grade 3 is in the middle of Matilda. We are on the edge of our seats as we learn more and more about the Trunchbull. Grade 4 is learning how Charlotte will save Wilbur in Charlotte's Web and Grade 5 has met Ally Nickerson, the main character in Fish in a Tree, who has made it to 6<sup>th</sup> grade without successfully learning how to read. Along with the novel study, 5<sup>th</sup> graders are exploring Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences. Students are learning their areas of strength and how we can apply those strengths to their school work and learning. Ask your child about these books! The Scholastic Book Fair is around the corner. Please consider volunteering. Any parent with a current BCI is welcome to join us for library class. Please email Mrs. Cambio at [library@olmschool.org](mailto:library@olmschool.org) if you are interested! Thank you for your support of the library program.

**Spanish** - ¡Bienvenidos a Todos! This year in Spanish the theme is "Brilla tu Luz"- Shine your Light. Each student shines and is a STAR in my eyes and presently the classroom is decorated with a Cinema/Hollywood Star style complete with a marquis sign above my classroom door. In addition to the grammar and vocabulary, periodically we learn about the behind-the-scenes events that take place during some of our most loved movies. I told my students at the beginning of the year that all of the greatest ideas in film and movies started with one person, one person who believed in their light, their creativity and their dreams. Each week every student is encouraged and reminded to "Shine their Light" and challenge themselves to discover their best self. The 8th grade has performed a few skits in Spanish, complete with costumes to a few of the other classes including to PreK-4, Middle School classes will be doing more skits and short plays until June to work on vocabulary as well as frequent practice with conversation and improving pronunciation, accuracy and fluency. With grades K-4, our weekly visits consist of themed activities, stories, culture points and songs. Wishing you all a magical Christmas and a blessed New Year! ¡Qué tengan una Feliz Navidad y Un Año Nuevo Maravilloso!

**Festive Spanish class activity**



**Pre-K 3 "Dino" fun in the Library**

