



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, 1/9

7:00pm - Winter Band Concert

Tuesday, 1/15

8:15am - OLM Weekly Mass

Friday, 1/18

-Middle School Dance
-Spirit Popcorn Day

Monday, 1/21

NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, 1/22

8:15am - OLM Weekly Mass

Sunday, 1/27

OLM School Open House
9:00am - Alumni Mass

Friday, 2/1

9:00am - First Friday Mass/Formal Uniform
6:00pm - OLM Parish Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, 2/5

8:15am - OLM Weekly Mass

Friday, 2/8

8th Grade Quebec Trip

Saturday, 2/9

8th Grade Quebec



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Principal’s Message

Catholic Schools week will be upon us shortly. It commences with an Opening Mass on Sunday, January 27th and continues through Friday, February 1st. We expect to greet many new families and students at our Open House Tour at the school from 10am through 12noon immediately following the 9am Mass. Student ambassadors will provide personalized school tours to classrooms including our Pre-K, Spanish, Music, Art and Makerspace rooms. Highlights of the week include Bowling Day, Scholastic Book Week and Teacher Appreciation Day on Friday. Please join us for Mass and the Open House and help us spread the word to interested friends and families about the wonderful, welcoming community that is OLM!

Father’s Corner

Another New Year! Coming up very shortly we have Catholic Schools Week. It is an opportunity for us here to reflect on the gift—and the task—of Our Lady of Mercy School. We are proud of our parish school, forming many of the next generation of Catholics, of scholars and statesmen, of priests and religious, of mothers and fathers, and please God, of saints. The principal reason for Our Lady of Mercy School is to pass on the Good News that Jesus has come. Friendship with Him changes your life and promises Heaven. Catholic schools teach not simply the truths needed to get a job—although they do that without rival. But, more so, they teach the truth about God and about us, about how to live and how to love. They teach the truth in literature and science, in art and music, in mathematics and everywhere else. Education, wherever it happens, is a Catholic thing because all truth is God’s truth. After all, you cannot love what you do not know. Our prayer this month is that the work of Catholic education may flourish; the work of helping everybody to know the Lord more clearly, in order to love Him more dearly, in order to follow Him more nearly all the days of our life.

Our Lady of Mercy School

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, R.I.
02818
Phone: 401.884.1618
Fax: 401.885.3138
Web: olmschool.org

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:** 3rd grade
and up; videos are
organized, clear and
free!

Early Childhood – In December, Pre-K learned about families, the advent wreath, and the importance of Christmas. They had a wonderful Polar Express Day in their pajamas! In January, they will be exploring the wonders of outer space and the winter season! Kindergarten worked hard to complete multiple booklets throughout December. They completed a "Colors of the Church Year" book that taught them which colors represent the seasons of the Church Year. Next, they worked on a "Christmas Around the World" booklet that exposed them to traditions from Mexico, France, Russia, and Germany. 1st graders will explore the Arctic in January. They are bundling up and "setting sail" to the North Pole to learn about the animals who live there and how they survive. 2nd grade used Christmas stories from our library to complete their December book reports. They were "honored" to be the angels in the yearly pageant and sang well! They enjoyed working together to figure out the median, mode, and range of a group of numbers - always up for a challenge! They watched how animals and insects adapt to the changing temperatures around us. They are looking forward to finding out more about Martin Luther King, Jr. and celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

Intermediate Grades – 3rd grade recently hosted the first Friday mass and we couldn't be more proud! We learned all about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and how she is the patron saint of Catholic schools. At mass, we processed in holding banners that had pictures of her and what we feel makes our Catholic school special. The students who read and brought up the gifts did an amazing job! Thanks to all the families who provided the yummy refreshments after mass. In addition to that, we recently completed a Self Timeline where we shared eight important life events. We all loved learning a new fact or two about our classmates. 4th grade classes have just completed a literature unit on either Kneeknock Rise by Natalie Babbitt or Edgar Allan's Official Crime Investigation Notebook by Mary Amato. The students learned about rising action, suspense, climax and plot. We will be returning to the basal reading series where skills such as main idea, visualization, drawing conclusions and making inferences will be reinforced. In 5th grade math we have submerged into the world of fractions. After reading the novel Tuck Everlasting, the students wrote a persuasive essay explaining their choice of living forever on earth, or eternally in heaven. We have also been reflecting on the virtue of the month which is gratitude. As a class we have agreed to a New Year's resolution of expressing an attitude of gratitude. Our classroom wall includes 26 different ways we can do this.

Middle School - In Science, the 6th grade is learning about minerals and other natural resources of the Earth. 7th grade has been learning how plants have specialized tissue that help them live, grow and reproduce while 8th grade has been studying the forces of friction and gravity and will soon be learning more about Newton's laws of motion. Grades 7th and 8th Math classes are reviewing for midterm exams. Grade 6 is working on multiplication and division of fractions. In ELA, the 6th graders finished *The Tales of Odysseus*, and will be reading about medieval life with *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* 7th and 8th graders read Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and the middle school enjoyed Trinity Rep's production in December. In Social Studies, students are moving through their required curriculum. 6th Graders are learning about Medieval Europe. The Constitution of the United States is occupying the attention of the 7th Grade. 8th Graders have been taking a tour of the politics and culture of the Roaring Twenties.

Polar Express Day



St. Nicholas Day

