



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

- Monday, 1/15**
No School - Martin Luther King Day
- Wednesday, 1/17**
8:15am Weekly School Mass
- Monday, 1/22**
Scoliosis Screening GRADES 6,7 & 8
- Wednesday, 1/24**
8:25am Winter Band Concert - for school only
7:00pm Winter Band Concert
- Thursday, 1/25**
8:15am Weekly School Mass
- Sunday, 1/28**
Alumni Mass
Catholic Schools Week/Open House
- Monday, 1/29**
7:00pm School Board Meeting
- Friday, 2/2**
Teacher Appreciation Lunch
9:00am Formal Mass/FORMAL UNIFORMS
6:30pm Middle School Dance



“People Leo XIII, in his 1885 papal encyclical [On Christian Education](#), recognized the crucial import of Catholic schools by noting, "for it is in and by these schools that the Catholic faith, our greatest and best inheritance, is preserved whole and entire." The benefits of such schools extend not only to the Church but also to society at large, as "it is by these schools that good citizens are brought up for the State.”

~ Pope Leo XIII

Principal’s Message

Catholic Schools Week will be upon us shortly. Please join us and our fellow schools across the country as we celebrate this year’s theme, “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service”. We commence our celebration with the annual Book Fair on Friday, January 26 (and continuing throughout the week after), followed by an Open House on Sunday, January 28 from 10am until 12 noon. We expect to greet many new families and students for a tour of the school. Student ambassadors including Student Government and several OLM graduates will provide personalized tours to our guests to various classrooms including our Pre-K, Kindergarten, Spanish, Library, Music and Makerspace rooms. Please feel free to join us for refreshments in the cafeteria and help us welcome our new guests. Highlights of the week include Sports Day, Spirit Day, Scholastic Book Week, Student Appreciation Day and completing the week with Teacher Appreciation Day on Friday. Please spread the word to interested friends and families about our Open House and 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 rightly 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. He is the truth that sets free. 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

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

Early Childhood - Our Pre-K3 class had a wonderful month of December learning about and preparing for Jesus' birthday. Their Polar Express Day was also a highlight with a train ride around the school, thematic activities, and watching the movie while enjoying some delicious hot chocolate. The entryway into our Kindergarten classroom was transformed into an adorable gingerbread house with photos of our Kindergartners peeking out the windows. In January, our Pre-K4 class will be learning about winter, ice, snow, and arctic animals. They are excited to start checking out books from the library! Our first graders will also be exploring the Arctic in January. They will bundle up and "set sail" to the North Pole to learn about the animals who live there and how they survive. 2nd graders went around the world last month as they researched and reported on Christmas traditions in many countries. Crafts were shared and made with the class. It was a fun assignment enjoyed by all! There was a Christmas miracle that took place in Room 14 in December. Mrs. Ryan's second graders turned into angels for the Christmas Pageant! Their halos shone brightly upon that altar and boy were they "angelic!"

Intermediate Grades - The 3rd graders prepared gifts for those living at the Jeanne Jugan Center in Pawtucket. This was an opportunity for the children to prepare gifts for those in need and help spread the spirit of giving. Mrs. Hackett's students celebrated *Christmas Around the World* by researching different countries and putting together a report about their traditions. Ms. Perretta's students created dioramas to tell a Christmas story. As we ease into the new year, we will continue to sharpen our multiplication skills and learn division. The 4th graders completed a literature unit on Edgar Allan's Official Crime Investigation Notebook by Mary Amato. This book had us analyzing character development while reading for clues to try to solve a mystery. The main character in this novel, Edgar Allan, reminded us of a famous nineteenth century American author. Therefore, we are now studying the life and (some) works of Edgar Allan Poe. Completing this unit has us spending more time on a digital reading series that allows for individualized reading instruction. The 5th graders participated in "The Great Stocking Exchange". We have concluded our earth science study of rocks and minerals and are moving into physical science. Students will learn about light energy, the electromagnetic spectrum, mirrors, prisms, and Newton's Three Laws of Motion. The children will create Kinex cars in computer class and use them to experiment with the principles of forces, stored energy, friction, and inertia. In Math, the 5th graders are becoming experts in adding fractions, finding the LCD (least common denominator) and writing fractions in the simplest form.

Middle School - The 8th grade is studying US History and just completed a unit on World War 1 that included an essay that was submitted to a contest sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. 7th grade US History just finished studying the American Revolution. 6th grade World History just studied Ancient India and China. In science, the 6th grade are studying how resources such as minerals, rocks and clean water are created and affected by processes in the Earth. 7th grade students have been studying how cells and tissues are involved in plant function and reproduction. 8th grade has been learning about forces and motion. They are currently studying Newton's three laws of motion and, in addition to making observations of the laws, will be designing a race car in a project that incorporates these laws to produce a faster car. In English Language Arts, the 6th grade has read a dramatization of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and written how-to essays. The 7th grade gave brief presentations on the highlights of WW I in preparation for reading *Warhorse*. The 8th grade delved into the difficult working conditions of the Industrial Revolution in the reading of *Lyddie*, and compared the work to Dickens' observations of the time. Lastly, the students wrote and presented character monologues. In middle school sacred studies, we have considered Christ's threefold office - prophet, priest, and king. The students learned that each of these offices was prefigured in the Old Testament and continues in the Church today as She teaches, sanctifies and governs the Faithful. In the course of our reflection on these sacred realities, the essential nexus of christology and ecclesiology was recognized and appreciated by the students.

Kindergarten Gingerbread House



3rd Grade gifts for the Jeanne Jugan Center

