

# Wednesday Notes



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November 17, 2021

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Dear OLM Community,

There is a lot going on at OLM! Please read on for all the details!

## The Week Ahead

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**Wednesday, November 17** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Thursday, November 18** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym  
**Thursday, November 18** Student Council Meeting 2:30 pm in Mr. Cote's Room  
**Friday, November 19** 2022-2023 Sibling Applications Due  
**Friday, November 19** Thanksgiving Food Drive Concludes!  
**Friday, November 19** Lifetouch Picture Retake Day  
**Friday, November 19** Middle School Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Monday, November 22** Vision Screening  
**Tuesday, November 23** School Mass 8:15 am  
**November 24-26** Thanksgiving Recess: No School

## Updates & Reminders

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- **Please be mindful of children's whereabouts during dismissal.** Once our teachers have released children to their families, we rely on parents and grandparents to ensure their safety in the parking lot. It is easy for small children to cross a line of cones in to moving cars, and we must be vigilant to keep all of our students safe. Thank you very much for your cooperation.
- **If your child requires a COVID-19 test to return to school, we strongly recommend the use of the K-12 testing sites available throughout the state.** *We cannot accept at-home tests to re-admit symptomatic students to in-person learning, and positive COVID-19 cases arising from at-home tests become very difficult to document and respond to promptly. Please use K-12 testing sites whenever possible if your child requires a COVID-19 test. Thank you for working with us to help all of our kids stay safe, healthy, and in school!*

- We also ask that families keep our health office informed if your child must stay home because of illness, or if you think that he or she may require a COVID-19 test. RIDOH's COVID-19 guidance has been changing rapidly throughout this school year, and **the best way for families to know the appropriate course of action regarding school attendance and requirements for COVID-19 testing is to check in with Mrs. Fleury before proceeding.**
- **Please make sure that your child comes to school with a refillable water bottle each day!** We have touchless water bottle fillers available on each hallway of the school for students to use, and we hope that they are able to take advantage of them!
- We have been getting more inquiries about our Extended Day program. Please remember that families may sign up for Extended Day this year on a per-trimester basis, and that we continue to try to manage the numbers in the program to minimize the likelihood of viral spread and to minimize the number of students who may have to quarantine in the event of a positive case. **Please make an effort to only use the program if necessary, and to reserve limited spots for those families that must use it to secure childcare after the school day.** Thank you very much!!

## 2022-2023 Sibling Applications Due Friday!

### Sibling Enrollment

Thank you to all of our current families who have already submitted applications for next year! If you have not done so yet and you are planning to enroll a sibling of a currently enrolled student for the 2022-2023 school year, we ask that you complete an application for each prospective student by **THIS Friday, November 19th. We must receive completed applications by THIS Friday, November 19th in order to guarantee sibling preference for the 2022-2023 school year.** After this date, we cannot guarantee a spot for the siblings of our current students.

Please note that this is NOT re-enrollment for our current students. We will begin re-enrollment in February as we typically do, and all current students in good standing should presume that their spot is secure for next school year.

**To fill out an application for a sibling of a currently enrolled student, you may log in to your [FACTS account](#) (district code is OLM-RI) and click on the Apply/Enroll button on the left navigation. Then you can fill out the information for a 2022-2023 application.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Verret at [office@olmschool.org](mailto:office@olmschool.org) or call 401-884-1618.

### PK-3 Interest

We would very much like to open our doors to more families who are looking for the faith, academics, and community that mark OLM School, so we are now beginning the process of assessing the feasibility of re-launching a PK-3 classroom beginning in 2022-2023.

The first step in that process is determining what the level of interest would be in the class. To that end, we ask that anyone who would be interested in enrolling a child who turns three years old by September 1, 2022 for next school year, please [click here](#) to indicate your level of interest in such a program. We would also ask that **if you know of friends, neighbors, relatives, or others in the**

community who would be interested in enrolling in a PK-3 program, [please encourage them to complete an inquiry form on our school website](#). You can also help spread the word by sharing our [Facebook post](#) soliciting inquiries about the program. As we develop a sense of the interest level in a new classroom, we will be able to take next steps to determine feasibility and make a firm decision about our ability offer a high-quality, joyful, and rigorous PK-3 program in the 2022-2023 school year.

## Lifetouch Picture Re-Takes: THIS FRIDAY!

**Lifetouch will be offering Retakes this Friday, November 19th.** Any student who would like to have their picture retaken should bring their previous package to school with them on Friday. Lifetouch will scan that envelope and make sure you receive the same package you ordered, but with the new picture that will be taken on Friday.

If a student was absent for the first photo and would like to have it taken on retake day, please order online at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) (with picture day ID: EVTWMVW8W).

Students who are having their pictures taken on Friday should be sure to dress in formal uniform! All other students should wear their typical Friday uniform.

## Thanksgiving Travel Information

As Thanksgiving approaches and families plan to gather for the holiday, we have received a number of inquiries about our school travel policies. First of all, thank you for considering these policies in making your family's preparations. Considerations like these have enabled our students to stay healthy and in school both last year and this year, and we are most grateful for your selflessness during these difficult times. To support you in your decision-making, we are including information below on travel from our [2021-2022 Re-Opening Plan](#):

*We ask that any family planning to travel inform our school nurse so that arrangements can be made for a safe return to school. Should your child become symptomatic or you believe that he or she was exposed to COVID-19 while travelling, please make arrangements to have your child tested prior to returning to the school building and remain at home until those test results are received. We will not be making remote learning available either during travel or during any necessary quarantine following travel, nor will we provide assignments in advance of trips. Students who have missed days of school because of travel will be able to make up assignments upon their return. We will return to our travel policy throughout the year as we attend to public health guidance and changing requirements. It is possible that additional quarantine requirements may be instituted as the year progresses.*

We are pleased to say that we have not seen any data to this point that indicates a need to create a stricter travel policy in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. With that in mind, we share a few bullet points that can be helpful to ensure a smooth return to in-person instruction on Monday, November 29:

- We have so far been able to keep our school open every day by God's grace and the collective effort of our teachers, staff, students, and families. We can only continue to provide safe, in-person instruction through our continued vigilance.
- If you believe that anyone in your household may have been exposed to COVID-19 during the long Thanksgiving weekend, please conduct testing and wait for complete results before returning to school. This limits the likelihood of both spread to other children and quarantine of other children or classes.
- If your child develops COVID symptoms over the Thanksgiving weekend, please ensure that he or she stays home from school until the appropriate precautions have been taken to enable a safe return, and please reach out to Mrs. Fleury to determine what the appropriate precautions are in your child's particular case.

If you have any specific questions that we can help with, please reach out to our school office. We are here to support our families, and we appreciate your support of a safe, healthy, and vibrant learning environment for every single one of our students.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Information

We are sharing below information from both the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11. We encourage all of our families to read this information carefully and to consult with your child's pediatrician in making an informed decision about vaccination for your child. If you would like your child to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, you may sign him or her up for any of the clinics listed here:

### [Upcoming Vaccination Clinics for Children Ages 5 to 11](#)

If your child receives the COVID-19 vaccine, we do request that you provide a copy of the vaccination record to our health office once the vaccine series has been completed. This documentation is not a requirement, but it does allow us to have accurate health records for all of our students, and it assists in contact tracing should that become necessary.

As always, thank you for your support in helping all of our children as they strive to be saints and scholars.

[RIDOH & RIDE Letter to Families Regarding COVID-19  
Vaccination for Children Ages 5-11](#)

# PTG News

The PTG Board meeting is tonight at 6 PM and is open to all OLM parents. Come join the meeting and learn about ways to get involved with the school community!



[PTG Newsletter](#)

# Spiritual Life

**"Beloved" Meeting: Tomorrow, November 18 2:30-3:30 pm**

The next meeting of "Beloved," our ministry for middle school girls, will take place tomorrow, November 18 from 2:30-3:30 pm in the school gym. All young ladies in grades six through eight are welcome! If you haven't been to a meeting yet, that's ok! You can still come out to this one! Please join Ms. Grady in learning about the great love that God has for each one of us.





## "To the Height of Charity"

Middle School Youth Ministry

Friday, November 19th. 6:30pm-9:00pm

What does the Church mean by Charity? How can we live the virtue of Charity out in our daily lives?

Join us for a talk and discussion

Followed by:



SIGN UP IN MR. COTE'S ROOM BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12!!!!

## Middle School Youth Ministry: This Friday, November 19

Middle School Youth Ministry will meet again THIS Friday, November 19 with the theme "To the Height of Charity." The talk is to be followed by the first-ever OLM Lip Sync Battle. May the best fake singer win!

To the Height of Charity


## OLM Parish Families Group

Please join the OLM Parish Families Group for Christmas Caroling on Friday, December 3, from 6:30-8:00 pm! We'll meet at the church at 6:30pm and carol in the surrounding neighborhood. Look for more information as the date approaches!



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you for your tremendous generosity toward this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive!  
We will conclude on Friday, so if you have been waiting to send in that gravy or  
cranberry sauce, Friday is the last day!



*In the Spirit of Thanksgiving*

2021 Thanksgiving Food Drive  
To Benefit Mercy House

OLM School will be collecting non-perishable Thanksgiving food items to benefit the Mercy House Food Pantry. OLM School students are asked to bring in one or more items each week from the list below between October 25th and November 19th. Collection bins will be located at all drop-off doors in the mornings. Thank you for your goodwill offering!


Week One	October 25 - October 29	Canned Yams & Vegetables
Week Two	November 1 - November 5	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Week Three	November 8 - November 12	Bread Stuffing Mix
Week Four	November 15 - November 19	Turkey Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

[Thanksgiving Food Drive Flyer](#)

**Children's Christmas Bazaar!**

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The first ever OLM Children's Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 4. Please see below for details, and click on the button at the bottom of this section to sign up as an entrepreneur!




Children's Christmas Bazaar  
presented by  
OLM Parish + Student Entrepreneurs

Come support young artists + entrepreneurs and shop for Christmas! There will be gifts included, but not limited to soaps, holiday centerpieces, dog treats, stationary, ornaments, and cupcakes + cookies!

When: December 4th  
Where: OLM Parish in Mercy Park  
Time: 1:30 - 3:30

Enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate and enjoy some music while you stroll. 15% of proceeds go to the Mercy House.



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER  
YOUR CHILD AS AN ENTREPRENEUR AT THE  
OLM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
(\$25 PARTICIPANT LIMIT)

[Click Here to Sign Up as an Entrepreneur!](#)

**A Call to Action**

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## **Please see the information below shared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:**

### **Call to Action**

[We need your help](#) to ensure the Build Back Better Act does not effectively exclude Catholic schools from child care and pre-K programs, thereby severely limiting options for families.

USCCB is encouraged by many provisions being considered for the Build Back Better Act to support the common good, including family supports, housing, migration, and the environment. We also recognize how important child care and pre-kindergarten are for working families, and the Church has always affirmed that parents should choose the best environment for care and education of their children.

However, the current child care and universal pre-kindergarten provisions in the Build Back Better Act could effectively exclude Catholic providers and many other faith-based providers, and this needs to be fixed.

The USCCB has raised these concerns with Congress. The letter USCCB sent Congress that can be [accessed here](#). But it is vital that Congress hear from you directly.

Thank you so much for taking the time to contact your representatives and senators in Congress. Congress must ensure the faith-based community can participate in the Build Back Better Act's child care and universal pre-kindergarten programs.

## **Wednesday Envelope**

### **Nothing this Week!**

## **Upcoming Dates**

**Wednesday, November 17** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm

**Thursday, November 18** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym

**Friday, November 19** 2022-2023 Sibling Applications Due

**Friday, November 19** Lifetouch Picture Retake Day

**Friday, November 19** Middle School Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

**Monday, November 22** Vision Screening

**Tuesday, November 23** School Mass 8:15 am

**November 24-26** Thanksgiving Recess: No School

**Tuesday, November 30** School Mass 8:15 am

**Thursday, December 2** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym

**Friday, December 3** OLM Parish Families Group Christmas Caroling! 6:30-8:00 pm

**Saturday, December 4** Children's Christmas Bazaar! 1:30-3:30 pm in Mercy Park

**Monday, December 6** St. Nicholas Visits!  
**Wednesday, December 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: 9:00 am Mass; Formal Uniforms  
**Thursday, December 9** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm  
**Monday, December 13** Confessions for Grades 3-8 12:45 pm  
**Tuesday, December 14** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Thursday, December 16** First Trimester Report Cards Distributed  
**Thursday, December 16** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym  
**Friday, December 17** Middle School Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Tuesday, December 21** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Wednesday, December 22** Half-Day: 11:30 am Dismissal  
**December 23-December 31** Christmas Break: No School  
**Monday, January 3** School Resumes  
**Tuesday, January 4** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Tuesday, January 11** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Wednesday, January 12** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Monday, January 17** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School  
**Tuesday, January 18** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Tuesday, January 25** School Mass 8:15 am  
**Sunday, January 30** Open House 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
**January 30-February 5** Catholic Schools Week  
**Friday, February 4** First Friday Mass 9:00 am; Formal Uniforms

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**Have a great evening, God bless, and go Jags!**