

Wednesday Notes



November 24, 2021

Dear OLM Community,

Happy Thanksgiving! Below, we share President Abraham Lincoln's original proclamation of a national day of thanksgiving, made 158 years ago in the midst of a Civil War, in the hope that it gives us all reason to be grateful for the many graces that God continues to bestow on us through our difficult times.

And we thank you, our families, for the gift of your children, and for the gift of your partnership with us in helping them strive to be the saints and scholars who will build a world where mercy may once again flourish. We are grateful that every day, we get to do the most important work there is with some of the best people we know. Thank you, all. God bless.

Washington DC, October 3, 1863
By the President of the United States of America.
A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the

siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State

Taken From: [Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of Thanksgiving | American Battlefield Trust \(battlefields.org\)](#)

The Week Ahead

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

Thursday, December 2 Student Council Meeting 2:30 pm

Thursday, December 2 Band Rehearsal 2:30-3:15 pm

Thursday, December 2 Choir Rehearsal 3:30-4:30 pm

Friday, December 3 Dressing Down So That Mercy May Flourish!

Friday, December 3 Band Rehearsal 2:30-3:15 pm

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

Thanksgiving Travel Information

Thank you to all have been considerate of school travel policies in making their family's Thanksgiving 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. Here again is information 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 keeping these practices in place as we look forward to and eventually return from the Thanksgiving holiday. Please also consider the following bullet points to ensure a smooth return to in-person instruction on Monday, November 29:

- **If you believe that anyone in your household may have been exposed to COVID-19 during the long Thanksgiving weekend, please conduct COVID-19 testing at a RIDOH-sponsored K-12 testing site and wait for complete results before returning to school.** Testing *after* a return to school increases the likelihood of COVID exposure and quarantine in the event of a positive case, and we appreciate everyone's care in conducting any necessary testing before students return to the school building. Please also share these results with Mrs. Fleury to help us all stay on the same page, working in concert to serve our kids.
- **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](#)

Second Trimester Extended Day Sign-Up

Sign-ups are now open for the use of our Extended Day Program in the second trimester. Please click the button below and complete the linked form if you would like your child to be able to use our Extended Day program in the second trimester of the school year. A few points to know in regard to Extended Day:

- We will be using this sign-up to establish Extended Day rosters between the dates of Monday, December 6 and Friday, March 11.
- Responses on this form will only be accepted until Friday, December 3.
- Please only sign up for our Extended Day program if it is necessary for your family's schedule. This helps us to continue limiting both COVID spread and quarantine in our school.

[Second Trimester Extended Day Sign-Up](#)

Band and Choir Are Back!

We are ready to officially bring our school band and choir back into action! Thank you to everyone who indicated interest. Here is what you need to know now:

BAND INFORMATION

- In order to formally register for our school band, please complete the form located at the link below, and submit a check to OLM School in the amount of \$200. Even if you did not indicate interest before, you can still sign up now!

[Click Here to Formally Sign Up for the OLM School Band](#)

- Mark your schedule for the following rehearsal dates:
 - Thursdays from 2:30-3:15 pm: *Drums, Guitar, Piano, & Flute*
 - Fridays from 2:30-3:15: *All Other Brass & Woodwind Instruments*

CHOIR INFORMATION

- In order to formally register for our choir, please complete the form located at the link below. Even if you did not indicate interest before, you can still sign up now!

[Click Here to Formally Sign Up for the OLM School Choir](#)

- Mark your schedule for rehearsals on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 pm.

**Rehearsals for both band and choir will begin next Thursday,
December 2!**

Please reach out to Mr. Tremblay at rtremblay@olmschool.org with questions!

2022-2023 Applications

Sibling Enrollment

Thank you to all of our current families who have already submitted applications for next year! We have begun to send acceptance letters for newly enrolling siblings. **If you have submitted an application but not yet received an acceptance letter, please check to ensure that you have also submitted all necessary documentation to accompany the application.** If you have any questions about your child's application, please contact Mrs. Verret at office@olmschool.org or call 401-884-1618.

If you have an additional child that you would like to enroll for next year and have not yet submitted an application for him or her, please act promptly. We are now reviewing applications from new families and can only guarantee sibling preference for those applications we have already received. To submit an application for a sibling of a current student, please 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.

PK-3 Interest

We are still reviewing the feasibility of a new PK-3 classroom at Our Lady of Mercy School for the 2022-2023 school year. **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.

Spiritual Life

"Beloved" Meeting: December 2 2:30-3:30 pm

The next meeting of "Beloved," our ministry for middle school girls, will take place next Thursday, December 2 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!

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!



Children's Christmas Bazaar!

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

Please see the information below shared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and help us to ensure appropriate support for Catholic education:

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

No Envelope this Week!

Upcoming Dates

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

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God..."