

Wednesday Notes



December 1, 2021

Dear OLM Community,

Happy Advent! It sounds like an odd thing to say, but Advent really should be a happy time: it is a season of joyful hope, borne of the fact that we know Christ is coming, and that His arrival will bring peace, joy, and love. And like the ancient Israelites, who were taken by surprise that the Messiah for whom they had waited was actually the Son of God, we can trust that God's plans for us will exceed our wildest dreams. May we all come together this Advent in the joyful hope that what God has planned for us and for our children is greater than anything we could imagine.



The Week Ahead

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 Due Date for Second Trimester Extended Day Sign-Up

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

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

Christmas Pageant

Our in-person Christmas Pageant is almost here! We are looking forward to bringing our community together to once again tell the story of Christ's birth one week from today, on Thursday, December 9 at 6:00 pm. Against a background of both increasing vaccinations and increasing case numbers in the state, we are approaching this with an attitude appropriate to Advent: one of joyful hope! But also one of deliberate caution that continues to prioritize the health of our community and protects in-person instruction for our students. Here are key points for everyone to know in preparing for the Pageant:

- Students in Grades 1-8 who do not have specifically assigned pageant roles or responsibilities should be in their classrooms by 5:30 p.m. Pre-K and Kindergarten students should meet their teachers in the front pews of the church at 5:30 pm.
- Narrators and actors from the 8th grade, please arrive at 5:15 p.m. in the church to begin getting ready. Costumes for 8th grade actors will be provided.
- Unless different clothing is required for a particular role, attire for the pageant should be Sunday Best, with Christmas colors when possible. For the sake of practicality and safety on the church floor, we discourage high heels for our young ladies.
- **We are making a few changes to arrival and dismissal to help us maintain stable groups and minimize the chances of viral spread during the evening. Please read the below carefully:**
 - All parents whose children must enter the school building (i.e. Grades 1-7 and 8th grade students without a designated pageant role) should park in the back parking lot and then walk their child(ren) to the door where they normally enter the school building each morning. This may necessitate walking children to more than one door. Please plan to leave enough time to ensure that each child arrives at his or her classroom safely.
 - After the Pageant, students will be dismissed from the building one grade level at a time to the back parking lot, in the same fashion that we normally conduct dismissal. Parents should meet their children where they normally would for dismissal. Parents will not enter the school building to pick up their children.
- **We will livestream this year's Pageant on our parish [YouTube page](#).** We do ask our families to be mindful of crowding in the church, and are making this virtual viewing option available for those who cannot be with us or who would feel more comfortable not being physically present in the church building.
- If you decide that you would feel more comfortable with your child not participating in this year's Pageant, please inform Mr. Tremblay. He or she will not be penalized. We continue to trust each family's judgement to do what is in the best interest of their children.

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 this 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 3:30-4:30 pm.

Rehearsals for both band and choir will begin tomorrow, December 2!

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

Advent Clothing Drive



2021 Winter Clothing Drive
An Advent Service Project



OLM School will be collecting winter clothing between 12/6 and 12/17. All items donated will benefit Midnight Moment Outreach, a local ministry with a mission to feed and clothe the homeless. Volunteers visit various areas in Providence and beyond to pass out food and clothing at night. Collection bins will be set-up at all student drop-off doors.

**Monday, December 6th through
Friday, December 17th**

COATS & HOODED SWEATSHIRTS - ALL AGES
New or Gently Used & Washed

SOCKS & FLEECE TROWS - ALL AGES
New Socks & Throws Only

Thank you for your goodwill offering!

Spiritual Life



Beloved Meeting this Week!

The next meeting of “Beloved,” our ministry for middle school girls, will take place tomorrow, 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. Please email kate_jelinek@hotmail.com by tomorrow evening at 5:00 pm if you would like to join!



PTG News



OUR LADY OF MERCY
PTG Newsletter

PTG PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
We hope you had a great Thanksgiving with your family. Now...onto CHRISTMAS! Check out the holiday activities and opportunities below to spread holiday cheer through the community.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING SHOWDOWN
Decorating a gingerbread house is a sweet tradition for many families. We invite you to participate in OLM's 2nd Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Showdown! Submit a picture (or two!) of your family's gingerbread house to olmptg@gmail.com between Dec. 1-12. Include your child's name/children's names. Members of the OLM staff will vote on one winner for PK-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Winners will be announced on Dec. 15 and will receive a small prize. Happy decorating!



TOYS FOR TOTS
OLM is participating in the Toys for Tots campaign again this year! Toy collection bins will be at all drop-off entrances each morning from Dec. 7-9. If your family would like to participate, have your student drop off a new, unwrapped toy into a bin on the way into school!

PTG MEETING
Minutes from the Nov. 17 meeting are available. The next meeting will be on Jan. 12.

Questions?
Contact olmptg@gmail.com



We hope you had a great Thanksgiving with your families. Now, onto CHRISTMAS!

Check out the PTG holiday activities and opportunities to spread some cheer through the community.

[Click Here for PTG Newsletter](#)

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.

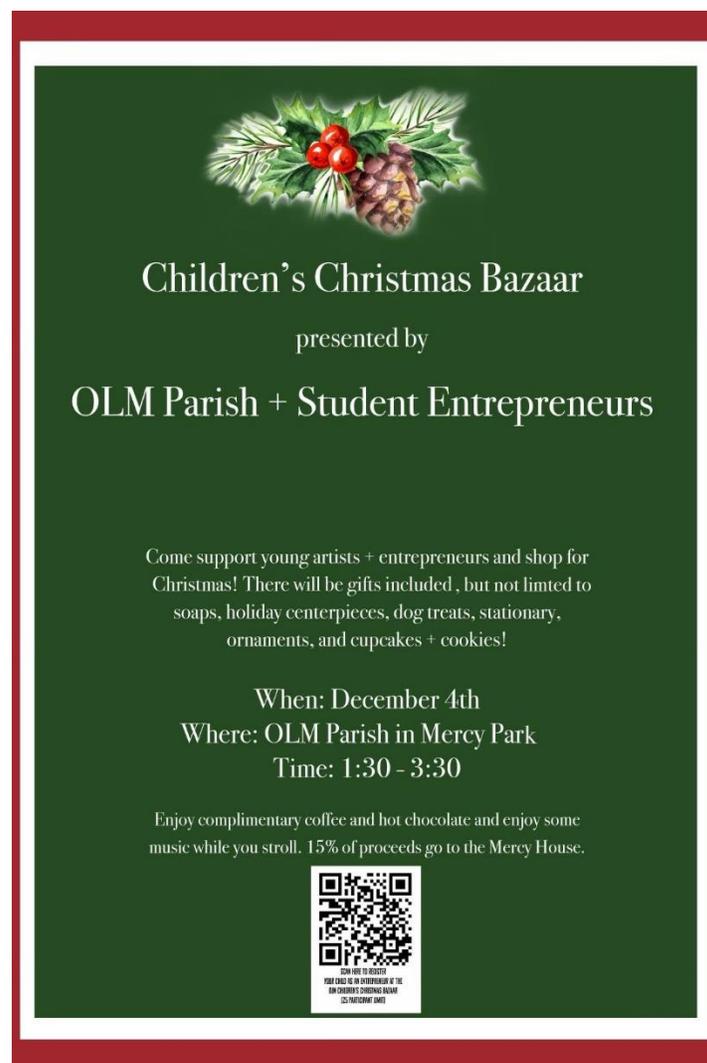
If you have an additional child that you would like to enroll for next year and have not yet submitted an application for him or her, please act promptly. We are now reviewing applications from new families and can only guarantee sibling preference for those applications we have already received. To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

Children's Christmas Bazaar!

The first ever OLM Children's Christmas Bazaar will take place THIS Saturday, December 4 in Mercy Park from 1:30-3:30 pm. Please see below for details, and click on the button at the bottom of this section to sign up as an entrepreneur!



The poster features a green background with a red border. At the top is a decorative illustration of holly leaves, red berries, and pinecones. The text is centered and reads: 'Children's Christmas Bazaar presented by OLM Parish + Student Entrepreneurs'. Below this, it says: '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!'. The event details are: 'When: December 4th', 'Where: OLM Parish in Mercy Park', and 'Time: 1:30 - 3:30'. At the bottom, it says: 'Enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate and enjoy some music while you stroll. 15% of proceeds go to the Mercy House.' A QR code is located at the bottom center, with small text below it: 'SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP AS AN ENTREPRENEUR AT THE OLM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR (SEE THE EVENT PAGE)'.

[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.

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

Wednesday Envelope

Advent Clothing Drive Flyer

Upcoming Dates

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

Come, Lord Jesus!