

# Wednesday Notes



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December 15, 2021

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Dear OLM Community,

We are getting close to Christmas! Please take time to carefully review details below in advance of tomorrow evening's Christmas pageant, and call the school office tomorrow if you have any specific questions.

Please also note below that first trimester report cards will be distributed tomorrow, we will need all students picked up from Extended Day tomorrow by 5:00 pm in preparation for the pageant, and that there is no After Care next Wednesday, December 22 following 11:30 am dismissal.

Thank you all for continuing to work together amidst so many obstacles towards our common goal: that all of our students grow into the saints and scholars that God is calling them to be. Have a great evening, and we look forward to seeing many of you in the church tomorrow at 6:00 pm!

## The Week Ahead

**Thursday, December 16** First Trimester Report Cards Distributed

**Thursday, December 16** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym

**Thursday, December 16** Band Practice (Piano, Guitar, & Drums) 2:30-3:15 pm

**Thursday, December 16** Please pick up all students from Extended Day prior to 5:00 pm!

**Thursday, December 16** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm

**Friday, December 17** Last Day to Donate to Advent Winter Clothing Drive!

**Friday, December 17** Band Practice (Brass & Woodwinds) 2:30-3:15 pm

**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/NO AFTER CARE

**December 23-January 2** Christmas Break!

**Monday, January 3** School Resumes

# Christmas Pageant

We are only one day away from our 2021 Christmas Pageant! Thank you to all for your flexibility as we have maneuvered through the difficulties of the past week to prepare for a truly special evening. Here are key points for everyone to know in preparing for the Pageant. Please note that some of this information is new compared to previous weeks:

- **In light of the governor's announcements today and the overall high case rate in the state, we are making the following requests of our families for tomorrow evening:**
  - *For the health of our students and community, and to protect in-person learning and in-person Christmas celebrations, **please wear a mask while in the church building tomorrow evening.***
  - ***Please consider limiting the number of people in attendance outside your immediate household.** We have a big church, but it has gotten very crowded in past years and we would like to avoid an unnecessarily large crowd tomorrow evening.*
  - *If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, please do not attend the pageant in person.*

**We will livestream this year's Pageant on our parish [YouTube page](#)** to make it accessible to anyone who cannot attend in person, and we sincerely thank everyone who chooses to view it in this manner to protect the health of others.

And, in old news that hasn't changed:

- 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 5:45 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 "Christmas Best", with red and green encouraged but not required. **Please don't stress about outfits!** As long as kids are "dressed up" for a nice occasion, they will look great! Please note that 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.*

## 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 THROWS - ALL AGES**  
*New Socks & Throws Only*

Thank you for your goodwill offering!

## Spiritual Life

### Beloved

The next meeting of "Beloved," our middle school ministry for girls is tomorrow, December 16 from 2:30-3:30 pm in the school gym. All young ladies in Grades Six through Eight are welcome to attend.



### “To the Height of Joy!”

Middle School Youth Ministry

Friday, December 17th. 6:30pm-9:00pm

Adoration and Christmas Party!

Starting with a time of prayer and

Adoration in the Church.

Yankee Swap and Christmas Party to follow in Old School Gym.

\*\*In this season of giving please bring new socks which will be donated to Emmanuel House for those in need. Ugly Christmas Sweaters Optional.....But Encouraged

Yankee Swap gift limit: \$20.00

NO GIFT CARDS!!!

### Middle School Youth Ministry

Middle School Youth Ministry will meet again on Friday, December 17. All students in grades six through eight are welcome to attend!

## PTG News



Christmas magic is all around OLM!  
Check out the PTG Newsletter for updates on our Toys for Tots collection, the Gingerbread House Decorating Showdown winners, and a few special visitors who were at school this week.

We wish you and your family a very merry Christmas!

[Click Here for PTG Newsletter](#)

## 2022-2023 Applications

### 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.

## 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

**Nothing This Week!**

### Upcoming Dates

**Thursday, December 16** First Trimester Report Cards Distributed  
**Thursday, December 16** "Beloved" Meeting 2:30 pm in the Gym  
**Thursday, December 16** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm  
**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/NO AFTER CARE  
**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  
**Friday, January 21** Eighth Grade Science Fair 3:00-5:00 pm  
**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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## Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for Us!