

Wednesday Notes



December 8, 2021

Dear OLM Community,

Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception! Thank you to Fr. Healey for a beautiful school Mass this morning. Thank you also to Mrs. Turchetta and her fourth grade class, along with Mr. Tremblay and our recently formed children's choir, all of whom contributed so well to today's celebration. They reminded us once again what it means to be part of a community all striving to be saints and scholars.

And thank you to everyone for your flexibility this week as we continue to maneuver through new challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic. True to form, our students and teachers have been able to keep the learning going throughout the week without missing a beat.

We hope to be able to come together for our Christmas Pageant which is now next Thursday; please see below for details to be sure your child is prepared. And if you would like to make a donation to Toys for Tots, tomorrow is the last day we are collecting! Thank you to our PTG for organizing this work of mercy, and thank you to all who have contributed to it.

Please read on for all the details. Have a great evening, and God bless!



The Week Ahead

Thursday, December 9 Last Day to Donate to Toys for Tots!

Thursday, December 9 Student Council Meeting 2:30 pm

Thursday, December 9 Band Rehearsal 2:30-3:15 pm

Thursday, December 9 Choir Rehearsal 3:30-4:30 pm

Friday, December 10 Band Rehearsal 2:30-3:15 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

Thursday, December 16 Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm

Friday, December 17 Middle School Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone for your flexibility in the planning of this year's Christmas pageant. We have moved the date back by one week to next Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 pm. God willing, we will be able to have all of our students present and to put on a truly special performance. 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 5:45 pm (*we slid this time back by 15 minutes. If all PK & K students are in their pews by 5:45, we will be in great shape*).
- 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 highly encouraged! 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.

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



“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 OLM
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

OLM SCHOOL
PTG Newsletter

PTG PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
The countdown to Christmas is on! Check out the holiday activities and opportunities below to spread some cheer through the community.
-Gaiya Berube

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING SHOWDOWN
Decorating a gingerbread house is a sweet tradition for many families. We invite you to participate in OLM's 2nd Gingerbread House Decorating Showdown! Submit a picture (or two!) of your family's gingerbread house to olmptg@gmail.com by Dec. 12. Include your child's name and grade. 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! The final day to participate is tomorrow. Toy collection bins will be outside all drop-off entrances. If your family would like to participate, have your student drop off a new, unwrapped toy in a bin on the way into school!

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

Questions?
Contact olmptg@gmail.com

The countdown to Christmas is on! Check out the holiday activities and opportunities to spread some cheer through the community.

[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

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

Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for Us!