

# Wednesday Notes



September 28, 2022

Dear OLM Community,

It is a joyful Feast Week at Our Lady of Mercy Parish and School! We had a tremendously successful golf tournament this Monday. We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Lee Mita for her great work in organizing it all, as well as to our many sponsors and volunteers who made it possible.

Feast Week continues with the Holy Hour of Mercy this evening at 7:00 pm in the church (all are welcome!) and the Act of Mercy tomorrow evening at 6:00 pm on the school field (all are welcome there as well!). And of course we conclude Feast Week with Oktoberfest this Friday at 6:00 pm on the field. This is a free event that includes food and fun for all plus German beer for the grownups! It is always a great time, and we hope that you will be able to join us there!

A promotional poster for the Oktoberfest 2022 event. The poster features the text "OUR LADY OF MERCY Oktoberfest 2022" in a stylized font. Below this, it says "Friday, September 30 • 6 - 9 pm" and "Our Lady of Mercy School Field, 55 Fourth St., East Greenwich, RI". There are icons for a beer mug, a fork, a hat, and a tuba. The text "GERMAN FOOD, BEER &amp; MUSIC! FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY &amp; FREE ADMISSION" is prominently displayed. It also includes the phrase "Join us as we conclude Our Lady of Mercy Feast Week and Prepare for the Month of Mary!". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE OLM PARISH OFFICE AT 401-884-4968 | PARISH@OLMPARISH.ORG WWW.OLMPARISH.ORG". To the right of the poster is a vertical strip of five small photographs showing people at the event, including a group of people standing together, people at a table, a person holding a beer, and people at a table with a blue tablecloth.

At Oktoberfest, we will also be drawing the winners of our See You in September Raffle to give away a total of \$10,000 in prize money! If you have been meaning to purchase a ticket, buy yours now by calling the parish office at (401) 884-4968! Every ticket purchased and every donation to our school helps us to fill the approximately \$400,000 gap between our annual operating expenses and the revenue that we generate in tuition and fees. If you have been looking for a way to contribute to our work, this could be it!

So thank you to all who have already purchased tickets, or sponsored a tee, or played in our golf tournament, or brought your children to Mass, or prayed for the success of our growing saints and scholars. Every contribution matters, and our students thrive when everyone plays their part- no matter how big or how small it may seem in the eyes of the world.

We hope to see you at our Feast Week events. May God richly bless you, your family, our students and our school- this week and always!

For Christ and Our Kids,  
Patrick McNabb  
Principal

## The Week Ahead

**Wednesday, September 28** Cross Country Meet @ Goddard Park 4:30 pm

**Wednesday, September 28** Holy Hour of Mercy 7:00 pm

**Thursday, September 29** Choir Practice 2:30-3:15 pm in the Music Room

**Thursday, September 29** Act of Mercy 6:00 pm on the Field

**Friday, September 30** Dressing Down So That Mercy May Flourish!

**Friday, September 30** Oktoberfest 6:00-9:00 pm

(Including the See You in September Raffle Drawing!)

**Monday, October 3** Confessions for Grades 3-8 12:45 pm

**Monday, October 3** Student Council Meeting 2:30-3:00 pm

**Tuesday, October 4** Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of the Animals at Dismissal

**Wednesday, October 5** Cross Country Meet @ Goddard Park 4:30 pm

**Wednesday, October 5** CAL Basketball Registration Deadline

**Thursday, October 6** Beloved Meeting 2:30-3:30 pm in the Art Room

**Thursday, October 6** OLM Parish Families Group Rosary & Pizza 5:30 pm

**Friday, October 7** First Friday Mass 9:00 am; Formal Uniforms

## Supporting Our Saints and Scholars



*See you in September* **RAFFLE**

GRAND PRIZE - \$5,000

FIRST PRIZE- \$2,500

SECOND PRIZE- \$1,000

THIRD PRIZE- \$1,000

FOURTH PRIZE- \$500

LIVE DRAWING AT THE OLM OKTOBERFEST  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Tickets are \$100 EACH

Call OLM at 401-884-4968 today to get yours!

*Support our Saints and Scholars!*

### See You in September Raffle

Time is running out to purchase a ticket for the See You in September Raffle! The drawing will take place at Oktoberfest THIS Friday, September 30. Tickets will be on sale through the drawing or until we sell out- whichever comes first!

Don't miss your chance to support our kids AND win up to \$10,000 in prize money!

## Dressing Down So That Mercy May Flourish!

We traditionally hold the last Friday of each month as a Dress Down Day, and that means that we can look forward to one this Friday!

In keeping with our Catholic mission, we require that students make a donation of \$1 or more to a selected charity in order to dress down. This month, our donations will go to [Project Hope](#), a ministry of the Diocese of Providence that assists those in need through the Catholic parishes of the Blackstone Valley. This is also very much in keeping with this year and this month's virtue of hope.

Also in keeping with our Catholic mission, we maintain a (relaxed!) dress code for dress down days as part of our school handbook. Please review it below and keep it in mind when selecting clothing for Friday:

*Student attire on dress-down days should be in keeping with the Catholic mission of our school and the reverence we hold as Catholic Christians for the dignity of the human body. Clothing must be modest and presentable, and it may not bear any messages or images that conflict with Catholic faith and morals. All students should abide by the following guidelines in selecting clothing for dress-down days:*

- *Clothing may not be ripped or torn.*
- *Students may not wear skin-tight clothing, except under other articles of clothing (e.g. athletic tights under athletic shorts or tights under a dress)*
- *Students may not wear pajamas, slippers, or any clothing items that would be considered sleepwear, unless specifically permitted for the day.*
- *Students may not wear tank tops or spaghetti strap shirts or dresses.*
- *Students may not wear strapless tops or dresses.*
- *Students may not wear halter top dresses or shirts or any clothing items revealing the midriff.*
- *Students may not wear low-cut tops or dresses.*
- *Dresses, skirts, and/or shorts should be of modest and appropriate length. We suggest no shorter than two inches above the knee.*
- *Students may wear hats, provided that they do not provide a distraction from the learning environment. Classroom teachers reserve the right to require that students remove hats if they become a distraction to learning.*

*The school administration reserves the authority to determine if a particular article of clothing is suitable for our Catholic learning environment and to require students to change before being admitted to class.*

### Colorthon!

Colorthon is on the horizon! Click the button above to see the details, and look for all the information to come home in paper copy in next week's Wednesday Envelope!

### 2022-2023 Student & Family Handbook

Our updated 2022-2023 Student & Family Handbook is now available on our school website. [Please click here to access it.](#)

If you have not yet returned a signed copy of the Handbook Acknowledgement & Agreement Form, you have received another copy to be signed in your Wednesday Envelope this week. This form must be signed by all students in Grades 5 and above and must also be signed by all parents, regardless of grade level.

If you received one in your Wednesday Envelope again today, please sign it and return it with your child tomorrow. Thank you very much.

### Handbook Acknowledgement & Agreement Form

## Spiritual Life



### Blessing of the Animals

This coming Tuesday, October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and we will again hold our traditional Blessing of the Animals in the back parking lot at dismissal. Everyone is welcome to bring their pets to be blessed at that time. We hope you can join us!

## Beloved

**Beloved is back! Our ministry for middle school girls- led by our first grade teacher Mrs. Shannon Duffy- will meet for the first time this year next Thursday, October 6 from 2:30- 3:30 pm in the art room. All young ladies in Grades 6-8 are welcome to join this outstanding group and learn how truly loved they are by our God and Father.**



MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS' MINISTRY

# BELOVED

BE HIS. BE FREE. BE LOVE.

Opening Meeting of the School Year  
Thursday, October 6th  
In the Art Room from 2:30 - 3:30pm  
Open to all girls in grades 6 - 8

**SEE YOU THERE!**

REACH OUT TO MRS. DUFFY WITH ANY  
QUESTIONS OR IF INTERESTED:  
[SDUFFY@OLMSCHOOL.ORG](mailto:SDUFFY@OLMSCHOOL.ORG)



### *Calling New Altar Servers*

Join the few, the *proud...*  
the Our Lady of Mercy  
Altar Servers

Serve God and Your Parish at Holy Mass  
Training Provided, Great Spiritual Benefits!

All Children of the Parish, Grade 4 and up, are invited to join the ranks of OLM Altar Servers.

If interested please complete form on back and return by Sunday, **October 9, 2022** to the Parish Office.

Training begins *Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 4pm*



## Calling New Altar Servers!

**Join the few, the proud: the OLM Altar Servers! Click the button below to find a form to complete to sign up for training, which begins on Tuesday, October 11. The same form has been sent home today with all students in Grades 4-8. We encourage anyone who is willing and able to take advantage of this privileged opportunity to play a special role in the celebration of Holy Mass- the most profound act on Earth!**

[Information for New Altar Servers](#)

## Athletics Update

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Believe it or not, it's time to register for basketball season! We have teams available for boys and girls in Grades K-8. If your child is interested in playing Catholic Athletic League Basketball through OLM School this year, please click the link below and complete one submission per child.

We ask that you do this by one week from today, Wednesday October 5, to enable us to submit rosters to CAL in a timely fashion. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Jerry O'Connell, Athletic Director, at [joconnell@olmschool.org](mailto:joconnell@olmschool.org).

### [CAL Basketball Sign-Up](#)

## Arrival & Dismissal

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Thank you to everyone for your help in making our arrival and dismissal go so smoothly! Three points to help it stay safe and efficient:

- **Please drive slowly!** Little eyes are often not watching for cars. Please drive slowly on campus- always and everywhere.
- **PK-2 parents, please wait to help your child out of your car until there is a staff member who is present and attentive to your child.** Our staff is trying to manage the flow of traffic to make it both safe for children and reasonably quick for parents trying to get to their daily responsibilities. While it is perfectly fine and expected for parents of young children to help them out of the car, if that happens without the attention of our staff, there is one less person watching your child, and you are likely slowing down the pace of the line for those cars behind you. Thank you very much for your cooperation.
- **Children may not run unsupervised in the parking lot at dismissal.** It is a severe safety hazard. Once you have received your child(ren) from school, please supervise them carefully and do not permit them to run in the parking lot. Thank you very much for your cooperation in this important safety matter.

## Keep Yourself Up-to-Date!

**Have you recently moved?  
Gotten a new phone number?  
Made a new pick-up arrangement with your neighbor?**

**If those or anything similar sounds like you, please make sure to update your information in the [FACTS Family Portal](#).**

**You don't have to call us! You don't have to email! Just log in, make the changes, and we will see them. This is how we stay up-to-date on all the family information we need to keep the school running well, so please help us out and make the changes when they happen! Thank you!!**

## COVID-19 Information

**To open the 2022-2023 school year, the following policies will be in place regarding COVID-19:**

- Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least five days from the date of symptom onset or the positive COVID-19 test, whichever occurred first.
- The individual may return on Day Six if his or her symptoms are improving, and then must wear a well-fitting mask from Days Six through Ten.

**Please note changes to our policies from the Spring of 2022:**

- Household contacts of positive cases- both vaccinated and unvaccinated- are no longer required to quarantine.
- Remote learning via Zoom will no longer be made available to students who are at home for COVID-related reasons. Students who are absent for medical reasons will receive assignments in a manner consistent with our standard practice for all absences.
- We will no longer be notifying families of individual COVID-19 cases as they occur. We will, however, be keeping a regularly updated tracker of COVID-19 cases in our school for those families who find that information helpful in making necessary health decisions. You can find the tracker [here](#).

These policies remain subject to change based on guidance from public health authorities or the specific needs of our school community. Any further changes will be communicated promptly.

## Preparing to Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering at OLM School during the 2022-2023 school year? If so, now is the time to prepare! Because we take the moral and physical safety of our students very seriously, there are steps that all volunteers must take before beginning:

BCI and Safe Environment Training paperwork must be processed in order to allow parents/grandparents to volunteer at OLM on field trips, in classrooms, etc.

Here are the steps that all prospective volunteers must complete:

- [OLM Volunteer Application](#) - complete this form.
- [BCI application](#) - complete this form - which must be notarized by a Notary Public. Attach a copy of the **FRONT** and **BACK** of your driver's license. The school pays the \$5.00 processing fee.
- [Safe Environment Training](#) - complete this form once you have reviewed the following links:
  - [Safe Environment Training Link](#)
  - [Safe Environment Code of Ethical Conduct Link](#)
  - [Safe Environment Extract Link](#)

Please send/bring all these forms/documents to the front office once you have completed them so we can submit them for processing. **Please note the process can take a few weeks, so the time to act is now!**

**Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all students at OLM School.**

## Wednesday Envelope

### [Handbook Acknowledgment & Agreement Form](#)

(only those families who have not yet submitted one this school year)

### [New Altar Server Information](#) (Grades 4-8 Only)



## Upcoming Dates

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**Friday, September 30** Oktoberfest 6:00-9:00 pm; See You in September Raffle Drawing  
**Monday, October 3** School Confessions 12:45 pm  
**Tuesday, October 4** Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of the Animals at Dismissal  
**Thursday, October 6** OLM Parish Families Group Rosary & Pizza 5:30 pm  
**Friday, October 7** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Monday, October 10** NO SCHOOL: Columbus Day  
**Tuesday, October 11** Winter Uniforms Begin  
**Tuesday, October 11** Altar Server Training Begins  
**Wednesday, October 12** State Championship Cross Country Meet @ Slater Park 4:00 pm  
**Friday, October 14** Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Tuesday, October 18** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Thursday, October 20** Colorthon!  
**Friday, October 21** NO SCHOOL: Parent-Teacher Conferences  
**Friday, October 21** Flu Clinic in the Gym 4:00-6:30 pm (Ages 3 +)  
**Friday, October 28** Trunk or Treat!  
**Tuesday, November 1** All Saints Day Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Wednesday, November 2** All Souls Day Mass & Procession 9:00 am (Middle School Only; Formal Uniforms)  
**Friday, November 4** Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Friday, November 11** NO SCHOOL: Veterans Day  
**Tuesday, November 15** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**November 23-25** Thanksgiving Recess  
**Friday, December 2** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Friday, December 2** OLM Parish Families Group Christmas Caroling 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday, December 6** St. Nicholas Day!  
**Thursday, December 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Friday, December 9** Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Monday, December 12** School Confessions 12:45-2:00 pm  
**Thursday, December 15** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm  
**December 22** HALF DAY 11:30 am dismissal  
**December 23-January 2** Christmas Vacation  
**Tuesday, January 3** School Resumes

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**Thank you for investing in Our Lady of Mercy School.  
Every contribution matters.**