

# Wednesday Notes



December 6, 2023

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Dear OLM School Community,

**A blessed Advent! If you did not get to read Fr. Healey's column from last Friday (or even if you did!) it seemed appropriate to share a couple of paragraphs from it again to help us all direct our hearts in this period of preparation:**

"More than any other season of the year, Advent is rooted in the virtue of hope. For Catholics, the new year begins not on January 1 but on the First Sunday of Advent, the day the Church begins her annual new cycle of Scripture readings and worship. The season of Advent, deriving from the Latin verb *advenire*, meaning "to come" or "to arrive," has a two-fold purpose: first, to remind us of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and all that it implied for the salvation of the world; and, second, to ready us for Christ's second coming at the end of time as king and judge of creation.

"For Christians, the virtue of hope enables us to face the burdens of daily life, no matter how heavy. In his 2007 Encyclical *Spe Salvi* ('Saved in Hope'), Pope Benedict reminds us that *'the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey.'*

"Faith in Jesus Christ leads us to hope for eternal life. Christ's life gives our lives meaning. If we believe in Jesus Christ, we will have confidence in the future, no matter how bleak some days or problems seem. In the end, Jesus has already won our salvation and the happiness that comes with it."

**We wish you an Advent season filled with joyful hope in our Lord and Savior. As part of your Advent observance, we invite you to join us for 9:00 am formal Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this Friday, and for our Christmas Pageant next Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm. And the life of the school keeps on going, so please read on and reach out with any questions. Thank you as always for all that you do for our students and our school. Have a great evening and God bless!**

**For Christ and Our Kids,  
Patrick McNabb  
Principal**

## The Week Ahead

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**Thursday, December 7** Mock Trial Interest Meeting 2:30-3:30 pm

**Thursday, December 7** Choir Practice 2:30-3:15 pm

**Friday, December 8** Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)

**Friday, December 8** Robotics Practice 2:30-4:00 pm in the Tech Room

**Saturday, December 9** Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

**Monday, December 11** Deadline for Toys for Tots Donations

**Monday, December 11** Student Council Meeting 2:30-3:15 pm  
**Tuesday, December 12** Robotics Practice 2:30-4:00 pm in the Tech Room  
**Wednesday, December 13** Drama Club Meeting 2:30-4:00 pm in the Gym  
**Thursday, December 14** First Trimester Report Cards Go Home  
**Thursday, December 14** Beloved Meeting 2:30-3:15 pm  
**Friday, December 15** Deadline for Winter Clothing Drive Donations  
**Friday, December 15** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm

## Advent Service



### 2023 Winter Clothing Drive

An Advent Service Project



OLM School will be collecting winter clothing between 12/4 and 12/15. 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 4th through  
Friday, December 15th***

***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!



OLM School is participating in the Toys for Tots campaign again this season! Collection bins will be at all drop-off entrances each morning from Nov. 29 through Dec. 11.

If your family would like to participate, have your student drop off a new, unwrapped toy on their way into school.

Thank you! Happy holidays!



# Mock Trial!

Our Mock Trial team is starting up again in preparation for April competitions! All interested students in Grades 6-8 are invited to an introductory meeting next Thursday, December 7 in Mr. O'Neill's room.

## OLM Mock Trial

**Interest meeting is Thursday, December 07  
2:30-3:30 in Mr. O'Neill's room**



**Practices will be held Thursdays 2:30-3:30 for  
one hour until the state competition in April**

### *What is Mock Trial?*

A team-based competition where we will dissect a case, assuming the roles of attorneys and witnesses. Students will try a case as defense or prosecution, prepare opening statements, conduct direct and cross examinations, present closing arguments, and offer witness portrayals.

Mock Trial will help you acquire a working knowledge of our judicial system while developing your analytical abilities and communication skills.

Gain a deeper understanding of your obligations and responsibilities as a critically thinking citizen in our society.



## Youth Ministry: Christmas Party!



### **Middle School Youth Ministry**

**Saturday, December 9th. 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 a package of new  
socks which will be donated to Emmanuel House for those in  
need.\*\***

**Ugly Christmas Sweaters Optional.....But Encouraged**

**Yankee Swap gift limit: \$25.00**

**Please, no gift cards!**

## Christmas Pageant 2023!

Our 2023 Christmas Pageant is less than two weeks away, on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm!  
Here are key points for everyone to know in preparing for the big night:

- We expect that the Pageant will last for approximately 45 minutes.
- Unless different clothing is required for a particular role, attire for the pageant should be "Christmas Best", with red and green highly encouraged! "Christmas Best" includes items such as slacks, collared shirts, ties, sweaters, or jackets for boys, and

dresses or the equivalent for girls. Jeans, sneakers, and athletic attire would not be considered appropriate for the Pageant. For the sake of practicality and safety on the church floor, we discourage high heels for our young ladies.

- Students in Grades 1-7 who do not have specifically assigned pageant roles or responsibilities should report to their classrooms by 5:30 pm.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten students should meet their teachers in the front pews of the church by 5:45 pm.
- All 8th grade students, please arrive at 5:15 pm in the church to begin getting ready. Costumes for 8th grade actors will be provided.
- Faculty and staff members will start receiving students fifteen minutes prior to the times listed above. Please do not drop off students until fifteen minutes before the stated arrival time.

**Please read below for information on drop-off and pick-up of students for the Pageant.**

- All parents whose children must enter the school building (i.e. Grades 1-7) 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. **Parents do not need to enter the school building at drop-off. They may simply drop their child(ren) with the staff member at each door and proceed to the church to find a good seat!**
- After the Pageant, students will be dismissed from the building one grade span 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. **Out of respect for all our student performers and to ensure student safety, no students will be dismissed from the school building prior to the end of the pageant. Please do not plan to pick up children from the school building before the Pageant ends. All students in Grades 1-7 will be dismissed to the back parking lot after the conclusion of the Pageant.**
- Parents whose children are going directly to the church upon arrival (i.e. Grades PK, K, and 8) may park where there is space (meaning they are not required to park in the back lot), may meet their children in the church after their performance, and may leave directly from there, provided that they do not have additional children in other grade levels who will need to be picked up in the back lot.
- For anyone that is not able to attend the pageant in person, we will again livestream this year's performance on our parish [YouTube page](#).

# OLM Athletics News

We are excited to announce that we are exploring the addition of two new OLM Athletics offerings – Cheer (Winter 2024) and Middle School Softball (Spring 2024). Several OLM families have shared that students are interested in each of these activities. To help us gauge commitment and determine feasibility of launching one or both programs this school year, interested families should follow the survey links below. If interested, we ask that you complete these brief surveys by Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

[Click Here If You Are Interested in Cheer!](#)

[Click Here If You Are Interested in Middle School Softball!](#)

If there is sufficient interest in Cheer and/or Softball, we will begin the process of identifying resources (coaches, equipment, fields, etc.) and developing a plan to launch the program(s).

Please direct any questions to Jerry O'Connell, OLM athletic director, at [joconnell@olmschool.org](mailto:joconnell@olmschool.org)

## Preparing to Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering at OLM School during the 2023-2024 school year? 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

**Panera Certificates  
Middle School Breakfast Flyers (Grades 6-8 Only)**

## Upcoming Dates

**Thursday, December 7** Mock Trial Interest Meeting 2:30-3:30 pm  
**Friday, December 8** Immaculate Conception Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Saturday, December 9** Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Thursday, December 14** First Trimester Report Cards Go Home  
**Thursday, December 14** Beloved Meeting 2:30-3:15 pm  
**Friday, December 15** Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm  
**Tuesday, December 19** Grades 3-5 Field Trip to The Nutcracker  
**Friday, December 22** Middle School Breakfast  
**Friday, December 22** Advent Prayer Service  
**Friday, December 22** 11:30 am Dismissal; No After-School Extended Day  
**December 25-January 2** Christmas Vacation  
**Wednesday, January 3** School Resumes  
**Friday, January 5** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Monday, January 15** NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
**Tuesday, January 16** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday, January 24** Second Trimester Progress Reports Go Home  
**Thursday, January 25** Class of 2024 Science Fair  
**Sunday, January 28** Open House 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
**January 28-February 2** Catholic Schools Week!  
**Friday, February 2** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Friday, February 2** Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Saturday, February 10** Father-Daughter Dance  
**Tuesday, February 13** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday, February 14** Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**February 19-23** February Vacation

**Come, Lord Jesus!**