



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds • Growing Faith • Inspiring Service

Calendar Links



[CLICK HERE for the 2020-21 school calendar.](#)



[CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR](#)



Feb. 11-12 No School
Feb. 12 Re-enrollment Ends
Feb. 15 President's Day No School



St. Valentine

Weekly Bulletin

February 10, 2021

School Closure Information (Updated)

Reminder: No School this Thursday and Friday

Dear Parents,

I want to share with you that the Ohio Department of Health informed us Our Lady of Grace faculty and staff members will receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine this Thursday, February 11.

Since each vaccination is estimated to take 45 minutes (including a 30-minute monitoring period for potential reactions), the process could likely cause a disruption to our school day. We also know that, while side effects from the vaccine are generally mild, some staff members could experience them. With an overwhelming majority of the staff being vaccinated, I do not feel confident we could line up adequate substitute staff if we experienced high staff absenteeism. **In response to these factors, Our Lady of Grace will not have school on Thursday, February 11 and Friday, February 12.**

Update: We have been notified we will receive the Pfizer vaccine. The first dose will be administered this week, and the second dose will be given three weeks later. **We will not have school on Thursday, March 4 and Friday, March 5.**

We are pleased that Ohio has put a priority on school personnel receiving the vaccine. I will continue to update you as we firm up final details. Thanks again for your patience and support as we take this important next step.

Grace and Blessings,
Mrs. Kirk

Re-enrollment ends 2/12. Open enrollment for new families begins 2/15.

Since open enrollment for new families begins on February 15, 2021, there is no guarantee there will be space available in the classroom for current students who re-enroll after the February 12, 2021 deadline. (see specific info in bulletin).

[CLICK HERE for CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE BEATING COVID](#)

Religious Education

We Rise Again from Ashes

Lent begins next week and that starts with Ash Wednesday. Way back in the days of old when I was in grade school, I remember Ash Wednesday as a melancholy day. The nuns who taught us were unusually somber and whispery to us that day. It *felt* like Ash Wednesday, with its marked foreheads and meager meals, signaled the beginning of a long period of giving up candy and treats - and a feeling that we were all lost.

But many years later, a fresh look at today's readings changes my perspective and seems to invite us into a hopeful joy. God invites us to "return to me with your whole heart" and we ask God in return to "create a clean heart for me and a steadfast spirit renew within me." Rather than being melancholy, Lent invites us into a deep joy, for we are known by God as imperfect people, but we are *loved* by God as people who are now forgiven. The deeply forgiving love God extends to us is like an invitation to renew our relationship with God.

Yes, Lent might be a period of simplicity, paring down and clearing away the things that are getting in the way between us and God. Lent can also be a time to take a clear-eyed look at ourselves and honestly see who we are, just as God does. But it's a time of great hope, as we realize how much God longs for a relationship with us.

That doesn't mean we focus on us and our failings, but we can look at the way our lack of freedom gets in the way of our relationships with God. An honest look at ourselves as flawed creatures of God doesn't mean we give up. Rather we can rejoice in knowing that there is nothing we have done, no act or way of life, no hidden sin so deeply tucked away in our souls, that God does not forgive in us. Can we imagine the six weeks of Lent as time to spend with the One who loves us so much, who forgives and comforts us and rejoices in our love? And isn't that celebration of love even deeper and more joyful if we have been separated from God for a while?

In all the years leading up to this one, we have had our foreheads marked by a cross of ashes. In this time of COVID-19, the Holy Father and the Bishops have asked that the Church all over the world not touch the person's forehead, but simply sprinkle ashes on the top of their head without direct contact. Either way, forehead or top of head, the ashes still remain a symbol of our own mortality and of the sacrifice Jesus made for us with his death on the cross.

Receiving the blessed ashes reminds us - and others - of God's message to us, "I created you for myself and gave you my only son to free you from sin and death. Even now, I am calling you, drawing you closer to myself so that someday, I can celebrate with you a never-ending banquet of love."

More than a sign of mortality, the ashes are a sign of God fighting for our freedom from this world, liberating us from the clutches of so many things that drag us away from God. During Lent, Jesus is calling each of us to himself in an ever-deeper way, inviting us into his endless forgiveness and asking us to return to his loving embrace. With tears of joy, we can accept his outstretched arms. When I was a kid my sense of Ash Wednesday was that we were lost. Now I see that we are found!

Blessings!

Mark Friedman, CRE



Pope Francis distributing Ashes on the top of the head of a Bishop at Saint Peter's in Rome



www.olgcs.org

Re-Enrollment Open Now (Current Families) – Deadline February 12, 2021

There is a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 per family. The deposit will be processed through FACTS Management as early as two business days of re-enrollment. Please do not send re-enrollment deposits to the school.

Students are not registered until the deposit for 2021-22 is paid and the tuition for the 2020-21 school year is current. Families not current with tuition may re-enroll when they bring their account to current status.

Since open enrollment for new families begins on February 15, 2021, there is no guarantee there will be space available in the classroom for current students who re-enroll after the February 12, 2021 deadline.

Please contact Mr. Desmier at mdesmier@olgcs.org with account questions.

Family Engagement Challenge February Parenting Tips



Week of February 1



Strength of the Week:
Bravery

I take on challenges and speak up for what is right.

- ❑ Next time you watch a movie with your family, name three characters with the character strength of bravery. What made them brave?
- ❑ When celebrating your child's accomplishments, instead of saying 'great job' or 'good job', try replacing it with the word brave. "It was brave of you to try a new food." "It was brave of you to speak in front of your class."
- ❑ Encourage family members to set an intention to accomplish a goal that makes them a little nervous.



Week of February 8



Strength of the Week:
Mindfulness

I am present and fully engage in the moment.

- ❑ Discuss with your family how to listen to each other's conversation without thinking about what they are going to say next. It is a great exercise with friends too!
- ❑ Take a walk and notice five (5) things with four (4) of your senses. Practice being silent while walking.
- I Hear... birds chirping, dogs barking, sirens, cars.
- I See... a tight parallel parking job, cool rocks or public art, squirrels scurrying.
- I Smell... food being prepped, snow coming, gas from a car.
- I Feel... gravel under my shoes, bumpy bark on a tree.

Mindfulness doesn't mean you have to be happy all of the time. Take a moment to be true to your present emotion. Talk with your child(ren) about their present emotions and yours. Each person can share why he/she may be feeling a certain way.

Week of February 15



Strength of the Week:
Fairness

I believe everyone should have the same opportunities.

- ❑ It's important to have a conversation with your child(ren) about the strength of fairness. Take a moment to share with your child(ren) a time when you realized you treated someone unfairly.
- ❑ It can be hard to understand that fair does not mean the exact same or equal.
- ❑ Next time there is a 'sibling spat' in your home and you hear "THAT'S NOT FAIR!", explain the concept at a calmer moment later.
- ❑ Everyone has felt they have been treated unfairly. Ask your child(ren) to share when they were treated unfairly. See if they can come up with an idea that would have been a fair solution.

Week of February 22

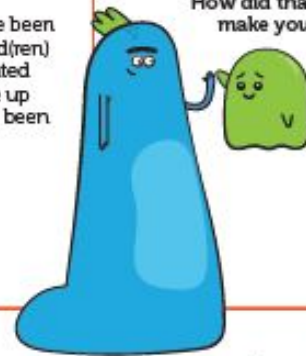


Strength of the Week:
Forgiveness

I believe that everyone deserves a second chance.

- ❑ Role model an example of forgiveness when someone cuts you off or takes your parking spot.
- ❑ Help turn the song lyric "Let It Go" into a life lesson for your kid(s). Ask your to child(ren) to think of a person they are angry with...and "let it go" with a big exhale of forgiveness and kindness.
- ❑ Practice forgiveness by replacing the memory of a negative thought of someone with a positive thought of that same person.

How did that make you feel?





Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association

Track & Field is back for 2021! We are in need of coaches for our track program (especially K-4). If interested, please contact Amanda Hood at olgtrackandfield@gmail.com . Read more in the flyer below!



Track & Field registration for the 2021 season is now open!

Our Track & Field program is offered to boys and girls in all grades (k-8). This sport is a great opportunity for students to compete with their own skill level and still be part of a team. There are various events and races that each student can try.

Practice days and times will be determined by the coach for the corresponding team and when the track is available for use. We will hold practices at LaSalle high school

Follow the link below TODAY to register!

<https://track-field-2021.cheddarup.com>

COVID Guidelines will be followed. Additional information for COVID guidelines will be available as we get closer to the season/meets.

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th!!!

Late registrations WILL NOT be accepted due to CYO registration deadlines.

Questions please contact Amanda Hood at olgtrackandfield@gmail.com

