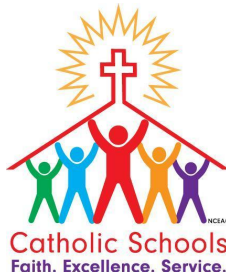


**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**  
**January 29 – February 4, 2023**



Dear OLS School Parents,

On Sunday, January 29th, we will begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week (CSW), the time set aside each year to celebrate Catholic education. During this week, we will focus on Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School's (OLS) high-quality, faith-filled education, and will honor everyone who contributes to the school's success – not only students, families, faculty and staff, but also volunteers, community supporters, and local leaders.

The theme for this year is **"Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."** Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, to love God and neighbor, and to enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith.

As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

As you may notice, the CSW logo emphasizes that the Catholic school, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution, but it is the people. As the people of God, we work together to bring the Kingdom of God to earth and raise up the next generation to do the same. The image of teachers and students forming the foundation of the school shows that they are active people of faith who serve others and God. May we all strive to live in active service of Jesus and His mission as we nationally join together during CSW and always.

Please encourage your children to participate in the activities we have planned and to celebrate their Catholic faith. In addition, encourage friends who may be considering Catholic education to visit our website at [olsschool.com](http://olsschool.com) and to complete an application. They can also call the school office for more information and to schedule a personal tour.

If you can, please take the time to express your appreciation to our teachers, staff, board members, volunteers, and everyone else involved in making our school successful. Through their dedication and commitment, they make OLS a wonderful example of faith, excellence and service.

As always, thank you for your continued support of OLS School.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Jane Dorn  
Principal

## Faith. Excellence. Service.

As we celebrate this exciting week, we give thanks to God for  
Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School and all who contribute to make it so special.

### Sunday, January 29th

We are thankful for the support of our parishes. Parishes with children attending OLS School will be sent a letter of appreciation. We will have a speaker at each Mass giving testimony about their experience with our school. Students dressed in uniform will be giving out information about the school after each Mass. **We will host an Open House from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for all interested families.** We encourage you to invite new families to join us to find out more about our school.

### Movie Monday, January 30th

Students may come dressed as their favorite movie character. The student body will be allowed to wear an outfit inspired by their favorite movie character. Dressing up as yourself, but as a movie star, fits the theme as well. Example: dressing up as Scooby Doo. Characters from G or appropriate PG movies only will be allowed. If there is any question as to appropriateness of character, please check with your child's teacher. All costumes must be suitable for our Catholic school environment. Tennis shoes must be worn, but do not need to be uniform colors. **On this day, parents will be celebrated.** We love our parents and are so thankful for your support! A small token of appreciation will come home with your children.

### Teacher Tuesday, January 31st

Students may wear an outfit inspired by their favorite teacher. It can be either an OLS teacher or a teacher from a book or show. Tennis shoes must be worn. **We will celebrate our nation and Homewood community today.** Our friends from the Police Department, Fire Department, Library, Post Office, and Board of Education will receive special treats!

### Way back Wednesday, February 1st

On Wednesday, come dressed in an outfit based on the past! Example: dress up as if you were from the '80s. **Today, our faculty and staff will be our focus.** They will enjoy a quiet lunch provided by our PTO, while volunteer parents supervise the lunch periods.

### Throw it on Thursday, February 2nd

Bring your favorite accessories to wear **after Mass**. Students may bring a scarf, tie, belt, hat, sunglasses or any type of accessory to wear with their uniform after Mass. This may include out of uniform jackets or crazy sweaters! Uniform shoes must be worn on this day!

**In addition, Grades 5-8 only: "Anything but a backpack day!"** Be creative and bring anything but a backpack to carry your books. Examples include: basket, bag, pillow case, small animal carrier, bucket, small waste paper basket, small suitcase, cardboard box. *You must be able to carry to class whichever item you choose.* **We will celebrate vocations today.** Students will write encouraging letters to seminarians and our priests.

### Fun, Faith-filled Friday, February 3rd

Students may dress down in their school-appropriate sweats and comfy sweatshirts/t-shirts. This will be First Friday, and we will have Adoration and Benediction. Sixth graders will participate in a special Mass with Bishop Raica at St. Paul's Cathedral with other 6th graders from the diocese, so they will enjoy their comfy day on Monday. **We will celebrate our students today.** Students will enjoy special treats and games during their recess today.

## **OUR SERVICE PROJECT for Catholic Schools Week**

In response to our Catholic social teaching of the month, **we will be collecting money to help St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Madison, AL.**

During the freezing weather over the holidays, the school had several pipes burst, causing major damage to their gym, cafeteria, and several classrooms. Many classroom items, textbooks, school supplies, and materials were lost. *We would like to send a monetary donation to help St. John's replace some of these items. Any amount will be greatly appreciated!*

As a part of our special week, be sure to look for the following as you drive through the carpool line:

- "Prayer Tree," and
- "Thankful, Grateful, Blessed...We are OLS" tree!!

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### ***Catholic Social Teaching for the Months of February and March: Rights and Responsibilities***

*"The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society. (USCCB 7 Themes of of Catholic Social Teaching)*