

PANTHER PRINTS



December 2025

Dear OLP Families,

December is such an exciting time at OLP. It is a wonderful gift to be able to experience the joy of the Advent Season, a time of great hope and wonder, through the eyes of our students. I pray this is a time of eager anticipation and reflection for all of our students as they grow in understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

This Advent, each class has created a poster to serve as an Advent calendar. A poster will be hung each day and displayed in our courtyard area for all grade levels to enjoy. Each class will also have a shared Advent wreath to gather around in shared prayer.

Each grade will also have the opportunity to spend intentional time in Adoration on Monday, December 1st, for a time of prayer and reflection as we begin this beautiful season. We will also offer Reconciliation opportunities for all students during the season of Advent.

As we move nearer to Christmas Break, we look forward to our ever-popular Christmas Fair on December 15th, along with the lighting of the Christmas tree in the school courtyard. We are still in need of small gift items for students to shop for during the fair. If you are able to donate, please drop items in the bin located outside the school office.

Our Christmas Choral Program is scheduled for December 16th and will feature our 1st and 7th grade students performing songs of the season. We are excited to celebrate their hard work and share in the joy of music together.

We have seen tremendous growth in our students as we reach the midway point of the 2025–2026 school year. As a reminder, Christmas Break begins on December 19th. I know many of our families are looking forward to a restful and joy-filled holiday.

May the blessings of Advent be with you and your families during this busy and beautiful time. Thank you, as always, for trusting us with your children and for allowing us to share in their faith and learning journey.

Warmest blessings,

Mrs. Marianne H. Organ

Principal

Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic School



NO SCHOOL

*December 8
Dec 19 - Jan 5*

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

It's that time of year when there is a possibility of inclement weather closings. In the event that school may be closed or have a delayed opening due to weather conditions, check the following for the announcement:



 Text

 Email

 Facebook

 Instagram



THIS ISSUE:

**December Calendar/Lunch Menu
Volunteer Opportunities
School News
PTO/Extra-curricular
Parish Information
Community Happenings**



www.olplsschool.org



816-251-1150



150 NW Murray Road
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081

A message from Father Tom Holder



Blessings of Thanksgiving to all of you! As we prepare for Thanksgiving this week it is a special time for all of us to give thanks for our many blessings. I hope you will be able to celebrate with family and friends and take time to be grateful for one another. In the midst of all that goes on in our world and in our lives, our faith always calls us back to live life with a spirit of gratitude for all God's blessings. Thank you for choosing our school community for your children and for the support you give throughout the year. As a Catholic school, the generosity of our community makes it possible to do all the things we do. May we all take a moment to give thanks for our faith, our parish and school community, and one another. And all are welcome to join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The **holy season of Advent** begins this weekend and ushers in a new church year. Although this can be a busy time of year filled with activities and preparation for Christmas, I encourage you to take some time as a family and focus on the symbols and themes of the season. Displaying an Advent wreath in your home and gathering as a family during the week to light the candles and pray are great ways to mark the season. And we can all learn the importance of patience in this season of waiting and preparation.

Please check the weekly school update or the parish bulletin and website for all of our events and activities. We have an **Advent Scriptures & Carols Choir Concert** on Thursday, December 4 at 6:30pm. The **Immaculate Conception holy day** is Monday, December 8, with Masses at 6:30am, 8:15am, and 6:00pm. And our parish **Advent Reconciliation service** is Monday, December 15, at 6:00pm. May this holy and prayerful time lead us to a deeper faith and love for Christ.

Many Blessings!



“DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE”

-SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

December

Important Dates

- 1** Bella's Italian
PTO Fundraiser Night
- 2** PTO Meeting

Our Lady of the Presentation
- 3** All School Mass
Students may wear Simply Serve Shirts with uniform bottoms.
- 7** Christmas Pop-Up
@ Konrad's Kitchen
Fundraiser for Athletics & Security Fund
- 8** NO SCHOOL
- 10** All School Mass
Students may wear Simply Serve Shirts with uniform bottoms.
- 15** Christmas Fair
- 17** All School Mass
Students may wear Simply Serve Shirts with uniform bottoms.
Christmas Concert
Grades 1 & 7
- 18** End of 2nd Quarter
- 19** NO SCHOOL
- Christmas Break
Dec 22-Jan 5



Lunch

December Lunch Calendar



ALL SCHOOL

MASS SCHEDULE

Date: Wednesday, December 3

Class: 7th Grade

Lector: Dominic Sonderman

Senior Server: Margaret Reddig

Servers: Lucy Koenigsfeld & Rosie Cecil

Date: Wednesday, December 10

Class: 7th Grade

Lector: John Van Noy

Senior Server: Dominic Sonderman

Servers: Everett Hill & Owen Cianciolo

Date: Wednesday, December 17

Class: 7th Grade

Lector: Jack Frick

Senior Server: Paul Wheeler

Servers: Caroline Christensen & Josie Fisher

MERRY CHRISTMAS



FROM MS PIERSON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

Dear Parents,

HALFWAY THERE ///

This month marks our halfway point through the Friendly program! We are so excited to learn and grow in truly understanding how to be good friends through developing new skills such as **self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness, and relationship skills.** Friendly unit 4, **BOUNCE BACK**, teaches us to understand the important concept of **RESILIENCE** and to develop skills that will help us bounce back from the challenges we face.

Catchphrase (main point for students to catch on to): **"Bounce Back"**

Key Verse (Biblical anchor points):

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Isaiah 40:30-31a

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."

What does it mean to be resilient? Resilience is a person's ability to bounce back in response to hard or challenging times. It is working through things that are hard and not giving up. The dictionary defines resiliency as "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness."

This unit provides ample opportunity to talk through strategies that build resilience in our lives. **Continue the Conversation** at home with your student. Here are the main points of this unit:

1. **Take time to recognize hardships.** It's important to say "This is hard!" Then we can begin to find ways to bounce back. When we bounce back after a challenge, we get stronger and are better prepared for the next challenge.
2. **Remain hopeful when facing challenges.** Every person in the world has hardships. When we place our hope in God, He renews our strength and gives us the ability to bounce back (Isaiah 40:30-31a).
3. **Reframe how you view hardships.** Choose to focus on what you have, rather than what you've lost. Look for opportunities in the midst of opposition. Tell your story from a lens of hope.
4. **Have supportive relationships.** Other people help us bounce back. Sometimes we don't notice the people in our lives who care for us and cheer us on. It's important to remember who these people are.

THE FOUR R'S OF RESILIENCE ///

The Four R's of Resilience is a strategy to use when we are faced with a challenge so that we can **BOUNCE BACK**.

- **RECOGNIZE HARSHIPS**—It's important to say "This is hard!" Then we can begin to find ways to bounce back.
- **REMAIN HOPEFUL**—When we place our hope in God, He renews our strength. Our faith in God the Father gives us hope.
- **REFRAME VIEW**—Hope gives us the ability to reframe hardship and bounce back. We recognize the bad but focus on the good.
- **RELATIONSHIPS**—We all need to have supportive relationships in our lives.

RESILIENCE AFFECTS BEHAVIOR ///

Children will have different levels of resilience and different ways of responding to and recovering from stressful times. They will also have different ways of showing when the demands that are being put upon them outweigh their capacity to cope. They might become emotional, they might withdraw, or they might become defiant, angry, or resentful. Even the most resilient of people have days where it all gets too much, but low resilience will likely drive certain patterns of behavior more often.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING ///

A sense of belonging is one of the most powerful predictors researchers have discovered that determines how strong a person's resiliency is. The more parents, siblings, and families can help students feel like they truly "belong," the more likely they will be to **BOUNCE BACK** when faced with challenges or difficulties.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER ///

We are so grateful for the opportunity to connect and learn with your children. In order to best serve their needs, we want to connect with you since you know your child best! Please share with us what they are enjoying and sections that have provided more of a challenge. Your feedback is welcome and needed.

Linking arms in partnership with you—we are in this together!

Blessings,

Kelley Pierson



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Christmas Concert for Grades 1 & 7
Tuesday, Dec. 16th @ 6:00PM



YEARBOOKS
on sale
NOW
CLICK HERE TO ORDER

Attention 8th Grade Parents -

Each year the school yearbook features a special section for 8th graders which includes their current school photo, a baby/toddler photo and a 60-75 word dedication that you write to your child. You may begin submitting the photos and dedications now following the directions below. Final deadline for submissions will be January 10.

Photo Submission

Please name the photo file with your student's full name and upload to the Google Album:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TAWnEQJtuakmQHmi7>

Dedication Submission

The written dedications should not exceed 75 words due to font size and yearbook space. The written dedications should be typed and submitted using this form, <https://forms.gle/BHPwLpRCT11ydNBn7>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

All volunteers are required to complete Virtus Training (virtusonline.org and <https://protectmokids.com/>). Both are available online and when completed certificates need to be emailed to or dropped off at the school office. These are both diocesan requirements for volunteers in any school.

Safe Environment Requirements>>



CAFETERIA HELPERS are needed to assist with serving lunch each school day. All volunteers must be Virtus trained prior to signing up. [Cafeteria sign-up](#)

CROSSING GUARDS are needed to help with morning drop-off 7:30-8:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping get students through the parking lot safely before school, please email Mr. Podjenski, dpodjenski@olpls.org.

PARENT ON PATROL Half and full days available. Volunteers provide an extra presence around the school building, at recess, in the cafeteria, etc. If you are interested in participating in the POPPS program please contact Gaetano Falcone at poppes@olplsschool.org.

Join us at
the next

PTO meeting **DEC 2ND**

OUR PTO

OLP Christmas Pop-Up



It's a Holiday Touchdown Benefiting Athletics & Security Officer Fund

Join us for a private event at Konrad's Kitchen
Sunday December 7th 6:00pm-10:00pm
Watch the Chiefs play the Texans, enjoy live music, food,
beverages and raffle items

Tickets - \$50 per person - limited space available
Includes two complimentary drinks (wine, beer and well drinks)
Specialty holiday cocktails, full bar and food menu available for purchase
Percentage of sales will be donated to the fundraiser

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair is right around the corner! On **Monday, December 15**, the PTO will sponsor this annual event where each child will have the opportunity to select gifts for their immediate family members (those who live in their home/no more than 4 gifts). There will be a flat fee of \$5 for up to four gifts. No change will be provided. There will be items for babies, young children, teens and adults. The children love shopping for their families and we need your help to make this day a success! Here's how you can help:

- Donate your gently used treasures (jewelry, toys, knick-knacks, games with all of their pieces, home décor, men's items, etc.)
We are ALWAYS in need of items for men especially!
- We cannot accept clothing, hats, large items (children need to be able to carry these gifts home), sharp objects, R-rated DVDs, small appliances or items that have already been opened (perfume, paint, lotion).
- A good rule of thumb: When donating, ask yourself "Would I like to receive this as a gift?"
- Donate your time! Look for a SignUp Genius coming soon for volunteer opportunities on **Sunday, December 14** (set up) and Monday, December 15 (helping kids shop, checking out and clean up).

You may drop items off at the front office in the Christmas Fair bin. We will be accepting items until **Wednesday, December 10**. Proceeds are split between the Parish Emergency Relief Fund and the 8th grade class as they assist the day of the event. Please let us know if you have any questions. THANK YOU! angiecain86@gmail.com

OLP PTO'S ANNUAL



CHRISTMAS CASH

WHO? PTO + Families

WHAT? Christmas Cash is a way families can give to ALL OLP Staff.

Effective in December '24 -any checks/venmo's from families or funds given specifically from PTO are subject to payroll tax, so we are seeking cash donations to gift our wonderful OLP staff.

Labeled red envelopes will come home on Monday November 10th and can be filled with cash gifts. Envelopes can be sent back anytime between 11/10-12/10. PTO will divide and disperse amongst all OLP staff as a holiday gift from OLP families.

WHEN? Collections will run November 10th-December 10th.

WHY? This is a great way to show your appreciation for all OLP staff and get your Christmas shopping done early!

JOIN US AT

Bella's Italian

DECEMBER RESTAURANT
NIGHT

5-7P

December 1st

FEATURING SOME SPECIAL
GUEST WORKERS!

511 SE MELODY LANE
LEES SUMMIT, MO 64063

OUR EXTRA-CURRICULARS

Nativity is offering a Basketball league for grades K-3. Sign up's are this week, and cost is \$45 per person. If you are interested, please reach out to OLP Athletics for more info.



Visit the online **OLP Athletics Store** to purchase your Athletic gear, supporter pass, and more!



OUR COMMUNITY

READY TO APPLY FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR?

It's time! Take the next step and apply to be a student at St. Michael the Archangel!

Steps to apply:

1. Complete an application. Submit by December 15 to be considered for early admittance. smacatholic.org/applynow
2. Register and take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) on Saturday, December 6 or Saturday, January 10. Applications will not be considered without results from the HSPT.

Once the steps above are complete, St. Michael administrators will review the information in January and decision letters will be sent in late January during Catholic Schools Week.

Worried about tuition costs?

We never want finances to be the reason families don't attend St. Michael. There is assistance available! Complete an application for financial assistance by December 31. Please visit our webpage, Tuition, Fees, & Financial Aid, for more details on assistance. smacatholic.org/tuition-fees-financialaid

Questions?

Contact Julie Hyde, Director of Admissions
jhyde@smacatholic.org



Join us for

FRIENDS in flannel

7th & 8th Grade Catholic School Mixer

December 6, 2025
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

<p>\$10 ADMISSION All students attending MUST register online at smacatholic.org/middlemixer</p>	<p>AWESOME DJ CANDY SALAD BAR REFRESHMENTS & MORE</p>
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Online registration contains details of dress code, mixer rules, and permission forms.

Hosted at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School
2901 NW Lee's Summit Rd
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

Sponsored by SMA Parent Club




Q.2. SINGO BINGO



JAN 30 7PM

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR TICKETS!

JOIN US IN THE AUDITORIUM FOR A NIGHT OF FRIENDS, MUSIC, & SINGO! BRING FOOD & DRINK FOR YOUR TABLE!

OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS AGES 21 - 49



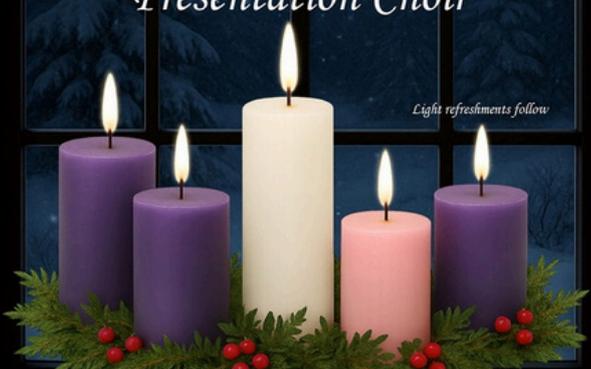
QUESTIONS? EMAIL MARY GRACE MADRID: MMADRID@OLPLS.ORG

Join us for an Advent Evening of Scriptures & Carols

Thursday, December 4

6:30 p.m. in the Church

Performed by the Presentation Choir



Light refreshments follow



Merry Christmas! ¡Feliz Navidad!

May the joy of Christ's birth bring you and your family the gift of peace and hope throughout the year.

Father Tom Holder, Father Pius Wesonga, AJ and the Staff of Presentation Parish invite you to join us for Christmas Masses.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses:
2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (Spanish), 10:00 p.m.
All Masses are in the Church

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass:
10:00 a.m.
JKV Bus transportation provided for the 10am Mass. Residents must call ahead to schedule, 816-347-2178.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Masses:
Wednesday, December 31 - 5:00 p.m. Vigil
Thursday, January 1 - 9:00 a.m.
JKV Bus transportation provided for the 9am Mass. Residents must call ahead to schedule, 816-347-2178.

Artwork designs by Ali Biernbaum, OLP 8th Grade student



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8

Mass Times:
6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

JKV Bus transportation provided for the 6pm Mass. Residents must call ahead to schedule, 816-347-2178.



OLP Youth Ministry!

Small Group*Service Opportunities *Camps & Retreats * Social Nights and Fun Events

All are welcome to join Youth Group!
There are so many opportunities you won't want to miss. Nothing is better than spending time with people your age who want to grow in faith just like you!



Come join a community where you can grow in faith, make friends, and have fun!

Your registration covers all the events you'll be participating in. If you need help or would like to discuss other payment options, please reach out to Jade or Michael and we'll gladly assist you.



Scan to join Youth Group!

JOIN US FOR **MIDDLE SCHOOL Live Life Night**

Youth Ministry MS Live Life Night!

RSVP HERE!!

Join us for Live Life Night at Activate for an exciting night of glow games and fun challenges!



Friday December 12th

From 7-9pm



Scan to attend!

Questions? Contact Michael Nations at mnations@olpls.org or Jade Echeverry at jecheverry@olpls.org