

# ✿ 🦋 OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter 🦋 ✿



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Welcome back! We are so blessed to be starting a new religious education year of learning and growing in our Faith with you!

In September, we celebrate many special feast days, each one like one of the stars in Mother Mary's crown, shining with a splendid light that reminds us of God's love for us. Mother Mary is the "Star of the Sea," and the "Morning Star," because, like the shining stars, She sheds light on the path to Jesus. Mother Mary shows us the way to Jesus, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Mother Mary knows the Way to Jesus' Heart, because Her Heart is perfectly formed to love Him. She has every virtue, modeling to us what it means to live with faith, hope, and charity. Living like Mary, we can become closer to Jesus.

September is traditionally the month of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mother Mary was sorrowful because of the sorrows Her Son faced. Praying to Our Lady of Sorrows, we come to better understand and empathize with the crosses Mother Mary and Jesus carried in their lives. But as people of joy and faith, we choose to focus on the glory that came from Jesus and Mary triumphing over their challenges, through God's love, which overcomes all.

In this month, we celebrate Mother Mary's birthday (September 8). This is a time of new beginnings. Everything is new in Christ. What God brings is good. He gives us every gift, starting with Mother Mary, Who brings us on the path to Christ. Let's continue walking with hope and joy in this path together!

Joy in Christ,

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## \*September Dates to Remember\*

- Sept. 1: First Friday
- Sept. 2: First Saturday
- Sept. 7: Sacramental Preparation  
Informational Meetings: Confirmation and First Communion
- Sept. 8: Nativity of Our Lady
- Sept. 14: Exaltation of the Cross
- Sept. 17: OLV Parish Picnic for Our Lady's Birthday
- Sept. 20: Ember Wednesday
- Sept. 21: Rel. Ed. Class 1
- Sept. 22: Ember Friday
- Sept. 23: Ember Saturday
- Sept. 29: Feast of the Archangels

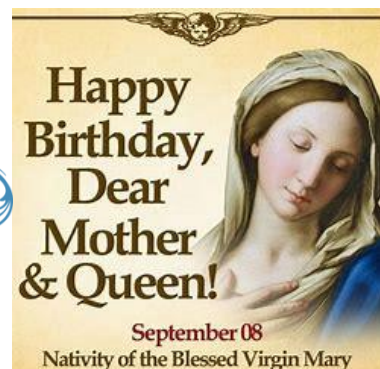


# A Birthday Prayer for Mother Mary

Father of mercy,  
give your people help and strength from heaven.  
The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son  
was the dawn of our salvation.  
May this celebration of Her birthday  
bring us closer to lasting peace.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.  
-From "Prayers for Reparation"

Song of the Month: "Christ,  
the Fair Glory of the Holy  
Angels"

Scripture Spotlight: "A  
great sign appeared in the  
sky, a woman clothed with  
the sun, with the moon  
under her feet, and on her  
head a crown of twelve  
stars." (Rev. 12:1)



## Saint Spotlight: Mother Teresa

On September 5, we celebrate the feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa, born Agnes Bojaxhiu in the country of Macedonia, was a saint after Mother Mary's own Immaculate Heart. She began her life, a life of love for God, in 1910, and lived until 1997, but as a saint in Heaven, her legacy will never end. Mother Teresa continues to make an impact on countless souls today. The foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa answered God's call, which she heard while on a train as a young woman. God was calling Mother Teresa to serve Him by serving the poor, and she listened, responding to His call. In everyone she served, Mother Teresa saw the face of Christ. She was met face-to-face with His suffering when she saw people living in extreme poverty, some seriously ill, or close to death, left to care for themselves alone in the streets. An angel in her earthly life, Mother Teresa protected and guided all she met, exemplifying virtues of faith, hope, and love to the women she trained as new Missionaries of Charity, as well as to the poor she directly served. Practicing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Mother Teresa fed the hungry, prayed for the living and dead, and treated all with dignity, tending to their bodies, minds, hearts, and souls. Everything she did stemmed from her love of Christ, Whom she received in the Eucharist daily. Fed by the life of Christ, Mother Teresa restored life to others by giving hope to people who would otherwise have given up, when so many others had turned a blind eye to them. Deeply humble, Mother Teresa did not take credit for her good works, but gave glory to God, asking Jesus and Mary for their intercession so that she would be a joyful and generous servant each day. "Not all of us can do great things," Mother Teresa said, "but all of us can do small things with great love."