

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

January 19, 2024

## ***Pause and Ponder***

***Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.***

*Have you considered the list of injustices in the world that underlie our hunger and thirst for righteousness?*

1. Affordable health care
2. Climate change
3. Food insecurity and hunger
4. Income gap
5. Racial inequality
6. Voting rights
7. Educational disparities
8. Gender inequality
9. Mental health stigmatization
10. Housing inequality
11. Immigrant rights
12. Disability rights
13. Environmental justice
14. Criminal justice system inequalities
15. Aging population inequalities

*And probably others as well.*

*These issues are a call to action for our Catholic community to provide righteousness for others and maybe even for ourselves. With so many needs, where does one begin?*

*As the proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Choose a cause. Speak up. Get involved. Be the Catholic you were called to be!*

## ***Let Us Pray...***

*+ for the Diocese of Wilmington and, in particular, St. Anthony of Padua School, Padua Academy, Mount Aviat Academy, Nativity Prep, Salesianum School, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales celebrating a patronal day on Wednesday, January 24 – St. Francis de Sales*

*+ for Ursuline Academy, Serviam Girls Academy, and the Sisters of St. Ursula celebrating a patronal day on Saturday, January 27 – St. Angela Merici*

*+ for all unborn children, that God might send an angel to protect them*

## ***Weekly Calendar***

***Sunday, Jan 21***

***Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Monday, Jan 22

*Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*

CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am

Tuesday, Jan 23

CSO School Visit, Good Shepherd Catholic School, 9:00 am

Y1 Mentoring Meeting (PreK-Grade 5), 3:45 pm, virtual

Wednesday, Jan 24

*St. Francis de Sales*

Bishop's Visit @ Saint Edmond's Academy, 10:00 am

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## Catholic Identity – Lent 2024



**Ash Wednesday** will begin the season of Lent on February 14. Schools are encouraged to create a school-wide plan for this liturgical season, communicate it to faculty and staff in advance so they are well-prepared, and educate families about it throughout Lent so they are informed and involved. Some items you may wish to consider include:

- ✓ Theme – Is there a unified theme that will be present throughout the classrooms and school that reflects the primary message of Lent – prayer, fasting, almsgiving?
- ✓ Image – Is there a single image (photo, artwork, etc.) which will be visible in the classrooms and throughout the school connected to the theme?
- ✓ Prayer – How will the school community pray together daily or weekly? Will Stations of the Cross hold a prominent place in school prayer?
- ✓ Service – Will a particular service activity be planned to expand students' understanding and action of fasting and almsgiving?

If we expect students to understand and appreciate Lent at all grade levels, then the preparation for Lent must be intentional in our Catholic schools.

### **Weekly Calendar** *(continued)*

Thursday, Jan 25	<i>Conversion of St. Paul</i>
Friday, Jan 26	<i>Ss. Timothy and Titus</i> T2 Interim (Elementary Schools)
<b>Sunday, Jan 28</b>	<b><i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> <b><i>Catholic Schools Week begins</i></b>

### **Administrator Intent Form**

Due by **Thursday, February 1**, for parish and diocesan Principals and Presidents

### **Praxis**

*Throughout this year the Catholic Schools Office has had an emphasis on Praxis testing for teachers who are not licensed and certified. Praxis is the first step of teachers to their ongoing professional growth. Even teachers who may not achieve licensing and certification are expected to have taken Praxis as part of their professional portfolio as an educator in the Diocese of Wilmington. Questions? Contact Mary Filippone, Personnel Coordinator, at [mfilippone@cdow.org](mailto:mfilippone@cdow.org).*

## ***Catholic Schools Week – January 28-February 3***

Thank you to the schools which have forwarded their Catholic Schools Week schedules to Dr. De Angelo. The schedules have been shared with the CSO staff, the *Dialog*, and the school liaisons from the Board of Catholic Schools so that they may be present for events at schools to support the mission and work of administrators, teachers, and staff.



## ***Vision for the Future Tuition Assistance Deadline – January 31*** ***Final Month to Apply for 2024-2025***

Applications and all required documentation for the 2024-2025 school year must be received by FACTS no later than **January 31, 2024**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Schools are asked to recommend that all student families apply for tuition assistance. This enables the Development Office to meet emergency needs that may arise during a school year. Often, a family will reach out to the Development Office when their circumstances change. The Development Office may only assist families if they have applied previously to FACTS.

2022 W2 statements are accepted. A family does not need to wait for the 2023 W2 statement.

Tuition assistance through the Diocese of Wilmington is provided to children attending Grades K-12.

Families currently receiving tuition assistance from the diocese must reapply. Assistance is not automatically renewed from year to year.

Award notifications will begin as of March 1, 2024.

## ***OCCL Meeting – February 8***

A meeting with Joe Fitzgerald, diocesan lobbyist, will be held **Thursday, February 8**, for Delaware administrators (and anyone else they wish to invite) working with OCCL requirements. The meeting at St. Anthony of Padua School will be held 9:30-11:00 am in the digital library. Please reserve time on your calendar to be present for this meeting.

## ***January Reflection***

This month's reflection related to the fourth Beatitude is attached for your use with faculty and staff. Faculty and staff prayer weekly or more frequently is one way of building community and highlighting the importance of prayer in our common mission.

## ***Simple Strategy – Cues***

See this month's suggestion from the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame for sparking conversations about learning between students and their families. This two-minute video offers a simple practice for elementary school learners to develop language and learning skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXjDJBkekYo>



**IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE.**

**IF YOU WANT JUSTICE, DEFEND LIFE.**

**IF YOU WANT LIFE, EMBRACE TRUTH.**

**POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II**