

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Where have the long summer vacations gone? When I was a boy school was out on Memorial Day, and Labor Day marked the end of summer, time to put shoes on, do some back to school shopping, and get back to work. Now school starts earlier in August each year.

As our school gets started this week, please be aware of some changes. The weekly school Mass will be on Fridays at 10am this year, which means the daily Mass on Thursdays at 10am will move to the Lower Church. However, the first school Mass will be Thursday for the Holy Day of Obligation—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be an anticipated Mass for the Holy Day on Wednesday at the usual time of 6pm. A third Mass for the Holy Day will be offered on Thursday evening at 7pm.

We thank Thomas Sohler for his excellent work as facilities manager and wish him well as he discerns the next step in the Lord's service. David Bernard—one of our parishioners and a dad of a number of our students is stepping into that important role. David will be based in 6 James Drive, and the annex at the back of that building will now be available for parish meetings. This space is named the "Juan Diego Room". It has an integral restroom facility and separate entrance on the West side of the building which makes it ideal for parish functions. To reserve this space for your meetings please work with Donna Craft who keeps the facilities calendar.

Please remember that OLR school is our primary ministry in the parish. It needs your support, interest and prayers. 2025 is the 70th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of the Rosary School. There will be special celebrations, and the 2025 OLR School Gala will be a larger event this year—a more than usual time for celebration and support.

We welcome four new faculty members to our growing parish school. **Stephen Beach** was a seminarian, taught at Bishop England High School for 11 years, and joins us to teach Humanities. One of his passions is to introduce students to the Greek and Medieval philosophical tradition. Mr. Beach will be teaching Philosophy (12), Greek I (12), Dogmatic Theology (11), Logic (10), and Latin I (9).

Joseph Silva is a graduate of Ave Maria University with a Double Major in Philosophy and Theology. He joins us from the Chesterton Academy in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he served as the headmaster. This year Mr. Silva will be teaching Govt/Econ (12), Latin III (11), Latin III (10), Latin II (10), and Latin I (8).

Marc Devine and his family came to OLR in 2021 after both Mr. Devine and his bride retired from active duty in the U.S. Navy as Surface Warfare Officers. Mr. Devine will serve as Dean of Students—addressing student behavior concerns and leading the drive to help our students grow into maturity and become leaders themselves through stewardship, wisdom, justice, courage, and temperance. He will also teach Upper School American History.

Willow Thompson holds a B.A. in Theology with a minor in Sacred Music from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She joined Our Lady of the Rosary in 2023 teaching 3rd grade, Latin, and Art classes for several grades. She also spent time in the 2nd grade classroom learning to apply classical pedagogy within an elementary classroom. She now takes up the role of 2nd grade homeroom teacher.

Please continue to pray for our school faculty and staff as the new year begins.

Your Pastor,

Fr. Longenecker