

Presentation Press



Vision Statement: Our Lady of the Presentation is a vibrant, Eucharist-centered community offering all Catholics participation in sacraments, social action and Christian education. Mission Statement: To share our gifts by providing opportunities for spiritual growth in worship, service, education and community activities, is our mission.

Presentation Parish Welcomes Fr. Olvin Giron!



Tell us about your family life:

My full name is Olvin Alexander Giron Mejia. We take a name from both parents, our father's last name and mother's maiden name. My parents are Dario Herminio Giron and Maria Zoila Mejia. I'm the eldest of four boys; my brothers are Roger Ivan, Jelsin Dario and Elvin Danilo. We are a very traditional, middle class family with both parents working outside the home. As children, my grandmother, Inez Reyes, took care of us daily while my parents worked.

Who was the biggest influence in the priesthood?

My grandmother, who was very faithful. She made sure that all the grandkids attended Mass with her. I remember one particular instance when I wasn't focused at church and was messing around with a cousin. She took me to the altar and told me that Jesus was in the Tabernacle. It was hard for me to believe that Jesus was right there in front of me, but it had a profound affect on me. I also had an uncle who was in the

seminary as I grew up, who is now a priest.

Was it always your desire to become a priest?

At age 8, I wanted to be a pilot, then at age 9 a doctor and at age 10, a professional soccer player. When I was 11, I told my parents that I was thinking about becoming a priest. My mother was hopeful, but my father wasn't in favor. After all, there was already an uncle in the seminary, and one priest in the family was plenty!

I attended minor (high school) seminary where I spent time studying the faith, but soccer was still a factor for me. After five years, I moved to a major seminary in Guatemala. I spent four years studying philosophy and theology, and played soccer, which was my passion. There came a point when I had to decide what my vocation was going to be—a priest or soccer player?

Who helped you discern which road to take?

I reached out to my spiritual director, who told me to think and pray about what to do. Then he suggested that I write down three good reasons for becoming a priest and soccer player. My priestly list composed of service to the people of God, helping people receive grace through the Sacrament of Confession, and baptizing people, bringing them into the faith. The list for becoming a soccer player was a little more simple and superficial; money, fame and glory. I told the coach that becoming a priest was really where my heart was.

What were your biggest challenges?

Learning English was a lot harder than I thought. I was very fearful that people would make fun of my speech when I came to the U.S. My other challenge was convincing my father that priesthood was the vocation best for me. He did come around once I finished school in Guatemala and with my mother's influence.

Name a highlight of your Ordination and of being a priest:

I was ordained on December 17, 2016. As I laid prostrate on the altar, I closed my eyes and listened to the Litany of the Saints. Knowing that I'm following in their footsteps is so inspirational. To celebrate the Mass is truly sacred to me, as well as bringing people back to Christ through Reconciliation is a blessing.

More About Fr. Olvin

Favorite Saint: St. Therese

I have a special bond with her as my birthday (October 1) is her Feast Day.

Favorite Team: Barcelona

Favorite Treat: Vanilla Ice Cream

Favorite Quote:

"What God has prepared for you, is beyond what you can think of."

Presentation Early Childhood Center

By Cathy Koob, Director

Presentation ECC is proud to be a ministry of Our Lady of the Presentation Parish. Our program continues to grow and improve every year. We continue to maintain our NAEYC Accreditation, which is reapplied for every five years. We have earned this gold standard accreditation four times.

What does it mean to be a NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Accredited center? This accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education and in order to receive accreditation, Presentation ECC has to perform and maintain in-depth self-study and quality standards. One of the ways we are able to achieve and maintain such high standards is by making sure we hire the best teachers and staff. Our teaching staff are degreed professionals who are passionate about the quality care and education we provide. Not only do we want to



provide a high level of early childhood education we also want to make sure we are models of our Catholic-Christian faith to everyone we meet either here at Presentation or out in our community.

We look forward to sharing another fun and exciting year with our parish community! Make sure to check out our updates in the weekly bulletin or for more information visit our website, www.olplsecc.org. We also encourage and invite all parishioners to come by for a visit anytime!

Children's Faith Formation

By Jo Engert, Director of Children's Faith Formation

The Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17 with the theme "Living as Missionary Disciples." Children's Faith Formation has adopted this theme with a slight twist. Our theme for the 2017-2018 school year is "Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples."

By the virtue of our baptism we are all called into a loving relationship with Christ, a life of discipleship. It is a life marked by selfless love, one in which we love one another. It is a life marked by a hope and joy that we share with all we meet,

As teachers in the Children's Faith Formation program, we are called to be a living witness of our Catholic faith to our students and in every aspect of our lives. Are we perfect at this? Not yet, but we will strive, right along with our students, to get to know and love Jesus and to love one another. This will happen in each session as we pray together, share scripture, learn the teachings of our Catholic faith, and serve the needs of others.

Come along and don't miss a single moment as we "bring the light and joy of our faith in Christ" to others!

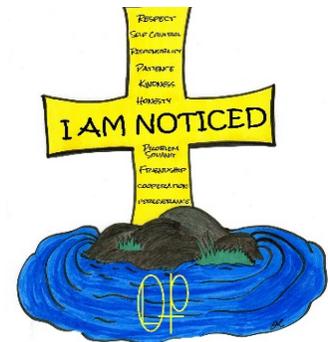


Presentation School

By Jodi Briggs, Principal

The first day of the 2017-2018 school year was record breaking for Presentation School! In addition to welcoming back our returning students, 73 new students and 39 new families joined our school community. This makes a total enrollment of 480 students, which is the largest in the history of Our Lady of the Presentation School! We are grateful for the parish's continued support of our school ministry.

Our Diocesan theme this year is **Daring Disciples Deliver**, which folds nicely into our school theme, **Be the Rock in Your Ripple**. Staff have taken time this summer training on the *I Am Noticed Program*.



Be the ROCK in your RIPPLE!

This program will help our school community work together to create an environment where students recognize the good in themselves and in turn find the good in others.

On August 21, for the first time since 1918, a solar eclipse was visible on a path across the U.S. with Lee's Summit very near the path of totality. This was a "once in a lifetime" event and Presentation School embraced this educational opportunity with the students. It was endearing to see the *Big Buddies* in 6th-8th grade ensure the safety of the younger students. Follow Presentation School on Facebook to see all the adventures of our students this year. <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyOfPresentation/>

Why Be Catholic? By Mary Pat Storms, Director of Adult Faith Formation

Are you wondering what to say to someone who is considering joining the Catholic Church? When people inquire about joining the church here at Presentation, this is among the information we share:



We are a community where Christ is present in parents, children, teens, retired people, single people, married people, old and young. Christ is present here in everyone gathered to celebrate feasts, births, deaths, marriages, and life events with rituals whose signs and symbols speak when we are sad, tired, broken or excited and joy-filled. Our community and rituals bring to mind saints who show us by their example how ordinary people like us can bring peace and justice to our families and our world. Sharing in the Eucharist at Mass unites us with Jesus Christ and each other, in heaven and on earth. We are church where all are welcome as apprentices of Jesus Christ to journey with us, sharing the task of building God's Kingdom as disciples. Our relationship with Jesus is personal, but never private.

Our Christian Initiation group for this year already includes 32 adults. The volunteers who form our Christian Initiation team assist with teaching, as sponsors and with hospitality: *Alex Pagnani, Ann Julich, Kay Morrissey, Frank Rieger, Diana Hennessey, Linda Johnson and Mary Ward.*

Invite and encourage those you know to consider joining the Church. Think about becoming a sponsor. (Sponsors are Catholics who walk the journey to Easter with a candidate or catechumen.) Pray for those joining the Church. For more information, contact Mary Pat Storms, 251-1113 or mstorms@olpls.org.

Youth & Young Adult Ministries By Christy Gruenbaum, Director of Youth Ministry

We are blessed to have hundreds of young adults in our parish who are engaged and actively participating in our parish life. The goals of Youth & Young Adult Ministry are to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus in our world today; to draw them to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community; and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

It is our plan to have a continuum of events including inspiring faith experiences, educational, worship and service opportunities so that our young people can find ways to share their gifts, as they grow deeper in relationship with Christ and our faith community.

We had youth on our summer service mission trip with Catholic Heart Workcamp in July. Watching our teens grow during this experience is truly a gift from God! Their excitement and enthusiasm is inspiring and contagious! We now look forward to offering Youth Group for grades 7 -12, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) coming this November, catechesis, community and service in our new Confirmation format, and service with our parish and local community.

The truth is, none of this is possible without the support of caring adults. Please consider sharing your time once or twice a month so our teens stay excited about their faith and stay connected to our Church.

Our Young Adult ministry (Young Adults on the Summit), ages 18-25, offers a monthly bible study, social outings and service opportunities. Follow us on **Facebook**, <http://tiny.cc/OLPYoungAdults>.





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TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON NOVEMBER 5!

Opportunities for Worship, Service, Education and Community

September

- 4: Labor Day Mass, 9am
- 9-10: Nametag Weekend
 LSSS Food Drive
 Free Blood Pressure Checks
 Sunday School "Meet the Teacher"
- 12: Alzheimer's Seminar
- 13: Children's Faith Formation Classes Begin
- 15: OLP PTO Golf Tournament
- 16: Fiesta Hispana
- 17: *Catechetical Sunday*
 Divine Donuts
- 19: Spirit At Work
- 23-24: CRHP Retreat for Men
- 26: Keeping Your Kids Catholic
- 28 & 30: First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

October

- 1: LSSS Food Drive
 Free Blood Pressure Checks
 K of C Parish Breakfast
- 2: Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Meeting
- 5: Parish Town Hall Meeting
- 6: Marrieds Mini-Retreat
- 8: Parish Town Hall Meeting
- 10 & 24: Keeping Your Kids Catholic
- 12 & 19: Catechism Crash Course
- 17: Fall Women's Retreat
- 20: OLP School Trunk-or-Treat
- 21-22: Divine Donuts
- 26 & 28: First Reconciliation Parent Child Meeting
- 28-29: Stewardship Renewal Kick-off

November

- 1: All Saints Holy Day Masses:
 6:30am, 8:15am, 6pm
- 4: OLP Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk
- 4-5: LSSS Food Drive
 Free Blood Pressure Checks
 K of C Parish Breakfast
 Mass of Remembrance: 8:30am & 10am
- 9 & 11: First Reconciliation Parent Child Meeting
- 16: First Reconciliation
- 18-19: Stewardship Renewal Commitment Weekend
 Heart & Sole Shoe Collection
 Divine Donuts
- 23: Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9am
- 30: Advent Reflection