

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026



St. Philomena
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

"The real preparation for education is a study of one's self."

— Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*



Family Connection

The Prepared Adult: Following the Child Without Losing Yourself

In *The Absorbent Mind*, Maria Montessori referred to this as the "spiritual preparation of the teacher." Today, we extend this idea to every caregiver under the term prepared adult. Adults are not separate from the prepared environment; they are part of it. Their presence, pace, and emotional state shape the child's experience as much as the materials themselves.

"Follow the child" can be mistaken for permissiveness, a classroom or home in which the child's every whim guides the day. In reality, a Montessori environment is carefully prepared and intentionally structured. Children are part of a community, and they are continually learning to be aware of themselves and others within that shared space.

This does not mean adults must always be calm. Rather, it means they can notice when they are not and return to center when possible—repairing and reconnecting as needed. Following the child was never about following their impulses or every desire. It's about honoring their developmental trajectory while also staying rooted in yourself as a caregiver.

"Follow the child, but follow them as their leader."

Important Dates

- 9/7 No School
- 9/8 PTO Meeting at 7PM
- 9/14-18 MAP Assessments K-LE
- 9/22-9/24 Hearing & Vision Screening
- 9/23 Speech Assessment



Happy Birthday!



September 2 Lindsey Buehler
September 2 Blaine Wiseman
September 7 Astrid Feeney
September 12 Clara Becker
September 20 Jonah Berning
September 30 Alba Russell



Saints of the Month



CARLOS ACUTIS & ST. CLARE

This month, our primary students will be receiving some special mail from our friends the Saints! Blessed Carlos Acutis was canonized last year, and we will also receive a special letter from our friend St. Clare of Assisi!



September: Our Lady of Sorrows

Our Lower Elementary Students will be updating the liturgical family resource table in the gathering space of church this month to emphasize and honor Our Lady of Sorrows. The Church dedicates the month of September to the Our Lady of Sorrows. The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is celebrated on September 15.

September

Living the Faith at Home



15th - Our Lady of Sorrows

The month of September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Devotion to the sorrows of the Virgin Mary dates from the twelfth century. Jesus Himself was Mary's sorrow, seven times repeated, aggravated sevenfold. During the hours of the Passion, the offering of Jesus and the offering of Mary were tied in one.

Things to do: Find an Our Lady of Sorrows Artwork and Learn to pray the 7 Sorrows Rosary.

23rd - St. Padre Pio

St. Pio is a saint of the last century, so there are many pictures and biographies to read more about his life. Having this gift of the stigmata was very hard on his life — both physically and emotionally.

Things to do: Have some donut “holes” in honor of St. Padre Pio in remembrance of the man with holes in his hands. Say a prayer to your guardian angel each day, as Padre Pio also had a strong devotion.

14th - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been placed on Mount Calvary by St. Helena, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroas. The relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem in 629. **Things to do:** Practice making the Sign of the Cross with your children. Hang a crucifix in the most prominent room of your home.

8th - Nativity of BVM

On Our Lady's birthday the Church celebrates the first dawning of redemption with the appearance in the world of the Savior's mother, Mary. **Things to do:** Celebrate Mary's Birthday!

29th - Sts. Michael, Raphael & Gabriel

Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are archangels honored by the Church this day. **Things to do:** Find the passages in the Bible about angels, in particular Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

