Meet our Teacher! *Mrs. Ortiz*

I knew I wanted to become a teacher....

...when it was time for my first-born daughter, Isabel, to go to school. After staying home with her and my second-born daughter, Alexandra, for 5 and ½ years, I knew I wanted to enroll her in Catholic school. I had to go back to work, so I decided to become a public-school teacher, like my mother. She taught in public schools for 28 years, but she sent my siblings and me to Catholic schools. I love kids, and I always knew I wanted to do something related to working with children. After joining Pasadena ISD and going through their Alternative Certification Program, I got a job teaching 5th grade at an Elementary campus. That first year was challenging, but I loved it. I knew I was in the right place. After teaching 5th grade for 6 years, I decided to move to 3rd grade. Again, the first year was challenging, but again, I loved it. Again, it was the right place for me. After 6 years teaching 3rd grade, I decided to make a change I had been longing for: to teach in a Catholic school. I finally made the decision to apply to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. God has a way of
Our Lady of Fatima is where I am meant to be. I thank God for the opportunity to work at this Campus, and I look forward to getting to know my students, their families, my co-workers and their families.

**Hobbies...**

I love

- spending time with family and friends
- watching my daughters Isabel and Alexandra play volleyball
- watching any kind of live sporting event and listening to any kind of live music
- animals, and bird-watching
- reading; I belong to 2 book clubs and like to lead student book clubs, too
- going to the movies and watching TV
- travelling, especially if it involves visiting family or friends.

**Education...**

I went to St. Anthony Catholic School in Robstown, TX from Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Then in 3rd grade my family moved from Robstown (a small town outside of Corpus Christi, TX) to Corpus Christi. I attended St. Theresa Catholic School from 3rd grade to 6th grade. Then I went to St. Joseph’s Junior High School for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, although in 9th grade they changed the name from St. Joseph’s Junior High School to Archbishop Oscar Romero Junior High School. Then for 10th-12th grade I went to Corpus Christi Academy. This is the same high school my father attended, except when he had attended it had been an all-boys school. My first year there the Corpus Christi Minor Seminary (an all-boys school) changed its name back to Corpus Christi Academy and became co-ed. After graduation in 1990, I went to St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, TX. After 2 years I transferred to Texas A&I; University in Kingsville, TX. The year I graduated, the University changed its name to Texas A &M University – Kingsville. I graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry. I thought I wanted to be a biologist, so I went to Texas A&M University in College Station for a year of graduate studies, though after a year of rotating through labs I chose not to
staying home with my children. Then I got my teaching certification from the University of St. Thomas while going through the Alternative Certification Program at Pasadena ISD.

**This School Year...**

I will be teaching English Language Arts to the 3rd graders & 4th graders. I’m very excited about this. I taught all the subjects for 9 years in self-contained 5th and 3rd grade classrooms, so I am familiar with teaching all the subjects. For two years I taught writing, science, social studies and spelling to three 3rd grade classes. Then last year I taught math, science and social studies to two 3rd grade classes. As much as I loved math and science as a student, I also loved reading and grammar. I am an avid reader, and love learning new words. I look forward to challenging my students to learn and grow in all areas, including spiritually and socially.

**Other News...**

My husband’s name is Avel Ortiz. He is a mechanical engineer, a designer of oil field equipment and tools, an American inventor, and a great husband and father. He is very excited for me to start teaching at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School this fall. My daughter Isabel just graduated from Incarnate Word Academy. She will attend the University of Florida in the fall. My younger daughter Alexandra will be a Sophomore at Incarnate Word Academy in the fall. She plays club volleyball, and her team qualified for Junior Olympics the past two years. When she was in 8th grade, she played at a volleyball tournament at Our Lady of Fatima, and that was the first time I visited the school. The community was very kind and welcoming, and I liked it then. Here, almost 2 years later, I find that I am so excited to become a part of this school family. I grew up in the diocese of Corpus Christi. I learned how to play guitar the summer between 3rd and 4th grade. I began my music ministry in the Church in 4th grade. I played guitar in, sang in, started, and led church choirs for over 21 years. As a young adult I also worked with teenagers in Youth Ministry at several parishes in the diocese of Corpus Christi, and then here in Houston at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. I worked with the youth for about 14 years. I love practicing my faith, and I love teaching. I look forward to being able to join those two things together by teaching in a Catholic school. One last thing: I am bilingual. It always surprises people. But if you want to test me, ask me a question in Spanish!

**Contact**

mortiz@olfatima-gp.org

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**News from the School Office...**
Welcome new and returning families to our School Newsletter!

FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE

- If you have not completed the application process to receive tuition assistance, please go online to start your application at https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/458ZB
- If you have an application but are missing documentation, please submit them immediately so that your application will be completed.

REGISTRATION

- If you have not registered yet, you can fill out the Registration Packet online at http://olfatima-gp.org/admissions/ (password: fatima). We will print the registration packet and you may bring copies of the required documentation (i.e. birth certificate, baptismal certificate, etc.) when you stop by the school office to make your payments of the Registration/Academic Fees.

UNIFORM RECYCLING PROGRAM

- We are accepting donations of gently used School Uniforms. If your child/children have outgrown their uniforms or they are not returning next year, you may bring the uniforms to the school office by July 13th.
- We will schedule a date/time (to be determined) to offer them to new or returning families in late July

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Our school is introducing additional ways you can support our school at no cost to you and we encourage all our families to participate. All it takes is only a few moments of your time and with 100% participation from our faculty, staff, families and friends we can raise funds for our school.

- Box Tops for Education has helped America’s schools earn over $400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for Our Lady of Fatima by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products you buy everyday. Clip them and send them with your child in an envelope marked Box Tops. Our teachers will collect them from the students and send them to the office. Box Tops also offers easy ways to earn even more cash for Our Lady of Fatima online! Visit www.boxtops4education.com
• Use OLF’s school ID #70097149 every time you shop at Office Depot Office and our school will receive 5% of your qualifying purchases in the form of a credit for free school supplies. This does not affect your Worklife Rewards that come back to you.
• Use OLF’s school ID #80307 every time you shop at Kroger and our school will receive a percentage of your qualifying purchases.

New School Uniforms

NEW UNIFORMS

We have a new uniform company this year (French Toast), click the picture below to see the new style. **20% discount is a limited time offer, so order today using code QCRGHD.**
CLICK ON THE PICTURE BELOW FOR THE LINK.

Families that have last years' uniforms can continue to use them during this year of transition.
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Uniform Details

Boys Mass Uniform:

Blazer, Oxford Shirt, Tie, Pants, Belt, Crew Socks, and Black Dress Shoes
Boys Daily Uniform (non Mass days):
Polo Shirt, Pants, Belt and Crew Socks, Black Tennis Shoes
Girls Mass Uniform Grades
Oxford Shirt, Jumper/Skirt, Tie, Knee High Socks and Black Dress Shoes
Girls Daily Uniform (non Mass days):
Polo Shirt, Jumper/Skirt, Tie, Knee High Socks and Black Tennis Shoes
Prayer ~ Oración
May God bless you.
May God keep you safe.
God be with you.
God be in your heart.
May God bless and protect you.
Dios mío, en este día
presento en tu presencia
a mis Hijos,
son preciosos delante de tí
y son valiosos, te pido que
les bendigas,
que mantengas
su buena salud.
Dear Lady of Fatima  
We come on bended knee  
To beg your intercession  
For peace and unity.

Dear Mary, won't you show us  
The right and shining way?  
We pledge our love and offer you  
A rosary each day.

You promised at Fatima  
Each time that you appeared  
To help us if we pray  
To you to banish war and fear.

Dear Lady on the first Saturday  
We ask your guiding hand  
For grace and guidance here on earth  
And protection for our land.

MISSION: Based on the teaching mission of Jesus, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School is committed to providing a quality education, nurturing Christian values in each student, and fostering Catholic community and service.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School  
PH: (713) 674-5832

Our mailing address is:
http://olfatima-gp.org/