



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Catholic Schools Week Liturgy

PLANNING GUIDE

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Catholic School Week 2020

Opening Sunday Liturgy



January 26, 2020
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In Galilee of the Gentiles, the people have seen a great light

Psalm Response

The Lord is my light and salvation

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

That all of you may agree in what say and that there be no divisions among you

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus went to Capernaum so that what had been said through Isaiah might be fulfilled. The calling of the Apostles.

Homily Notes

Lead: Sometimes our difficulties seem to be overwhelming. We think there is no end. But God will send relief. We must trust that there is "light" at the end of the tunnel. Our job is to help students come to an understanding that Jesus is the source of the "light"; he will be with them; and he will help them. Then there will be rejoicing.

Learn: Paul admonishes the church for its bickering and division. He points out that they are to follow Jesus' instruction to preach the "Good News" with wisdom and passion. As Catholic schools, we must instruct our students in the "Good News" to lead them to become knowledgeable, confident disciples.

Proclaim: Jesus knew that it was time for him to go to Galilee when he heard of the arrest of John the Baptist. It was time for him to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah and pick up the legacy left by John to preach repentance and proclaim, "the Kingdom of God is at hand." He calls ordinary people to come and follow him. He taught, proclaimed and cured. We trust the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom to follow Jesus and answer our call to Missionary Discipleship.

Universal Prayer

We lay our prayers before the Lord, who gives us strength, wisdom and courage. Our response is, Lord show us the Light.

We pray that our church leaders will lead us in the light of the Holy Spirit to love one another and bring about your kingdom.

We pray.

We pray for world leaders, that their intentions will always be on justice for all the people they represent and not on personal power and prestige. We pray.

We pray for the students, families, faculty, staff and friends of Catholic Schools, that they work towards evangelization in addition to education that will build the Kingdom of God. We pray.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Suggested Music:

- This Little Light of Mine
- I Want to Be a Follower of Christ
- Hush Somebody's Calling My Name
- I Need You To Survive
- You are Called

Catholic Schools Week 2020

Weekday Prayer Service

Monday, January 27

of the third Week in Ordinary Time
Angela Merici, Virgin,
Religious Founder

Theme: Community

Welcome

Today we remember the life and contributions of St. Angela Merici. St. Angela was an Italian religious educator and founder of the Ursulines. They were the first group of women religious to work outside of the cloister and became the first teaching order of women in the Catholic Church.



Song

- This is the Day

Scripture Reading

Mark 5:1-7, 10

Reflection

The Gospel reveals to us that we cannot receive a full portion of God's blessings if we are divided. We must work together to bring about unity in our homes, school and world. We must be forgiving and merciful to those who seek to divide us. Prayer is the biggest weapon we have against evil. Think for a moment and discuss with a partner what you can do to better help unify your school?

Universal Prayer

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others: our school community and the world. For each need we say, Lord keep us united in your Word

For our Holy Father, Francis, our bishop _____, his assistant bishops and all who shepherd God's Church, Let us pray
For those who suffer from oppression and injustice. Let us pray.
For unity among Christianity and all churches.
Let us pray.
For the movement of the Holy Spirit will turn the things that divide us into things that unite us.
Let us pray.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

We offer up these prayers in words that Jesus taught us, Our Father...

Song

- I Need You to Survive

Tuesday, January 28

of the third Week in Ordinary Time
Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of
the Church

Theme: Students

Welcome

Today we celebrate one of the great thinkers of the Church. Thomas Aquinas studied "to show himself approved" and eventually was summoned to Rome to serve as the papal theologian. We can follow Thomas' example to study. We begin our prayer with a sign of our faith, In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.





Song

- [Open The Eyes of My Heart Lord by Michael W. Smith](#)

Scripture Reading

2nd Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19

Reflection

When the Ark of the Covenant finally reaches Jerusalem, we see that David could not contain the joy that was within him. He risked ridicule from some because he danced with abandonment. Later “he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed among all the people, the entire multitude of Israel, to every man and every woman, one loaf of bread, one piece of meat, and one raisin cake.” David’s act is an example of how we can share the “Good News” about Catholic education.

Take a few minutes to discuss how we can share the gift of Catholic schools with others

Universal Prayer

We bring our prayers before a good and gracious God for our intentions. Our response will be Hear Us O Lord

We pray that you will bless our students with a zeal for learning. In your mercy.

We pray that you will bless students with the grace to put their knowledge to use in building the kingdom. In your mercy.

We pray that you will bless homeless students and their families with shelter and feel your presence. In your mercy.

For all those who have no one to pray for them. In your mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

We offer up these prayers in words that Jesus taught us, Our Father...

Song

- [My God is Awesome](#)
- [Awesome God](#)

Wednesday, January 29 of the third Week in Ordinary Time

Theme: The Nation

Welcome

Let us take a moment to be attentive to the presence of Christ (silently count to 10) We begin with a sign of our faith, In the Name of the Father...



Song

- Open My Eyes Lord

Scripture

Matthew 23:1-8

Reflection

In this chapter, Jesus points out that obeying the law requires we know the law. We should not be misled by the actions of people in positions of power or status. We must pray and discern the law for ourselves and our actions should determine that.

Do we help those who are struggling in our communities or do we marginalize them? Do we use our words to support the human dignity or do we use them to be hurtful and shameful? We must recognize that we are all “brothers and sisters” who do not judge but have compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Name one way you can show compassion to a classmate.

Universal Prayer

Let us bring our prayers to the Father confident that he will hear and answer us. Our response will be: God of Compassion, hear us

That our country will be united in love, justice and compassion. We pray.

That young people, especially the children of refugees and immigrants, are shown love and will have access to good education, health care and are enabled to reach their full potential. We pray.

That those who are the poorest and most marginalized may find compassion, justice, love and welcome among us. We pray.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

We offer all these prayers to God in the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Song

- [Rain Down by Jamie Cortez](#)
- They Will Know We Are Christians by our Love

Thursday, January 30

of the third Week in Ordinary Time

Theme: Vocations

Welcome

The Word of God tells us that Jesus said, where two or more are gathered in my name, I am in their midst. Let us take a moment of silence to invite Jesus into our hearts as we pray. (silently count to 10) In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Song

- [I will Choose Christ by John Booth](#)
- [We are Called by David Haas](#)

Scripture

Mark 4:1-20

Reflection

Jesus calls us to become “rooted” in the Word of God. That means we cannot let the distractions of this world keep us from living out his Word so that we can bear good fruit. Missionary Discipleship requires that we spread the Word of God to accomplish this.

Let us pray that we are open to that which God calls us.

Universal Prayer

Let us pray in communion with all the saints on earth and heaven. We bring before you all our needs, trusting that you will hear them, as we pray. Our response will be: Hear our prayer

Lord God you have blessed our school with many gifts, we pray that someone from our school will answer your call to religious and consecrated life. We ask in Your mercy.

Lord God this world is in need of more servants, we pray that we may be moved to Missionary Discipleship bringing your word to everyone we encounter. We ask in Your mercy.

Lord God we pray for all members of the global community that we may be inspired to work for justice, promote peace and demonstrate environmental stewardship. We ask in Your mercy.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

We offer all our intentions to the Father in the prayer that Jesus taught, Our Father...

Song

- [I Send You Out by John Angotti](#)

Friday, January 31 of the third Week in Ordinary Time John Bosco

Theme: Teachers

Welcome

Today we remember John Bosco who founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales and was given the title "Father and Teacher of Youth." We begin our prayer in the Name of the Father...



Song

- [Every Praise by Hezekiah Walker](#)

Scripture

Philippians 4:4-9

Reflection

In this chapter, Paul leaves the Philippines with the charge to rejoice always. Teachers are often anxious about their students. Are they getting it? They are failing. What about those test scores? Paul reminds us "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

Catholic school teachers see their role as ministry. They impart knowledge and model Christ-like behavior. Name some things you can do to express your gratitude to a Catholic school teacher today.

Universal Prayer

We bring our prayer to one who hears and answers all prayer. Our response will be Jesus, Master Teacher hear us

That our teachers may be blessed with an abundance of wisdom and given the grace to help the students. We pray.

That our teachers may be guided by your life and teaching to become true examples of your love. We pray.

That our teachers may be lifted up and given the respect and honor they deserve. We pray.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Let us lift these intentions in the words that Jesus taught us, Our Father...

Song

- [We are the Body of Christ by Jamie Cortez and Bob Hurd](#)



Saturday, February 1 of the third Week in Ordinary Time Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Theme: Families

Welcome

Today we celebrate the memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary said “Yes” to God and that took courage. But most importantly she trusted God. Let us remember Mary’s courage as we begin our prayer. In the Name of The Father...



Song

- [All are Welcome by Marty Haugen](#)

Scripture

Luke 1:35-46

Reflection

Mary accepted her mission to bear the Savior even though she didn’t understand. But she knew that this would be a risk to her own life. Nevertheless, she trusted God. Without hesitation, Mary traveled a distance to help her relative Elizabeth who welcomed and made no judgement about her.

A family’s greatest gift is to be open to hear the needs of each other so that the family can grow in strength and grace. May all family members, young and old, continue to have an understanding heart, which is open to God’s love and acceptance.

Universal Prayer

Good and gracious God we bring our petition before you, the one who hears and answers our prayers. Our response will be, Give us a heart like Mary’s

We ask the gentle Queen of Peace may rein in every home. Let us pray to the Lord.

We ask that we may receive the courage to follow the example of Mary, the 1st apostle. Let us pray to the Lord.

We ask that you bless every home and family represented here, that all of us may possess a praying spirit and use what you have given us to help build the kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Hail Mary

We unite and offer all these prayers through the intercession of the most courageous woman, Mother Mary, Hail Mary full of grace...

Song

- Hail Holy Queen
- Immaculate Mary

Welcoming Families of All Cultures

Welcoming Families of All Cultures

Catholic schools serve students from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to welcoming students of all cultures, Catholic schools can celebrate and learn from the various cultural traditions all groups bring to the community of faith. Here are some suggested tips to welcome families of all cultures into school liturgies:

- Include a flag procession at the start of Mass, during which time students carry flags or banners representing their heritage. Place the banners behind the altar.
- Incorporate hymns and readings in different languages. Invite students, teachers and families to offer the reading in languages other than English. Include an English version in the program or on a projected screen.
- Offer Prayers of the Faithful in multiple languages. Some schools offer several prayers, each in a different language, other schools offer the same prayers in English as well as a second language such as Spanish.
- Offer special liturgies on the feast days of patron and other important saints of various cultures.
- Learn about customs and traditions such as Los Matachines, a traditional religious dance to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and find ways to host the tradition into a school community event.
- Invite priests from different parishes to serve as celebrants at various celebrations (or Masses) throughout the year and ask them to speak about the cultural aspect of their parish communities.
- Encourage families to attend school liturgies and offer refreshments after Masses to foster relationships.

Welcoming Families of All Faiths

Welcoming Families of All Faiths

Catholic schools are faith communities. While Catholic schools, as an extension of the Church, emphasize Catholic teachings, virtues and traditions, we also value diversity and respect for those of all faiths. Here are some suggested tips to welcome families of all faiths into school liturgies:

- Because all students attend and experience prayer, Mass and religious classes, Catholic schools should also educate students on the meaning of each aspect of the school liturgy and explain why it is important to the Catholic faith. Explain how students can participate respectfully, such as crossing their arms for a blessing instead of receiving Communion.
- Let non-Catholic parents know when you will be having a school liturgy and encourage them to participate as guests. If the liturgy surrounds a specific holy day or saint feast day, tell them so they may continue the conversation at home to compare or contrast their religious differences.
- Emphasize how the liturgy is more than a Catholic religious practice; that it focuses on deepening personal relationships with Jesus Christ and helps develop a greater understanding between Christian churches.
- Encourage questions and facilitate dialogue. Offer a discussion group time after Liturgy for non-Catholic students to learn more about the Catholic faith traditions.
- Invite faith leaders from the community to celebrate an interfaith celebration annually. Have students invite their religious leaders to a breakfast to connect the Catholic school community with their faith community.

A List of Holy Days / Feast Days

JULY 2019

- 1 Junipero Serra
- 3 Thomas the Apostle
- 4 Independence Day
- 14 Kateri Tekakwitha
- 15 Bonaventure
- 21 Lawrence of Brindisi
- 22 Mary Magdalene
- 25 James the Apostle
- 30 Peter Chrysologus

AUGUST 2019

- 1 Alphonsus Liguori
- 4 John Vianney
- 6 Feast of the Transfiguration
- 8 Dominic
- 14 Maximilian Kolbe
- 15 Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 20 Bernard
- 21 Pius X
- 23 Rose of Lima
- 24 Bartholomew the Apostle
- 28 Augustine of Hippo

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 2 Labor Day
- 3 Gregory the Great
- 5 Teresa of Calcutta
- 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 Peter Claver
- 11 Patriot Day (Anniversary of Terrorist Attacks on America)
- 13 John Chrysostom
- 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 Catechetical Sunday
- 17 Robert Bellarmine
- 21 Matthew the Apostle
- 29 Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
- 30 Beginning of Rosh Hashanah Jerome

OCTOBER 2019

- Month of the Holy Rosary
- 1 Therese of Lisieux
- Feast of the Guardian Angels
- 3 Mother Theodore Guerin
- 4 Francis of Assisi
- 5 Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos
- 6 Bl. Marie Rose Durocher
- 9 Beginning of Yom Kippur
- 11 John XXIII
- 14 Columbus Day (observed)
- 15 Teresa of Avila
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch
- 19 Feast of the Jesuit Martyrs of North America
- 20 World Mission Sunday
- 22 John Paul II
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles

NOVEMBER 2019

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 10 Leo the Great
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini
- 15 Albert the Great
- 16-23 Discover Catholic Schools Week
- 18 Rose Philippine Duchesne
- 20 Feast of Christ the King
- 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 23 Clement of Rome
- Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 30 St. Andrew the Apostle

DECEMBER 2019

- 1 First Sunday of Advent
- 4 John Damascene
- 7 Ambrose
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 Lucy
- 14 John of the Cross
- 21 Peter Canisius
- 22 Beginning of Chanukah
- 25 Nativity of the Lord
- 26 Stephen, First Martyr
- 27 John the Apostle
- 30 Feast of the Holy Family
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2020

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- World Day of Peace
- New Year's Day
- 2 Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5 John Neumann
- 8 Epiphany of the Lord
- Andre Bessette
- 9 Baptism of the Lord
- 13 Hilary
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- 23 Marianne Cope
- 25 Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
- 26-2/1 National Catholic Schools Week
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah)
- 28-29 Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools
- 28 Thomas Aquinas
- 31 John Bosco

FEBRUARY 2020

- 2 Presentation of Our Lord
- 3 Blaise
- 14 Cyril and Methodius
- 17 Presidents Day (Washington's Birthday)
- 21 Peter Damian
- 22 Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
- 23 Polycarp
- 26 Ash Wednesday

MARCH 2020

- 3 Katharine Drexel
- 7 Perpetua & Felicity
- 8 John of God
- 17 Patrick
- 18 Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19 Joseph
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation

APRIL 2020

- 5 Palm Sunday
- 8 Beginning of Passover
- 9 Holy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Holy Saturday
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 14-16 NCEA 2020 Convention & Expo
- 19-25 National Volunteer Week
- 19 Divine Mercy Sunday
- 21 Anselm
- 25 Mark
- 28 Louis Grignion de Montfort
- 29 Catherine of Siena
- 30 Pius V

MAY 2020

- Month of the Virgin Mary
- 1 Joseph the Worker
- 2 Athanasius
- 3 Philip and James, Apostles
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Mother's Day
- Damien de Veuster
- 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 Matthias, Apostle
- 15 Isidore
- 21 Ascension
- 25 Memorial Day
- Bede the Venerable
- 31 Pentecost

JUNE 2020

- 5 National Donut Day
- 7 Trinity Sunday
- 9 Ephrem
- Barnabas
- 13 Anthony of Padua
- 14 Flag Day
- 18 Corpus Christi
- 21 Father's Day
- 22 John Fisher and Thomas More
- 23 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- 27 Cyril of Alexandria
- 28 Irenaeus
- 29 Peter & Paul, Apostles
- 30 Feast of the Early Martyrs of Rome

CSW Tools and Templates

Tools and Templates

NCEA has created the following tools and templates to help build awareness and support your school in its year-round marketing efforts. Please refer to the Tools and Templates section of the Marketing Kit for Catholic Schools for a sample as well as download and customize online at www.NCEA.org/csw.

Liturgy Guide Tools and Templates:

- Catholic Social Teaching Monthly Theme Suggestions
- Calendar of Holy Days and Feast Days

A digital version of the entire Marketing Kit for Catholic Schools is available at www.NCEA.org/CSW.

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