

During Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate Catholic education. Your Catholic school is a very special place. It is a safe and friendly community where you and your friends learn, share, and care for others.

Who is a part of your Catholic school family? There are teachers, children and parents. There is a pastor, a principal, a school nurse, and a custodian. There are lunchroom helpers and teacher aides. A lot of people help make your Catholic school a special place to learn and grow.

At your school you learn about science, math, history, and how to read. You learn all of these subjects like all children do. But there is something that makes your school different from others. At your Catholic school, you learn about God, and about being Catholic. You learn about Jesus, how to follow him, and how to be a holy person. It is a great gift to learn these things. It is a gift that you will have for a lifetime!

Catholic Schools Week always begins on the last Sunday in January. This year, it begins on Sunday, January 30, 2010. Every year a theme helps us think about our Catholic schools. The theme for this year is *Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Morals, Discipline*. This year, we celebrate how faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline are things you will have for your whole life because you go to a Catholic school.

Think about these questions:

Faith is belief and trust in God.

How does my Catholic school help me believe and trust in God?

Knowledge is information and truth about life.

How does my Catholic school help me learn about life and God?

Morals are the habits that help us do the right things.

How does my Catholic school help me do the right things?

Discipline is choosing activities and habits that will help us follow Jesus more closely.

What habits do I learn at my Catholic School to help me follow Jesus?

Spend a few minutes with a special prayer every day during Catholic Schools Week.

Sunday, January 30, 2010

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week!

Go to Mass with your family and celebrate with your parish family.

Celebrate with a special meal.

Monday, February 1, 2010

When your class prays together today, close your eyes and say a special prayer of thanks to Jesus for all of the people at your school who make it such a special place to learn and grow. Who will you thank?

Thank you, Jesus, for my teacher.

Thank you, Jesus, for my classmates.

Thank you, Jesus, for my principal.

Thank you, Jesus, for _____.

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Spend a quiet moment today reading a Bible story. Remember, the Bible is the Word of God! Choose your favorite story. Read it to a classmate, or to your parents or a sibling. Draw a picture that tells about the story.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Be on the lookout for symbols that remind you about being Catholic. What can you find? A cross in your classroom? A bible or statue of the Blessed Mother?

Today, when you see a symbol that reminds you about being Catholic, stop to say a simple prayer of praise to God for creating you!

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Today, find the globe in your classroom. If your class doesn't have one, ask your teacher if you can borrow one from another class. With your classmates, put the globe at the front of your classroom, and place your class's cross and Bible next to it. You are creating what is called a "prayer table."

Gather around the prayer table to say prayers for people all around the world who need our prayers.

Friday, February 5, 2010

Catholics have very special prayers and blessings for many occasions. For example, Catholics bless their food before a meal with a prayer that begins this way: "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts"

Today, with your classmates, write some special prayers and blessings for your school, for your class, and for the people you share your school-day with. Write the prayers and blessings on paper that you can decorate. Create a *Prayers and Blessings for our School* Bulletin Board for your class.

Then, write a prayer thanking God for your parents and family who send you to a Catholic school where you can learn about God's love! Be sure to share the prayer with your family!

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Did you know that Catholics all over the world stop during the day to pray? This special prayer that Catholics pray throughout the day (and into the night!) is called the Liturgy of the Hours.

Today, you probably have a fun Saturday planned. You can stop and pray during your day. Praying like this, no matter what we're doing, helps us remember that God is always with us—guiding us, and loving us!

You can pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. Try praying these three prayers in the morning, in the middle of the day, and at night before you go to bed. It won't take a lot of time, but try to really focus on your prayers when you are praying them.

Remember, somewhere else in the world, other Catholics are praying too, at every hour of every day!