

A Guide for Liturgical Celebrations
~ CISDV Catholic Schools Week ~



January 29 - February 3, 2023

Table of Contents

	PAGE
Introduction/Overview	2
Daily Prayer for CSW	3
Breaking Open the Theme	4
List of Liturgical Readings for Celebrations	5
Short prayers for Intermediate – High School	7
Short prayers for Preschool – Primary	9
Helping to Bring the Word Alive	10
A. Developing Student Lectors	
B. Breaking Open the Word	12
Oral Response	
Written Response	
Scriptural Improv Response	
Prayer Services	16
A. Option One	
B. Option Two	
C. Staff Prayer	
Classroom Prayers & Activities	22
Spice it up kids' prayers	
Acknowledgements	24

Introduction

You are invited to join all Catholic schools in the province as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Our Theme this year is: CSW 2023 **Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation**

Consider beginning each day with a liturgy/prayer as a whole school or individual classroom activity where you can celebrate as a community.

Liturgical Cycle

All Catholic schools in British Columbia begin Catholic Schools Week the first full week of February. Island Catholic Schools begin CSW celebrations on Sunday, January 29 and continue for the remainder of the week. Scriptural readings, following the Church year, are taken from:

- † **Year A** ~ Sunday Lectionary Cycle
- † **Series I** ~ Weekday Lectionary Cycle

CSW Sunday*

Schools are encouraged to begin the week celebrating Sunday liturgy with the local parish. To the extent possible, staff and student should be well prepared and involved as:

- ministers of hospitality
- altar servers
- choir members
- lectors (or readers)
- person(s) who prepares the altar
- gift presenters

If possible, a reception at the school hosted by the students and staff follows this celebration.

Daily Prayers for Catholic Schools' Week

Prayer services within this booklet may be used by individual classrooms, all-school assemblies, or a combination of both. Many classrooms are using Children's Daily Prayer LTP, feel free to use the readings of the day from that text

Each prayer in that text is developed in the following manner:

- Opening Prayer
- Reading of the Day
- A Short Period of Reflection (Silent or verbal)
- Prayer of the Faithful (Universal Prayer)
- Communal Recitation of the Our Father
- Closing Prayer

Music for the Gospel acclamation or a psalm response, remains optional, but is a wonderful addition you might wish to include.

Breaking Open the Theme

The Catholic Schools Week poster text reads: CSW 2023: Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation

There are 2 versions available on the Island Catholic Schools' website.

There is much wisdom in reflecting on each of the words in this theme. The cisva developed an excellent resource to support this theme. It can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12jHrz8SRlrzgakazJMcnE9ur4MRRmN2BsRI7MV2rCM/edit?usp=sharing>

Questions for reflection

- e.g. Jesus came to heal people. How can we be agents of healing in our school?
What biblical Truths do you treasure? Eg. God love everyone. God is faithful.
What does it mean to truly listen to another person?
What does it mean to forgive?

Liturgical Readings for Catholic Schools' Week ~ January 29 – February 4, 2023*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Year A

Sunday, January 29, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

Sunday of the Word of God

First Reading	Zephaniah 2.3;3.12-13	I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 146	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!</i>
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1.26-31	<i>God chose what is weak in the world.</i>
Gospel	Matthew 5.1-12	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit.</i>

Weekday Series:

I

Monday, January 30, 2023 - Green

First Reading	Hebrews 11.32-40	<i>Through faith our ancestors conquered kingdoms. God as provided something better for us.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm	<i>Let your hearts take comfort, all who hope in the Lord.</i>
Gospel	Mark 5.1-20	<i>Come out of him, you unclean spirit.</i>

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – Feast of St. John Bosco – Memorial, White

First Reading	Hebrews 12.1-4	<i>Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 22	<i>They will praise you, Lord, who long for you.</i>
Gospel	Mark 5.21-43	<i>Young woman, I saw to you, get up.</i>

Wednesday February 1, 2023 – Green

First Reading	Hebrews 12.4-7, 11-15	<i>The Lord disciplines the ones he loves.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 103	<i>The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.</i>
Gospel	Mark 6.1-6	<i>Prophets are no without honour, except in their hometown</i>

**Thursday February 2, 2023 – White – Presentation of the Lord
World Day for Consecrated Life**

First Reading	Malachi 3.1-4 OR Hebrews 2.10-11, 13b-18	<i>The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 24	<i>The Lord of hosts, he is King of glory!</i>
Gospel	Like 2.22-40	<i>My eyes have seen your salvation.</i>

**Friday February 3, 2023 –
Optional Memorial – Fest of St. Blaise (Blessing of throats)**

First Reading	Hebrews 13.1-8	<i>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 27	<i>The Lord is my light and my salvation.</i>
Gospel	Mark 6.14-29	<i>John whom I beheaded, has been raised</i>

**taken from ORDO Liturgical Calendar 2022-2023, National Calendar for Canada
Confirmed by the Apostolic See; Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Short Prayers for intermediate and high school students throughout the week – CSW/Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation

Prayer One: Gift of Catholic Education

In the name of the Father....

God of mercy,

We thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Our foundation is built on rock as we trust in the Lord. We remember all those in Catholic education who have gone before us, those who nurtured and sustained Catholic education. Inspired by God's Love, we acknowledge that the promise of Catholic education is within us, that it is a promise that we live out in our schools and communities and that it is a promise that we proclaim in acts of justice and compassion in word and deed. We make this prayer that we may live out the promise of Catholic education for many more years to come. Amen.

Prayer Two: Theme Prayer

In the name of the Father....

Creator God, open our minds,

To seek Truth as we journey through life.

Creator God, open our arms

To reach out to one another and heal our relationships.

Creator God, open our hearts,

To promote justice for all of humanity.

Creator God, open our souls,

To be examples of your merciful love for the world.

Creator God, we give You praise,

glory and honour this day and every day.

Amen

Prayer Three: Prayer of St Mechthild of Madgeburge

In the name of the Father....

We praise you, Lord, saved by your mercy,

We praise you Lord, honoured by your humiliation.

We praise you, Lord, led by your kindness

We praise you, Lord, ruled by your wisdom

We praise you, Lord, sheltered by your mighty power.

We praise you, Lord, sanctified by your grace

We praise you, Lord, enlightened by your inner light.

We praise you, Lord, raised up by your goodness.

We praise you Lord, as we journey toward truth, healing and reconciliation

Adapted from prayer of Saint Mechthild of Magdeburge

Prayer Three: Prayer of Sorrow for Residential Schools

In the name of the Father....

Jesus – gentle Saviour, forgiving and humble of heart, Good Shepherd, Divine Healer,
Great Lover of all peoples:

We offer you our sorrow for the wrongs committed against our First Nations' children in
Canada's Indian Residential Schools. We offer you our desire to walk with our First Nations
brothers and sisters;

To journey with them on the path of truth, healing and reconciliation,

As we share this earthly pilgrimage to our heavenly homeland, where every tear will be wiped
away and every sorrow will be turned to joy.

Give us one heart and one mind to walk forward together along this path In the love and
strength of your Spirit, in truth, reconciliation and peace.

We make this prayer in the power of your Most Holy Name. Amen

Prayer Five: Iroquois Prayer "To Our Creator For All of Creation, We Give Thanks"

In the name of the Father....

All: We Give Thanks

To the People, our brothers and sisters, with goodness and health;

To the Earth, our mother, who supports the People;

To the Plants, our medicines, which grow on the Earth;

To the Waters that flow with life bloods and nourish the plants and people;

To the Air, especially the winds, that allow us to breathe;

To the Trees, that purify the air;

To the Animals, our four-legged brothers and sisters, who sustain us;

To the Birds, our winged brothers and sisters, who sing to the Creator;

To the Sun, our elder brother, who warms the Earth and provides light;

To the Moon, our grandmother, who guides the people and the cycles of life;

To the Stars, who provide us direction at night,

TO ALL CREATION: WE GIVE THANKS

May we forever remember the interconnectedness and equality of all Creation and our place in
the Great Cycle of Life. With gentleness and unity in body, mind, and spirit becoming one in
harmony and balance with the universe.

We give thanks. **Amen**

Short Prayers for preschool and primary students throughout the week – CSW/Seeking Truth Healing & Reconciliation

1. I love you, Jesus. I know you love me. I know you love everyone. Help us to grow in your love. Amen.
2. Jesus, help me to share your truth and love with others. Amen.
3. I am a child of God. You are a child of God. Show us the way, God. Amen.
4. Jesus, help me be the best friend I can be. Help me to care. Help me to share. I know you love us. Amen.
5. Thank you for my friends, Thank you for my school. Thank you for everything. Amen.
6. Jesus, you are the Way. Jesus, you are the Truth. Jesus, you are the Life. Jesus, you are my everything. Amen.

Helping to Bring the Word Alive

PART A: PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING STUDENT LECTORS

This is a compilation of tips that may be utilized when preparing student Lectors for a school or classroom celebration. Work with students to help them understand that...

- proclaiming to a crowd through a microphone is much different than conversational speech. It takes some time - albeit only seconds - for the sound to emanate from the Lector's diaphragm, through the vocal cords, out the mouth, be relayed through the sound system, be heard and ultimately comprehended by the listener. Therefore, one must learn to make effective use of one's breathing and speaking, and to speak with a different cadence and pitch.
- there are some practices that can be used with both children and adults alike to help calm any anxious nerves a Lector has. When practiced, they can also help to establish a receptive atmosphere for the spoken word on the part of the assembly, provide for an appropriate and relaxed tone by the Lector, and promote the recognition that what is being celebrated is indeed important.
- although it is a person *reading* the words (and persons do get nervous!), Catholics believe that it is actually God who is *speaking* to those gathered, using the voice of the student. So it is the Lector's responsibility to appear almost as invisible as possible in order that God's Word be heard.

Therefore, the lector must rehearse the reading beforehand

- using a *photocopy* of the reading only for practice at home.
- at school/church, use the actual book that will be used during the celebration.

Note: It is important that the Lector become familiar with how the story will look on the page so that they know what to expect should their eyes get lost. (It is alright for them to use their fingers to keep their place in the book - that is a practice many adults use.)

Help them study the story or passage (as appropriate), to the point of memorization, and question it. Who wrote it? Why did they write it? What was being said? What happened just before or after this part of the story? Should the story sound encouraging, or woeful – happy or sad? How does reading it make *you* feel? Do you better understand the story or passage? Consider how then it might make your audience feel.

Rehearse the procedure:

- Have the lector(s) practice *processing* from their seat, to the ambo, and then back to their seat. If the reader crosses in front of the altar, it is appropriate for the lector to stop

and make a profound bow to the altar. No bow is necessary if the lector does not cross in front of the altar. Repeat as necessary.

- Remind the lector to plant his/her feet firmly on the floor behind the ambo and microphone.
- Take a slow, deep breath, and silently count to two.

Engage the Listener:

- to encourage eye contact with members of the assembly, have the Lector choose one or two spots on the wall just above the heads of the audience
- teach them to confidently and calmly announce the reading ("*A reading from the book of/ the letter of _____*"), then pause for a
 - silent count of three;
- pause for a silent count of two after each period or semi-colon;
- choose 2 or 3 spots on the wall to have the students look at during the Reading.



Exaggerate the words and tone reminding them to:

- let their voice dance over the words, filled with changes in pitch, expression and enthusiasm!
- pause for a silent count of three between finishing the reading, and concluding with "*The Word of the Lord*";
- remain in place, feet still firmly planted, for another silent count of two.
- only then slowly turn, and *Process* back to their seat.

In a word, remind your Lector to relax. The important thing about stories is they are meant to be told. He/she should simply think about telling us the story.

It is most important for those who proclaim the Word of God to remember that we always do this for the glory of God! We do our best and God is pleased. Mistakes happen and that is okay. 😊

PART B: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD (Lectio Divina)

Oral Response:

Divide a larger class into groups of 4 – 5 students.

Opening Prayer:

+ We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Yr 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)

Read the Gospel As you read the Gospel slowly and deliberately, invite the groups to listen for a word or phrase that stands out to you, that speaks to you..

Reflect in Silence at least 60 seconds!

Individual Response:

Invite each group member to say the word or phrase out loud individually, without offering any judgment, discussion or comment (although you, as leader, may choose to write each comment on chart paper).

Read the Gospel a second time:

Read the Gospel a second time, slowly and deliberately.

Reflect in Silence:

What do I hear in my heart?

Where does this passage and today's homily touch my life today?

Small Group Response:

In small groups (of 4-5 persons) share your own experiences, using "I" statements:

I am ... , I feel ... , I think

Read the Gospel a third time:

Read the Gospel a third time; slowly and deliberately.

Reflect In Silence:

From what I have heard and shared, what does God want me to be or do this week? How does God invite me to change? Be concrete and specific.

(Or, alternatively, what do I take home with me this week?)

Small Group Response:

In small groups (of 4-5 persons) share your own experiences of the reading using "I" statements:

I am ...,

I feel,

I think

Sending:

Gather the large group together again. Review group wisdom, then close with a summary prayer (such as this).

+ Through the gift of your Spirit loving God, the early followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Goods News. Give us the same joy and help us to share it with all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. +

(Yr 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)

Options:

You might want to:

read the 1st or 2nd reading;

explore spontaneous petition prayer, shared prayer or summary prayer.

Breaking Open the Word - Written Response

Opening Prayer:

The purpose of this prayer time is to gather and prayerfully focus. Use the following or similar words.

+ O God, giver of all good gifts, you are the source of our life, our health our gifts. As we gather around your Word, make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Year 5, May We be One Student Book, CCCB p 14, 15)

Read the Gospel:

Read the Gospel slowly.

Reflect: What Did You Hear?

Write three thoughts, ideas, phrases, images that “spoke to you” from today’s readings and homilies.

Read the Gospel a Second Time:

Read the Gospel a second time slowly and deliberately.

Reflect: What Does It Mean?

What do you think these words or phrases spoke to you today? What might they mean for your life? Can you recall a time – past or present – when you experienced something similar to the event expressed in today’s reading(s)? How did these readings and homily enlighten or challenge that feeling? Write three questions that today’s readings and homily raise for your daily life, your faith, your church. Use “I” statements (I am ..., I feel ..., I think)

What Does It Cost You to Live This Message?

- List one concrete way you feel called to live this message this week.
- What will help you to live and achieve this?
- What might be some pertinent obstacles?

Sharing the Message:

Divide the group into smaller groups of 4-5 people. Invite them to share their reflections with one another.

Sending:

Gather the large group together again. Close with a summary prayer.

+ God of justice, rock of salvation, open our minds and hearts to Jesus your Son. Let us hold fast to his words and express them in deeds, that our faith be built on a sure foundation and that our lives may be made worthy of you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. +

(Year 5, May We be One Student Book, CCCB p 14, 15)

Options:

You might want to:

- read the 1st reading, the 2nd reading
- explore creating something new (poem, story, painting, song, etc)

Breaking Open the Word - Scriptural Improv Response

Purpose:

To let the creativity of the participants, flow through the engagement with a Scripture passage.

Timeframe: 30 – 45 minutes

Supplies: Bibles Preparation:

Choose a passage. (This may be chosen on the Lectionary reading, a theme, or even chosen by the group). The group ideally should be 3-5 persons. Each group could have a separate passage, or interpret the same passage.

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a group prayer, asking for God's Wisdom in words such as these:

+ We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Yr 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)

Read:

Read (or have someone else read) the passage only once, with gusto and enthusiasm! Talk about what stands out from hearing this passage this first time, just once.

Ask "What do you think God was trying to say to those gathered at the time it was first told (or written, or recorded)?"

Re-Read:

Read the passage a second time, again with gusto and enthusiasm.

Ask "What do you think God is trying to say to us, today, in this text?"

Plan:

Plan an improvisational skit to attempt to communicate to those gathered what God is speaking about in this text. As a group, discuss the point(s) you want to get across, the characters needed in the sketch, and most importantly, how you will end the sketch.

Action!

Let it go – you, the teacher need not script a thing!

If presented to a larger group, read the passage again. Very briefly, set the stage and provide the context for your improv.

A discussion may follow the improv, allowing the following questions to be raised:

What stood out in the sketch?

- Did you feel the discomfort of certain characters?
- Where do you find yourself in this sketch?
- How might you feel had you been/if you find yourself in that situation (again)?

Sending:

Lastly, bring things to a close with a brief summation, and close with an impromptu prayer led by yourself or a student.

Opening Prayer Service Option One

Prayer table set up with candle lit.

Music Options: Companions on a Journey, Bind us Together, other

In the name of the Father...

Loving Jesus, thank you for all that you give us. Thank you for Catholic Education. In Thanksgiving let us remember in our prayer today, those who planted the seeds of Catholic education in British Columbia: the bishops and priests, the religious sisters and brothers, all the lay teachers, support staff and parents. They were great-hearted and great-minded people, spurred on by the profound vision of life shaped by the message of Jesus Christ and by the tradition of the Church. They paid a price for Catholic education that was not only financial, but also deeply personal and they did it willingly, even joyfully. Help us to discover our roots in the long tradition of the Church and celebrate it with gratitude. May we learn that at the heart of Catholic Education is to do your will. In your will is peace, happiness and love. +Amen.

A Reading from the Letter to John

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Breaking Open the Word

Possible inspiring video share (Kid President's (Soul Pancake) pep talk to teachers and students)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwlhUcSGqgs>

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Response: **Lord of all Education, Hear our Prayer.**

1. For our hurting and broken world, that we may be instruments of Your Healing Love in making it more whole... We pray to the Lord.
2. That all our leaders, who have been given the responsibility to care for our planet, will serve tirelessly and wisely... We pray to the Lord.
3. For our school, that we may become better disciples of Jesus by the caring ways we speak and act to one another ... We pray to the Lord.
4. For children that do not have the opportunity to go to school and learn because of war and poverty ... We pray to the Lord
5. That those who are lonely, sick and dying may find peace and courage in their suffering and know they are not abandoned by God... We pray to the Lord
6. For our own private intentions.....(pause)... We pray to the Lord

We pray in the word Jesus taught us, Our Father...

We offer one another a sign of peace

Closing Prayer

Thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Help us to grow in the gifts you have given us and use them for your good. Help us to live as one family with one hope in You. Amen.

Opening Prayer Service Option Two

Prayer table set up with candle lit.

Music (options: In Christ Alone by [Lauren Daigle](#);))

In the name of the Father...

Almighty God, hope of all your people, we open our hearts to your love and to your hopes for us. Thank you for the gift of Catholic Education. You have hopes for your people; that we can live in peace and share your love with others. Help us to keep you as the source of hope. Help us also to appreciate the gift of Catholic education and use our talents and efforts for your glory. Amen

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Breaking open the word

Ask the following questions, allowing time for silent reflection in between

Who in our world needs hope?

When I have times of trouble or sadness how can I remember to hope in Jesus?

How do I share the hope of Jesus with my family and friends?

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray your Church will be a sign of hope for the world. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that we will work toward a more peaceful and loving world. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that the hope of the Gospel will touch the hearts of others. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray that we will celebrate the diversity in one another and continue to grow as one family in you. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray for those in need of healing, help us to share your hope with them. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve them. We pray to the Lord,

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray in the words Jesus taught us, Our Father...

We offer one another a Sign of Peace

Closing Prayer

Loving Creator,

Unite us as your children

You created us unique and equal in your eyes.

Thank you for loving us so much.

Strengthen our hope in You.

There are times when we have forgotten that we belong to one another.

Teach us to reach out to all Your people.

Help us to listen, to love, to care and to share.

Lead us as we journey together;

In light and in darkness, but always walking side by side.

For there is only healing and only one hope in You.

Amen.

Closing Song: Options:

[The Blessing Song](#) – Compilation of all recordings around the world

Staff Prayer Service

Let us form a circle as a sign of our unity as a family in Christ.

Opening Song: Lord of all Hopefulness

In the name of the Father, of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen
God of Unity, you call us to work together as a family in Christ to bring healing to the hurting.
Touch our hands, that we may use them for blessing, not harming.
Touch our hearts, that we use them for joining, not parting.
Touch our minds, that we use them for harmony, not discord.
Amen.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 4- 10

A reading from a letter from St. Paul to the Romans

For just as in one body we have many parts, and the parts do not all have the same function, so we, though many, make up one body in Christ, and individually we are all parts of one another. We all have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If it is a gift of prophecy, we should exercise it in proportion to our faith. If it is a gift of ministry, we should engage in serving others. If it is a gift of teaching, we should teach. If it is a gift of exhortation, we should encourage. Whoever gives alms should do so generously; whoever leads should do so conscientiously; whoever performs acts of mercy should do so cheerfully. Let your love be sincere. Loathe what is evil and hold fast to what is good. Love one another with genuine affection. Esteem others more highly than yourself.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Loving God, You created us uniquely gifted.

Within us is the call to love, the call to live out your love, the call to bring your love into service. May each of us continue to discover our own gifts and use them to help build your Kingdom. Help us to serve our communities with kindness and compassion. Guide us as we minister to our school communities. May we respect each other's gifts and help each other to grow in our giftedness. Bless us with listening hearts and compassionate actions.

Place a word on my heart that you would like me to focus on during Catholic Schools' Week.

(After a moment of silent reflection share the word out loud that God has placed on your heart.)

The Gift of Community

As each person is offered, picture someone in your school community who reflects this gift.

For the wise,
All: We give thanks.
For the patient,
All: We give thanks.
For the gracious,
All: We give thanks.
For the creative,
All: We give thanks.
For the visionaries,
All: We give thanks.
For the humble,
All: We give thanks.
For the diligent,
All: We give thanks.
For the careful,
All: We give thanks.
For the listeners,
All: We give thanks.
For the articulate,

All: We give thanks.
For the truth tellers,
All: We give thanks.
For the reflective,
All: We give thanks.
For the joyful,
All: We give thanks.
For the dreamers,
All: We give thanks.
For the practical,
All: We give thanks.
For the kind,
All: We give thanks.
For the organized,
All: We give thanks.
For the hopeful,
All: We give thanks.
For the reverent,
All: We give thanks.
For us all,
All: We give thanks.

Together we pray in the Words that Jesus taught us. Our Father....Amen

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Closing Prayer:

Loving Creator,
Unite us in Christ.
You created us unique and equal in your eyes.
Thank you for loving us so much.
Strengthen our hope in You.
There are times when we have forgotten
that we belong to one another.
Teach us to reach out to all Your people.
Help us to listen, to love,
To care and to share.
Lead us as we journey together on this road of life;
In light and in darkness, but always walking side by side.
For there is only one true hope in You.
Amen.

Closing Song: Though the Mountains may Fall

Spice it up Prayers!

Alphabet Prayer- Challenge students to pray a prayer of thanks for things that each begin with a letter of the Alphabet.

Doodle Prayer- Direct the students to doodle on a piece of paper and then pray about what they see in the doodle.

Title Prayer- Ask the students to choose a title for God or for Jesus and then write a prayer related to that title.

Favourite Super Hero- Ask student to think of their favourite super hero and then share a little prayer on how it might symbolize God

Movement Prayers- do some stretching and balancing in the classroom or lineups giving thanks to God for each movement or part of the body being used.

Popcorn Thankfulness- In a spirit of gratefulness students simply give thanks for one thing in a rapid firing short time limit. i.e. 30 seconds.

Musical musings – Praying and listening to praise songs helps active youngsters still their minds and bodies and focus on Jesus. There are countless possibilities on Godtube and Youtube. Some favorites are: Awesome God, Lord I Lift Your Name on High, Like a Deer Pants for Water, Holy is His Name. Artists like Michael W Smith, Chris Tomlin, Amy Grant, John Michael Talbot are all some who can be powerful.

Prayers by flashlight – In a dark classroom, pray together and/or read the bible by flashlight

Silent Smiles and Good Wishes: Students remain silent with smiles on their faces looking at classmates and wishing in their minds good things for them.

Sharing the moment – “Share the moment” prayers help kids remember that Jesus is with them every minute of the day. Just before you experience something special and wonderful, take a moment to invite Jesus to share the experience with you. For example, at the top of the play slide or structure, you might pray, Be with us, Lord, and share this cool ride right along with us. We’re so grateful that You created this for us to enjoy! Say a little prayer before a game or quiz.

Sharing interests – Reassure your child that Jesus wants to hear about anything that’s on their mind. Simply invite them to pray by saying, God loves to hear about the things that you love. Would you like to talk to Him about trucks today? To get their ideas flowing, you might

first wish to read a book about your child's favourite subject, then tell Jesus some of the things you learned.

Egg timer prayers – This is a prayer with a challenge! Set an egg timer for a minute or two, then pray for one particular person. See how many different blessings you can pray over that person before the egg timer beeps.

Newspaper prayer – More suitable for older children, the newspaper prayer will help your students remember to pray for people in other regions of the world. Give selected students a section of the newspaper and a few minutes to go through it, identifying any items that could become matters of prayer. Then gather together and pray for the things each person has selected that need prayer

Social Media favourites – This is similar to the newspaper prayer. Have your older students check recent Social Media posts from friends and contacts. Pray together over the prayer requests you discover.

Prayer deck – Prepare a small stack of cards with each card displaying the photo or picture of something a student has brought in to pray for. Take turns praying for the people or things featured on the cards you receive.

Silent prayer – To introduce the concept of a “silent prayer,” deliberately interrupt your child several times during a conversation. Then explain that sometimes we can talk too much during prayer and interrupt Jesus when He is trying to tell us something. Add a time of waiting and listening at the end of a prayer of praise, or after praying through Scripture.

Prayer Walks - Take your class on a prayer walk. Encourage the students to be aware of God on the way. Invite them to be sensitive to what they see and hear and to consider what God is saying to them through it. (E.g. Bus stop – prayer for safe travels, playground – for friendships, staff room – for teachers, forested area -for animals, etc.)

“ O Lord, Save us from Sour-faced Saints! ” St. Teresa of Avila

Acknowledgements

The BC Catholic Schools Week Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by the schools, offices and publishers whose expertise, insights and activities helped make these materials possible.

Every effort has been made to properly document or provide the reference as needed for each activity. If through inadvertence, anything has been published without such notification, proper acknowledgement will be made in the future after notice has been received.

Island Catholic Schools
4044 Nelthorpe Street
Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

Phone: 1-250-727-6893
Fax: 1-250-479-5423

Email: schools@cisdv.bc.ca