

A Guide for Liturgical Celebrations
~ CISDV Catholic Schools Week ~



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

February 2 - 8, 2025

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Introduction

You are invited to join all Catholic schools in the province as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We are in the second year of our 3-year theme: **Living, CELEBRATING, and Proclaiming our Faith. The focus for 2025 is CELEBRATING our Faith.**

To celebrate as a community, consider beginning each day with a liturgy/prayer as a whole school or individual classroom.

Liturgical Cycle

All Catholic schools in British Columbia begin Catholic Schools Week the first full week of February. Scriptural readings, following the Church year, are taken from:

- † **Year C** ~ Sunday Lectionary Cycle
- † **Year 1** ~ 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 students 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 document may be used in individual classrooms, at whole-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)
- The Our Father, Communal Recitation
- Closing Prayer

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

Breaking Open the Theme

CSW 2025: Living, CELEBRATING, and Proclaiming our Faith

There is much wisdom in reflecting on each of the words in this theme!

Questions for Reflection

- What are the key pillars of our Catholic faith?
- What does it mean to **celebrate** our Catholic faith?
- How do we celebrate our faith?
- How do our words and actions demonstrate a faith-filled life?
- How does God call us to live our lives?
- In what ways do we model our lives after Jesus?

Liturgical Readings for Catholic Schools' Week ~ February 2-8, 2025*

Lectionary: Sundays and Solemnities - Year C

Sunday, February 2, 2025

4th Week in Ordinary Time

The Presentation of the Lord - White

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| First Reading | Malachi 3.1-4 | <i>The Coming Messenger</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 24.7,8,9,10 (R. 10) | <i>The Lord of Hosts, He is King of Glory!</i> |
| Second Reading | Hebrews 2.10-11, 13b-18++ | <i>Jesus Had to Become Like His Brothers and Sisters in Every Respect</i> |
| Gospel (longer) Or Gospel (shorter) | Luke 2.22-40 Luke 2.22-32 | <i>Jesus is Presented in the Temple</i> |

Lectionary: Weekdays - Year II

Monday, February 3, 2025

Ferial - Green

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| First Reading | Hebrews 11.32-40 | <i>The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 31.19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (R.24) | <i>Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 5.1-20 | <i>Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac</i> |

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ferial - Green

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| First Reading | Hebrew 12.1-4 | <i>The Example of Jesus</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 22.25b-26, 27+29, 30-31 (R.26b) | <i>Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 5.21-43 | <i>A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed</i> |

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

St. Agatha, Virgin, Martyr Memorial – Red

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| First Reading | Hebrews 12.4-7, 11-15 | <i>The Example of Jesus</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 103.1-2, 13-14, 17-18a (R. see 17) | <i>A Thanksgiving for God's Goodness of David</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 6.1-6 | <i>The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth</i> |

Thursday, February 6, 2025

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs - Red

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| First Reading | Hebrew 12.18-19, 21-24 | <i>The Example of Jesus</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 48.1-2a, 2b-3, 8, 9-10 (R.9) | <i>The Glory and Strength of Zion</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 6.7-13 | <i>Th Mission of the Twelve</i> |

Friday, February 7, 2025

Ferial - Green

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| First Reading | Hebrew 13.1-8 | <i>Warnings Against Rejecting God's Grace</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 27.1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc (R. 1a) | <i>Triumphant Song of Confidence</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 6.14-29 | <i>The Death of John the Baptist</i> |

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Ferial – Green

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| First Reading | Hebrew 13.15-17, 20-21 | <i>Warnings Against Rejecting God's Grace</i> |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 27.1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc (R. 1a) | <i>Triumphant Song of Confidence</i> |
| Gospel | Mark 6.30-34 | <i>Feeding the Five Thousand</i> |

**From ORDO Liturgical Calendar 2024-2025 National Calendar for Canada Confirmed by the Apostolic See; CCCB Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*

**Short Prayers for Preschool and Primary Students Throughout the Week –
CSW/Living, CELEBRATING, and Proclaiming our Faith**

1. I love you Jesus. I love my friends and family. Help us all to love you deeply. Amen
2. Jesus, you are my friend, and I am yours. Amen
3. Jesus, when I am sad and lonely, help to remember you are always with me. Amen
4. Jesus, you are the Way. Jesus, you are the Truth. Jesus, you are the Life. Jesus, you are my everything. Amen
5. Lord Jesus, you died on the Cross for me. I offer my life to you, O Lord. Amen
6. Father in Heaven, thank you for your Son, Jesus. Amen
7. Heavenly Father, help me to be more like your Son Jesus. Amen
8. God our Father in Heaven, thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus. Amen

Short Prayers for Intermediate and High School Students Throughout the Week – CSW/ LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith

Prayer One: Our Catholic Community

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Holy Spirit of Light and Love,

As we CELEBRATE our FAITH, fulfill in us the work begun by Jesus. Descend into our hearts and establish in them your loving dominion. Enkindle in us a renewed fidelity during this Jubilee Year of Hope. May we always be responsive to your transformative power, active with the Father and the Son from all eternity. Divine Spirit without measure, enliven our work so that we may be beacons of light in a struggling world. Let us immerse ourselves in the vibrancy of our Catholic community, where your Spirit illuminates our path with its timeless glow. Amen “I have come to set fire upon the Earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!” Luke 10:49

Prayer Two: Gift of Catholic Education

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

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 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 Three: God’s Kingdom on Earth

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Good and Gracious Father,

Thank you for all that you for all of Creation. For your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, we give praise and worship. May we live our Catholic faith with joy and passion, sharing our abundant blessings with those in need. May we share the Good News with everyone we meet. As we celebrate and proclaim your great glory, we work to build up your kingdom here on earth.

Amen

Helping to Bring the Word Alive

PART A: PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING STUDENT LECTORS

This is a compilation of tips and suggestions that may be utilized when preparing student lectors for a school or classroom celebration. The following will serve to assist students in their service:

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, to 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. Speak more slowly and loudly than usual.

- 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 many might feel nervous!), Catholics believe that *it is 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. (Using fingers to guide along the words as read is a practice of which many adults make use.)

Help student lectors to 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.
- Always speak louder and slower than usual.

Engage the Listener:

- 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



Remind your Lector to relax.
The important thing about stories is they are meant to be told.
He/she should simply think about telling 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 this is okay. 😊

PART B: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD (Lectio Divina)

Oral Response:

Divide the class into groups of 3-5 students.

Opening Prayer:

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Loving God, we praise you for your Word. Send 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, Amen

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 3-5) 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 3-5, share your 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 Good News. Give us the same joy and help us to share it with all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. +

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.

Read the Gospel:

Read the Gospel slowly.

Reflect: What Did You Hear?

Write three thoughts, ideas, phrases, images that “spoke to your heart” 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 like 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 3-5. Invite students to share their reflections with one another, and with the other groups.

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. +

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 Sacred Scripture passage

Timeframe: 30 – 45 minutes

Supplies: Bibles

Preparation: Choose a passage (this may be chosen from the Lectionary reading, a theme, or even chosen by the group). Ideally, the group size should be 3-5. 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

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 skit?

- Did you feel the discomfort of certain characters?
- Where do you find yourself in this skit?
- How might you feel if you been 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.

Opening Song/Music Video Suggestions:

[Gratitude \(Chosen Performance\) - Brandon Lake](#)

[Rest On Us \(feat. Brandon Lake & Eniola Abioye\) | Maverick City Music | UPPERROOM | TRIBL](#)

[Lion and the Lamb lyrics / music video - Bethel Music \(Leeland\)](#)

[Peace \(Lyric Video\) - Josh Baldwin | The War is Over](#)

[Here I Am To Worship | Maranatha! Music \(Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Lauren Daigle - You Say \(Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

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

Universal Prayer (Prayers 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

Let us pray in the words 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, as pilgrims of hope. Amen+.

Closing Song/Music Video Suggestions:

[Called Me Higher - All Sons and Daughters Lyric Video](#)

[Hallelujah, To Saving Grace](#)

[God Be With You Till We Meet Again by The Lower Lights \(Lyrics\)](#)

[I Can Only Imagine - MercyMe | LYRIC VIDEO](#)

[Christ Be All Around Me \(Lyric Video\) - All Sons & Daughters \[Official \]](#)

Opening Prayer Service Option Two

Prayer table set up with candle lit.

Opening Song/Music Suggestions:

[Trust In God \(feat. Chris Brown\) | Official Lyric Video | Elevation Worship](#)

[Goodness Of God \(Lyrics\) ~ Bethel Music](#)

[Lauren Daigle - Rescue \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

[Jeremy Riddle - Know \(Be Still\) \(Lyrics\)](#)

[Matt Maher - Abide With Me \(Radio Version\) \(\(Radio Version\) \[Official Lyric Video\]\)](#)

[It Is Well With My Soul - Audrey Assad \(youtube.com\)](#)

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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 (Prayers of the Faithful)

Response: Lord, *Hear our prayer*

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

Response: Lord, *Hear our prayer*

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

Response: Lord, *Hear our prayer*

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

Response: Lord, *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: Lord, *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: Lord, *Hear our prayer*

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

Response: Lord, *Hear our prayer*

Let us 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 Suggestions:

[All Sons & Daughters - Great Are You Lord \(Lyric Video\)](#)

[Lauren Daigle - How Can It Be \(Lyric Video\)](#)

[Casting Crowns - Oh My Soul \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) - Matt Redman \(Best Worship Song Ever\) \(with Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Kids Version - Lord I Need You \(Official Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Blessing Song](#)

Staff Prayer Service

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

Opening Song Suggestions:

[HERE I AM, LORD - Collin Raye \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MercyMe - Lord I lift your name on high - YouTube](#)

[Gratitude \(Chosen Performance\) - Brandon Lake](#)

[Rest On Us \(feat. Brandon Lake & Eniola Abioye\) | Maverick City Music | UPPERROOM | TRIBL](#)

[Lion and the Lamb lyrics / music video - Bethel Music \(Leeland\)](#)

[Peace \(Lyric Video\) - Josh Baldwin | The War is Over](#)

[Here I Am To Worship | Maranatha! Music \(Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Lauren Daigle - You Say \(Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

+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, let us pray 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, yet equal in your eyes.

Thank you for loving us so deeply and unconditionally

Help us to remember we do not have to earn your love, but that it is given freely.

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 suggestions:

[Though The Mountains May Fall - Dan Schutte \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Matt Maher - Because He Lives \(Amen\) \(\[Official Lyric Video\]\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[All Sons & Daughters - Great Are You Lord \(Lyric Video\)](#)

[Lauren Daigle - How Can It Be \(Lyric Video\)](#)

[Casting Crowns - Oh My Soul \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) - Matt Redman \(Best Worship Song Ever\) \(with Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

Resource Links

- CCCB Jubilee Year Activities with Children and Youth
<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/catechetical-activities-for-children-and-youth/>
- Development and Peace Caritas Canada <https://devp.org/en/resources/>
- [Welcome to Formed! - Formed](#) (Subscription required)
- [Hallow - #1 Catholic Prayer and Meditation App](#) (ICS staff and students are subscribed)
- [3 Months of Hallow Free for Teachers! - Hallow](#) (3 free months for teachers)
- Loyola Press (Children) [Catholic Kids | Loyola Press](#)
- Loyola Press (Teens) [Catholic Teens | Loyola Press](#)
- The Bible Project [Study the Story of the Bible With Free Tools | BibleProject™](#)
- Busted Halo <https://bustedhalo.com/category/ministry-resources>

“Our heart is restless until it rests in you.” St. Augustine

Acknowledgements

Every effort has been made to properly document and/or provide references 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.

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