



## *Inspiration for* **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021**

January 31st-February 6th

### Faith | Excellence | Service

- Faith in Jesus is the foundation of our work.
- Catholic educators guide students as they form excellent habits and flourish in virtue, imitating Christ.
- A radical commitment to service reminds us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Christ.

Drawing from NCEA's theme, our team and ICLE Member Schools have gathered these mission-driven ideas for amplifying our celebration of Catholic Schools Week.



### Sunday | Celebrating Your Parish *Focus on Beauty*

*"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit' of the Christian life."  
(CCC 1324)*

As the Eucharist is the summit of our lives, the Mass is the heart of Catholic schools. Draw attention to the Beauty of the Liturgy with special emphasis on sacred music, prayer, and reverence for the Eucharist.

#### In the parish:

- Attend Holy Mass as a school community.
- Plan a Eucharistic procession.
- Offer a school tour for parish members.
- Invite students and parishioners to pray for your school before the Blessed Sacrament.



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## Monday | Celebrating Your Community Focus on Goodness

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."  
(1 Thessalonians 1:2)*

Choosing the Good nurtures our communities. We can serve by meeting material needs; but the greatest service is evangelical: bringing the light of Christ to all we meet.

### Honor and serve:

- Partner with your parish or a local apostolate for a service project.
- Begin a novena to your school's patron saint for community intentions.
- Show school pride with an informal spirit wear day.



## Tuesday | Celebrating Your Students Focus on Truth

*"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers."* (Luke 2: 46-47)



"The truth shall set you free." We encourage our students to find that freedom through intellectual and moral virtue.

### Encouraging students:

- Showcase student work through a science fair, poetry recitation, or school trivia bowl.
- Let older students create games for younger students to enjoy.
- Inspire leadership and friendly competition through an 8th grade vs. faculty game.



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## Wednesday | Celebrating The Nation Focus on Piety



*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!”  
(Psalm 33:12)*

Our country has articulated ideals of human dignity, and we are called to fully live those ideals in reflection of our eternal citizenship in the City of God.

### Being good citizens:

- Encourage devotion to our beloved American saints.
- Pray an all-school rosary around the flagpole.
- Organize a service project to benefit veterans.
- Teach students how to write to their representatives to protect all human life.

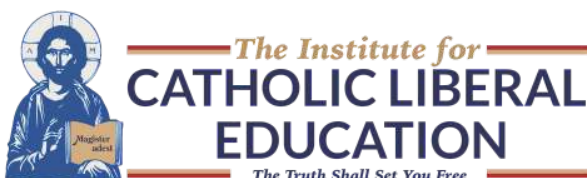
## Thursday | Celebrating Vocations Focus on Listening for God's Call in Our Lives

*“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’” (Matthew 16:24-25)*

All of us are called by Christ to “Come, follow Me.” We teach students to attend to the voice of Jesus in their vocations discernment and their everyday decisions.

### Hearing God's call:

- Host a Vocations Day: invite married, consecrated, and religious guests to address students.
- Organize a school-wide spiritual bouquet for your pastor, and a diocese-wide bouquet for the bishop.
- Shower priests and religious at your school with love!



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## Friday | Celebrating Faculty

### Focus on Self-Gift

*“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’” (Luke 11:11)*

Teachers and mentors share in the formative and transformative work of The Great Teacher. The constant inspiration of Christ’s example guides our approach to our curriculum, our duties, and our relationships with our students.

#### Honoring staff:

- Invite parents to organize a staff lunch.
- Encourage students to write teacher thank you notes.
- Instill in older students a respect for the teaching profession by inviting them to plan and present a lesson to a class.



## Saturday | Celebrating Families

### Focus on the First School of Love

*“The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society.” (CCC 2207)*



Parents are the primary educators of their children (CCC 2223). School communities can support this God-given role by providing a rich curriculum and ample assistance for parents engaged in their student’s formation.

#### Supporting families:

- Prepare Family Game Night materials to hand out in Friday car line.
- Launch a family book study.
- Homework assignment: *Discuss a topic that you are learning in school with your parents.*

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## ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Special input from several superintendents across the nation yielded these terrific elements to incorporate.

### *Texts to Inspire*

#### SUNDAY

Read "Pied Beauty" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.  
Attend to small beauties in your life.

#### MONDAY

To reflect on Goodness, read the classic folktale  
"Stone Soup" with primary grade students.

#### TUESDAY

Read John 1: 1-9. Compare truth and light. Why  
did John use the image of light here?

#### WEDNESDAY

Read The Declaration of Independence.  
What ideals do the founders reverence?

#### THURSDAY

To reflect on hearing God's call, ponder the  
conversion of Paul (Acts 1:1-19) or Augustine  
(Confessions, Book VIII, Ch. 8-12).

#### FRIDAY

To reflect on self-gift, read "The Gift of the Magi"  
as a class or as a school.

#### SATURDAY

Encourage parents to tell family stories to their  
children during dinner.



### *Saints to Imitate*

Read about, memorize a quote from,  
or pray for the intercession of:

#### SUNDAY

Saint John Vianney  
Patron saint of parish priests

#### MONDAY

Your School or Parish Patron

#### TUESDAY

Saint Thomas Aquinas  
Patron saint of students

#### WEDNESDAY

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception  
Patroness of The United States

#### THURSDAY

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Wife, mother, foundress

#### FRIDAY

Saint John Bosco  
"Father and Teacher of Youth"

#### SATURDAY

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin  
and Thérèse of Lisieux  
Models of domestic holiness

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today's Catholic schools by drawing on the  
Church's tradition of education, which frees  
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