



INSTITUTE FOR
CATHOLIC LIBERAL
EDUCATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

January 29th-February 4th

One thing our children hunger for are real traditions. In that spirit, and to help such traditions build the ethos of the school community, many of the Catholic Schools Week suggestions remain similar year-to-year.

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.
- Organize a Holy Hour for students: Invite parishioners to join in prayer for the school.



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Monday | Celebrating Your Community *Focus on Goodness*

"We give thanks to God always for all of you . . . 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

- Begin a novena to your school's patron saint for community intentions.
- Pack plastic bags with essential items for students to pass out to our homeless brothers and sisters.
- Make beautiful cards to send to a nearby hospital or nursing home.
- 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.
- Share one thing you love about each of the students in your class.



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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.
- Bring flowers to a nearby war memorial or national cemetery. Pray for fallen heroes and their families.
- 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 vocational 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!
- Share about the involvement of religious orders at your school, past or present.



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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

- Encourage parents to organize a staff lunch.
- Invite 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.*

Thank you to our generous Member Schools that contributed photos and ideas for this publication: Holy Child Catholic School, Holy Innocents School, Light of Christ Academy, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Saint Augustine Academy, The Saint Austin School, St. Peter Catholic School, and Saint Theresa Catholic School.



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ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Resources to Inspire

SUNDAY

Pray the Student's Prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas for this coming week.

MONDAY

To reflect on Goodness and serving your neighbor, read the beautifully illustrated story The Night Gardener, by Terry Fan.

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 1:1-2:2. What kind of world did God create and why should we seek to understand it?

WEDNESDAY

Do a picture study and reflect on what it means to be both Catholic and patriotic.

THURSDAY

Read Luke 2:22-40. What was most important in the lives of Simeon and Anna?

FRIDAY

To reflect on examples of faith and perseverance, read Hebrews 11.

SATURDAY

Encourage parents to tell stories of exemplary family members to their children during dinner.



Saints to Imitate

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

SUNDAY

Saint Thomas Aquinas
The Angelic Doctor

MONDAY

Your School or Parish Patron

TUESDAY

Saint Albert the Great
Teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas
and patron of science students

WEDNESDAY

The Immaculate Conception
Patroness of the United States

THURSDAY

Saints Simeon and Anna
Models of recognizing God after waiting for the fulfillment of His promises

FRIDAY

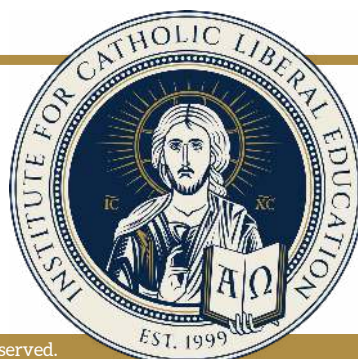
St. John Baptist de la Salle
Patron of Catholic teachers

SATURDAY

Each family's favorite saints



The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education inspires and equips Catholic educators to renew today's Catholic schools by drawing on the Church's tradition of education, which frees teachers and students for the joyful pursuit of faith, wisdom, and virtue.



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