

WHEN WE CAN PRAY IN CLASSROOM SETTING

WHY PRAY IN THE CLASSROOM

- Need for spiritual life is part of the development of students as Maturing Catholic Christians. It is important that prayer be part of class and be something that permeates the school day.
- Students need to be given opportunities to broaden their understanding of prayer. The different prayer traditions accommodate different personalities, comfort levels and ways of listening to and talking with God. There is no one way to pray – there are a variety of pathways to prayer that lead to God. Need to learn the various prayer traditions.
- Want to help students learn about the wonderful greatness of God; help them be more like God; help them to trust God more; should link them to their faith community, their families and their friends.

REGULAR:

- Celebrate **passages in class** – beginnings / endings of class, day, month, semester, school year; morning prayer, end of day prayer. **Meal prayer** before lunch: gratitude for food and other blessings
- **Before a** test, performance, competition, great event
- **During class or day:** connect what teaching with prayer; when something occurs that requires a response (with class students or within school); when it fits within the lesson as opportunity. Petitions from students
- **Birthdays or special feast days** for people in class or for school; anniversaries which are important to school or to this class. Focus on feasts and seasons of the church year; patron saints, special saint days. Celebrate within context and themes of church year: Halloween should have clear relationship to observance of All Saints' Day, All Souls Day and the month of November
- **Times of celebration / sorrow** connected to what's happening in world outside school. Death of member of family, death of student, disaster in world, event in community that touches them, event in world that touches them. Thanksgiving for joy or gift or event or people in world that have touched them with joy.
- **Blessings when appropriate** – birthday, sick child, beginning of year, class leaders, before class trip, of bible, candle, classroom, students themselves, they could bless you the teacher.
- **Possible prayer times:** a prayer to begin school year; prayer for Thanksgiving; end of day prayers for feast of Mary; a blessing for Halloween; Litany of Saints; a prayer for the dead; a blessing of the advent wreath; end of day prayer in Advent or Lent; a blessing before Christmas break; a blessing of the stable; blessing of the classroom, of the cross, of the candle, of the prayer table, of the bible; farewell to the alleluia; preparation of ashes; a blessing before Easter break; welcoming the Alleluia; a blessing after initiation; a May blessing of an image of Mary; a blessing before summer vacation; a farewell blessing of a friend; a blessing of food, of gifts to share, of each other.
- **Liturgical seasons prayer:** advent prayer, wreath, Christmas crib, tree, season; Lent – Ash Wednesday, lent tree, palms, holy week, ; Easter season, Pentecost; feasts of Mary

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. **Blessing of the school year**
- Sept. 8 Birth of Mary
- Sept 13 St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of church
- Sept 14. **Holy Cross - blessing of cross**
- Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- Sept. 16 International Day of Peace
- Sept 17 Hildegard of Bingen, mystic
- Sept. 21 St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist
- Sept. 26 North American Martyrs
- Sept 27 St. Vincent de Paul, priest and religious founder
- Sept. 29 Feast of Angels
- Sept 30 St. Jerome, priest and doctor of church

OCTOBER

- Oct. 1 St. Therese of the Child Jesus; Int. Day for Older Persons
- Oct. 2 Feast of Guardian Angels; Gandhi's Birthday
- Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi, religious founder
- Oct. 6 St. Marie-Rose Durocher, religious foundress
- Oct. 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- Oct. 8 St. Mechthild of Magdeburg, author & mystic
- Oct. 15 St. Teresa of Avila, doctor of church
- Oct. 16 **World Food Day**
- Oct. 17 Int. Day for Overcoming Poverty; St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr
- Oct. 18 St. Luke
- Oct. 19 Ss. Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf and Companions, priests, missionaries, martyrs
- Oct. 31 **Halloween – blessing**
- Oct. Thanksgiving - bless gifts

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 **All Saints - litany of saints**
- Nov. 2 **All Souls - prayer for the dead**
- Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres
- Nov. 4 St. Charles Borromeo, bishop
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day; St. Martin of Tours, bishop
- Nov. 13 St. Francis Cabrini, religious founder, missionary. Patron Saint of Immigrants
- Nov. 16 Martyrs of El Salvador. Jesuits and two women killed. Int. Day of Tolerance
- Nov. 16 St. Margaret of Scotland, queen; St. Gertrude the Great, religious
- Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
- Nov. 18 St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, religious missionary
- Nov. 21 Presentation of Mary

- Nov. 22 St. Cecilia, martyr
- Nov. 25 Int. Day for Elimination of Violence against Women
- Nov. 29 Dorothy Day
- Nov. 30 St. Andrew

DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 World AIDS Awareness Day
- **Advent Bless Advent wreath, advent calendar, Jesse tree**
- Dec 2. Martyrs of El Salvador. Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, Jean Donovan; Int. Day for Abolition of Slavery
- Dec. 3 Int. Day of Disabled Persons; St. Francis Xavier, religious, missionary
- Dec. 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- Dec. 6 St. Nicolas
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of Mary
- Dec. 10 International Human Rights Day
- Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13 St. Lucy, martyr
- Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross, priest, bishop, doctor of church
- Dec. **Blessing before Christmas break, blessing of stable, of tree**

JANUARY

- Jan 1 World Day of Prayer for Peace; Mary, Mother of Church
- Jan 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious founder, wife, mother
- Jan. 6 Epiphany; Blessed Andre Bessette, religious (St. Joseph Oratory)
- Jan. 8 Baptism of Lord
- Jan 12 St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, missionary, religious foundress
- Jan 15 Martin Luther King
- Jan 21 St. Agnes, martyr
- Jan 24 St. Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor of church
- Jan. 25 Conversion of St. Paul
- Jan. 27 St. Angela Merici, religious foundress, educator
- Jan. 28 St. Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor of church
- Jan. 30 Gandhi died
- Jan 31 St. John Bosco
- Jan. **Blessing after Christmas break, blessing of the classroom**
- Jan Christian Unity Week

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1 St. Brigid of Ireland, religious foundress
- Feb. 2 Presentation of Lord
- Feb 2 St. Blaise, bishop & martyr, blessing of throats
- Feb. 5 St. Agatha, martyr
- Feb. 10 St. Scholastica, religious foundress
- Feb. 11 Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of the Sick

- Feb. 14 St. Valentine - blessing for day
- Feb. **Farewell to the Alleluia**
- Feb. **Ash Wednesday – Lent**
- Feb. **Blessing of class candle**

MARCH

- March 1 Int. Day for Abolition of Death Penalty
- March 3 Blessed Katherine Drexel, religious foundress
- March 7 St. Thomas Aquinas; Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs
- March 8 Int. Women's Day
- March 17 St. Patrick
- March 19 St. Joseph
- March 21 Int. Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- March 24 Oscar Romero, bishop, martyr
- March 25 Annunciation of Our Lord
- March 26 Anne Frank
- March **Blessing before Easter break**
- Lent **Development and Peace – Solidarity resources**
- March **Welcome alleluia back**
- Easter time **Blessing after initiation**

APRIL

- April 4 Refugee Rights Day
- April 7 John Baptist de la Salle, priest
- April 9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer Day
- April 20 Week of Indigenous People
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 24 Death of Cesar Chavez
- April 25 St. Mark, evangelist
- April 27 Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day
- April 29 Catherine of Siena, doctor of church

MAY

- May 1 St. Joseph the worker
- May 5 St. Irene, martyr
- May 8 St. Juliana of Norwich
- May 14 St. Matthew
- May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
- May 31 Visitation
- May Ascension of Lord
- May Pentecost
- May **Blessing of image of Mary**

JUNE

- June 12 Anne Frank Day; World Day against Child Labour
- June 21 Int. Solidarity Day with Indians
- June 24 St. John the Baptist
- June 26 Int. Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- June **Graduation service or blessing**
- June **Blessing before summer vacation**

Reference: **Children's Daily Prayer for the School Year 1998 – 1999.** Elizabeth McMahon Jeep. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.