

PA Prayers Throughout the Year

PA prayers throughout the year is meant to be a help to principals/schools who give PA announcements each day. It is not an exhaustive list for each and every day. It is for special feast days and seasons as well as a general guide to help focus morning prayer for the students.

It is meant as a resource to get a principal started in building solid prayer routines for the school community.

On ordinary days (most days) we suggest having a prayer that all students memorize such as the Morning Offering (see below) or another traditional prayer(s). It is good for students to learn various traditional prayers so that students have these on command in their "storehouse of prayers" for their entire lives especially in times of struggle when we sometimes just do not know what to pray. This is offered to you as a resource and help.

[Daily Bible Readings, Audio and Video Every Morning | USCCB](#)

Daily Resources for Ordinary Time Prayers

1) Morning Offering (Traditional)

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart; the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians; I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all members of the Apostleship of Prayer, and in particular for the intention recommended by the Holy Father this month.^[6]

2) **Morning Offering** (Regnum Christi)

Lord Jesus,

I give you my hands to do your work.

I give you my feet to follow your path.

I give you my eyes to see as you see.

I give you my tongue to speak your words.

I give you my mind so you can think in me.

I give you my spirit so you can pray in me.

Above all I give you my heart so in me you can love your Father and all people.

I give you my whole self so you can grow in me;

Till it is you, Christ, who lives and works and prays in me.

V: Christ our King

R: Thy Kingdom come!

V: Virgin most prudent, Mary, Mother of the Church,

R: Pray for us.

3) Children's daily offering prayer

For love of me you came to earth; you gave your life for me. So every day you give me now. I give back happily. Take all my laughter, all my tears, each thought, each word, each deed. And let them be my all-day prayer, to help all those in need.^[6]

(Special Prayers throughout the school year)

Opening Day

Welcome back and happy new year! As we begin this new school year, let us join together in prayer to thank God we are all together again and ask our Lord to bless our year together.

Heavenly Father,

We praise you and thank you for this first day in our new school year. Thank you for a wonderful summer break to refresh our body, minds, and souls. Thank you for returning us back together to begin again. Thank you for all of our new students (and new teachers) who are joining us this year. We ask you to bless us as we begin this year, keep us safe together, help us to learn and grow in knowing you, in community, and in our academics. May we seek you in everything we learn and use this knowledge for your glory. We make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

First Week(s) of School

This first week of school we continue to thank our Lord for a new school year and ask for wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to learn and grow into the person God is calling us to be.

Almighty God,

You are indeed holy and worthy to be praised. We thank you for this new school year. You have called us to (name of school) to learn and grow. We ask for you to send your Holy Spirit among us. May your Holy Spirit work through the teachers and staff at (name of school) so that as we listen to their teachings and guidance, we become all that you are calling us to be. We especially ask for the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. May we order our lives according to your plan for our lives. Help us to hear you and respond to your call through our academics and spiritual lives. Help us to see how you are working in us and calling us to grow deeper in our relationship with you. We make our prayer through Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Feast of the Memorial of John the Baptist

September 29th

Good Morning, today is the Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist. St. John was the cousin of Jesus who prepared the way for the Lord by preaching of the coming of the Messiah and calling people to repentance. When Jesus approached John, John said, he was not fit to untie his sandals. John knew Jesus came into the world to save the world from sin. Because John preached the truth even when inconvenient, it cost him his life. This happened when he stood up to Herod and told him the truth. Today, we honor his bravery for standing up for what is good, right, and holy.

And so we pray, In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit..

Heavenly Father,

You sent John the Baptist as the voice in the desert to preparing the way for Jesus our Lord. You sent him to preach and teach repentance of sin. You sent him to baptize and tell everyone to follow Jesus. You gave him strength of character and purpose. He knew your mission. We ask you for the ability to hear his call and to act upon it. We also pray for the strength to live the mission of following Jesus in our school, family, and in our world.

We make our prayer in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

September 8 Birth of Mary

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of Mary, the mother of our savior, Jesus Christ. This day is celebrated nine months after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, she is also the mother of all who believe and follow him. This is why we call her the Blessed Mother. People of every nation and language honor Mary. They have shown her in many beautiful paintings and statues, and they have given her many titles of respect.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

God our Father of mercy, give to us your people, help and strength from heaven.

The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son (Jesus) was the dawn of our salvation.

May our celebration of her birthday today bring us closer to lasting peace. We ask for her intercession as we pray... (Hail Mary)

We make our prayer in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

September 11 Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks

Today is the anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001. We remember all those who died in New York City, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania.

It is a sad anniversary to remember, but it is also a day that reminds us to pray for peace in our families, neighborhoods, and the whole world.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

God our loving Father,

Violence and cruelty have no part in your plan for our lives.

May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them.

May those who are enemies let go of their hatred, learn to work and live in unity so that our world may be healed.

We make our prayer in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This day recalls the discovery of our Lord's cross in Jerusalem in the fourth century and the dedication of a church and basilica on that site thus marking the places of Christ's crucifixion and the empty tomb.

The "Sign of the Cross," is the symbol of God's great love for all humanity. This symbol of love came with a great cost- it cost the very Son of God, Jesus Christ, tremendous suffering and His very life. Each time we make the Sign of the Cross, let us remember we Christ's incredible love for us through his death and suffering. Let us also recall Christ's cross is our salvation.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

God our Father of Mercy and Love,

You decreed that we should be saved through the wood of the cross. Yet this tree of defeat became our tree of victory. Where all lives were lost in sin, our lives have been restored in the resurrection of Christ.

As we acknowledge the mystery of the cross on earth, may we receive the gift of redemption in heaven.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

September 21

Feast of St. Matthew

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Matthew, one of the apostles. Matthew was a tax collector, but he left his job to follow Jesus. Matthew was also called Levi. This name means that he came from a family of priests. He probably studied the Jewish religion very well when he was young which may have helped him understand the teachings of Jesus. Matthew is counted as one of the four Gospel writers. They are called evangelists which means "someone who tells the good news."

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God, we thank you for sending apostles to the whole world. We welcome those who bring your good news. Matthew showed us how Jesus was a descendant of King David, the promised one who would show us the Kingdom of God. Help us to follow Jesus our King more closely in our lives and bring Christ's love to others. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

September 29 **Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (Feast of the Archangels)**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Angels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. In the Bible, each of these angels were known for the particular jobs they performed. Michael fought the enemies of God. Gabriel carried messages for God and Raphael guided travelers to safety. Over the centuries we have asked for their intercessions and aide in our daily lives.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Michael, image of God's justice,
Angel warrior, God's right arm,
March beside us on our journey;
Ward off evil, fear and harm.

Gabriel, voice of God's salvation,
Messenger with news of grace,
Teach us of God's work and wonders
And the beauty of God's face.

Raphael, star to brighten darkness,
Giving friendship, giving light,
Walk the path that we must travel,
Our companion day and night.

Joined in song by angel guardians,
Let our alleluias ring,
God is with us now and always,
Glory to our Lord and King!
Amen.

October
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Month of the Rosary

[The Mysteries of the Rosary | The](#)

October is the Month of the Rosary. During this month we ask our Blessed Mother to teach us about her son, Jesus and intercede for us in a special way by praying the rosary. During our morning prayer we

will pray (one decade, one Hail Mary, or perhaps once a week the whole rosary). When we pray using the Rosary, we focus on the life of Christ with Mary. We ponder as Mary pondered and we say yes to all that Jesus is calling us to do in our lives just as Mary did. In this special prayer, we join Mary and learn about the major events in Jesus' life. Mary as our heavenly mother accompanies us in our spiritual journey watching over us and caring for us.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

(Name the Mystery of the Rosary you will focus on today)

(Is there a person, group, or situation you will offer this prayer for this morning: those in the hospital, the dying, those with a particular disease like cancer, a situation in the world, for world peace, for the homeless...)

(If praying a full decade or entire rosary use the traditional format)

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

October 18

Feast of St. Luke

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Luke, who is counted as one of the four Gospel writers. They are called evangelists a word that means "someone who tells the good news." Luke also wrote the book of the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles. Luke traveled with St. Paul and brought good news of Jesus to many nations. Luke was a doctor as well. Imagine a doctor who healed bodies as well as souls!

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heavenly Father,
You inspired St. Luke to write words in the Holy Bible that would open our hearts and minds leading us closer to you. Help us better understand your word each and every day. Let your word take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

October 28

St. Simon and St. Jude

Today is the Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, two of the Apostles. Simon was known as the Zealot which means he believed strongly in his faith and he may have belonged to a political party called the Zealots or he received the name because he was so excited about carrying out God's work.

Jude was known as Thaddaeus which means "brave." This nickname tells us that Jude did very brave works for Jesus. We also know St. Jude as the patron saint of lost causes.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Almighty Father,

We thank you for sending apostles to the whole world to bring your Good News. Help us to always be open to hearing your message to us. We pray that each time we hear the Good News, we allow it to transform our lives so that we become more and more like Jesus who reached out to those in need and transformed the world. May we also be bearers of the Good News to others. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

October 31

October 31st-November (Communion of Saints- [Communion of](#)

[Saints | Catholic Answers](#)

November is a time of year and the beginning of the earth's winter sleep.

This time of year turns people's thoughts to those who have fallen asleep in death. So as we begin this November, we celebrate two special days in the Church calendar.

Tomorrow is All Saints Day. On All Saints Day we celebrate the Communion of Saints- the union of prayer and love between saints on earth (like you and me), the souls in purgatory, and saints in heaven.

Some saints are famous. Their names are in prayer books or their pictures are on the walls or windows of churches, or their statues are in churches. Their stories tell us that there are many ways to follow Christ. On November 2nd we will celebrate All Soul's Day, the second day we remember saints. On All Soul's Day we recall our relatives and friends who have been called home to be with the Lord. Many of them are not famous. They have no statue or picture in church, but their names and pictures are written and carried in our hearts and homes. They are part of our family stories and we keep their memories alive within us. They were not perfect, but they tried to do their best and we pray for them and remember them with great love.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heaven Father,

We thank you for the Cloud of Witnesses we call the Communion of Saints who gather in heaven around your throne to praise you. We ask for the intercession of all the saints in heaven who spent their life on earth following Jesus and leading others to Christ. We pray for the saints we have surrounding us each and every day in our families and friends. Help us to help each other to grow in holiness and love. May we witness the love of Jesus to each other and to those outside our families. We also pray for those who have passed from this life who are awaiting their final communion with you in heaven. May the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.

November

During the month of November we recall in our prayers family members, friends, and those we love who have passed from this life unto the next. We especially intercede for those who may have no one to pray for them.

Heavenly Father,

We gather this morning to lift up those in our community who have lose loved ones (especially: is there someone at school or in the parish to mention). As we pray this morning we ask for their soul and all the souls of the departed to rest in your eternal peace and love.

Let us pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

(options below)

1) Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. O Lord, your sorrowing Mother stood by your cross; help us in our sorrows to share your sufferings.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of Thy servants departed the remission of their sins, that, through pious supplications, they may obtain the pardon which they have always desired. Who lives and reigns with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end.
Amen.

2) Lord Jesus, Word Incarnate, who shared our human nature and became like us in everything but sin, I ask You to pardon those that do not have any intercessors. You were lonely in the Garden of Gethsemane before Your death, and in another place, You told us that the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. Because You shared our sufferings, I dare to ask You to help those most helpless and most in need of Your mercy. Amen.

3) My God, who marvelously made humankind, and more marvelously redeemed us, give pardon to those of the dead who are closest to being cleansed of their sins and attaining union with You. In baptism, they became a new creation, pleasing in Your sight and, though unworthy, were called Your children. These souls have now run the course of their earthly lives. Summon the divine power You once showed them and let them who are so near to You finally meet You in Heaven. Amen.

4) My God, Lord over the living and the dead, I ask You to have mercy on Your servants who are yet far from shedding their sins and joining the choir of angels and saints that continuously adore You in Heaven. They too were

created to love You, serve You and forever be happy with You. Therefore, I ask You to graciously hear my prayers for their benefit and the benefit of all the faithful departed. Amen.

- 5) Gracious Father, thank you for the times and seasons you gave us with our loved one, [name]. He was a great person who devoted his/her life to you. Our beloved died knowing that he/she was coming back to you. Father, we also know and believe that to be absent from the body is to be present with you; that is why we come before you with hopeful hearts knowing that our dearly beloved will see your glory. Thank you, Father, for loving [name] and seeing it fit to take him/her home in this season. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.
- 6) Most Merciful Father, grant the soul of our loved one, [name], mercy. He/She has departed from this world. Please forgive him/her of his/her trespasses and usher him/her into your presence. May your faithful servant find refreshment, peace, and joy before you, O Lord. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.
- 7) Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for us. If it were not for your great sacrifice, we would all be lost forever. I want to thank you for the life of our departed soul, [name]. He/She loved everyone and strived to make a positive impact in the lives of those with whom he/she interacted. Lord, as we celebrate a life well-lived, we ask you to grant him/her eternal peace. May [name] find full rest in you and join the heavenly hosts in singing your glory. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

[Prayers For The Soul Of The Faithful Departed - Powerful & Uplifting Words For Prayer \(prayerist.com\)](http://prayerist.com)

November 3 Cathedral Dedication Anniversary

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati. The cathedral is the main church for our entire archdiocese. The word “cathedral” comes from the word “cathedra” which in Latin means “chair.” A cathedral is the church of any diocese where the bishop’s chair is located. It is a symbol of the bishop’s authority and his role as teacher. Today, the Archbishop of Cincinnati is Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. Let us remember him today in our prayers.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

We thank you, Father, for this house of prayer in which you bless your family as we come to you on pilgrimage. Here you reveal your presence by sacramental signs and make us one with you through the unseen bond of grace. Here you build your temple of living stones and bring the Church to its full stature

as the body of Christ throughout the world to reach its perfection at last in the heavenly Jerusalem which is the vision of your peace. In communion with all the angels and saints, we bless and praise your greatness. Amen.

(If you have never been to St. Peter in Chains Cathedral downtown in Cincinnati, talk to your parents and ask to visit it sometime. It is a very beautiful cathedral.)

November 9 St. John Lateran Dedication Anniversary

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Rome. This cathedral of St. John is one of the four main churches located in and about the city of Rome and is known as the Pope's cathedral because the Pope is the bishop of this cathedral. The church is located on Lateran hill which is why it is also called St. John Lateran. Today, the bishop of Rome is (name of the current Pope). Let us remember him in our prayers today.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

We thank you, Father, for this house of prayer in which you bless your family as we come to your on pilgrimage. Here you reveal your presence by sacramental signs and make us one with you through the unseen bond of grace. Here you build your temple of living stones and bring the Church to its full stature as the body of Christ throughout the world to reach its perfection at last in the heavenly city of Jerusalem which is the vision of your peace. We also lift up our Pope (name the Pope). Please be with him and support him in leading your Church today. In communion with all the angels and saints, we bless and praise your greatness. Amen.

ADVENT (Begins after Christ the King Sunday, check the calendar each year)

[Advent Resources - IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://IgnatianSpirituality.com)

[How to Celebrate a Traditional Advent Season | News | Leaflet Missal \(leafletonline.com\)](#)

[Prayer for Advent - Advent & Christmas Season - Catholic Online](#)

[The Magnificat - The Prayer of Mary | EWTN](#)

[Magnificat Bookstore](#) (will have many different types of prayer books for Advent and Lent)

[Ignatius Press](#)

As we travel through this advent season we ask that the Lord draws us closer to his Son, Jesus who was born as a tiny babe in Bethlehem. As God revealed his loving plan for all of humanity through Jesus, help us learn of his plan for our lives and help us share Christ with others. We also ask that just as Mary our heavenly mother said yes to God's plan we to understand God has created us to know him and follow his plan for our lives.

Let us pray...

Lord our God and Father,

You chose the perfect time, the perfect place, and the perfect Mother and Father for your Son to be born into our world. We ask that through this Advent Season, you open our hearts and minds in a new way to Jesus' loving presence in our lives. Call us closer to Jesus and prepare us to come to the manger to see the new and incredible things he will do in our lives as we follow your plan. Just as Mary prepared to bring Jesus, your Son, into our world, help us to bring Jesus into our families, classroom, and friends by our thoughts, words, and actions. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Other options: (especially for those lighting Advent candles each week. There are many good websites for other Advent prayers,

First Week

Heavenly Father, we anxiously await the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite you into our homes and hearts, that during this period of purification and preparation, you fill us up with the power of the Holy Spirit. Strengthened in you, we say, Let it be done according to thy will. Amen.

Second Week

I Lord, our Father, give us the strength to purify myself in anticipation of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we find the strength within ourselves to seek you in prayer, to reconcile ourselves to you through fasting and confession. Let it be done, according to thy will. Amen.

Third Week

Our Father, we wait in joyful anticipation for the fulfilment of your promises to us! We await the coming of Jesus Christ, your heavenly gift to all humankind. Give us the strength to remain steadfastly devoted to you during this time of holy preparation. Let it be done according to thy will. Amen.

Fourth Week

Heavenly Father, the hour has nearly arrived! Assist us in keeping our preparations for the arrival of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Please accept our humble efforts to prepare as a sign of our sincerity and gratitude to you, from whom all good things come. Let it be done according to thy will! Amen. [Prayer for Advent - Advent & Christmas Season - Catholic Online](#)

November 30

Feast of St. Andrew

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew one of the 12 apostles. The feast of at least one of the apostles every month of the year. This shows the importance of the apostles as witnesses of the faith to the whole Church through all time.

Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter. He was one of the first to respond to Jesus' call and he brought his brother Simon to meet Jesus. Andrew is a perfect saint to remind us of Advent. More than two thousand years ago, Andrew was waiting with great longing for the coming of the Messiah. We also wait Jesus as we celebrate Advent each year.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

We thank you for gathering your apostles, teaching them, and sending them out to the world to bring the good news. We thank them for following your ways and calling others to know you more. May we listen to their teachings about Jesus and share what we have learned with others so that everyone may know of your love for them. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day recalls that from the first moments of her life, in the womb of St. Ann, Mary was kept free from sin. She was given this special grace by God since she would become the mother of Jesus our Lord.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Loving God and Father,

You prepared the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son. You let her share in advance the salvation Christ would bring us by his death and resurrection. You kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Help us by her prayers to avoid all sin and grow in holiness and grace each day.

Mary we ask for your intercession as we pray: (Hail Mary).. Amen

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today we celebrate a feast of Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the 1500's, Juan Diego, a Mexican man, had a vision of Mary. Her picture was left on his cloak. The picture shows Mary as a young woman expecting a baby which is a perfect image as we celebrate the season of Advent. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of all the Americas, and a special patroness to the Latino communities. Today we will ask Mary, patroness of the Americans to pray for us.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Most Blessed Virgin Mary,

You have blessed the Americas under the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. We ask for your intercessions to help us to care and love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We ask for your protection and love. Your message to Juan Diego was one of freedom from oppression and sin. Help us to live a life worthy of the call of Christ your Son. May our lives witness to Christ each and every day so that others may see Christ in us. (Let us pray together- Hail Mary..) Amen.

December 18

Advent (The "O Antiphons")

Today we begin the special prayers called the "O Antiphons." The Jewish people show respect for God's name by never saying it out loud. Instead they use the word "Adonai" which means "Lord." In today's prayer we call Jesus "Lord."

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O sacred Lord of ancient Israel who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on mount Sinai. Come stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world, help us carry your light in our hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

December 19

Advent (The "O Antiphons")

Today's "O antiphon" calls Jesus the "Flower of Jesse." Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. He was also the father of King David. The people waited for another great king to be born into David's royal family. This king was prophesied to be the savior of all people.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world, help us carry your light in our hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen

December 20

O Antiphons

Today's "O antiphon" calls Jesus the "Key of David." People with keys are often people with authority. King David once held authority over the peace of Israel- he united them and brought peace to the land.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O Key of David, O Royal of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, unlock the prison walls of death and sin for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world, help us carry your light in our hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

December 21

O Antiphons

Today's "O antiphon" calls Jesus the "Radiant Dawn." We call on God to be our light. Today is the winter solstice (shortest day of the year). From now on we will be moving towards spring and the days will grow longer- light will triumph over darkness. Jesus is our light and triumphant King!

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, son of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world, help us carry your light in your hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

December 22

O Antiphons

Today's "O antiphon" calls Jesus the "keystone." The keystone is the stone in the middle of an arch in a doorway. It supports the other stones so that the arch does not fall. Jesus is called the cornerstone because the cornerstone of a building is perfectly straight so the walls built on it can be strong and true.

Jesus is our keystone.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O King of all nations, the only joy of every human heart; O keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save us who you fashioned from the dust.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world, help us carry your light into our hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

December 23

O Antiphon

Today's "O antiphon" calls Jesus "Emmanuel"- God with us! We celebrate God coming in the flesh to be with his people in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We call his coming in the flesh, the Incarnation. Through the Incarnation, God the Father demonstrates his great love for us by sending his only Son into our world as a tiny baby in Bethlehem. The weeks of planning and waiting are also over. This season of Advent ends tomorrow on Christmas Eve!

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver,

Desire of all nations,

Savior of all people,

Come and set us free, Lord our God.

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,

You govern all creation with your strong and yet tender care.

Come and show your people the way to salvation.

As you bring light and joy into the darkness of our world,

Help us carry your light into our hearts this day and every day as we prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We make our prayer through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

January

A New Year Prayer

[New Year's Prayers: Catholic Prayers and Blessings for New Year's Eve and Day – Hallow](#) (great resource for other prayers as well)

Welcome back to a New Year! As we begin this new calendar year, we commit/recommit ourselves to growing closer to Christ and improving our relationship with him and those around us. Have you made a New Year's commitment? Now is the time to reflect on this. What is one way you can improve your relationship with Christ? Set up a specific time to pray each day? Read the Bible each day? (other ideas) What about also improving your relationship with others? Christ calls us to love others and we can do this by spending more time with a particular friend, making a commitment to only use positive language with our friends, helping someone with homework, (other ideas). As we pray this morning, ask Jesus to show you one way He wants you to grow closer to him and help others.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Jesus our Savior and brother,

We thank you for this new year. We ask you to help us to begin anew. You came as a tiny baby in Bethlehem, and you demonstrated for us through your life that you want us to grow close to your Father and to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and hearts to show us ways you would like us to draw close to you and to the Father. Help us also to find a specific way to be more loving and kind in our family and to those around us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26)”

January 4 **Elizabeth Ann Seton** (Foundress of Catholic Schools in America)

[Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton -Feast Day - January 4 - Catholic Saint of the Day \(catholicreadings.org\)](http://catholicreadings.org)

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton. Elizabeth was a wife, mother, widow, and foundress of the Daughters of Charity who founded schools starting in Emmitsburg, Maryland and eventually across the United States. We are benefiting as a Catholic school because of her work. In honor of this we will ask for her to intercede and pray for our school as well as our work.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God, You blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to Your people. Through her example and prayers, may we learn to express our love for You in love for one another. We ask this through our Lord. Amen.

[Prayer to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - NOVENA PRAYER](#)

January **Respect Life Month**

[Respect Life Month Prayer - Sisters of the Divine Savior](#)

January is Respect Life Month. During this month, we pray for our country to understand the sanctity of life and to work to protect all life from the moment of conception until natural death. Because we believe that God is the author of life and he values every single person, we should do everything we can to promote and protect the gift of life.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heavenly Father,

We praise you and thank you for the gift of life. We ask you to help all people to understand that each and every person was created by you and is irreplaceable. We ask you to help us to treat our family, friends, classmates, and all those we meet with love and care. Help us to love others just as you love us. We pray for those in public office. May they enact laws that respect life at all stages. We lift up mothers who are expecting especially those who are struggling. We ask that you help them find the help they need. We lift up those who are sick and those who are coming to the end of their lives on earth. Bring them the care they need and help all those who care for them. Lord, we also ask that you inspire in us ways we can participate in promoting and defending life. We pray for those who will be attending the March for Life this year. Keep them safe and defend them as they give witness others by their commitment to respecting life. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

January (18-25) Christian Unity Octave

Yesterday we began the annual observance of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. It is the sad result of many historical incidents that all of Jesus' followers are not united. All this week, we should try to remember all of the many things that all Christians have in common most importantly our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that we will continue to work on our unity and bring the light of Christ into our world.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord our God,

Pour out upon us the fullness of your mercy. By the power of your Holy Spirit remove all divisions among Christians. Bring the hearts of all believers together in your praise. Let us move as one body, free of conflict and divisions to eternal life in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 22 National Day of Penance

Today is a National Day of Penance in the United States. We remember with great sorrow this day in 1973 when abortion was made legal in our country. We also recall the Supreme Court ruling in July 2022 sending the decision of legalizing abortion back to each state. We believe all life is sacred because God creates all life. Even before a baby is born, that baby is a special unique part of God's beautiful creation. Today we remember all families expecting babies, and we remember the millions of babies that were

never born because of the evil of abortion. We also pray for all those effected by abortion in anyway including those women who still suffer from this trauma.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life and for the lives o fall my brothers and sisters in Christ. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son, Jesus.

Lord, change the hearts of those who are considering abortion. Help them accept this child and seek help. Let them know they are not alone and there are people who will help them to bring this child into the world.

Lord, change the hearts of those who can enact laws supporting abortion in every state. Help them always to support and promote life. Help us all always proclaim the gospel of life, to promote and protect human life at all of its states of development. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 24

St. Francis De Sales

Today, is the Feast of St. Francis de Sales. St. Francis de Sales is the patron saint for the whole Archdiocese of Cincinnati. St. Francis lived at a time when Christians were fighting each other over the meaning of their faith during the Reformation. He brought many people back to the love and peace Jesus taught. Francis is a great saint to remember as we celebrate Christian Unity.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

God of all nations and Creator of all peoples, heal all that divides us. Teach us to live together in peace. As our world is one, so our future is one in you. Give us one heart and one vision. Make us one body in Christ Jesus and fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit so that we may share your love with others especially those who are far away from you. We ask this through Christ of Lord. Amen.

January 25

Conversion of St. Paul

Today is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Paul spread the Good News to people of all backgrounds from Jerusalem to Rome. After an encounter with Jesus who said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Paul was profoundly changed. His name was changed as well, and he traveled throughout the entire Mediterranean coast line sharing about Jesus and building up the Christian community.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Loving God,

You called St. Paul from persecuting Christians to proclaiming the Gospel. Call us now to listen to your Son and follow him with our entire lives especially when it is most difficult. Give us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, the gifts of courage and fortitude to live out the Gospel in our families and in our world today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Catholic Schools Week

Today is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. We thank our Lord for our school especially all the teachers and staff members who serve in our school. We thank the Lord for all of our classmates and we especially thank our parents who have sacrificed to send us to this Catholic schools. Catholic schools have been part of educating children in the faith and in academics in America since 1783. We are part of this legacy and we pray for the Lord to continue to prosper the work of Catholic schools for many more years to come.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Loving God,

Catholic schools are communities that inspire by teaching your word, living your message, and loving your people. Grant that we will grow and flourish in this mission. Give us strong wills and generous hearts to build virtues for a lifetime in our school communities of today. Give us the courage to accomplish Your desire for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Catholic Schools Week #2

Today is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Each of us has been blessed with the gift of attending a Catholic school. We should take special time this week to thank everyone who makes our education possible. Be sure this week to personally thank everyone who made it possible for you to be here. Let us also lift them up in prayer.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Loving Father,

Catholic schools are communities which inspire by teaching your word, living your message, and loving your people. Grant that we will grow and flourish in this mission. Give us strong and generous hearts to grow in virtue at our school. Give us the courage to accomplish your desire for us. Bless our teachers and all those who support us in our education. Grant them the peace and comfort of knowing we are taking all of their lessons to heart so that we may make our world a better place and become the Christian leaders you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of Jesus your son. Amen.

(February return to a general prayer routine such as the morning offering or other common prayers. Find out when Ash Wednesday/Lent begins and adjust to Lenten Prayers as appropriate.)

February 22

The Chair of St. Peter

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. St. Peter was one of the apostles and the first Pope. This feast's name is very interesting as at one time many centuries ago, there was only one chair at official meetings. It might have been the bench of a judge, the throne of a King or Queen, or the cathedra of a bishop. The word "cathedral" comes from the word "cathedra" which in Latin means "chair." A cathedral is the church of any diocese where the bishop's chair is located. So, this feast of the chair of St. Peter is about the unity of the Church. We are all gathered around the Chair of St. Peter, who was the first Bishop of Rome. He became the leader of all the bishops of the early Church. Today, the bishop of Rome is _____. Let us remember him in our prayers today.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

We thank you for sending apostles to the whole world. We thank you for the example of St. Peter who was our first pope. He guided the Church from the moment the first Pentecost. We ask for his intercession for our Church today. We also lift up our current Pope (_____). Grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to him as he continues to lead our Church today. Help him to show us the way to the truth in all things through the authority you have given to him. Grant him also solace and peace. Hear his prayers on behalf of the Church and the whole world. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and King. Amen.

Lent

[Lent Prayers & Devotions - My Catholic Life!](#)

[Magnificat Discover Magnificat](#)

[A Scriptural Way of the Cross - Written by a Trappist Monk for Pope St. John Paul II | The Catholic Company®](#)

[Devotional / Inspirational | Catholic Gifts & More \(catholicgiftsandmore.com\)](#)

Lent is a good time to get a book that has a scripture and a reflection for each day or you can get a Station of the Cross book and reflection on a station each day throughout Lent. Lent is a good time to make a theme for Lent (Journey to the Cross, Following Jesus, etc..) Ash Wednesday is a good time to kick off your theme with an activity and prayer. I am sure teachers would have some great ideas. There are many prayer books usually come in the mail during January. Above are just a few ideas.

Faculty or High School Students-[The Better Part: A Christ-Centered Resource for Personal Prayer by John Bartunek \(goodreads.com\)](#) (This is a great book for Advent and Lent. It focuses on a Gospel reading each day with reflections.

Lenten Prayers and reflections will normally get you through until April.

April 25

St. Mark

Today is the Feast of St. Mark who went on a missionary journey with St. Paul. One of the four Gospels is named for St. Mark. Mark was the first apostle to complete his gospel. It begins with these words, "This is the Good News of Jesus Christ." Mark's love of Christ compelled him to share about Jesus with everyone he met. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus, be baptized and become a follower of Christ. Because St. Mark wrote the first gospel, we are able to share this with people today. May we be as dedicated to Jesus as St. Mark.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Mark. Let us remember how passionately St. Mark shared the gospel with everyone he could. Grant us the grace to live in communion with you and all those who have followed your Son from the very beginning of the Church. Let us welcome all those who bring the good news to us and teach us the ways of the Lord. We pray for all of our priests and religious who give us the example of dedicating themselves solely to spreading your message and your love in our world today. May we also spread your word in our families and to others, may they see all the works we do and give glory to God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY WEEK

Monday

Holy Week

Yesterday, on Palm Sunday, Christians throughout the world began the celebration of Holy Week. We have three more days of Lent. Let us set aside these holiest of all days of the year even more profoundly than the rest of the days of Lent. Perhaps we can talk with our parents about ways we can celebrate these days differently. We could go to a special night of reconciliation (mention any parish events here), we can visit the our church in the evening, or pray special prayers as a family at home. You can also pray this prayer every day yourself to honor the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heavenly Father,

You loved the world so very much that you sent your only Son to become one of us and teach us to know you. Jesus said if we "know him, we know the Father." This holiest week of our year, help us to draw close to Jesus who called us into relationship with himself so that we may know you even more. Let us be forever changed by Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior forever. Amen.

Tuesday

Holy Week

Easter Prayer

[Easter Prayers for 2023 | Catholic Prayers and Blessings | Hallow](#)
[Easter Prayers - Prayers - Catholic Online](#)

Happy Easter! The Easter season continues all the way to Pentecost. During this season we recall Christ's victory over sin and death. Our Alleluia we put away during the Lenten season has returned with Christ's triumph over the cross and the grave. His victory is our victory! We remind ourselves that just as Jesus our Risen Lord conquered sin and death, we share in his victory because he has opened the way to salvation to us. Let us now, call on Jesus to give us the power and strength to overcome all temptation and sin in our lives so that we may always be Easter people!

Let us pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Almighty Father,

You sent your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ into the world to show us the way to you. Jesus took on sin and death by his suffering and dying on the cross and you raised him from the dead. His victory is our victory! We proclaim Jesus as Lord and rejoice in our salvation through his passion, death, and resurrection! This is the paschal mystery! We praise you for your great love for us through your Son, Jesus Christ! We ask that you fill us with Easter joy and bring us into an even stronger relationship with you. We also ask you to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls to grow and learn from your Holy Spirit who shows us the way to you and Jesus our Savior. Prepare us for Pentecost! Give us the gifts we need to continue to grow in our spiritual life and to share our love of Jesus with everyone. We make our prayer through Jesus the Christ, our risen Lord and Savior of the World! Amen.

Easter

Easter Prayer (Other Options)

Alleluia and Happy Easter! Easter continues all the way to Pentecost. It is a splendid time of celebration in honor of our Lord who conquered sin and death by his glorious resurrection from the dead. Because Christ rose from the dead, we too are able to participate in his resurrection to new life. When we claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior we recall his dying and rising for our sins and those of the whole world. We can then live as Easter people with great joy and hope in Christ who is our salvation.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

- 1) Loving and glorious God,
We praise you with easter joy because Christ is our redeemer has indeed risen from the dead! Christ has broken the power of sin and healed an injured world. Christ has made creation whole again. May we live in this Easter joy and hope and truly proclaim the truth of Christ's resurrection. May we always live in the image of Christ and bring this message to the world.
Amen.
- 2) Glorious Eternal God,
We praise you this Easter season! Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death! His victory is our victory! We proclaim it from the roof tops that Jesus has indeed risen just as he said. O death where is your victory? Where is your sting? O Christ, You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! May we always serve you in all that we do each and every day. We make our prayer through Christ the Lord our risen Savior! Amen.
- 3) O Risen Lord and Savior,

We rejoice Alleluia! You have risen from the dead and paid the price for our salvation. You have brought us from suffering to joy and shown us the path to life. We pray that through your resurrection and the intercession of the Virgin Mary we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. We pray for our church, families, friends, and especially those who have no one to pray for them to know of the fullness of joy and power of the resurrection and we pray to be fully ready to be renewed in your Holy Spirit this coming Pentecost. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Risen Lord and Savior of the World! Amen.

The Regina Caeli (used during Easter)

Leader: Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia!

All: For He whom thou has merited to bear. Alleluia.

Leader: Has risen as He said, Alleluia.

All: Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Leader: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

All For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Marian Devotion

Today we are reminded that during Eastertide, Mary is honored as the Queen of Heaven (Regina Caeli in Latin). As we celebrate the season of Easter and we await the coming of Pentecost, we recall Jesus' followers who waiting with Mary in the upper room. Let us ask Mary to show us her son through the power of the Holy Spirit.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heavenly Father,

As we celebrate the Easter season, we remember the earliest days of the Church when the gospel was first spread. We remember the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is the first among all the saints. May we always follow her example to say YES to your will in our lives, follow you in times of trouble, and have faith in you when all else has failed.

Mary we honor you as we pray together the Hail Mary, Regina Caeli or some other Maria prayer....

May 3

Sts. Philip and James

Today, May 3rd, we celebrate the Feast of the apostles Sts. Philip and James the Lesser. Remember we celebrate at least one apostle each month during the year because we believe how important the apostles witnesses are in our lives. St. Philip was martyred while preaching the good news in the area we now call the Asia Minor. St. James was the Bishop of Jerusalem before he was martyred. These two saints demonstrate what Jesus meant when he said we all must pick up our cross and follow after him.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

As we celebrate the feasts days of saints Philip and James we recall the early church endured many hardships and trials. This did not stop their joy or keep them from sharing about your resurrection. Your love and power were flowing through the lives of Sts. Philip and James. You used them to teach and preach to the people of their day. Their passion demonstrated their love of Christ. We ask for this powerful love in our own hearts so that we too may witness to your life, death, and resurrection. Keep us always close to you and to your plan for our lives. We ask this through Christ the Lord our risen Savior. Amen.

May 14

St. Matthias

Today, May 14, we celebrate the Feast of St. Matthias. Matthias is the man chosen to take the place of the apostle Judas who betrayed Jesus. In the Acts of the Apostles, you can read about how the eleven apostles gathered together to pray about replacing Judas. God chose Matthias who had been a follower of Jesus from the beginning.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

As we celebrate the Easter season, we remember the earliest days of the Church when the gospel was first spread. Let us today also welcome those who bring your good news to us. We pray for them and listen to their teaching. Just as Matthias was chosen from among those who followed Jesus, let us also be “one who follows Jesus.” May our witness cause others to turn to Christ whose love is ever lasting. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Risen Savior. Amen.

May 22

St. Rita of Cascia

Today, May 22nd, we celebrate the Feast of St. Rita of Cascia. St. Rita is a very special saint who takes care of interceding for impossible situations. She is the female counter part of St. Jude who intercedes for lost causes. St. Rita lived in Italy between 1386-1457. She was married and then widowed at a young age. She spent the last 40 years of her life in a convent, praying, doing works of charity, and working for peace in her country. Even today, many miracles are done when people pray and ask for her help. She is considered a very active saint even though she was on earth a very long time ago. People have been healed of cancer, terrible traumas, and many very serious situations. So when you have a situation that seems to be lost, just remember St. Rita will pray and intercede for you.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Heavenly Father,

You alone are holy and worthy of our praise. Without you nothing is good. Trusting in the prayers of St. Rita, help us become the holy people you call us to be. Help us to follow your will so that we may be deserving of the glory of heaven which you have prepared for us. St. Rita pray for us. We make this prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

May 31st

Visitation of Mary

Today the last day of May, we celebrate the Feast of Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. The Angel Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby and the angel also told Mary that her cousin, even though very old, was also going to have a baby.

Mary went to visit Elizabeth. Elizabeth told Mary that she was blessed among women. This became part of the prayer called the Hail Mary.

And so we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (pause)

Lord God,

As we realize Mary is blessed among all women. Elizabeth proclaimed this for all generations for all of time when Mary came to visit her. Mary comes to visit us in a sense as well. She brings us Jesus and shows us how much Jesus loves us. Mary brings Jesus to the whole world and awaits for the world to accept her Son. Just as Mary stayed with the apostles waiting for Pentecost, Mary waits with us and continues to prompt us to follow Christ. May we always follow her example and bring the love of Jesus to everyone especially those in times of struggle and trials. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.