



CSW Liturgy Planning Guide

Use this guide to plan your liturgies for Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2020. Use the opening Sunday liturgy notes to welcome parish members and school families to the CSW kickoff Mass, and the weekday prayer services to unite students in prayer throughout the week. Weekday prayer services can be organized using the prewritten reflections and prayer intentions, listed scripture readings and suggested songs. Have a hymnal or song book on hand to sing suggested hymns and a computer or phone to play recordings of songs not found in a hymnal.

Opening Sunday Liturgy

Sunday January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 95: 1-2, 6-9

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Second Reading: First Corinthians 7:32-35

I want you to be free of anxieties. I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.

Homily Notes

Faith: Our schools are rooted in faith. The most important aspect of our schools is their ability to share the mission of Jesus and the Catholic faith

with our students. Our faith holds us together and stands at the forefront of our schools. Lord, help us to become worthy servants of your mission and raise up children strong in the faith.

Excellence: Our schools are rooted in excellence.

Everything that we do is in service of our students and creating an environment in which they can learn and thrive. We strive to be the best that we can be for our students and support them in all their endeavors. Lord, in your perfect nature, show us how to strive for excellence for our students.

Service: Our schools are rooted in service. Our teachers and educators serve our students and parents, and we teach our children to live in service of others. We become role models for our students who will grow up rooted in the pillar of service. Lord, lead us in serving our students and showing them how to serve others with their lives.

Universal Prayer

We bring our prayers to our heavenly Father, the rock of our salvation.

That God reveals the plan he has for each of our lives and sends his Holy Spirit to guide us on our journeys. We pray to the Lord.

For unity among Christianity and all churches. We pray to the Lord.

For the students, families, faculty, staff and friends of Catholic schools, that they work towards evangelization in addition to education that will build the Kingdom of God. We pray to the Lord.

For our church and world leaders, that they embody the values of servant leadership. We pray to the Lord.

That our church and school may be places of safety and comfort for all. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Suggested Music

- How Can I Keep From Singing
- Here I Am, Lord
- The Supper of the Lord
- Go Make a Difference
- You Are Called

Weekday Prayer Services

Monday, February 1, 2021

Welcome

Today we celebrate the communities in which we live. As our world today seeks to destroy our Church and schools, we must work together with our parish and town communities to preserve our organizations and our faith. With the guidance of God and the support of one another, we can work to save our schools and students.

Song: They'll Know We Are Christians

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:1-20

Reflection

In our Gospel today, Jesus tells the man to go and tell his friends everything that the Lord has done for him. This man then goes and spreads the word of Jesus throughout the whole land. Imagine how many people could hear the good news of Jesus if we spread his word with as much excitement as the man who was healed! Although this story occurred over 2000 years ago, God continues to work in our lives just as he did in the life of the sick man. We may not see him as clearly as those in our reading for today, but we still have much to be excited about.

Why do you think the man in the Gospel spread the word of Jesus with so much excitement?

Universal Prayer

We bring our prayer before Jesus, our perfect healer.
That we may spread the good news with excitement and zeal, just as those who were healed by the power of Jesus during his ministry. We pray to the Lord.

For our holy father, Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, and all those who shepherd God's church. We pray to the Lord.

For those in our community who battle physical and mental health struggles. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: Sing Out, Earth and Skies

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Presentation of the Lord

Welcome

Today the Catholic Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord. On this day, Jesus was brought to the temple by his parents and consecrated to the service of God to fulfill the words of the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation. Lord, show me how to live my life in service to you. Show me how I can present myself to you, just as Jesus did.

Song: Be Thou My Vision

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

Reflection

Our second reading for today sheds light on why Jesus chose to become human. In order to completely save us from our sin, Jesus had to partake in the sufferings and temptations of being fully human. Although he was also fully divine, Jesus experienced the same humanity that we do today. So, the next time you are struggling with something, bring your struggles to Jesus. He knows what you are going through, and is there to be your heavenly support.

How can you serve God today?

Universal Prayer

We bring our prayers to Jesus, our good and gracious savior.

For Catholic school students everywhere, that they gain the wisdom and strength to use all that they've learned to do the work of God. We pray to the Lord.

That we all present our lives to the Lord and give ourselves up in service of his work. We pray to the Lord.

For understanding, that we may all realize the great gift of the suffering and death of Jesus in achieving salvation for all. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: What a Beautiful Name by: Hillsong

Worship (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Blase, Bishop and Martyr & Ansgar,
Bishop and Missionary

Welcome

The themes of today's readings establish us as the children of God. He created us and loves us more than we could ever imagine. The commandments he created for us are just like the rules your parents have made for you at home. Just as your parents are happy when you follow the rules, God is happy when you keep his commandments. Although it is often hard to keep God's commandments, he created them to help us become the faithful followers of Jesus that we are meant to be.

Song: You Say by: Lauren Daigle

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1aT8JI2zpl>)

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-6

Reflection

As Jesus travels to his hometown in our Gospel today, he is met with neighbors and friends who don't believe in his message because he was only a carpenter before beginning his ministry. Although he had much that he could teach them, they would not listen because they didn't believe he could be a wise teacher. So it is with our students and young members of the church. They have many insights and new perspectives on the faith, yet we underestimate them because they are young. Jesus taught that we should all have faith like the little children, so learn what you can from them about faith and teachings of Jesus. Don't underestimate their understanding of the faith because they are young.

What rules have your parents made for you at home? Why do you think they made these rules?

Universal Prayer

Let us bring our prayers to our loving heavenly Father.

For our nation, that we may all join together to achieve unity and equality for all. We pray to the Lord.

For our nation's leaders, that they continually strive for justice and work tirelessly to maintain the ideals we fought for. We pray to the Lord.

For faith, that we may see the church through the eyes of children. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: Do Something by: Matthew West

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Welcome

In our Gospel today, we see the origin of the Anointing of the Sick as Jesus sends his apostles out to do his work in the world. Many of the traditions of the Catholic Church are rooted in scripture and the actions of Jesus as he established the church. As you read the stories of Jesus, listen for phrases we say during Mass or the origin of other sacraments.

Song: The Summons

Scripture Reading: Mark 6: 7-13

Reflection

Today we hear the story of Jesus releasing his apostles to spread the good news. Jesus came to establish his church and share his message with new members that would continue to do his work even after he returned to heaven. The twelve apostles did just that. They traveled all throughout the land to spread the message of Jesus that had changed their lives. Today, we continue their mission.

What do you think God is calling you to do with your life?

Universal Prayer

Let us bring our prayers to the Father, confident that he will hear and answer us.

For our priests and other church leaders who continue the work of Jesus, that they be strengthened in their mission. We pray to the Lord.

That all young people have access to an education so that they can reach their full potential. We pray to the Lord.

That we may all hear the call of God and have the courage to accept our vocations. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: Go Make Of All Disciples

Friday, February 5, 2021

Agatha of Sicily, Virgin and Martyr

Welcome

Today the church celebrates Saint Agatha of Sicily, a virgin and martyr for the faith. Though she endured great suffering and torture, she remained rooted in her faith and prayed daily for courage. She found joy in her faith, and relied on God to the point of death. Lord, help us to have the courage to withstand the trials we face, just as Saint Agatha did.

Song: Be Not Afraid

Scripture Reading: Psalms 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9

Reflection

The themes of our readings today remind us that no matter what we face, God will protect us. When we have God on our side, we have nothing to fear. We can endure anything with his support. No matter what you are struggling with today, turn to Jesus and find courage in him.

How can you face your challenges with joy?

Universal Prayer

We pray to Jesus, who gives us courage to endure all tribulations.

For all members of our global community who work for justice and peace. We pray to the Lord.

For our teachers, that they be guided by the perfect example of Jesus to share their wisdom and become loving role models in service of their students. We pray to the Lord.

For all those facing oppression and injustice. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: God Is by: Holy Starr

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD2hI9q3ROM>)

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Paul Miki, Priest and Martyr & Companions, Martyrs

Welcome

In the time of Jesus, many men were shepherds. Their job was to watch over the sheep and make sure nothing happened to them. In today's readings, Jesus is referred to as our shepherd. His job is to teach and protect us. Jesus often used this symbolism to ensure that the people he was teaching understood his message.

Song: Holy Spirit by: Francesca Battistelli

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvBBC7-PSHo>)

Scripture Reading: Mark 6: 30-34

Reflection

At the beginning of our Gospel today, Jesus urges his apostles to take a break from preaching to rest. He tells them that it is important to rest, recharge, and spend time alone with God. Today, Jesus also urges us to do this. Spending time in silence with God brings us closer to him and allows us to hear him speak to us in the silence.

What other Bible stories can you think of where Jesus uses stories to teach the people?

Universal Prayer

Let us bring our prayers to the Son of God, our shepherd.

For all those who have suffered persecution for the faith, that they are welcomed into heaven with open arms when their time comes. We pray to the Lord.

For all families of Catholic School students, that they support the mission of Catholic education and grow in their faith through their experiences in the schools. We pray to the Lord.

That we may all follow the example of the saints who have gone before us. We pray to the Lord.

(Add prayers that are specific to your community)

Lord's Prayer

Song: Be Still by: The Fray

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlbw4k4taXI>)