



**CENTER FOR LEARNING**  
A DIVISION OF OCP

# **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDITION: FIRST QUARTER**

**AUG 14, 2023 10:00 AM PT**

  
**THE  
LITURGY  
FORECAST**



**CENTER FOR  
LEARNING**  
A DIVISION OF OCP

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# PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Ordo is your best friend. Use it!
2. Plan with a “seasonal” mindset.
3. Connect to Sunday and the Sunday experience where possible.
4. Let liturgical prayer out of the “box”: classroom, meetings, prayer services, etc.
5. Less is more, repetition is good, and don’t neglect silence.
6. Incorporate a variety of styles and musical traditions.
7. Incorporate the senses.
8. Remember the Saints!
9. Don’t miss the opportunity for liturgical formation and catechesis.
10. Don’t miss the opportunity to invite students to serve.
11. Do your best and ask for help.
- 12.
- 13.

## RESOURCES

Your parish, school chapel, or campus ministry office should have the following resources:

[\*General Instruction of the Roman Missal\*](#)

[\*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar\*](#)

[\*The Lectionary for Masses with Children\*](#)

### *Helpful links*

[Liturgy.com planning resource](#)

[“Today’s Liturgy” music planner](#)

[Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions seasonal planning guides](#)

[Catholic High School Mass Planner and Checklist \(Archdiocese of Los Angeles\)](#)

# QUARTER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

## OVERVIEW

The following general calendar includes weekdays and weekends through October. Each date is linked to the Lectionary readings for that day's Mass. **We are in Year A of the Sunday Lectionary and Cycle I of the Weekday Lectionary.**

As always, make sure you are in communication with priest celebrant, liturgist/music director, and sacristan to coordinate your liturgies. Check with them, too, about any local observances, celebrations, or customs that you might need to be aware of that may affect this general calendar.

You can find the lectionary readings for the entire liturgical year on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August/13 <b>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8/14 Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe	8/15 <b>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	8/16 Wednesday of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/17 Thursday of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/18 Friday of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/19 Saturday of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time
8/20 <b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8/21 Memorial of Saint Pius X	8/22 Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8/23 Wednesday of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/24 Feast of Saint Bartholomew	8/25 Friday of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/26 Saturday in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time
8/27 <b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8/28 Memorial of Saint Augustine	8/29 Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist	8/30 Wednesday of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	8/31 Thursday of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	September/1 Friday of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/2 Saturday in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time
9/3 <b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9/4 <i>LABOR DAY</i> Monday of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/5 Tuesday of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/6 Wednesday of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/7 Thursday of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/8 Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9/9 Memorial of Saint Peter Claver
9/10 <b>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9/11 Monday of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/12 Tuesday of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/13 Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom	9/14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9/15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	9/16 Memorial of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
9/17 <b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9/18 Monday of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/19 Tuesday of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/20 Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Taegön and companions	9/21 Feast of Saint Matthew	9/22 Friday of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/23 Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina
9/24 <b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9/25 Monday of the 25 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/26 Tuesday of the 25 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/27 Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul	9/28 Thursday of the 25 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9/29 Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels	9/30 Memorial of Saint Jerome

October/1 <b>Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time</b>	10/2 Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels	10/3 Tuesday of the 26 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/4 Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi	10/5 Thursday of the 26 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/6 Friday of the 26 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/7 Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
10/8 <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	10/9 Monday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/10 Tuesday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/11 Wednesday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/12 Thursday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/13 Friday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/14 Saturday of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time
10/15 <b>Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	10/16 Monday of the 28 <sup>th</sup> Week in ordinary Time	10/17 Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch	10/18 Feast of Saint Luke	10/19 Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and companions	10/20 Friday of the 28 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/21 Saturday of the 28 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time
10/22 <b>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	10/23 Monday of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/24 Tuesday of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/25 Wednesday of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/26 Thursday of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/27 Friday of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/28 Feast of Saints Simon and Jude
10/29 <b>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	10/30 Monday of the 30 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10/31 Tuesday of the 30 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time				

## OTHER DAYS OF PRAYER and OBSERVANCES

- 9.1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 9.9 Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities
- 9.10 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly
- 9.17 Catechetical Sunday
- 9.15-10.15 National Hispanic Heritage Month
- 9.24 World Day of Migrants and Refugees; Priesthood Sunday
- 9.24–30 National Migration Week
  
- October Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Respect Life Month
- 10.1 Respect Life Sunday
- 10.29 World Mission Sunday

### LOOKING AHEAD

- 11.1** Solemnity of All Saints
- 11.2 Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
  
- 12.3 *First Sunday of Advent (New liturgical year begins)*
- 12.6 Optional Memorial of Saint Nicholas
- 12.8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12.12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Italicized* date falls during a weekend or typical school holiday
- bold** Solemnity
- underlined change in liturgical season

*Note that this list does not include all Optional Memorials, local or national civic holidays, or other observances or commemorations.*

# School Mass Planner

<b>Celebration:</b> _____ Priest celebrant(s): _____ Altar server(s): _____	<b>Date:</b> _____ Assisting deacon: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Incense: <input type="checkbox"/> No
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## INTRODUCTORY RITE

Gathering Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Penitential Act: \_\_\_\_\_

[Glory to God:] \_\_\_\_\_

Processional cross carried by: \_\_\_\_\_

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

[Second Reading:] \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Universal Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Sung/Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Sung/Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaimed by priest  
 Proclaimed by deacon

Sung/Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Acclamations: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift bearers: \_\_\_\_\_

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONCLUDING RITE

Sending Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CHECKLIST</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication with presider (and homilist) <input type="checkbox"/> Communication with sacristan <input type="checkbox"/> Communication with accompanist/musician(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Worship aid/slides prepared ( <i>if needed</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice with readers <input type="checkbox"/> Practice with gift bearers <input type="checkbox"/> Practice with altar server(s) ( <i>if needed</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of readings and Universal Prayer
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# SCHOOL PRAYER SERVICES

## CONSIDERATIONS

### *Structure and format*

The prayer service planner uses a structure drawn from the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the official daily prayer of the church. The general outline includes the following:

#### INTRODUCTORY RITE

Prayer usually begins with a gathering hymn or song, followed by an opening prayer. The wording of this prayer helps set the tone and focus for the prayer service. Additionally, you may wish to use a “Call to Worship,” a brief song or refrain that is repeated before the gathering hymn to focus our hearts and minds and ready ourselves to enter into prayer.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

One or two psalms are sung (or recited). These psalms are chosen because they suit the focus or time of the prayer service. A psalm prayer – or period of silence – follows each psalm. A reading from Scripture is offered, also chosen because of the focus of the prayer service. This could be a reading from the Old or New Testament, or a Gospel. If it is a Gospel reading, the Lenten Gospel Acclamation can be sung before it is proclaimed.

A reflection can be offered by a member of the school community, or a homily if a priest or deacon is presiding. Typically, the morning Canticle (*Benedictus*) follows this period of reflection. You may or may not choose to sing (or recite) it. Sometimes a song or hymn can be used to help support meditation and quiet prayer.

The Universal Prayer brings the needs of the Church, the world, the local community, and each of us. After the Universal Prayer, the Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father”) is prayed by all.

#### CONCLUDING RITE

Before our prayer ends, we pray a closing prayer and ask for God’s blessing. Like the opening prayer, the wording of the closing prayer should echo the focus of our prayer and serves to send us forth. If a priest or deacon is presiding, they may wish to offer a blessing. If not, a prayer of blessing is said or sung. Prayer usually ends with a sending hymn or song, but may also end in solemn silence, if appropriate.

This format of prayer is easily adapted to your needs: you can make it shorter or longer, add a prayer or ritual for a specific need, commemorate an important event or celebration, and so forth.

### *Selecting Scripture and psalms*

It is recommended that you select the reading from Scripture first, as the psalms, hymns, and prayers you choose should support the reading. Liturgical prayer creates the opportunity for dialogue between God and the community gathered in prayer, and this is made possible through the Word. Don’t start with that favorite song or poem, as tempting as it is to do so. Our goal is to hear God’s voice, so begin with God’s Word.

- **Brevity.** The reading should only be as long as it needs to be. Effective prayer is focused. Since Scripture is so very rich, it's important that the passage you select is focused, too. Beware, however, that in editing the reading you do not "editorialize" – that is, change the nature or message of the reading.
- **Context.** Use the richness of the season to help select the reading. Look to the readings of the day or the past/upcoming Sunday. Use a Concordance to find passages related to a relevant theme. You might also look for connections to your religion curriculum, as many lessons are structured around specific passages from Scripture.
- **The Lectionary.** It is recommended that you use Scripture from the Lectionary. These passages are usually of reasonable length already. Also, praying with these Scriptures allows for a deeper connection between your school prayer service and the liturgies of the parish.

After the Scripture reading has been selected, look for the psalms you will pray. Because of their personal nature, the psalms play an important role in opening a dialogue with God. While it is recommended that you pray two psalms, it is possible to use only one.

- **Theme-based psalms.** Each psalm has a certain tone or focus, like praise, joy, lament, mercy, and so forth. You can choose psalms that fit the focus of the prayer you are creating.
- **Appointed psalms.** Certain psalms are assigned to a time of year or a time of day. There are psalms commonly used during Ordinary Time (like Psalms 19, 27, 34, 95, 100, and 103). There are also psalms typically used during morning prayer (like Psalms 63 and 149). You might also look to include the appointed psalm for the past or upcoming Sunday.

As with the readings from Scripture, it is recommended that you use psalms from the Lectionary. This also helps to ensure that a musical setting of the psalms you select both exist and are available to you.

### *Creating a prayerful environment*

In planning your prayer service, don't forget all of the other steps necessary to creating a prayerful environment for everyone who will gather.

- **Worship aid or slides.** The goal of good liturgical prayer is the full, conscious, and active participation of the gathered community. A printed worship aid – or projection slides, if suitable – ensures that everyone has the texts and music needed to participate. A printed worship aid can be simple, with a simple outline of the prayer and numbers in the hymnal.
- **Hospitality.** Intentionally plan ways to make participants feel comfortable, welcomed, and invited. This is a great opportunity to involve students who might not be able to lead or read or might feel uncomfortable doing so.
- **Environment.** This is a particularly important concern if you will be praying somewhere other than a church or chapel like a gymnasium, gathering space, auditorium, classroom, etc. Give careful consideration to the way you will arrange the prayer space and how you will use clear signs and symbols. Simple, consistent decorations make all the difference in a non-liturgical prayer space. Use the symbols, textures, colors, and signs of Ordinary Time.

**RESOURCE:** [A Future with Hope: Praying with Youth Preparing for Confirmation \(Stachowski, Reichert\)](#) is a collection of eight full prayer services and scripts for praying with young people throughout the liturgical year.



# Prayer Service Planner

<b>Celebration:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
Presider/Leader: _____	
Homilist/Speaker: _____	

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

[Call to  
Worship:] \_\_\_\_\_  
Gathering  
Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Psalm A: _____	Sung/Read by: _____
[Psalm B:] _____	Sung/Read by: _____
[Gospel Acclamation:] _____	Sung/Read by: _____
Reading [Gospel]: _____	Proclaimed by: _____
[Meditation Song:] _____	
Universal Prayer: _____	Read/Sung by: _____

## CONCLUDING RITE

[Sung  
Blessing:] \_\_\_\_\_  
Sending  
Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CHECKLIST</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication with presider/leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice with presider
	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication with homilist/speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice with reader(s)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication with accompanist/musician(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of presider script in place
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to decorate prayer space completed <i>(if needed)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of readings and Universal Prayer in place
	<input type="checkbox"/> Presider script prepared	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship aid/slides prepared <i>(if needed)</i>	

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# Prayer Service Script *(sample)*

*The presider, reader(s), cantor(s), and other prayer leaders are seated along with the community. When it is time to begin, the presider gestures for all to stand. If there is a gathering hymn (or call to worship), the music begins immediately.*

GATHERING HYMN:

*insert music here*

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*After the gathering hymn concludes, the presider continues with the opening prayer.*

**Presider:** In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

**Presider:** Let us pray.

God of all wisdom and learning,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for the gift of this faith community.  
We thank you for the gift of hope and wonder  
found in new beginnings.  
Guide us, O Lord,  
as we strive for deeper understanding of your truths,  
as we ponder your many mysteries,  
as we draw closer to the Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Be with us as we set new goals and try new things.  
Teach us the humility we need to learn  
and to be of service to you and each other.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*After the opening prayer, the presider gestures for all to be seated. The cantor (or reader) moves into place to lead the first psalm.*

PSALM A

*insert music here*

*After the psalm is proclaimed, all sit for a moment of prayerful reflection. If a psalm prayer is to be led by the presider, all stand for the prayer. If no psalm prayer is to be offered, all remain seated for the second psalm.*

(optional) PSALM B

*insert music here*

*After the psalm is proclaimed, all sit for a moment of prayerful reflection. If a psalm prayer is to be led by the presider, all stand for the prayer. If no psalm prayer is to be offered, all remain seated for the reading.*

*The reader moves into place to proclaim the reading from Scripture. If the reading is taken from the gospel, a Lenten gospel acclamation may be sung before the reading is proclaimed.*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*After the reading has been proclaimed, the reader returns to their seat. The person offering the reflection (or homily) should move into place after the reading concludes.*

REFLECTION (HOMILY) GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*After the reflection (or homily), all remain seated for a time of quiet reflection.*

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*If a meditation or reflection song is to be used, it should begin after this period of silence.*

(Optional) MEDITATION/REFLECTION SONG:

*insert music here*

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*The presider begins the Universal Prayer by proclaiming the following:*

**Presider:** Gracious and awesome God,  
hear us now as we place our needs before you.

*Following the introduction, the reader leads the intercessions.*

*Reader:* For the Church:  
for authentic witness,  
for communities of welcome.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

*Reader:* For our nation and our world:  
for mercy and forgiveness,  
for justice and peace.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

*Reader:* For our sisters and brothers in need:  
for the immigrant, the imprisoned,  
the unhoused, the addict, and the unemployed.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

*Reader:* For our school as we begin this new year:  
for teachers and students, parents and staff,  
and for all who long to deepen their faith in Christ Jesus.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

*Reader:* For those most in need of our prayers:  
for all who are sick,  
all the dying, and for all who will die this day.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

*Reader:* For all who have died:  
for our family, friends, and neighbors in heaven,  
and for all who now see Jesus, face to face.  
We pray to the Lord.

*All:* *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

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*After the intercessions conclude, the presider invites the community to pray the Lord's prayer by saying the following.*

**Presider:** Gathering all of our prayers and praise into one,  
let us pray together the words that Jesus himself gave to us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptations,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Immediately following the Lord's Prayer, the presider introduces the closing prayer with the following.*

**Presider:** Let us pray.

Good and gracious God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for the gift of this new school year.  
Help us to learn and teach,  
to serve and love,  
so that your mission might be our mission, too.  
Help us see your presence in our school;  
help us to be your presence to one another  
so that – through us – all may know your love.

We ask this and all things through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

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*After the closing prayer, the presider immediately introduces the blessing.*

**Presider:** Let us now ask for God's blessing.

*If a sung blessing is to be used, the music begins immediately.*

SONG OF BLESSING:

*insert music here*

*If the blessing is to be spoken, the presider leads the following as all make the Sign of the Cross.*

**Presider:** May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.



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*Immediately following the blessing, the presider invites the community to share a sign of peace with the following:*

**Presider:** Before we go forward,  
let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace. As the sign of peace concludes, a final hymn or song may be sung by the entire community.*

SENDING HYMN:

*insert music here*

*The prayer concludes after the sign of peace (or the final hymn). All depart.*

# SAMPLE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

## OVERVIEW

Through the Universal Prayer (or Intercessions) we are able to offer our response to the Word of God and present our prayers on behalf of all God's people. The typical structure of the Universal Prayer is a.) for the needs of the Church, then b.) for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world, then c.) for those burdened by any kind of difficulty, and then d.) for the local community.

The following intercessions edited, adapted, or used as a starting point to write your own. More are provided than you need to use for each Mass or prayer service. The Universal Prayer is a great opportunity to involve students in identifying the needs they would like to pray for.

For the Church:

for authentic witness,  
for communities of welcome.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For our nation and our world:

for mercy and forgiveness,  
for justice and peace.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For our sisters and brothers in need:

for the immigrant, the imprisoned, the hungry,  
the unhoused, the addict, and the unemployed.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For those whom we love:

for family and friends,  
for all who help support our learning.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For our school community:

for teachers and students, parents and staff,  
and for all who long to deepen their faith in Christ Jesus.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For those most in need of our prayers:

for all who are sick,  
all the dying, and for all who will die this day.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

For all who have died:

for our family, friends, and neighbors in heaven,  
and for all who now see Jesus, face to face.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our Prayer.*

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# SAMPLE PRAYERS

## OVERVIEW

The following prayers are meant to be useful, either to use as they are, to edit and adapt them, or to use them as a starting point to write your own prayer.

Prayers like these might come in handy:

- as opening or closing prayers for a class or school prayer service,
- at the beginning or end of the school day,
- at the beginning or end of a staff meeting,
- to include in the class or school weekly newsletter, or
- for individual or personal prayer.

Each prayer comes from [\*Disciples in Prayer: A Resource for Faith Sharing, Year A \(OCP\)\*](#).

## PRAYER A

God of wisdom and love,  
source of all good,  
send your Spirit to teach us your truth  
and guide our actions  
in your way of peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## PRAYER B

Almighty God,  
our hope and our strength,  
without you we falter.  
Help us to follow Christ  
and to live according to your will.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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## PRAYER C

Lord our God,  
all truth is from you,  
and you alone bring oneness of heart.  
Give your people the joy  
of hearing your word in every sound  
and of longing for your presence more than for life itself.  
May all attractions of a changing world  
serve only to bring us  
the peace of your kingdom  
which this world does not give.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## PRAYER D

Lord, be merciful to your people.  
Fill us with your gifts  
and make us always eager to serve you  
in faith, hope, and love.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

You can find prayers and prayer resources all over the place. The Liturgy of the Hours has appointed prayers for each day (morning, midday, evening) and the Roman Missal has Collect prayers for each day, as well. These could be easily used or adapted for a prayer service, classroom, meeting, or personal use.

# SUNDAYS OF THE QUARTER

## OVERVIEW

We encourage you to connect the prayer experiences you create to the Sunday experience. Each Sunday in the quarter is listed below along with citations and short summaries of each Scripture reading. We've also included questions for reflection that are based on the appointed Scripture readings. The readings and psalms appointed for Sunday would make excellent choices for a school prayer service. A corresponding reflection question can help shape a homily, reflection, or quiet time for personal meditation.

### Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time (August 13–19)

#### *Scripture for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a*

Elijah the prophet heard the Lord's voice not in wind, not in an earthquake nor in fire, but in a tiny whisper. When he heard the Lord, Elijah hid his face in his cloak, overcome with awe.

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 85:9, 10, 11–12, 13–14*

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Second Reading**                *Romans 9:1–5*

Paul wrote that he would willingly accept being separated from the Christ for the sake of his fellow Israelites, from whom came the Messiah.

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 14:22–33*

Jesus walked on the water. He called to Peter in the boat with the other disciples. Peter stepped out on the water until his faith faltered and he began to sink. Then Jesus stretched out his hand to save Peter.

#### *Questions for reflection*

- Elijah found God in “a tiny whispering sound.” When have you found God in the small or ordinary experiences of life?
- Paul longed for his people to know Christ. As a disciple, how can you gently lead others to know Jesus as their intimate friend?
- Jesus says “do not be afraid” and invites us to a deep trust in his saving presence. How will you witness your faith and trust in Jesus each day?

### Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (August 20–26)

#### *Scripture for the Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Isaiah 56:1, 6–7*

The holy mountain, the temple of the Lord, is “a house of prayer for all people.”

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8*

O God, let all the nations praise you!

**Second Reading**                *Romans 11:13–15, 29–32*

God's love and mercy are gratuitous. We are all recipients of the benefits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

## Gospel

*Matthew 15:21–28*

The Canaanite woman displayed an extraordinary confidence that Jesus would hear and answer her. She possesses an undaunted and persistent faith in the Messiah of Israel.

### *Questions for reflection*

- These Scriptures invite us to be welcoming disciples. How will you minister to others, especially those who are searching for the truth?
- Salvation is unconditional to all who “join themselves to the Lord.” How will you seek and accept God’s mercy?
- Jesus dedicated his life to lead everyone into his kingdom. As a disciple, what will you be most persistent in accomplishing for those seeking salvation?

## Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time (August 27–September 2)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

#### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 22:19–23*

The Lord’s servant will receive the key of the House of David. What the servant does, God confirms.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalms 138:1–2, 2–3, 6, 8*

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

#### **Second Reading**

*Romans 11:33–36*

The riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God are too deep for humans to fathom. God’s judgments are inscrutable and unsearchable. All things come from God, through God, and for God.

#### **Gospel**

*Matthew 16:13–20*

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Then he gave to Peter the keys to heaven’s reign. Finally, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### *Questions for reflection*

- Jesus gives Peter responsibility. Imagine yourself in that conversation. When you give responsibility, what do you require? When you receive responsibility, what do you feel?
- Jesus does not give responsibility without asking for a profession of faith from Peter. As a disciple, what words of profession or words of faith come to mind for you?
- What needs to be changed in your life so that you can bear the responsibility as Christ’s disciple in order to welcome others into the kingdom?

## Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time (September 3–9)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

#### **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 20:7–9*

Jeremiah only reluctantly spoke God’s prophetic word. He tried to hold back, but the word burned like fire in his heart.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalms 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9*

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

#### **Second Reading**

*Romans 12:1–2*

Paul urged the Romans to offer their bodies to God as a living sacrifice and not to conform to this age but to be transformed by God.

## Gospel

*Matthew 16:21–27*

Jesus said, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

### *Questions for reflection*

- On his way to Jerusalem Jesus is tempted to take the other road, the easy road. What is your easy road? The road as a disciple is not Easy Street. How can you invite others to join you on the road less travelled?
- Like the prophet Jeremiah, Jesus can't deny the inevitability of his cross. What is your cross in life? What is the ultimate meaning of a disciple's life?
- What will you have to give up in your life in order to find it restored and resurrected in the ways of Christ? What will you have to find for your life as a disciple?

## Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time (September 10–16)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

#### First Reading

*Ezekiel 33:7–9*

God called the prophet as a watchman for the house of Israel. Unless those called by God try to turn the wicked away from evil, they will not be saved. When holy people speak up in God's half, they are saved.

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalms 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9*

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts

#### Second Reading

*Romans 13:8–10*

All commandments are summed up in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to a neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.”

#### Gospel

*Matthew 18:15–20*

Jesus said, “If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

### *Questions for reflection*

- Paul's words to the Romans are paradoxical. “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.” Is it possible to incur a greater indebtedness or responsibility than to truly love as Christ has? When in your life has that responsibility been exercised with joy? When has it proven a challenge?
- Jesus tells us that after every attempt to reconcile with another has failed, we are to treat them as a Gentile or tax collector. Recalling how Jesus treated tax collectors and other outcasts, what are you as his disciple called to change in your way of being in relationship with those who have hurt you?
- Jesus promised to be in the midst of those who gather in his name – even if it is only two or three who gather. Reflecting on the times and the people with whom you have gathered this week, how has Jesus been present?

## Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (September 17–23)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Sirach 27:30–28:7*

Forgive the injustice of your neighbor, for then your own sins will be pardoned. Remember death, stop sinning, recall the commandments, love your neighbor, think of God's covenant, and overlook the faults of others.

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12*

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading**                *Romans 14:7–9*

We are not our own masters, but we are responsible to the Lord as servants. In life and in death we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose to life in order to become "Lord of both the dead and living."

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 18:21–35*

In a parable on forgiveness, Jesus compared the reign of God to a king settling accounts with his officials: Moved by compassion, the king forgave some or all of each debt. An official then extorted the full amount he was owed, and the king punished him.

### *Questions for reflection*

- The readings challenge us to forgive others. Why is forgiveness such an important part of discipleship?
- In Jesus' parable, the servant who experienced forgiveness is reprimanded for his lack of mercy. How have I experienced God's forgiveness? As a disciple, how can I bring that message of forgiveness to others?
- Today's world faces violence, turmoil, and hatred at many different levels. What will I do to help proclaim the Gospel message of forgiveness?

## Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (September 24–30)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Isaiah 55:6–9*

Isaiah prophesied, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call him while he is near...My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 145:2–3, 8–9, 17–18*

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

**Second Reading**                *Philippians 1:20cc–24, 27a*

Paul wrote, "Life is Christ, and death is gain...I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 20:1–16a*

Jesus told the parable about the vineyard owner who hired workers at different times of the day and paid them all the same amount at the end of the day. The owner concluded, "Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?" Jesus added, "The last will be first, and the first will be last."

### *Questions for reflection*

- Isaiah calls us to "seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near." Does the Lord seem near or far to you right now? How do you seek the Lord?
- "Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." What does this look like in your life? How do we invite others into this relationship with Christ as disciples?



- “Why do you stand here idle all day?” As disciples we are called into mission. How can we give witness to Jesus in our neighborhoods? Where is the greatest need?

## Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (October 1–7)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Ezekiel 18:25–28*

The Lord spoke through Ezekiel: “Hear now, house of Israel:…If he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life.”

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalms 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9*

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

**Second Reading**                *Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5*

Paul quoted an ancient hymn: “Though Christ was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave and obediently accepting death on a cross. So God exalted him and gave him a name above every other name.”

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 21:28–32*

Jesus said that outcasts enter God’s reign because of faith but not the righteous who lack repentance: “Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.”

### *Questions for reflection*

- When faith is put into practice, it leads to life, rather than death. How do you identify with this statement or how does this statement challenge your experience?
- Paul said, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” How are you striving to live with an attitude of Christ? How can you invite others to do the same?
- Being Jesus’ disciple requires a daily commitment to a Christian way of life. What will you do this week to better choose words and actions that complement this lifestyle?

## Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time (October 8–14)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Isaiah 5:1–7*

Isaiah sang of his friend, “My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.” The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are God’s cherished plant.

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalms 80:9, 12, 13–14, 15–16, 19–20*

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

**Second Reading**                *Philippians 4:6–9*

Paul wrote, “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition…the God of peace will be with you.” With thanksgiving, make your request known to God.

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 21:33–43*

Jesus told the parable of the vineyard owner who sent out slaves and finally his son to the rebellious tenants who killed them. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes.”

### *Questions for reflection*

- The parable of the vineyard and the tenants reminds us that all we are given in life is a gift. How well do you treat your gifts and share them with others?

- Paul invites us to live in ways that will bring about peace. As a disciple, how are you inviting others to do what “you have learned and received and heard and seen” in Jesus?
- A steward is one who manages but does not own. What specific action can you take to tend the vineyard well (e.g. your personal gifts, your church, etc.) in order to yield a rich harvest?

## Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (October 15–21)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Isaiah 25:6–10a*

Isaiah prophesied, “On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide...a feast of rich food and choice wines...The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face...The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.”

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6*

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life

**Second Reading**                *Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20*

Paul wrote, “I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry.” When people share each other’s hardships, God supplies their needs fully in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10*

Jesus likened God’s reign to a great wedding banquet that a king gave for his son. Many were invited; some ignored the invitation. One guest was thrown out for disrespectful dress. In God’s reign, “many are invited, but few are chosen.”

### *Questions for reflection*

- As a disciple, where do I recognize the abundance in my life? What are the hungers in my life? As a believer, how do I envision the eternal banquet?
- Where are the “byways” in our parish, neighborhood, and community that I need to attend to as places and opportunities for welcome and invitation to introduce Jesus to my brothers and sisters? What prevents me from acting?
- God invites everyone into the banquet – whom did I exclude in my life because they don’t meet my criteria? How do I work for justice, the dignity, and respect for all people?

## Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (October 22–28)

### *Scripture for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Isaiah 45:1, 4–6*

The Lord anointed Cyrus of Persia to subdue the nations and free Israel. God made Persia great so that everyone might know that there is no god besides the Lord God of Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 96:1, 3, 4–5, 7–8, 9–10*

Give the Lord glory and honor.

**Second Reading**                *1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b*

The Thessalonians believed in the gospel, lived in the Holy Spirit, and labored in love with full conviction. Paul thanked God for the faith of the Thessalonians and remembered them in prayer.

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 22:15–21*

When some Pharisees tried to trap Jesus into saying something negative about the emperor, Jesus used a Roman coin to teach them, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

*Questions for reflection*

- As a disciple called by God, how am I showing my enthusiasm for my faith by “laboring in love and showing constancy in hope” in words and actions?
- As Cyrus was called, whom do I invite, welcome, and encourage to know the Lord through the “labor of love” working with the Holy Spirit?
- Like Pharisees who plot to trap Jesus, to what truths do I speak out as a witness of my faith, reverence the dignity of each person, and make political decisions based on Gospel values, thus giving to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God’s?

## Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (October 29 – November 4)

*Scripture for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading**                      *Exodus 22:20–26*

The faithful and gracious Lord said, “You shall not wrong any widow or orphan...If you take your neighbor’s cloak...return it before sunset. If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate.”

**Responsorial Psalm**            *Psalm 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51*

I love you, Lord, my strength.

**Second Reading**                *1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10*

Paul commended the Christians of Thessalonica: “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with the joy from the Holy Spirit. So that you became a model for all believers...the word of the Lord has sounded forth.”

**Gospel**                                *Matthew 22:34–40*

In response to a question from some Pharisees who wanted to trip him up, Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart...soul...and mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” These are the two great commandments.

*Questions for reflection*

- Jesus demonstrates the compassion called for in the first reading by loving those rejected by his society. What neighbors, rejected by our society, are we being called to love as ourselves?
- A hallmark of discipleship is love of God, demonstrated by love of neighbor and self. In what concrete ways do I show my love of God by loving my neighbor as myself?
- Paul commends the Thessalonians for becoming imitators of the Lord and giving up their idols. What idols will you give up in order to follow the Gospel way of love more closely?

# Preparation Guide: *Lector*

Helping to lead your classmates and teachers in prayer is an awesome responsibility! You will be using your gifts and talents in ways that help your school and parish community voice its hopes, dreams, worries, and thanks. So, it's important that you take some time to prepare for this role before you serve.

## Prayer

*Before going any further, spend a moment in prayer.*

O God, ever present in Word and Sacrament, guide me in my preparation to proclaim your Good News. Make me a channel of your wisdom and truth. Free me from every worry and anxiety. Help me to illuminate the Scripture in a way that draws all who hear it closer to you.

Amen.

## The details

*Keep track of essential information below. Make sure you know the answers to the following:*

When am I serving as lector? [date and event]

What reading will I be proclaiming?

Where can I find the text I will be proclaiming?

When is the rehearsal (if any) for this liturgy?

## Preparation checklist

*Use the questions below to study, practice, and focus yourself for this ministry.*

### STUDY

- Have I studied the reading thoroughly?
- Do I understand the context? Who is being spoken to? What other biblical events or stories occur around it?
- Do I understand the lesson that is meant to be conveyed? Could I explain this reading in my own words?

### PRACTICE

- Have I read the reading aloud several times?
- Have I practiced proclaiming it in front of people?
- Have I practiced difficult pronunciations?
- Have I asked if listeners are able to understand what I am trying to convey?

### PRAY

- Have I prayed in preparation for proclaiming this reading?
- How has Scripture formed me? Has it challenged me to think about things differently?
- How has the Scripture called me to act in my relationship with Christ and others?

## Pro tips

1. Know the roadmap. Look over the full script before prayer begins. Make sure you know when you need to go up and proclaim your reading (and know where you are supposed to stand!). Make sure you know if you need to have the copy of your reading or if one will be in place for you.
2. Speak loudly and clearly. You are proclaiming the Word of God! It is critical that everyone can hear and understand what you are saying. Even if they are familiar with the passage you are reading they will have the opportunity to hear it in new ways.
3. Use visible gestures to cue the assembly. If you are leading the psalm, make sure to look up at the assembly and raise your hands, indicating when it is time for them to speak the response.
4. Don't overlook body language! The way you stand up, the posture you take, the eye contact you use, and other ways you use your body signal confidence, reverence, and the importance of what the assembly is doing.

# Preparation Guide: *Music Minister*

Helping to lead your classmates and teachers in prayer is an awesome responsibility! You will be using your gifts and talents in ways that help your school and parish community voice its hopes, dreams, worries, and thanks. So, it's important that you take some time to prepare for this role before you serve.

## Prayer

*Before going any further, spend a moment in prayer.*

O God of mercy and grace,  
guide me in my preparation  
to lead your people in song.  
Work your grace through my hands and voice.  
May the songs we sing  
bring us closer to you and each other.  
Amen.

## The details

*Keep track of essential information below. Make sure you know the answers to the following:*

When am I serving as music minister? [date and event]

What song, hymn, and/or psalm will I be leading?

Where can I find the music I will be leading?

When is the rehearsal (if any) for this liturgy?

## Preparation checklist

*Use the questions below to study, practice, and focus yourself for this ministry.*

### STUDY

- Have I studied the songs, hymns, psalms, canticles, and responses thoroughly?
- Do I understand how the music fits in the context of the prayer? How do the songs, hymns, psalms, readings, and prayers interact?
- Do I understand the message that is meant to be conveyed?

- (If cantoring the psalm) Have I studied the psalm? Do I understand its context and origin?

### PRACTICE

- Have I rehearsed sufficiently on my own?
- Have I rehearsed with the other musicians?
- (If cantoring the psalm) Have I practiced the psalm in front of others?

### PRAY

- Have I prayed in preparation of leading this music for payer?
- How has this music formed me? What lines of text have spoken to me?
- Have these songs found a way into my prayer? What do I hope others will hear in these songs I am sharing?

## Pro tips

1. Know the roadmap. Make sure you have looked over the outline/order for the liturgy. Know the cues for when each song is supposed to begin and mark them in your score.
2. Practice, practice, practice. Make sure you have rehearsed well before the liturgy begins.
3. Sing clearly. The text of each song is of the utmost importance. Be sure everyone can understand what you are singing.
4. Use visible gestures to cue the assembly. Everyone will know when to sing if you indicate this with a simple movement of your hands. This is important for each song, but especially for the psalm.
5. Don't overlook body language! The way you stand up, the posture you take, the eye contact you use, and other ways you use your body signal confidence, reverence, and the importance of what the assembly is doing.

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