



**Catholic Education Week Prayer for Monday, May 7, 2018
Be Joyful In Hope**

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Each year, our Catholic schools participate in a week-long celebration to remember and share the gift of Catholic Education. This year, our theme of Catholic Education week is “be joyful in hope”.

But we should also ask ourselves, what is hope? Hope is more than a feeling, rather, think of hope as an action. It is through hope that we are able to express the love in which we were created. Hope sees not just what there is, but what it can be. In essence, hope moves us into God’s vision for ourselves, our family, our school community, and our world created by God.

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader:

Loving Father,
Thank you for the gifts of your life, death, and resurrection so that we may have great joy in the hope you bring us. During this special week dedicated to Catholic Education, thank you for the gift of Catholic schools where we can share our faith in Jesus Christ. Open our hearts to being joyful in hope as we explore this message in ourselves, our families, our school community, and in the world you created. We ask this in the name of our saviour Jesus Christ...

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Romans 12:12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. (Romans 12:9-12 NRSV)

Love one another with mutual affection, outdo one another in showing honour. Do not



lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope...

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Leader: A great way to think about hope is to think about planting a seed. We plant seeds in good soil, water them when needed, and give it lots of sun. We patiently wait for the plant to take the energy of the sun to become the plant we want it to be.

Now let's apply this same principle to our spiritual lives. God planted a seed of hope in each and everyone of us. When we turn to the source of our faith, Jesus Christ, we are filled with his divine light and our faith grows. Through Jesus, we are given the hope to face any challenge that our lives may give us.

And how do we turn to the source of our faith? By following the teachings of Jesus and living as his disciples. When we do, we will be filled with joyful hope.

TAKE AWAY ACTION

Our challenge this week is to symbolically grow our faith. What can you do to live as a disciple of Christ? How can you show your love for God? How can you show your love for your neighbor?

Your take away action is to nurture the seed of hope that God has given each of us by following the greatest commandment, to love God and each other. Consider doing one thing that strengthens your faith or consider acknowledging someone who did something good to nurture their hope.

LORD'S PRAYER

Now let us turn to the source of our hope, Jesus Christ, and say the words he taught us. Our Father....



CLOSING PRAYER

Leader:

God of love,
Thank you for the gift of hope in our lives.
Help us to embrace hope in our faith and show hope in our daily actions.
Inspire us to see hope in ourselves, our families, our school community, and in creation.
Thank you for the gift of Catholic Education and the hope it brings us.

All: Amen.



**Catholic Education Week Prayer for Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Be Joyful in Hope: In Ourselves**

INTRODUCTION

Leader:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of hope that burns as a light in each one of us. Help us to see this light within us, and to remember that you are the source of this light. Give us the courage we may need to not only keep this light burning brightly in ourselves, but also to share that light so that it can touch everyone that we meet in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 5:15-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION

Leader: One symbol that we have for hope is light. We have this light within us. Jesus says in this gospel reading that we should let our light shine and not hide it away. So Jesus really believes in us! We always say we must believe in Jesus. And we should. But do we ever think about the fact that Jesus believes in us!!



Wow! There is a special light in each of you and if you are going to follow Jesus he is counting on you to make the world a brighter, warmer place of love and caring.

This should fill you with great hope! You have the power and light of Jesus inside you to be people who spread joy! When we don't feel very hopeful we have to remember that Jesus said, " I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness"

Wow what a gift. But also a great responsibility. Jesus counts on you and He wants you to believe and hope in the light he has given you. Each of you is precious to him.

So be joyful in the hope and light that is within you.

TAKE AWAY ACTION

If you feel sad or discouraged today remember the light of Jesus is your strength! Be joyful in hope.

If you see someone who is sad or discouraged today say a prayer for them or show them you care. Let your light shine! Spread joy and hope.

LORD'S PRAYER

Now let us turn to the source of our hope, Jesus Christ, and say the words he taught us.
Our Father....

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the light of Christ's love that burns brightly in our hearts. Help us to protect it and share it with great joy so that others may also experience the hope that your light brings. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

All: Amen.



**Catholic Education Week Prayer for Wednesday, May 9, 2018
Be Joyful in Hope: In Our Family**

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of hope which helps us to keep our hearts and minds focused on the goal of eternal life with you in heaven. Through hope our actions take on a new direction and purpose, namely building up the Reign of God where all people will be united as one family. By placing our hope in your plan for our lives, our daily struggles and sufferings take on new meaning. May your gift of hope give us the strength to endure the challenges we face in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Lamentations 3:22-24

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Leader: The people of the Old Testament, in which we find the book of Lamentations, had great hope in God. We can learn from these family ancestors what it means to be joyful in hope.



One such example comes from the story of Tobit and Tobias, whose names mean “goodness” and “God is good.” Their story was written to give hope to those who continue to be faithful to God, even in challenging times. Tobit is the model of God’s family members at all times and places. God’s saving actions for Tobit and his family symbolize God’s actions toward all His people. In this spirit, Tobit sings a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving to God. Tobit’s song of praise thanks God for blessings in the past and already rejoices in the blessings of the future. This is hope in God at work!

TAKE AWAY ACTION

When you get home at the end of the day, ask your family to join you in recognizing the goodness of God in your lives.

Perhaps take a moment to pray in Tobit’s style: praise God, ask for forgiveness, give thanks for past blessings, and ask God to bless your hopes and dreams for a future yet to be. Pray not only for yourself and your family, but for all people, with hope for the triumph of God’s love and peace to unite us all as one family under Him.

Now let us turn to the source of our hope, Jesus Christ, and say the words he taught us.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father....

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, you’re the source of all hope.

Just as the prophets called the people of the Old Testament
to live lives filled with goodness,

You call us to live in goodness.

May we always be faithful to you,
especially during challenging times.

Help us see all our blessings,
and help us bring hope to others -
especially to the people in our family.

We ask this of You,
through whom all things are possible.

All: Amen.



World Catholic Education Day Thursday, May 10, 2018
Be Joyful in Hope: In Our School Community
Liturgy of the Word

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Today we gather to celebrate World Catholic Education Day. We give thanks to God each day for so many things, and today especially, we give thanks for the privilege of attending Catholic schools.

Throughout Catholic Education Week, we have been exploring the theme Be Joyful in Hope. We have been reflecting on what it means to be hope-filled people, and how we bring the hope that lives within each of us to our families, school, and community. We continue with this theme today, as we take a few moments away from our schoolwork in order to spend time together praising and thanking God for the gift of Catholic Education.

Please join us as we sing our opening song: _____.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us begin, as we always do, with the sign of our faith.

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

Leader: Let us pray:

Jesus, our brother and our teacher, fill us with strength and boldness as we proclaim your love and promises in all we do here at _____ School. Inspire us, and our friends in Catholic schools all over the world, to go out and make disciples by teaching others about the hope that lives in our hearts. And enable us to give that same hope to others through your work in each of us.

We ask this through you, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

READING (Romans 15:13-14, 33)



Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace in faith, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. My friends, I myself feel sure that you are full of goodness, that you are filled with knowledge, and that you are able to teach one another. May God, our source of peace, be with all of you.

The Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 33)

Reader: Our response is: *May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.*

All: *May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place our hope in you.*

All you who are righteous, shout joyfully to the Lord!
Praise him, all you that obey him.
Give thanks to the Lord with harps,
sing to him a new song! **R.**

The words of the Lord are true,
and all of his works are to be trusted.
The Lord loves what is righteous and just;
his faithful love fills the earth. **R.**

We put our hope in the Lord;
he is our protector and our help.
We are glad because of him;
we trust in his holy name. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (use one that is familiar to your school community)



GOSPEL (Matthew 28:16-20)

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: *Glory to you, Lord.*

After Jesus had risen from the dead, the eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember that I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

REFLECTION

Why does our school exist? Many people would say that our school is here to give students a place to learn to read and write, and to learn about math, science, art, or music. People who say those things would be right. But there is more!

Jesus is the reason for our school! In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives us a job to do: he asks us to make disciples, and teach to others what he has taught us. And every day our Catholic schools respond with a resounding “Yes!”

Why do we do this? Because we know that Jesus loves us! We place all of our hope in his goodness because we know that he hears our prayers, he forgives us, he heals us, and he has promised us that he will always be with us. Hope lives deep within us, and we are called to share that hope with others every day.

How do we do that in our school? We gather every day in His name. We share our faith in Him with each other, and with those all around us. We listen to Jesus’ words and follow His example. We are here to learn how to be His hands and His feet. And we are here to learn how to be joyful messengers of hope to others.

Today, we rejoice in God’s love and give thanks for the gift of Catholic education.



We understand that Jesus has given us an important job to do, and we place our hope and expectation in his promise to send the Holy Spirit to us, knowing that we will be blessed with courage, wisdom, love, and joy in all that we do. As we mark World Catholic Education Day, let us celebrate the gift of schools where we can joyfully answer Jesus' call to go out and make disciples of the whole world.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: We know that our God is a loving God, so we can always bring our cares and concerns to him. Today we offer special prayers for all of our needs:

Reader 3: Our response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for our Church: for Pope Benedict, Bishop _____, and for all Church leaders. Help them as they follow the examples of your disciples and bring the Good News to the whole world. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader 4: We pray for our world: may leaders of cities and nations throughout the world work together for peace and justice. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader 5: We pray for our community: May all who need help, healing, understanding, and love find all that they need in the hearts and hands of those around them. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader 6: We pray for our teachers and staff members, and all who serve in Catholic schools: bless their work as they help us to grow in love and knowledge of your Son, Jesus. **R.**

Reader 7: We pray for our families and those who care for us: Fill them with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader 8: We pray for ourselves: help us to bring joyful hope to others by the way we speak and act, and by doing what you ask of us. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: We are called by the Spirit to be one family and one body in God's name, so we pray together in the words that Jesus taught 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 temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: God of goodness and life, you have blessed us in many ways. We thank you for the gift of Catholic education, and we ask you to be with each of us as we share the good news of your love and promises with the whole world. May your presence in our school inspire each of us to be messengers of hope. Give us the courage and generosity to respond to your call to go and teach others about you, and help us to be disciples who go out and make disciples. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Leader: And may God bless us, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen.*

Leader: Please join us as we sing our closing song: _____



**Catholic Education Week Prayer for Friday, May 11, 2018
Be Joyful in Hope: In Creation**

INTRODUCTION

Leader:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader:

Father of all Creation,

We praise you for the wonders of the world you have gifted to us.

We give thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the mountains and hills we roam, the deserts and valleys that give us space, the wilderness that teems with life and for all living creatures.

We praise you for all you have provided for us through your creation and we thank you for the role you have given us as caretakers of that gift.

Be patient with us as we learn to act in ways that are better caretakers of the earth. Lord of Hope, birth your hope in us through the seed of a new vision for how our world could be.

We pray this in your name,

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 9: 12-17

12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



REFLECTION

Have you ever had a time when you really want to do something or go somewhere and the people around you said, “yes we will do that later”...and then it did not happen. It is disappointing to think of a promise of something good ahead and then not have it happen. Usually we can understand the reason why it could not be done: it cost too much, there wasn't enough time, the ride or event was closed or broken, or the weather changed. It can feel sad or even angry when this occurs.

God made a promise to us. He promised to never flood the earth again. And he promised to show a sign every time it rains that he is keeping his promise, a rainbow. God did this on his own, the promise does not end, it is for every living thing including our pets, and there are no conditions!! God trusts us to be people who are faithful to the commandments and try our best every day. Every time you see a rainbow in a sky be filled with the *joyful hope* that God is keeping his promise.

TAKE AWAY ACTION

Look for rainbows in your life. Where do you see God showing his promise to you? Did he do something special for you? Do you see rainbows in others' smiles? Do rainy days end with color in the sky?

Something fun to try: blow some bubbles outside and as you blow think of all the worries you are letting go. As the bubble floats in the air look to see if God has a rainbow in that bubble showing His promise of love for you. Be Joyful in the Hope God is everywhere!!

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader:

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made, saying **We thank you, God.**

For the healing waters of creation, which bring pleasure and health, purity and life,
We thank you, God.

For the richness of the Earth that brings forth fruits and flowers, a pleasure to taste and a joy to behold,
We thank you, God.

For the soaring birds of the air, the crawling creatures on the Earth, the gliding fishes in the seas, for all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life,



We thank you, God.

For the rays of sunlight in day, the deepening mystery of night, the wonder of the stars,
and the call of the unknown in the universe,

We thank you, God.

O merciful Creator, guide us in our joyful hope of fulfilling the promise of the covenant.
As people of faith, may we look to the skies and see the rainbow of promise. Your
covenant of faithfulness and love extends to the whole creation. We pray for the healing
of the earth, that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation, and
continue to glorify and praise you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the
Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever,
All: **Amen.**