

VII. CATECHETICAL RESOURCES

Catholic Schools *St. Joseph Week (October 12-16)* Template

Day 1 – Adore

- Place a St. Joseph picture in a prominent place in the school or highlight existing St. Joseph statues/pictures.
- Celebrate Votive Mass of St. Joseph (see *Prayers and Liturgy* section).
- Follow mass with a Holy Hour to St. Joseph and/or a chaplet of St. Joseph (see *Prayers and Liturgy* section).
- Establish a St. Joseph's Altar in the gym.
 - Organize each class to provide holy items, fruit, vegetables etc..
 - Coordinate classes to pray rosary at the altar throughout the day.
 - Educate students on the history of St. Joseph Altars and other devotions.

Day 2 – Obey

- Invite priests, religious, and consecrated persons to speak about vocations in the Church.
- Educate students on the role of the evangelical counsels in the spiritual life, giving special emphasis to St. Joseph and obedience.
- Organize groups of students to pray for vocations throughout the day in the school chapel or in religion class.

Day 3 – Serve

- Organize a work day around the school campus.
 - Pinpoint needs around the campus or nearby community.
 - Designate leaders to acquire materials and tools needed for necessary work
 - Educate students on the dignity and redemptive value of work.
- Have students write thank you letters to service men and women in the community including military veterans, police officers, and medical professionals.

Catechetical Template for Faith Formation

- Read one or all Gospel passages where St. Joseph is mentioned. For older students, read the Old Testament counterpart and discuss how the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old.

Gospel of Mathew

1:1-17 Genealogy

1: 1:18-25 Parentage, Joseph's Vocation - Is 7:14

2: 2:1-12 Herod, Magi, Bethlehem - Mic 5:2

3: 2:13-15 Flight into Egypt - Hos 11:1

4: 2:16-18 Massacre of Innocents - Jer 31:15

5: 2:19-23 From Egypt to Nazareth - Is 4:3

Objective: Highlight Joseph's role as father, provider, protector, obedient servant, righteous man, laborer, and husband of Mary.

Activity: Discuss Joseph's roles and then have students create and perform a skit based on any of the above passages. Students should highlight the roles of Joseph as discussed.

Objective: Highlight the symbols of St. Joseph and their meaning. Example: In art, Joseph is typically portrayed as an older man and is shown with the attributes of a carpenter's square or tools, the infant Jesus, his lily blossomed staff, two turtle doves, or a spikenard.

Activity: Bring a picture, icon or statue of Joseph and explain the meaning behind its features. Have students color a picture portraying these symbols.

Objective: Highlight the silence of Joseph.

Activity: Separate students into teams. Give one team a phrase and the other team materials to draw out the phrase. Students must communicate and portray the phrase in complete silence while the other group draws it out in silence. Discuss the importance and difficulty of silence in the Christian life and in the life of Joseph. One can also promote any activity of the day to be done in silence.

Objective: Highlight the adoration of Joseph.

Activity: Introduce students to Eucharistic adoration in a nearby chapel. Discuss before and after the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the adoration Joseph gave to his son.

Objective: Highlight the service and work of Joseph.

Activity 1: Have students color pictures of different carpentry tools and then brainstorm different tools that are used in the Christian life to get to Heaven (i.e. prayer, sacraments etc.).

Activity 2: Break students into teams and have them silently clean the classroom before leaving. Discuss the dignity of work and its importance in the Christian life.

See link for more ideas, printouts, and activity templates:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1ReIMH-o10y-6CgEWFqs6PWXTNz1pscI9>