

Sunday, Jan 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Strengthen the partnership

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (71). *"What is this? A new teaching with authority."*

Monday, Feb 01, 2021

Example is the best education

Each day of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of a component of Catholic education. Today we look at the experience of community. Through the relationships and interactions of service activities in the community and class trips to other environs, students get to practice the values they learn in their Catholic education and experience what it feels like to be making the world a better place. Plus they get a chance to observe others in community service and come to appreciate how they can continue caring for others their entire lives. Today, be an example of service to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323).
"[A]nounce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."

Tuesday, Feb 02, 2021

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Teach a faith that grows on you

Mary and Joseph bring their beloved firstborn to the temple at the appointed time, so Jesus can enter into the covenant with Yahweh that Jews have revered since Abraham. Not unlike infant Baptism today, it was—among other things—a powerful ritual of belonging that put the child on the right path to growing in faith. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week this week—with the focus today being squarely on “the student”—may we never forget or neglect the promise of every young soul, so receptive to our efforts to plant the seeds of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). *"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

Wednesday, Feb 03, 2021

One nation, under God

Catholic schools have made a unique contribution to the nation, and today we can recognize and celebrate that contribution. At their very best, Catholic schools train students to grow both as members of the Catholic church and as productive citizens of the nation. By “rendering to Caesar and to God,” Catholic schools in the United States have managed to achieve that rare combination in world history, the development of a relatively harmonious

church-state relationship that has endured for centuries. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to celebrate the nation during Catholic Schools Week.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325).

"Many who heard him were astonished. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him?'"

Thursday, Feb 04, 2021

Line things up

Catholic schools prepare students to discover their vocation, so they can grow to use their gifts in service of church and world. Over the years, our notion of “vocation” has broadened significantly. A word that once designated those who take religious vows or are ordained into ministry is now used more broadly. No one defined vocation better than essayist and theologian Carl Frederick Buechner: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Are the two aligned in your life? And if not, how can you bring them into alignment?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13 (326).

"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."

Friday, Feb 05, 2021

Thank those who opened your mind

Where would any of us be without our teachers? They did everything from helping us with our “three R’s” to opening our minds to new ways of seeing the world. The really great teachers taught us how to learn for ourselves, and thus set us up for a lifetime of discovery and fulfillment. When was the last time you thanked a teacher? Today is the day Catholic Schools Week pays special attention to the faculty, staff, and volunteers that make it possible for these great schools to function. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to give thanks and recognition.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). *"The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid."*

Saturday, Feb 06, 2021

Make faith a family affair

We close Catholic Schools Week by recognizing the central role in Catholic education played by the family. The Second Vatican Council called the family “the domestic church” because it is in the home that faith is first formed and nurtured. Whether you live alone or with others, your home can be a sacred space of prayer and spirituality. Creating sacred space in your home includes prayer and scripture readings at meal times and before bed; praying the Rosary; placing a crucifix in a prominent place; and family traditions based on the liturgical seasons. Look for ways to recognize the family’s role in Catholic education and also ways to make your home a domestic church. Have at it!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328).

"The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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