



MAY 2015

TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

Sacred Space

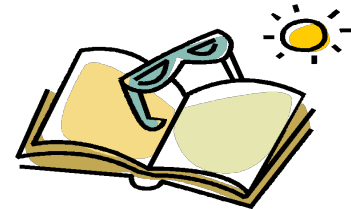
Christ, Teacher and Lord,
bless all in this school as we seek to end our year
with grace you so generously provide.

We affirm all the positive moments,
of insight, of the excitement of learning,
of accomplishment, of creativity,
of laughter, of a sense of community.

We recognize the times of struggle,
of difficult work, of misunderstanding,
even of failure – we give these
to you for transformation,
so they can become seeds
that will find fertile soil.

As we leave for the summer,
may we take with us the knowledge that
You will keep us all in your embrace so
we may rest and be restored
and so we can continue in
the ongoing discovery of your Love.

<https://educationforjustice.org/resources/prayer-end-school-year>



Becoming a Faith-filled Catechist

Summer is your time to take care of yourself
spiritually with some of these simple suggestions:

Unplug the TV. Forget reruns. Find a good
book that nourishes your soul.

Connect with water in a pool or lake. Water is
life; reflect on the waters of your own baptism.

Say some prayers under a starlit sky and bask
in the wonder of the God’s universe.

If possible, spend sometime watching
butterflies or hummingbirds. It can be mesmerizing,
even trancelike. Let yourself go; watch a small
wonder of the world.

Go on a retreat, even if it is an “at home,
online” retreat. You deserve it. If you can take a
summer course from the University of Dayton’s
VLCHF, do so. Ask your principal or FFL about
details.

Enjoy a bonfire. Look into the fire and
consider all the ways you burned out over the school
year. Try to avoid the issues that led to burnout and
set new and attainable goals for yourself.

Design Your Own Summer Calendar to Send Home with Your Class!

YEAR		MONTH								
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY				
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www.free-printable-calendar.net

Design a calendar for June, July and August for
your students. Send home hard copies that parents
can put on the fridge or a bulletin board. Add feast
days and make sure each Sunday includes mass.
The calendar can be a mix of prayers, craft ideas
and events that happen in your community that kids
would enjoy. Be sure to include special ideas for
Fathers Day or the 4th of July. I designed such a
calendar regularly while I served as FFL at St. Pius
X in Cedar Rapids and families loved it. What a
great way to spend the summer with reminders
from our school or parish of faith-filled activities
and wholesome fun. Go to www.free-printable-calendar.net You can print calendars and have
fun filling in each day.

For Your Formation:

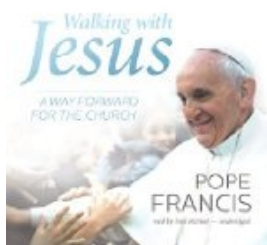
Pick up one or more of these new titles this summer. The books are very reasonable. Get comfortable on your deck or patio and enjoy!!

Seeds of the Word: Finding God in the Culture by Robert Baron (author of Catholicism)

Since the first century, Christians have detected "seeds of the Word" in the surrounding culture. No matter how charred or distorted the fragments, we can always uncover inklings of the Gospel, which can then lead people to God. Through this evocative collection of essays, Father Robert Barron finds those "seeds" in today's most popular films, books, and current events.

Walking with Jesus by Pope Francis

In *Walking with Jesus: A Way Forward for the Church*, Pope Francis urges us to make Jesus central in our individual lives and in the collective life of the Church—to walk toward him, and ultimately to walk with him at all times and in all places.



With a foreword by Archbishop of Chicago Blase J. Cupich, Pope Francis's first major appointment in the United States, *Walking with Jesus* offers the Church a much-needed way forward, past its inner and outer walls, as it fearlessly follows Christ toward the future.

From the Resource Center

The Education Resource Center (ERC) offers some fuel for the summer. The online webinar link below will give you some practical tips for next year as well as a motivational boost during the summer. The DVD series is a great resource to increase your knowledge base over the summer. For more fuel for your summer, contact Kim or Tricia at the ERC (563-556-2580 X214). Have a blessed summer!

Thirteen Ways To Become A Better Religious Educator During Summer Break

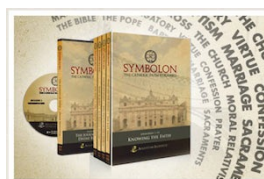


Professional Webinar with Jared Drees, sponsored by Ave Maria Press (65 min.)

<http://safeshare.tv/w/nswPwKHJwX>

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained

DVD #31246-31250 & #31295-31299



Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta and in the

Augustine Institute, a team of teachers provide a clear and comprehensive explanation of the core teaching of the Catholic Church. Each of twenty segments is 25 - 40 minutes and includes The Journey of Faith, Divine Revelation, The Bible, The Story of Salvation, Who Is Jesus? The Paschal Mystery, The Holy Spirit, Why Do I Need the Church? Mary and the Saints, The Last Things, The Sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, and more.

Engaging Families in Catechesis

Many of us are blessed with the opportunities to go to camp, camping, or take a vacation over the summer. Please share this prayer with your families and catechists in your last newsletter of the year, and you could put it in your bulletin. Be sure to include the website at the bottom.

Take time to claim your strength; they are gifts from God. Take time to have fun; it's God's way of teaching you your strengths. Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you. Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you. Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent. Take time to share with others; they will bless you, and you will bless them. Take time to have hope, you are a child of God. Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless our family during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime. Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts, during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

<http://re.holyfamily.org/267/have-a-faith-filled-summer-part-i-summer-prayers/>

SUMMER BUCKET LIST

115 fun things to do before summer kicks the bucket!

- GO TO A BEACH
- GET AN ICE CREAM CONE
- RIDE A PONY
- GO FISHING
- GO TO A MOVIE
- GET A CUPCAKE
- SHOP A FLEA MARKET
- SEE A MOVIE
- VISIT A NURSING HOME
- DONATE FOOD TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER
- HAVE A SLEEPOVER
- PLANT FLOWERS
- BAKE A CAKE
- WRITE A VETERAN
- MAKE ICE CREAM SANDWICHES
- SEE A MAGIC SHOW
- WRITE TO TROOPS
- SEE A PUPPET SHOW
- GET A MILKSHAKE
- RIDE A TRAIN
- VISIT A MUSEUM
- SWIM IN A LAKE
- VISIT A WILDLIFE REFUGE
- STAY IN A B&B
- VISIT AN ART GALLERY
- WATCH FIREWORKS
- VISIT A PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
- GO ON A NATURE WALK
- WRITE A PEN PAL
- TOUR A FACTORY
- VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS
- VISIT THE STATE CAPITOL
- VISIT A HISTORIC SITE
- GO ON A PICNIC
- PICK WILDFLOWERS
- RIDE A ROLLER COASTER
- FLY A KITE
- RIDE A BOAT
- VISIT A HISTORIC LANDMARK
- PUT TOGETHER A PUZZLE
- LEARN TO SKIP STONES
- VISIT A ZOO
- VISIT AN OLD-FASHIONED SODA FOUNTAIN
- CATCH FIREFLIES
- GO BOWLING
- WATCH A SUNRISE
- WATCH A SUNSET
- PICK BERRIES
- PLAY HORSESHOES
- MAKE S'MORES
- CAMP IN THE BACKYARD
- EAT VEGGIES FROM OUR GARDEN
- VISIT A FARMER'S MARKET
- TIE DYE A SHIRT
- MAKE HOMEMADE ICE CREAM
- STAR GAZE
- HAVE A WATER BALLOON FIGHT
- HAVE A POTATO SACK RACE
- VISIT A PLANETARIUM
- BLOW BUBBLES
- VISIT A BOTANICAL GARDEN
- WATCH A CONCERT IN THE PARK
- TAKE A MINI ROAD TRIP
- DANCE IN THE RAIN
- EAT A SNO CONE
- BUILD A FORT
- PLAY FLASHLIGHT TAG
- GO TO A DRIVE-IN THEATER
- GO TO A PARADE
- MAKE ROOT BEER FLOATS
- WADE IN A CREEK
- PLAY MINIATURE GOLF
- VISIT AN ARCADE
- MAKE POPSICLES
- MAKE LEMONADE
- GO TO A FAIR
- PLAY IN THE SPRINKLERS
- FINGER PAINT
- VISIT A FARM
- PLAY HOPSCOTCH
- VISIT A NATURE CENTER
- HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT
- VISIT A WATER PARK
- PAINT POTTERY
- GO ON A DATE WITH MOM
- GO ON A DATE WITH DAD
- TAKE COOKIES TO A FIRE STATION
- TAKE COOKIES TO A POLICE STATION
- PJS & MOVIE NIGHT
- MAKE A NATURE RUBBING
- MAKE A SUN CATCHER
- GO TO THE LIBRARY
- PLAY FRISBEE
- PLAY WIFFLE BALL
- MAKE A COLLAGE FROM OLD MAGAZINES
- ATTEMPT A WORLD RECORD
- EAT BREAKFAST IN BED
- HAVE A MOVIE MARATHON
- CAMP INDOORS
- PLAY WITH SIDEWALK CHALK
- VISIT AN AQUARIUM
- VISIT A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
- HAVE A DANCE PARTY
- GIVE EACH OTHER MAKEOVERS
- EAT SPARKLES ON EVERYTHING FOR A DAY
- HAVE A BBQ
- MAKE FONDUE
- BAKE A PIE
- BAKE COOKIES FOR NEIGHBORS
- HAVE A WATER GUN FIGHT
- TRACE OUR SHADOWS WITH CHALK
- EAT FROZEN CUSTARD
- WATCH A BASEBALL GAME
- BUILD A SUN DIAL
- DRINK A SLURFEE

Go to www.threelittlemonkeysstudio.com

and print this fun calendar with lots of fun things to do.