



# TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Sacred Space

### Prayer of Beginnings

“Dear Lord, as we begin this new year, we gather once again as your community of believers. We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months. We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.

Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that,

with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.

Help us to fulfill Your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith. Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and the love of Christ to others. We ask this in your name.

<http://dosp.org/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/list-of-prayers/prayer-for-the-beginning-of-the-new-school-year/>



## Saints of the Month

### Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Feast of the Guardian Angels September 29



Angels—messengers from God—appear frequently in Scripture, but only Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are named.

Michael appears in Daniel's vision as "the great prince"

who defends Israel against its enemies; in the Book of Revelation, he leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil. Devotion to Michael is the oldest angelic devotion, rising in the East in the fourth century.

Gabriel also makes an appearance in Daniel's visions, announcing Michael's role in God's plan. His best-known appearance is an encounter with a young Jewish girl named Mary, who consents to bear the Messiah.

Raphael's activity is confined to the Old Testament story of Tobit. There he appears to guide Tobit's son Tobiah through Tobiah's marriage to Sarah, the healing of Tobit's blindness and the restoration of the family fortune.

The memorials of Gabriel (March 24) and Raphael (October 24) were added to the Roman calendar in 1921. The 1970 revision of the calendar joined their feasts to Michael's.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/saint.aspx?id=1153>

## Books to help you with Prayer!!

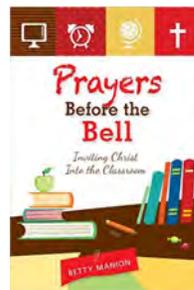
*(Both books are available from the Resource Center or Amazon.com)*

### 70 Prayer Starters for Children...and those who teach them

by Patricia Mathson

An experienced FFL presents 70 engaging and creative prayer experiences for children ages 5-10 that invite children to make prayer a part of their daily lives. Each

chapter helps catechists pray with children in ways that speak to their lives and interests, including talking to God in their own words, expressing praise to God through artwork, praying with Scripture, praying through the Mass, remembering to pray for the needs of others, praying with the psalms, and much more.



### Prayers Before the Bell: Inviting Christ Into the Classroom

by Betty Manion

*Prayers Before the Bell* offers catechists, teachers, and parents more than 250 original prayers to guide students through the school year and liturgical calendar as well as special occasions. Each week's theme is reinforced with a discussion question, Scripture passage, and 5 daily prayers that support students as they grow in their relationship with God.

## Scripture-Based Classroom Rules

07/30/2009 by Jared Dees

This item is back by popular demand from a previous issue. When you are developing your classroom rules this year, you may want to consider a couple of Scripture passages to provide a framework for acceptable behaviors. The following passages from Scripture might be used as guidance for your students. Post them on the wall as you do other rules or procedures.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. ...

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-22** "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who are laboring among you and who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you, and to show esteem for them with special love on account of their work...Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus...Test everything, retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil."

### Start the Year Off Right: Classroom Management Strategies

by Jared Dees

<http://www.thereligionteacher.com/classroom-management-strategies-first-weeks-of-school/>

1. Greet Students at the Door
2. Predetermine Classroom Assigned Seats
3. Start Class with an Engaging Project or Discussion to Energize the Students
4. Set Positive Expectations:
  - Be confident in personal prayer.
  - Summarize to a stranger what a book of the Bible is about.
  - Make moral choices based on the Church's teaching.
  - Willingly serve others who need the most.
5. Post Rules and Procedures on the Walls
6. Practice, Practice, Practice your Procedures



## Starting a New Faith Formation Year

Beginnings are fresh and exciting times for catechists and those they serve. Set the pace for a year that promises to be full of learning, service, and love of God and neighbor.

[Start-of-the-Year Parent Gathering—Free PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Meet parents and encourage them in their role as their children's first catechist by hosting a parent gathering, aided by this free slideshow and script from Joe Paprocki, D.Min.

[Finding Activities That Fit](#)

Veteran catechist Joe Paprocki provides step-by-step instructions for effective activities.

[Preparing My Heart and Mind: Four Ways to Get Ready for the Classroom](#)

Third-grade catechist Lisa Jones shares ways to get ready for a new year of religious education.

[Trust What You Know](#)

These seven tips for new catechists can help put you at ease before your first session.

[Setting Goals for Successful Catechesis](#)

Shannon Chisholm advises that setting goals will help you focus attention on your ministry while not being overwhelmed by the responsibilities of being a catechist.

[Using Discernment in Planning](#)

Take advantage of the spiritual tradition of prayerful discernment in planning the year.

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<http://www2.loyolapress.com/webmail/39532/501379762/a1b5f8da85a9daa8ce12ce0d06b8a6a9>



### From the Resource Center

**The Way God Teaches** series from Our Sunday Visitor offers two titles for meeting the needs of all students: **Meeting Special Needs** (BK #269806) and **Keeping Kids' Attention** (BK #269805). These sixteen-page booklets are a practical resource for all catechists as they start the year. They offer information on the pedagogy of God, practical and useful tips to use in the classroom, and questions for reflection. Check them out from the Archdiocesan Resource Center.

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