

Prayer Service to Begin a New School Year

INTRODUCTION

Good morning. Welcome to our prayer service to begin this new school year. Today we begin another year of learning and growing in the light of the Catholic faith. We are starting a new part of our journey with friends we know and friends we will meet. Let us take a few minutes to listen to God's holy word in the Bible, and to offer Him our prayers for this new school year.

OPENING SONG

Please join in our opening song, _____.

OPENING PRAYER

And let us begin with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And let us pray.

God our merciful Father, we turn to you at the start of this new school year. Open our ears to hear your voice; open our hearts to grow in love as we listen to your word. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And now, let us listen to God's word.

READING

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Lk 9, 46-48)

An argument arose among the disciples of Jesus about which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he took a little child and put it by his side, and he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION

The story we just heard is about welcoming Jesus in everyone. Jesus is telling us that when we welcome another person, we are welcoming him and his Father. Think of all the times we can welcome Jesus this year. Each time we show someone friendship and help them to belong, we are welcoming Jesus and telling him that he belongs in our school.

We belong to Jesus, and want to learn and grow as his disciples. This is what being in a Catholic school is all about. Every time we share a kind word, every time we help someone, every time we invite someone to play with us, we are welcoming Jesus into our hearts and into our school. Let us think about these things this year. Let us welcome one another with kindness every day. This is how we show we are followers of Jesus.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

The response to our prayers is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the Church – that all the followers of Jesus will welcome one another with friendship and kindness, and show the world this is what it means to be a Christian.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world – that all God's children will work to fill our world with kindness, friendship and peace. We pray: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all those who are sick and suffering – that God will send them the healing they need.

We pray: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our teachers, EAs, secretary, support staff, principal and vice principal – that God will fill them with His patience and wisdom as they welcome us back in this new school year.

We pray: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our parents and caregivers, our grandparents, our brothers and sisters, other family members and friends – that God will open their hearts to welcome his love and to share it with everyone.

We pray: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all the people we hold in our hearts, and all the cares we carry inside of us. Let us bring them before God, who never grows tired of welcoming His children and listening to their needs.

We pray: *Lord hear our prayer.*

And let us gather up all our prayers – those we have spoken, and those still in our hearts. And let us bring them before God our Father using the prayer that Jesus taught us: ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER

God our merciful Father, we praise you and we thank you for all you give us. Help us to be the welcoming people you call us to be. Help us to begin this new school year with hearts that welcome Jesus in everyone we meet. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song _____ .