

**Below is a suggested set of morning announcements for Catholic schools, leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13<sup>th</sup>. After each announcement, you might wish to recite three Hail Marys or a decade of the Rosary, rather than the one Hail Mary in the prayers below. Please use them as you see fit.**

**Suggested Morning Prayer Announcement 1 of 3  
Feast of Our Lady of Fátima**

Good morning, and welcome to our first morning prayer in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Today, we recall the visits of an angel to the three shepherd children: Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos, in 1916. The angel came to prepare them to welcome Mary, the mother of Jesus. The angel's first visit took place in Springtime while the children were out tending their families' sheep. The angel appeared, saying he was the Angel of Peace. He taught them a prayer asking God's forgiveness for persons who did not believe, hope in or love God. That summer, the Angel of Peace came again, telling the children he was the guardian angel of their country. He called them to offer all their difficulties to God for the conversion of sinners, to make up for offenses against God, and for peace in their land. In September, the Angel returned with a chalice holding the Body and Blood of Christ. The angel invited the children to kneel down with him in adoration before Christ's Body and Blood. He taught them a prayer of reparation for offenses against the Body and Blood of Christ throughout the world, and for the conversion of sinners. They prayed the prayer together, and then the angel gave Lucia Holy Communion in the form of a Host; Francisco and Jacinta received Holy Communion from the chalice. The experience made a deep impression on them. They prayed more than ever for all who were far from God, and for peace in Portugal.

Let us turn to Our Lady of Fátima, asking her to help us become better followers of Jesus, and messengers of His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Hail Mary...*

God our Father, we thank you for the gift of Christ's Body and Blood. Give us greater reverence for His Real Presence in the Eucharist, the strength to live as His disciples, and messengers of his peace. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Suggested Morning Prayer Announcement 2 of 3**  
**Feast of Our Lady of Fátima**

Good morning, and welcome to our second morning prayer in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Today, we recall how Our Lady appeared to the three shepherd children: Lucia, dos Santos and her two cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, they were out looking after their families' sheep when a woman dressed in white appeared to them on a cloud over a small oak tree. The woman asked them to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world, and said she'd return to them each month on that same date. Then next month, she told them God wished for people to turn to her Immaculate Heart as a refuge and for help finding God. In July, Our Lady appeared and gave the children three secrets about wars and troubles in the world that would come if people did not pray and change their ungodly ways. In August, the children were put in jail, to keep them from seeing Our Lady and sharing her message. The children were released two days later on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption, and Our Lady appeared to them a few days later closer to their home. On September, Our Lady encouraged them to continue praying the Rosary and said they would see a miracle there the next month. In October, over 50,000 people witnessed a great miracle at Fatima, which came to be called the "Miracle of the sun." Many became believers on that day.

Let us turn to Our Lady of Fátima, asking her to help us to follow Jesus with courage and trust in His love for us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen  
*Hail Mary...*

And let us pray. God our Father, we thank you for the faith of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia. Give us the grace to walk by faith with you each day in prayer and in good works. And may the love of Mary's heart be a place of refuge for us in our joys and troubles along life's way. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus our Saviour, Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Suggested Morning Prayer Announcement 3 of 3**  
**Feast of Our Lady of Fátima**

Good morning, and welcome to our final morning prayer in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima on October 13<sup>th</sup>. By October of 1917, news of Our Lady's appearances to the children at Fátima over the six earlier months had spread widely throughout Portugal and beyond. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, more than 50,000 people stood with them in a muddy field in the pouring rain to wait for Our Lady to appear with the great miracle that she had promised. Mary appeared to the children asking for a chapel to be built there in her honour, and for the children to pray the Rosary each day. When the children asked her name, she said, "I am Our Lady of the Rosary." Our Lady said that World War I would soon be over, and that soldiers would come home. Then the sun burst through the clouds, spinning, changing colours, zig-zagging and appearing to fall to the earth. People were terrified. All of a sudden, everyone's soaking wet clothes were dry. Then, St. Joseph and the child Jesus appeared to the children in the sky beside the sun with Our Lady, blessing the earth. People many kilometers away saw the Miracle of the Sun. It was reported in newspapers, and many non-believers came to believe in God that day.

Let us turn to Our Lady of Fátima, asking her to help us to grow in faith and love for God and neighbour.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen  
*Hail Mary...*

God our Father, increase your gift of faith in us. May we see the miracle of your love in creation, in the dignity of every human life, in the power of your word and in Christ's Real Presence in the sacraments. Take our lives and transform us, that we might become living examples of faith that glorify you in all things. And may our hearts beat with the love of Jesus and His Mother Mary as we make our journey to eternal life with You. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus your Son, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen