

## Introduction to the Bicentennial Celebration Playbook

In 2026, the Archdiocese of St. Louis will joyfully commemorate the 200th anniversary of its founding as a diocese in 1826. This once-in-a-generation Jubilee is an invitation for every parish community to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's enduring presence among us and to celebrate the vibrant, living history of Catholic faith in our region.

#### The Jubilee theme

### Rejoicing in God's Radiant Light. A Legacy of Faith. A Future of Hope.

reflects our deep gratitude for the past and our bold trust in what lies ahead. As we honor two centuries of faith, the Bicentennial Jubilee calls us to shine brightly in the present and carry that light forward for generations to come.

God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all....But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

I John 1:5,7



This Celebration Playbook is designed to help schools bring the Jubilee theme to life in ways that best fit their own community. The ideas offered here are intentionally flexible—some ready to "plug and play," others more open-ended to adapt or expand according to your local heritage and pastoral needs. These ideas are tools for discernment, not directives, meant to spark creativity and support you as you invite the faithful into the Bicentennial Jubilee honoring your unique Catholic heritage and contribute to the spirit of unity and mission that defines this historic moment.		
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Rooted in the lives of our three patron saints, the Jubilee year is guided by their spiritual legacy:  • St. Louis, King of France, patron of our archdiocese, models faithful leadership, charity, and justice in public life.  • St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, pioneer missionary, embodies perseverance, contemplative prayer, and a love for education and the marginalized.  • St. Vincent de Paul, whose charism inspires countless acts of mercy and systemic care for the poor, reminds us of the Church's mission to serve Christ in the most vulnerable.	
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We invite you to prayerfully consider how your school events, traditions, and classroom activities in 2026 might reflect the Jubilee spirit of celebration and renewal. Whether your community is a PSR program, an elementary school, or a high school, large or small, urban or rural, you have a vital role in this archdiocesan celebration.

This historic milestone also invites us to look forward with hope. The Jubilee calls each school community to renew its commitment to carrying Christ's light into the future through the way we learn, serve, pray, and care for one another. By nurturing students in faith and virtue, our schools continue the mission begun more than two centuries ago, forming young people who will shine Christ's light in their homes, parishes, and the world.

As you begin dreaming, planning, and discerning how your school community will commemorate the Bicentennial Jubilee, please remember that the ideas offered here are simply starting points. You are welcome to use any one of them, combine several, or create entirely new expressions of joy and hope that reflect your school's unique story and charism.

May this Jubilee Year be a time of joy and renewal as we give thanks for 200 years of faith guided by the example of our saints and illuminated by God's radiant light that continues to shine through Catholic education in every generation.

As you celebrate, we'd love to see and share those moments! Remember to tag your photos and stories with #ArchSTL200 so together we can showcase the light of our Catholic faith across the Archdiocese.



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# Section #1 Call to Action

#### **Call To Action**

#### Honoring Over 200 Years of Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education

Catholic education helped lay the foundation of the Diocese even before 1826.

In 1818, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and the Religious of the Sacred Heart opened the first free school west of the Mississippi, a humble one-room log cabin in St. Charles. From that modest beginning, Catholic education in St. Louis expanded gradually but steadily. By the mid-19th century, religious orders such as the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St. Joseph were founding additional schools to meet the needs of a growing Catholic community. As the Catholic population continued to increase, the need for a more systematic, archdiocesan-wide approach to Catholic education became clear.

In 1910, under Archbishop John J. Glennon, the Archdiocese created a formal Catholic school system by appointing a superintendent of Catholic Schools and forming a high-school development committee. The first archdiocesan high schools followed shortly thereafter. Over the decades that followed, Catholic schools shaped generations not only imparting academic knowledge but grounding students in faith, virtue, and community values.

The Archdiocese preserved records of this growth: enrollment books, yearbooks, photographs, and historical documents trace how Catholic education expanded from a single schoolhouse to a network of elementary and high schools serving families across the region. As we approach the 200th anniversary, we celebrate not only the founding of the Diocese, but the enduring legacy of Catholic education, built by courageous pioneers, religious women and men, clergy and lay faithful who have fostered faith, learning, and community for centuries.

#### The Bicentennial invites us to:

- Honor our roots in prayer and gratitude
- Teach students about the story of the Diocese
- Celebrate the mission of Catholic education
- Radiate Christ's light through simple acts of kindness
- Connect every school community to the broader history of Catholic life in St. Louis



#### **Suggested Features**

#### **TELL THE STORY**

Share the history of Catholic education in St. Louis during morning announcements or assemblies. Invite students to imagine what school might have been like in 1818.

#### **MAKE IT LOCAL & PERSONAL**

Connect your school's founding story or patron saint to the Archdiocesan timeline. Add photos or artifacts from your archives or parish to your hallway display.

#### **INSPIRE REFLECTION**

Ask students, "who are the missionaries and teachers carrying Christ's light today, and how can we continue their work?"

#### CREATE A THEN AND NOW DISPLAY

Use the printed timeline as a centerpiece, showing the evolution of Catholic schools, from St. Rose Philippine Duchesne's log cabin classroom to today's halls of faith and learning.

#### **CELEBRATE IN PRAYER**

Use the Bicentennial Prayer in class or school liturgies to honor those who built our schools and those who continue the mission today.

#### **Tip for Principals:**

Feature one historic milestone from the timeline in each January newsletter or social media post leading up to Catholic Schools Week.



# Section #2 Catholic Schools Week

#### **Catholic Schools Week 2026**

### Theme: Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ's Light.

Catholic Schools Week will be the **school-based kickoff** of the Bicentennial and the moment where students enter the 200-year story as its newest chapter.

The Archdiocese is asking every school to participate in three simple, shared commitments.

- I) Use a Shared Theme Throughout the Week
- 2) Introduce the Bicentennial Prayer
- 3) Participate in the 200 Acts of Light Project



### USE THE SHARED THEME AND BICENTENNIAL LOGO THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

#### **ROOTED IN FAITH. RADIATING CHRIST'S LIGHT.**

This year, we ask every Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese to use one shared theme: Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ's Light.

Schools can express this theme in whatever way fits their culture:

- Banners, bulletin boards, and displays
- Classroom decorations
- School Mass and intercessions
- Morning announcements
- Spirit days or assemblies
- Social media posts
- Principal communications and newsletters

A Digital Resource Site has been created as a central hub for digital downloads including logos, brand guidelines, Archbishop's Monthly Intentions, signage designs, and more:

https://resources.archstl.org/article/303232/bicentennial-resources



#### INTRODUCE THE BICENTENNIAL PRAYER

Catholic Schools Week is the moment when we introduce the Bicentennial Prayer to our entire school community — students, teachers, staff, and families. This prayer will accompany us throughout 2026 as we celebrate 200 years of faith and mission in the Archdiocese.

Each school will receive physical & <u>digital prayer cards</u> that make it easy to share the prayer in multiple settings, including:

- Morning announcements as the schoolwide daily prayer
- School Mass or prayer services
- Classroom prayer at the start or end of the day
- Faculty or staff meetings
- Assemblies or special gatherings

Schools are also encouraged to send the prayer home, inviting families to pray with us during Catholic Schools Week and throughout the Bicentennial year. This simple gesture helps the whole community pray in one voice and root the year in gratitude, unity, and hope. The goal is to make the Bicentennial Prayer a familiar, meaningful touchstone for everyone. This is a shared way of grounding our celebrations in faith as we look toward the next 200 years.

#### **PARTICIPATE IN THE 200 ACTS OF LIGHT PROJECT**

A Simple, Joyful Way to Celebrate the Bicentennial

During Catholic Schools Week, each school is invited to complete one schoolwide or class-based "200 Acts of Light" project. These are small, meaningful acts that reflect Christ's love in everyday ways.

The goal is simple: Do one thing that brings light to someone else — as a class, a grade, or an entire school. No school needs to complete 200 acts individually. Together, as an Archdiocese, our shared efforts honor 200 years of Catholic education and mission.

#### What This Project Is:

- A joyful way to live the theme Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ's Light.
- A simple, manageable activity for students of all ages.
- A schoolwide moment of unity during Catholic Schools Week.
- A chance for students to connect faith with action.

#### How to Participate

- Choose one simple act of light as a class or school.
- Keep it joyful, personal, and easy to complete.
- Track your acts in a visible, fun way.
- Share one photo or story using the #ArchSTL200.
- One small act from each student becomes a shared celebration of who we are and what our faith inspires us to do.



200 Acts of Light Examples by Grade Band		
<ul> <li>K-2: Small Acts, Big Hearts</li> <li>Color a "Jesus loves you" card for someone lonely, sick, or homebound</li> <li>Share a prayer or blessing with a class buddy</li> <li>Offer a kindness at home — set the table, help a sibling, or pray with a parent</li> <li>Draw a small picture or write a note for a someone like a parish or school staff member or cafeteria worker</li> <li>Grades 3-5: Be the Light</li> <li>Write thank-you notes to teachers, priests, volunteers, family, etc.</li> <li>Complete small acts of service around the school (cleaning shared spaces, helping younger grades, etc.)</li> <li>Create prayer intentions for those in need and place them in a classroom prayer basket</li> <li>Make encouraging bookmarks for parishioners or library guests</li> <li>Grades 6-8: Faith in Motion</li> <li>Assemble small hygiene kits or blessing bags</li> <li>Create flower arrangements or cards for seniors or neighbors</li> <li>Mentor younger students through reading, tutoring, or shared prayer</li> <li>Plan a small homeroom service project connected to the parish or local need</li> </ul>		
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200 Acts of Light Sharing Your Light	
Tracking the Week  Each school may track its "Acts of Light" in any simple, visible format:  • A hallway poster or display • A bulletin board • Post-it notes labeled with student or class names • Cut-out hearts, candles, stars, or paper flames representing each act • A classroom jar or box where students "drop" acts of kindness  Sharing Your Light Schools are invited, however, not required to share photos or short stories of their "Acts of Light" during Catholic Schools Week. #ArchSTL200  These may be featured by: The St. Louis Review & ArchSTL Communications  Sharing even one moment helps highlight the beauty of Catholic education and the bright witness of our students during the Bicentennial year.	
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200 Acts of Light Optional Enhancements		
If your school wants to go further, consider:  • Bicentennial Showcase, a student music, art, or writing display after Sunday Mass		
200 Acts of Kindness challenge, a whole school goal		
<ul> <li>Living Saint Museum, students portray saints connected to St. Louis</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Prayer Wall, families post prayers for teachers, alumni, and future students</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Generations of Light Day, invite alumni or retired teachers to share stories</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Spirit of Service Day, students wear school colors and perform acts of kindness</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Through the Decades Day, each class represents a different era of Catholic education</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Family Faith Night, prayer service, chili supper, or trivia night tied to parish history</li> </ul>		
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# Section #3 Additional Ways to Celebrate the Bicentennial Jubilee

#### "Telling Your School Story"

Every school has a story, a sacred thread woven through decades of faith, community, and mission. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, your school is invited to rediscover and share its own chapter in our legacy.

Gather the key moments that shaped your school over the years. When was your school founded? Who was the Bishop or Archbishop? What historical moment was it responding to? Who were its founders and earliest families? What inspired its name?

Lift up the voices of your community. Interview longtime staff members who carry treasured memories. Invite former priests and deacons to contribute reflections or photos. Invite young alumni to participate reflecting what the school has meant in their lives. Consider visual opportunities with images and art.

Choose a way to share. Organize an Archive Committee to collect photos and publications. Digitize the content to create a newsletter series, a video montage, or a display wall in school gathering spaces. Consider oral history project.

For historical records or support, contact the Office of Archives and Records at archives@archstl.org.

Your school story is part of the greater story of the Church in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. By telling it, you honor those who built the foundation and inspire the next generation to carry the light forward.



#### **Candlelight Prayer Service**

#### Theme Inspiration: "Christ, Our Light"

Invite students, faculty, and families to a reflective and joyful prayer service that celebrates how Christ's light has shone through 200 years of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Together, the school community will reflect on how they see Christ's light in their daily lives and how they are called to share that light with others as we enter this Bicentennial year.

#### Possible Features:

- Before the gathering, invite students to reflect on how they see the light of Christ in their daily lives through their family, classmates, teachers, prayer, or acts of kindness. As part of this preparation, classes may create candle-themed artwork to line the hallways, allowing the school to "walk through the light of Christ" on the way to the prayer service.
- Process to a dimmed central gathering space singing Christ Be Our Light or The Light of Christ or another age-appropriate song.
- Include Scripture readings such as John 1:1–9 or Matthew 5:14–16, proclaimed by students.
- Invite a group of students preparing to receive or who have recently received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation to offer brief reflections on how they see Christ's light in their lives.
- Allow silent time for personal prayer during which students quietly think of someone for whom they can "be the light of Christ."
- After the silent prayer, play instrumental music and create a symbolic moment where teachers "pass the light" to students who then spread it to their classmates visualizing the mission of carrying Christ's light forward. (Use battery-operated candles.)
- Invite a priest or deacon to offer a moment of commitment may be included, inviting all present to respond "I do" as they pledge to carry Christ's light into their homes, friendships, and daily actions. Include a special Bicentennial blessing over the community, ask God to help them reflect Christ's light in the coming year.
- Conclude with a communal intercession and joyfully closing song such as "This Little Light of Mine."
- Provide students with <u>take-home sheet</u> to foster family conversations about ways to be the light of Christ to each other.



#### **Bicentennial School Pen Pal Exchange**

Theme Inspiration: "For all of you are children of the light and children of the day." (I Thessalonians 5:5)

To honor the Bicentennial Jubilee and strengthen bonds across the Archdiocese, schools can participate in a Pen Pal Exchange that connects students from different regions, urban, suburban, and rural to learn from one another and celebrate our shared Catholic identity.

#### How it works:

#### Schools Select a Partner Schools

- Each school identifies another Catholic school community within the archdiocese ideally in a different deanery or region to form a Bicentennial Pen Pal partnership.
- Grade levels may partner class-to-class or a whole school may choose a single partner school.

#### Letter Exchange Schedule

**First Exchange**: Introductions students tell their school story, share their favorite school traditions, patron saint, and why celebrating the Bicentennial is important.

**Second Exchange:** Students share how they are "being the light of Christ" through service, kindness, and prayer.

**Third Exchange**: Students exchange prayers, hopes, and encouragement for the future.

#### **Optional Enhancements**

Swap Class Art: Students exchange drawings of their school mascots, church buildings, or Jubilee-themed artwork.

Mini Video Greetings: Short, 30-second class videos saying hello or sharing a class prayer.

Shared Service Challenge: Both schools perform the same act of service and share reflections through letters.

Virtual Meet-Up: A simple Zoom call for classes to meet, pray together, or share something they learned.

#### **Benefits for Students:**

- Builds connections and friendships across the archdiocese.
- Helps students appreciate the diversity of Catholic school communities across the archdiocese. Provides understanding of our similarities and differences.
- Strengthens the sense of being part of a wider Church family during the Bicentennial Jubilee.
- Encourages writing and communication, geography, and history skills.



# Section #4 Plug and Play Lesson Plans

#### **Lesson Plans**

The Following Lesson Plans were created to give teachers simple, ageappropriate ways to connect students to the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. They are short, flexible activities designed to enrich Catholic Schools Week or support instruction at any point during the Bicentennial year.

The lessons are meant to be **easy to use**, **light on preparation**, and deeply rooted in the Bicentennial theme:

Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ's Light.

- Our Patron Saints
- 2. Connecting To Our History
- 3. STREAM

Our Patron Saints		
Lesson 1: St. Rose Philippine - Duchesne The Woman Who Prayed  Lesson 2: St. Vincent de Paul - Seeing Christ in the Poor  Lesson 3: St. Louis IX - King and Servant		
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#### **LESSON I: ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE**

#### **Overview**

Scripture

"Pray always without becoming weary." (Luke 18:1)

#### Theme

Courage, prayer, perseverance, and the missionary beginnings of Catholic education in Missouri

#### Learning Goals (All Grades)

- Learn who St. Rose Philippine Duchesne was
- Understand why prayer shaped her missionary life
- Connect perseverance and faith to their own lives
- Appreciate the roots of Catholic education in St. Louis

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- Social Studies (local history, geography)
- Reading (biography analysis)
- Religion (prayer and saints)
- Writing (creative letters and reflections)

#### **Optional Extensions:**

- Virtual Shrine Visit (St. Charles)
- Class prayer intentions inspired by St. Rose
- Timeline display: "From 1818 to Today"



# K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Hands That Pray

#### **Supplies**

- Printable "Prayer Heart" template
- Construction paper
- Crayons/markers
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Short biography of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

#### **Instructions**

Introduce St. Rose and read a short biography or show 2–3 images of her journey to Missouri. Tell students: St. Rose prayed so much that her nickname became "The Woman Who Prays Always."

#### Trace & Cut

• Students trace both hands on paper and cut them out carefully.

#### Message of Prayer

- On one hand write: "Lord, help me pray like St. Rose."
- On the other hand, draw a person they want to pray for.

#### Assemble Craft

• Glue hands onto the "Prayer Heart" printable.

#### Prayer Moment

As a class, offer a simple prayer for the people they drew or named.

Link to Printable Templates: HERE St. Rose Pray for me St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Bio  Optional Extension: Create a bulletin board display: "200 Hands of Prayer."	
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## 3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mission Map Adventure

#### **Supplies**

- Printable Missouri map
- · World map or classroom globe
- Drawing paper
- Pencils / colored pencils
- Short reading on St. Rose's journey

#### **Locate the Journey**

Using a world map, trace St. Rose's route from France → the Atlantic → New Orleans → the Mississippi
 → St. Charles.

#### **Discuss the Challenges**

What might have been difficult?

- long travel
- sickness
- learning a new language
- · starting a school in a frontier community

#### My Journey to School Map

• Students create their own "journey map," labeling helpers along the way (parents, bus driver, crossing guard, principal).

#### **Short Reflection**

Write a paragraph: "Who helps me grow in faith and courage, and how can I thank them?"

Link to Printable Templates: HERE Blank Map of Missouri World Map My Journey to School Map

Optional Extension: Create a hallway display: "Journeys of Faith."

#### 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Letters from the Frontier

#### **Supplies**

- Excerpts from St. Rose's real letters
- Lined paper or journals
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: photos of early St. Charles mission school

#### Instructions

**Read Primary Sources** 

Students read 1–2 excerpts describing frontier life.

Example quotes may mention cold weather, scarce food, long days teaching.

Analyze Together and discuss: What surprised you? What challenges stand out? Why did she persist?

Historical Writing Activity

Students write a "Letter Home from the Frontier" imagining themselves as:

- I. a teacher in 1818
- 2. a student in the mission school
- 3. or even St. Rose herself

Letters should describe daily routines, joys & struggles, and the role of prayer

Share & Display: Post letters on a board titled "Faith Takes Root."

Link to Printable Templates: HERE
St. Rose's Letters
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Bio
Cursive Handwriting Template

Optional Extension: Research
assignment on frontier schools



#### **LESSON 2: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

#### **Overview**

Scripture

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

#### Theme

Charity, compassion, dignity of the human person, and the mission of service

#### **Learning Goals (All Grades)**

- understand who St. Vincent de Paul was
- learn the meaning of seeing Christ in others
- practice simple acts of charity
- connect faith to action

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- Religion (Corporal Works of Mercy)
- Social Studies (community needs)
- ELA (writing notes, reflection prompts)

#### **Optional Extensions:**

- Invite an SVDP volunteer to speak
- Coordinate with parish SVDP for service
- Make a "Wall of Everyday Goodness" honoring acts of kindness



K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:
Helping Hands of Love

#### **Supplies**

- Short St. Vincent de Paul storybook or video
- Paper hand outlines
- Crayons/markers
- Glue
- Poster labeled "We Help Like St. Vincent"

#### Instructions

#### I. Learn About St. Vincent

Share a simple story about his kindness and care for the poor.

#### 2. Helping Hands Craft

Students trace their hands and decorate them.

#### 3. One Way I Can Help

On each hand, students draw or write a way they can help someone today.

#### 4. Class Display

Glue all hands to the poster.

#### 5. Closing Prayer

"Jesus, help us see you in every person."

<u>Saint</u>	Vincent	de	Paul	Α	Man	with	a

<u>Mission</u>

Links:

Optional Extension: Deliver small classroom-made notes to parish staff or volunteers.



3-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bags of Blessings	

#### **Supplies**

- Paper lunch bags
- Small note cards
- Markers
- · Optional: snacks or hygiene items

#### **Instructions**

#### I. Discuss Dignity

Talk about seeing Christ in those who need help.

#### 2. Decorate Bags

Draw symbols of hope, joy, and faith.

#### 3. Add Notes

Write encouraging messages or short prayers.

#### 4. Fill (Optional)

Add small items as appropriate.

#### 5. Donate

Send to the parish SVDP chapter.

Optional Extension:
Write reflections "Why helping others matters."



# 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Modern Vincentians in Action

#### Supplies

- Article or video about SVDP
- Poster paper or digital slide tools
- Markers

#### Instructions

#### I. Explore SVDP Today

Watch or read about how SVDP serves families in St. Louis.

#### 2. Identify a Local Need

Brainstorm ways a homeroom could help the school or parish community.

#### 3. Create a Mini Campaign

Posters or digital slides promoting:

- food drive
- clothing collection
- note-writing
- hygiene kits

#### 4. Share Ideas

Present campaigns to the class.

Optional Extension: Invite an SVDP volunteer to discuss real needs in the community.



#### **LESSON 3: ST. LOUIS IX**

#### **Overview**

#### Scripture

"The greatest among you must be your servant." (Mt 23:11)

#### Theme

Servant leadership, justice, fairness, and moral responsibility.

#### Learning Goals (All Grades)

- learn about St. Louis IX's humility and service
- apply fairness and compassion in decision-making
- explore leadership through the lens of faith

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- Social Studies (leaders and justice)
- ELA (scenario writing, discussion)
- Religion (Beatitudes, virtues)

#### **Optional Extensions:**

- Virtual Cathedral Basilica mosaic tour
- Tie-ins with Student Council initiatives



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K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	
Kind Kings & Queens	

#### **Supplies**

- Short Video About St Louis IX
- Crown templates
- Crayons/markers
- Stickers

#### **Instructions**

I. Learn His Story

Emphasize: he cared for the poor, listened, and tried to be fair.

2. Create Crowns

Students decorate crowns.

3. Write a Leadership Act

"I lead with love when I..." on each crown.

4. Royal Circle Sharing

Students share their kind leadership ideas.

Links: <u>Saint Louis IX of France   Catechism</u> <u>for Kids</u> Link to Crown Template: <u>HERE</u>
Optional Extension: Make a "Royal Court of Kindness" wall.



# 3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Council of Kindness

#### **Supplies**

- Paper
- Pens/Pencils

#### Instructions

#### I. Form Royal Councils

Groups of 3–4 students.

#### 2. Assign Scenarios

Examples:

- o During a kickball game, one team keeps bending the rules to win.
- During a group assignment, one student is doing all the work while another refuses to help.
- o Two students both insist they were supposed to be the line leader today. They're arguing loudly and won't back down.
- A group of students is playing a game at recess. One student asks to join, but the group says there are "already enough players."

#### 3. Solve with Kindness

Groups discuss:

Ask the councils to form solutions and prompt them with "How would St. Louis IX respond?"

#### **Share Out**

Councils present their just and compassionate solutions.

Optional Extension: Act out scenes as short skits



# 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Modern Saints of Justice

#### Supplies

- Poster materials
- Independent Research Materials

#### Instructions

#### I. Compare Leaders

Students should research one of our patron saints or your parish's patron saint as well as a modern leader and champion of social justice (e.g. St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and Malala Yousafzai)

#### 2. Two-Column Poster

Compare:

- acts of justice
- leadership choices
- examples of humility and charity

#### 3. Reflection Discussion

How can we lead with faith today?

Optional Extension: Students create their own "Beatitudes for Leaders Today."



Connecting To Our History	
Lesson 4: Life on the frontier (1818) - Building faith on mission land  Lesson 5: Early Catholic classrooms - Learning with faith	
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# LESSON 4: LIFE ON THE FRONTIER (1818) Building Faith on Mission Land

#### **Overview**

Scripture

"Unless the Lord builds the house..." (Ps 127:1)

#### Theme

Early Church life, missionary challenges, community building.

### **Learning Goals (All Grades)**

- understand frontier life in Missouri
- explore how parishes and schools were formed
- appreciate the perseverance of early missionaries

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- Social Studies (mapping, early settlements)
- Art (models and drawings)

# **Optional Extensions:**

- Visit Old Cathedral or Shrine (In Person or Virtual)
- Create a "Then and Now" hallway display

K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: My Mission Village	

#### What Is a Mission Village? (Child-Friendly Explanation)

A mission village was a tiny town in Missouri over 200 years ago. "Before we had big churches and schools, St. Rose helped build tiny mission villages where people learned, prayed, and lived together." It usually had:

- A small log church (chapel) where people prayed
- A simple school with one room
- Log houses where families lived
- Animals, rivers, and trees because Missouri was still a frontier
- St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and other sisters teaching and praying

#### **Supplies**

- Crayons
- Blank paper (landscape orientation recommended)

#### Instructions

I. Show Early Missouri Images

Log homes, rivers, mission chapels.

2. Draw a Mission Village

Include chapel, houses, school, St. Rose.

3. Add Faith Elements

Small crosses, candles, or prayer spaces..

Link to Printable Templates: HERE Mission Village Coloring Pages

Optional Extension: Hang all mission villages side by side to show how a frontier Catholic community grew.



	3-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Build a Mission Church	
Supplies		

- Craft sticks
- Glue
- **Paper**

#### **Instructions**

**Discuss Mission Chapels** 

Simple structures built by hand on the frontier.

2. Design & Build

Students build a small log-style chapel.

3. Label It

"Our Mission Church, 1818."

Optional Extension: Make a mini mission village as a class with other types of structures schoolhouses, homes etc.



	Grade ment Mapping	
1.		

- Blank Missouri map
- Markers
- Early Catholic St. Louis reference list

#### Instructions

I. Map Key Locations

Old Cathedral, St. Charles, Jesuit missions, early parishes.

2. Study Patterns

Why near rivers? Why near trade routes?

3. Short Essay

"How geography shaped our Catholic roots."

Optional Extension: Add a timeline from 1818 to your school's founding year.



# LESSON 5: EARLY CATHOLIC CLASSROOMS Learning with Faith

#### **Overview**

Scripture

"Teach me Your ways, O Lord." (Ps 25:4)

#### Theme

Education, tradition, gratitude for teachers, early school routines.

# **Learning Goals (All Grades)**

- Compare early Catholic classrooms with today
- Appreciate simple tools and routines
- Reflect on gratitude for teachers

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- ELA (handwriting practice, reflection)
- History (classroom evolution)



K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: Old Time School Day	

- Lined paper
- Pencils
- Simple classroom rules sheet

#### Instructions

I. Begin with Prayer

As the early classrooms did.

2. Practice Cursive Handwriting

Students write slowly and neatly.

3. Compare and Share

What's the same? What's different?

Link to Printable Templates: HERE Cursive Handwriting Template

Optional Extension: Invite grandparents to share school memories.

2 Eth Caralla	
3-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Writing with Quills	

- Feathers and ink or calligraphy markers
- Paper

### Instructions

I. Teach Penmanship History

How quills were used.

2. Practice Writing

Students copy: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

3. Share Work

Display as a gallery.

Quill Pen & Ink Lesson	<u>Quil</u>	<u>l Pen</u>	<u>&amp; I</u>	<u>nk l</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
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Link to Printable Templates: HERE

Printable Handwriting Sheet



6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
The 1818 Classroom	
Experience	

- 1818 Classroom Rules printable
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Catechism question card

#### Instructions

# I. Role-Play Lesson

Teacher leads an 1818-style school session.

#### 2. Student Participation

Recite a catechism question; complete a short math task.

#### 3. Reflection

"What can we learn from simplicity and focus."

Link to Printable Templates: HERE 1818 Classroom Rules

Optional Extension: Interview a retired teacher for perspective.



STREAM	
Lesson 6: Catholic Art & Architecture  Lesson 7: Faith in Creation	
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# LESSON 6: CATHOLIC ART & ARCHITECTURE Faith Through Beauty

#### **Overview**

#### Scripture

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Ps 150:6)

#### **Theme**

Beauty as a pathway to God, symbolism in sacred spaces.

# **Learning Goals (All Grades)**

- Explore sacred art
- Learn about symbols in churches
- Create their own faith-inspired art

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- Art (design, color, pattern)
- Religion (symbols, saints)



K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: Stained Glass Windows	

- Tissue paper
- Coloring Pages
- Glue
- Scissors

#### **Instructions**

- I. Show Examples of Stained Glass from local Catholic churches
- 2. Print of Examples of Stained Glass Windows and fill with Color Glue tissue paper pieces to frames.
- 3. Prayer "Jesus, You are our light."

Link to Printable Templates: HERE
Stained Glass Window Coloring Pages

Optional Extension: Print the images on velum so that light can shine through

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			Grade the Saints			
Su	pplies					
•	Colored paper so Glue Saint images Scissors	quares				
I.	Instructions  I. Choose a Saint Preferably connect to St. Louis.					
2.	Create Mosaic Use colored squa	Symbol ares to make a symbol repre	esenting that saint.			
3.	Caption It	s God's light when"				
				ArchSTL200.org		

			Grade Cathedral			
Su	pplies					
•	Graph paper					
•	Rulers					
•	Drawing pencils					
•	Optional: digital o	design tool				
Instructions  I. Study Church Architecture Narthex, Nave, Sanctuary, Altar, Transepts, Sacristy, etc.						
2.	Design a Floor Include three fait					
3.						
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# LESSON 7: FAITH IN CREATION (STREAM) Science + Faith

### **Overview**

#### Scripture

"The heavens declare the glory of God." (Ps 19:1)

#### Theme

Creation, engineering, problem-solving, seeing God in natural order.

# Learning Goals (All Grades)

- Explore faith and science relationships
- Build simple structures
- Use teamwork and creativity

#### **Cross-Curricular Connections**

- STEM
- Art
- Religion

	K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: Build a Bell Tower					
<ul><li>Supplies</li><li>Paper cups</li><li>Tubes</li><li>Tape</li><li>Bell</li></ul>						
Instructions  1. Build a Tower Structure must stand for 10 seconds.  2. Add a Bell Symbolizing gathering for prayer.  3. Test & Celebrate Discuss stability and teamwork.						
		ArchSTL200.org				

		Light the	Grade e Church Project)		
Supplies					
	ealights windows rs				
	ns ce a Church S ut window shap				
2. Add I	<b>_ight</b> _ED behind the	e windows.			
3. Reflection "How	c <b>tion</b> can we shine (	God's light?"			
				ArchSTL200.org	

6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
Strong Foundations Challenge	

- Straws
- Tape
- String
- Small Bible or cross

#### **Instructions**

I. Build a Structure

Must support the Bible or cross for 10 seconds.

2. Testing & Iteration

Make improvements.

3. Discussion

"What helps us stand firm in faith?"

Optional Extension: Interview a retired teacher for perspective.



Conclusion		
As we commemorate 200 years of Catholic faith in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we extend our gratitude to the school leaders, teachers, staff, and catechists who carry this legacy forward each day. Your dedication shapes the next generation of disciples and ensures that the light of Christ continues to shine in every classroom, hallway, and community you serve.  May this Jubilee inspire renewed joy in your mission, deepen the bonds within your school community, and open new pathways for encountering Christ. With hope for the future and gratitude for the past, we look forward to all that God will continue to accomplish through Catholic education in the years ahead.  We hope the celebration ideas and lesson plans offered in this playbook serve as helpful tools as you mark this historic year with your students. Thank you for all the ways you illuminate Christ's light in your school and for your faithful leadership during this Bicentennial Jubilee.		
May God's radiant light guide every step of your Bicentennial Jubilee Journey.		
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