



Guided Children's Hour of Adoration (Back to School: Version 2 Overview)

Introduction

Exposition of the Eucharist - Kneeling and Song: Come Adore

Opening Prayer

Focus on Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist in the Monstrance.

Jesus Builds a School in Our Hearts

St. Elizabeth Ann Quote, Reflection and Repeat Line

Gospel of John Line

Holy Spirit Repeat Prayer

Saint John Paul II Quote - Returning to School Joyfully

Divine Teacher Praises with Sign Language

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:41-47

Homily if Desired

Melissa's Prayer

Prostrate

Song: Abba Father and if Desired Walking down Aisle & Bowing Before the Blessed Sacrament during Song

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Story and Reflections

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Modified St. Thomas Aquinas Student's Prayer

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Song: Jesus in the Morning

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Benediction and Divine Praises

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Song: Holy God We Praise Thy Name

Based on previous plans' rubrics that have been published with the approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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Contact Information: melissa@guidedchildrensadoration.com



Guided Eucharistic Adoration for Children Back to School Version 2

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[As we wait for the students to file in and get settled, play reflective music in the background to encourage silence and reflection.]

_____ 0 minute mark
in plan timing.

Leader:

[Leader should stand at the front of the church for this Introduction.]

[Please note the estimated timing in the right side margins. For your ease, you can write the actual minutes of the hour prior to beginning. Example: 4:15, 4:18, etc. However, a firm time is you must start the closing kneel by 48-50 minutes past the start of the Adoration to close on time.]

[Welcome the children to Eucharistic Adoration. Issue reminders as needed about Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist, behavior expectations, posture, booklets only being held when needed, what to do in the silence, etc.]

[Optional Handouts: Back to School with the School of Jesus in My Heart Activity Sheet, Reminder Quote for children to post at home]

We are here to adore Jesus - to love Jesus!

Jesus, in the form of a Host which was consecrated at Mass by a priest, is placed inside

the Monstrance in a clear window for us to see. Jesus is seen in the form of a white host, a white circle, in the middle of the Monstrance.

We are here for a special time of prayer before the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus.

Be sure to take time to really think about the fact that you are in the very Presence of God!! His body, His blood, His soul, and His divinity.

We want to show Jesus proper respect and reverence because He is our King. Everything we do reflects this reverence for Jesus.

Since we are here to spend time with our Jesus, we want to show Jesus we are listening to Him. We do that by keeping our voices off, no whispering, you bow your head, close your eyes, or look at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, still hands or fold them in prayer, only holding the worship aids when you need them, etc.

My voice will be your guide during adoration so I will stay behind you so that I don't come between you and Jesus. Do not worry about where I am -- just listen.

[Request teacher/parental assistance prior to Exposition]

Parents, our goal is to help our children know the value of spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, teach them how they can use their time before the Blessed Sacrament, and to still themselves so that they can listen to Jesus. We want our children to see Jesus as their Divine Friend, as Saint Pope John Paull II used to say - their friend that they can turn to no matter what.

As we all know, our sweeties need redirecting at times. Since I know that you have the same goals, I ask that you help encourage and guide your sweet children to show reverence before our Sacramental Lord with the items I just talked to them about.

I know that we won't necessarily hear a pin drop in the chapel. I also know that at one time or another we have each had to settle one of our little ones when they have gotten noisy or started crying. In trying to be mindful of each other, it is ok to step out to settle your little ones. God's graces flow out to you and your sweetie whether you are in the chapel, the narthex, or outside.

Absolute silence is not expected. At times, you might whisper with your child to assist them with a prayer. Or, your children might whisper their praise aloud to our Eucharistic Lord. We are looking for the balance of teaching your children, allowing others to teach

their children, and maintaining the reverence and respect our Lord deserves.

This afternoon you will be hearing, reflecting, and praying on going back to academic school and also learning in the School of Jesus. Jesus said in the Gospel of John, "You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am." ¹

[Leader should be seated behind the children.]

[Redirect during the Holy Hour as needed with reminders:]

- Let's take a moment to remember how to show God we are listening.
- Please put your worship aid down.
- Let's try to still our bodies and quiet our voices.
- Remember Jesus is truly here.
- I need you to stay in your pew.
- Remember we leave the kneelers down the whole time.
- Give Jesus your full attention. If you are whispering to a neighbor or fiddling with your papers, you might miss something that Jesus wants to share with you.
- Etc.

Kneelers down. Please kneel. Remember the kneelers stay down the whole time.

_____ 3 minute mark
in plan timing.

Take a moment to quiet yourself, to ready your mind and heart to spend time with our Lord. Take a few deep breaths and feel the Lord's peace fill you.

Father/Deacon will now expose Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as we sing: Come Adore (booklet)

[The Blessed Sacrament is placed in the monstrance on the altar. The presider then kneels before the altar. If altar servers are available, the priest or deacon incenses the Blessed Sacrament.]

Priest/Deacon:

[The priest or deacon may begin the time of Adoration with a prayer, such as the following.]

Opening Prayer:

¹ John 13:13

Let us pray.

After a brief pause for silent prayer, the presiding minister continues:

Lord our God,
 in this great sacrament
 we come into the presence of Jesus Christ your Son,
 born of the Virgin Mary
 and crucified for our salvation.
 May we who declare our faith in this fountain of love and mercy
 drink from it the water of everlasting life.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.²

_____ 8 minute mark
 in plan timing.

Moment of silence. (30 seconds - 1 minute)

Leader:

Key for Pauses

. . . . indicates 1-2 seconds of silence
 small/brief pause: 5-10 seconds
 pause: about 30 seconds
 silence: 30-60 seconds

Look very closely at Jesus in the center of the monstrance . . . Do you see the white host? . . . That means that you see God! . . . that you see Jesus . . . your Teacher and your Lord³ . . . (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Jesus is here this very second! We sit in the very same room as God, the one who created us and knew us before we were in our mother's womb/tummy! (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Point to your mind. We **know** with our minds that You are here, Jesus! . . . Now place your hand on your heart. Jesus, we **know** with our hearts that You are really, truly here! (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Keeping your hands covering your heart, close your eyes Let your heart feel Jesus with you. (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Imagine Him building a school in your heart. . . .

² No 224 Holy Communion & Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass

³ Based on John 13:13

What does it look like? . . . [if desired: parents feel free to help your child in whispers.] (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Jesus stands in the doorway of the school He built in your heart . . . waiting for **you** to invite Him in to teach you. (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Are you going to invite Him in? . . . Using a very soft whisper or in the quiet of your mind, ask Jesus to come into the school He built Invite Him to be your teacher Invite Him to teach you everything He wants to you to know. [if desired: parents feel free to help your child in whispers.] (silence: 30-60 seconds)

Elizabeth Ann Seton explained, "God is everywhere, in the very air I breathe, yes everywhere, but in His Sacrament of the Altar", which means the Blessed Sacrament before us, "He is as present actually and really as my soul within my body."

Take a very quiet, deep breathe . . . feel your lungs fill with air . . . feel your lungs fill with Jesus. (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Looking at Jesus, repeat after me.

Jesus, You are in the very air I breathe /

Jesus, I know You gave me a soul / that I hope will one day join You in heaven.

Jesus, I know You are as real in the Eucharist before me / as my soul is in my body.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

_____ 13 minute mark
in plan timing.

Please sit.

We hear in the Gospel of John, "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you." ⁴ (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Repeat after me. (Repeat in sections.)

Holy Spirit / give me the gifts of / wisdom, understanding, / and knowledge / to help me learn the things / You need me to know.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

Saint John Paul II said, "Dear students, hold school in high esteem! Return to it joyfully; consider it a great gift, a fundamental right which, of course, also involves duties."

Now take a moment and in your heart, ask Jesus to help you be joyful as you return to

⁴ John 14:26

school this year and joyful in any duties or work it will include such as homework, listening to your teachers, doing class work, following directions, your choices on the playground and at lunch and so many other areas. [if desired: parents feel free to help your child in whispers.]

(A minute of silence.)

Part of being joyful is praising our Divine Teacher, Jesus. The hand sign to praise God is a bit like clapping your hands. You silently clap just your fingers on one hand against the lower palm of your other hand with your arms raised towards heaven. Let us practice that sign now. (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Using that sign and our words, let us praise our Divine teacher by repeating after me. (Repeat in sections.)

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ always and everywhere.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ while I get ready for school in the morning.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ on my way to school and on my way home.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ in the classroom.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ during Math.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ during Reading and Spelling.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ during Science and Social Studies.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ at Lunchtime and Recess.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ in the Library.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ while I wait in line.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ while I do my homework.

Praise You Lord, [Make sign for praise God along with saying the words.]
/ in every part of my school day!

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

_____ 17 minute mark
in plan timing.

Please stand.

Priest/ Deacon:

‡ A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke ⁵

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ*

Please sit.

**Brief Homily (2-3 minute) from president. Possible ideas for homily listed below.
Or continue to following reflection.**

Saint John Paul II spoke about the child Jesus by saying, "When he was twelve years old, as you know, he went for the first time with Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. There, in the crowds of pilgrims, he was separated from his parents and, with other boys and girls of his own age, he stopped to listen to the teachers in the Temple, for a sort of "catechism lesson". The holidays were good opportunities for handing on the faith to children who were about the same age as Jesus. But on this occasion it happened that this extraordinary boy who had come from Nazareth not only asked very intelligent questions but also started to give profound answers to those who were teaching him. The questions and even more the answers astonished the Temple teachers. It was the same amazement which later on would mark Jesus' public preaching. The episode in the Temple of Jerusalem was simply the beginning and a kind of foreshadowing of what would happen some years later.

⁵ Luke 2:41-47

"It is really true: this Child . . . once He is grown up, as **Teacher** ⁶ of divine Truth, will show an extraordinary love for children."⁷

_____ 22 minute mark
in plan timing.

Leader:

Let us say a prayer that God will help us this year. Repeat after me. **(Repeat in sections.)**

Lord, I love You /
Lord, I trust You. /
Guide me /
Show me /
Teach me ⁸/

Guide me / every day this coming school year. /
Show me / how to shine Your love on others at school. /
Teach me / all the lessons I need to know, / both at school and about You. /

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

Prostrate - **A couple of minutes.**

We are going to humble ourselves in prostration before our God. During this time, ask the Lord to fill you so full of His grace and love that you can't help but spill it out on others this school year. Think of a cup so full of water, or in this case Jesus' graces and love that the cup overflows and splashes the water or Jesus's graces on those nearby.

Step the children through prostration.

Kneel on the kneeler, put your bottom on your seat behind you, place your hands on your face, and bring your face to the back of the pew in front of you.

Still your body. . . Be as still as you can . . . Close your eyes. . . . Slow your breathing. . .
Feel Jesus fill you so very full.

[Repeat as needed.]

(Silence)

_____ 25 minute mark
in plan timing.

Please sit.

⁶ Emphasis added

⁷ Letter of Pope John Paul II to Children in the Year of the Family, From the Vatican, 13 December 1994.

⁸ My personal song/prayer

[If in a small group setting, you may choose to do the following: During the following song, please quietly walk down the center aisle like at communion time . . . row by row with great respect and love for Jesus, your Divine Teacher. Keep your eyes looking at Him because, of course, you can't wait to get close to Him. When you reach the front, take a moment to kneel before Jesus with your head bowed in respect Jesus. Then stand, bow to Jesus, make the Sign of the Cross, or the hand sign to praise God, and return to your seat or if you need to take a little one out, you can head that way. At the end of the song, we will all be back to our seats. It is okay for several children to stand at the front at the same time. Parents, please remember that if you are allowing any of your other children to stay with us in the chapel, you need to remain in the narthex or right outside the chapel in case you are needed.]

[Leader may need to lead by example or invite children to come close to the Blessed Sacrament.]

Now let us sing: Abba Father (booklet)

_____ 30 minute mark
in plan timing.

[If needed:]

You have just a moment more near Jesus and then you will need to come back to your seats.

Now we will hear a little bit about St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first American born saint. Imagine that! The first saint born in America! Would you like to be a saint in heaven? Raise your hand or nod your head to let Jesus know. [Encourage a response if needed.] (small pause: 5-10 seconds)

Elizabeth was born in New York City almost 250 years ago into a strong Christian, but not Catholic, family. When she was 19, she married William Seton and they had five children. Elizabeth became good friends with her sister-in-law, Rebecca Seton. Together, the two ladies spent a lot of their free time to help the poor of New York.

When Elizabeth's children were still little, her husband's business failed and he became very sick. Doctors said a sea voyage might help him get better, so the Setons sailed to Italy to visit some friends. Sadly, Mr. Seton died while they were in Italy. The friends they went to visit in Italy were Catholics, just like us, and as a result, Elizabeth learned about the Catholic faith including that the Host, also called the Eucharist and Blessed Sacrament is Jesus' real Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Let's pause the story for a moment. Who has ever been really hungry? I mean super hungry? (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Playing won't make you feel full, water might help some, but won't fill you like food. The same with candy. . . . When you finally get a good snack or a meal, you feel so much better, right? You feel full in a good way.

That is what happened with Elizabeth, not with food, but with what her **soul** had been hungry for. She found in the Catholic faith what her soul had been hungry for since she was a little girl - *the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist*.

Even though she knew that many of her friends and relatives would be very mad with her, she was baptized into the Catholic Church when she returned to the United States. Elizabeth was willing to make any sacrifice to do God's will.

Sometimes we are called to make hard choices . . . choices that our friends may not like or won't be popular with people around us or at school. We should make our choices based on if God will be happy with us. That, of course, is the most important thing - pleasing God. Sometimes that means we need to make sacrifices or make unpopular choices.

Elizabeth eventually opened a school for girls. She felt that education should be for all children, not just the families that had lots of money. Other women came to help her, including her sister-in-law, Rebecca who also converted to Catholicism. After a few years, the women were organized into a religious community called the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph. Elizabeth told the other nuns, "*In our daily work we must do the will of God, do it in the way He wills it, and because He wills it.*"

While Elizabeth was dying, she taught a lesson to one of her students saying, "God bless you, my dear child. Remember my last lesson: Seek God in all things. Always ask yourself, 'Will God be pleased with what I am going to do?'"

I will repeat what she said because it is such an important lesson. 'Will God be pleased with what I am going to do?'"

Take a moment of silence to think about how St. Elizabeth Ann Seton lived and how we can learn by her choices and words.

(A minute of silence.)

Let us ask our Divine Teacher for help. Repeat after me:

"Lord, guide us in Your truth / and teach us, / for You are God our Savior. ⁹

_____ 36 minute mark
in plan timing.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

We will now say the Student Prayer from the worship aid. (booklet)

Modified St. Thomas Aquinas's Student's Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth Your wisdom upon me when I don't understand things, chase away the darkness which causes me to sin. Grant me a quick mind to understand, a strong memory, a good and easy plan in learning, the ability to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to a successful finish. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. ¹⁰

Amen.

Please put your booklets down and stand.

We will now have Intercessions to help us this coming school year.

Leader:

Lord, may we grow in knowledge and love. We pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Lord, help us to be respectful of all students, teachers and faculty. We pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Lord, help us to be mindful of our classmates' feelings and see the good in them. We pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

⁹ Based on Psalm 25:5

¹⁰ A Student's Prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas, modified by author

Lord, may we study hard this school year to learn the material You want us to. We pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Lord, we now ask for our own prayer needs. (small pause: 5-10 seconds) We pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Hear these our prayers as we make them through Christ Our Lord.

All:

Amen.

_____ 39 minute mark
in plan timing.

There are times we play and times that we eat our meals and times that we do many different things. Right now, it is our time to practice being very quiet and very still before Jesus. When we learn how to do this, it helps us to listen to Jesus better.

Prostrate - **Try for 4 or 5 minutes of silence.** We will spend some time just being with our Lord and Teacher. Listen in your heart to any lesson or words that He might have for you. Remember the lesson Jesus taught in the Gospel of John, "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you."¹¹

Come to prostration now.

Still your body. Close your eyes. Slow your breathing. Still your mind. Listen with your heart to any lesson Jesus may want to teach you.

(Silence)

Please sit.

_____ 44 minute mark
in plan timing.

Remember earlier in this Adoration, you let Jesus know if you wanted to be saints . . . Listen carefully to what Pope Benedict said to some school children, "And since I have the

¹¹ John 14:26

chance now, there is something I very much want to say to you. I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.

In your . . . schools, there is always a bigger picture over and above the individual subjects you study, the different skills you learn. All the work you do is placed in the context of growing in friendship with God, and all that flows from that friendship. So you learn not just to be good students, but good citizens, good people." ¹²

This time of year, it is good to prepare ourselves to be ready to learn. In addition, it is a good time to recheck ourselves to see if we are doing God's will and growing in friendship with Jesus and towards sainthood. Take a moment of silence to talk to Jesus in your heart about how you can grow in holiness and saintliness this school year. [if desired: parents feel free to help your child in whispers.]

(A minute of silence.)

Pope Francis tweeted, "Thank you to all teachers: educating is an important mission, which draws young people to what is good, beautiful and true." ¹³

Pray the Prayer for Teachers (booklet).

Lord God, Your spirit of wisdom fills the earth
and teaches us in Your ways.

Look upon teachers.

Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience
and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life,
forever and ever.

Amen.

From the school of Jesus, may we remember the lessons of our Teacher and Lord. One such lesson is in the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus was asked: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" [And] He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the

¹² LONDON, SEPT. 17, 2010 Address by Benedict XVI delivered on the second day of his four-day state visit to the United Kingdom, during a meeting with some 4,000 students of Catholic schools at the Sports Arena of St Mary's University College in Twickenham. All the Catholic schools of England, Wales and Scotland followed the event via Internet.

¹³ Pope Francis 3 Jun 2014 tweet

greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.¹⁴

This goes along with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's last lesson to ask yourself: "Will God be pleased with what I am going to do?"

Remember this school year to ask Jesus in each situation you find yourself, whether it be at home or at school, on the playground, in math class, talking with a friend, choosing what TV show to watch or what book to read, "Will God be pleased with what I am going to do?"

(A minute of silence.)

As we get close to finishing on time with our Divine Teacher in the Host, let us praise Him one more time. Repeat after me:

All honor and praise be / to the most Holy Sacrament / in heaven, / on earth, / and everywhere.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

Take one last quiet moment with Jesus before we begin our closing.

(A moment of silence: 30-60 seconds.)

Please kneel.

[The priest or deacon goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels.]

Song: Jesus in the Morning (booklet)

[During the song, the minister may incense the Holy Eucharist. After the song is finished, he stands and sings or says a prayer such as the following.¹⁵]

Priest/Deacon:

Let us pray.

After a brief pause for silent prayer, the presiding minister continues:

**** Important**
 _____ 50 minute mark in plan timing.
 This time is firm.
 You must start kneeling by 48-50 minutes past the start of the Adoration to close on time.

¹⁴ Matthew 22:36-39

¹⁵ No 98 Holy Communion & Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass

Lord our God,
 You have given us the true bread from heaven.
 In the strength of this food
 may we live always by Your life
 and rise in glory on the last day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. ¹⁶

Moment of silence. (30 seconds - 1 minute)

Leader:

Father/Deacon will now do Benediction and Divine Praises. Benediction is a wonderful blessing **directly** from Jesus. Father/Deacon will wear a special veil which keeps his hands from touching the monstrance. Father will then make the Sign of the Cross over us with the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus, in the monstrance. Since Father's hands aren't touching the monstrance, we know this blessing comes right from Jesus. Make sure you make the Sign of the Cross as you receive Jesus' special blessing.

[After the prayer, the priest or deacon puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and goes to the altar. Then he picks up the monstrance and makes the sign of the cross over the people in silence. ¹⁷ During the blessing, servers may incense and ring the bells, according to local tradition.]

Priest/Deacon:
Benediction

[After replacing the monstrance on the altar, the priest or deacon may kneel and leads those assembled in the Divine Praises. The Divine Praises can also be said as the priest or deacon reposes the Blessed Sacrament.]

Say The Divine Praises repeating after the presider. (booklet)

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

¹⁶ No 226 Holy Communion & Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass

¹⁷ No 99 Holy Communion & Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass

Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

The priest/deacon reposes the Blessed Sacrament and Song: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (booklet) [Sing enough verses to repose Jesus and then end the song.]

Extra

[Sometimes you will get through the whole set of plans, sometimes you won't. Here are some extra prayers and reflections in case you get done early. Each group and each session will flow differently depending on the age of the children, how long you pause, and where God leads you that particular time.]

An important lesson we can learn for this school year was taught by Saint Vincent Ferrer who instructed, "never begin or end your study but by prayer."

Ask God to show you how to do His work. (A moment of silence) Ask God to show you how to do His work at school this year. (A moment of silence)

Mother Teresa said "The Heart of Jesus is an open heart. Spend your time there. . . It is not an ordinary school or a boarding school or a school for examinations, but it is a school of Jesus where you come to learn and to know the Heart of Jesus - where the teachers are His Mother and He. What have we to learn? To be meek and humble; if we are meek and humble, we will learn to pray. If we learn to pray we will belong to Jesus. If we belong to Jesus we will learn to believe and if we believe we will learn to love and if we love we will learn to serve."

This school of Jesus is not what we think of when we say we are going back to school, but it is an important school . . . a special school.

Close your eyes. Imagine walking into the school of Jesus' heart. (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Spend a couple of minutes of your time in silence talking to Him in this school. Ask Jesus to help you learn and know His heart better. (small pause: 5-10 seconds) Listen to His lessons.

(A minute of silence.)

Looking at Jesus, repeat after me.

Jesus, teach me to be gentle / and to follow Your Word. /

Jesus, teach me how to pray. /

Jesus, teach me to belong to You./

Jesus, teach me to believe in You more and more. /

Jesus, teach me to love You and others. /

Jesus, teach me to serve You and others. /

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

St. John Bosco reminded his students to "Act today in such a way that you need not blush tomorrow." This is an important lesson we can use every day at school.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

(Repeat in sections.)

Bless us students, / our teachers, / and the school staff / as we begin this new school year. / Help us in all we do / to be good listeners / and to love and respect ourselves / and those around us.

(Pause long enough so the children don't repeat after you anymore.)

Saint Augustine said, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." Applying this to school means to pray to God about every assignment and every situation, but also to work and study very hard.

Take a moment to ask Jesus in your heart to remind you of this lesson this school year.

(A minute or two of silence.)

Saint Vincent Ferrer said, "Do you desire to study to your advantage? Let devotion accompany all your studies, and study less to make yourself learned than to become a saint. Consult God more than your books, and ask him, with humility, to make you understand what you read. Study fatigues and drains the mind and heart. Go from time to time to refresh them at the feet of Jesus Christ under his cross. Some moments of repose in his sacred wounds give fresh vigor and new lights. Interrupt your application by short, but fervent and ejaculatory prayers."

(A minute or two of silence.)

Pope Francis said, "The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects — because development is the result of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on." ¹⁸

(A minute or two of silence.)

Remember this school year in all your frustrating times and in your joys what Pope John Paul II said: "Jesus knows you one by one, personally. He knows your name . . . Make a pact of friendship with Jesus and never break it! In all situations of your life, turn to the Divine Friend . . . Jesus is waiting for us." ¹⁹

(A minute or two of silence.)

We are going to pray a decade of the Rosary, focusing on the 5th Joyful Mystery: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be

End Rosary with O My Jesus.

We are going to enter into a silent period of prayer from our hearts. In this time, think about the Decade we just prayed.

(A moment of silence.)

Let us listen to the Gospel of Luke where Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray.
He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples

¹⁸ Address with Italian school teachers, parents, educators, pupils and other workers, May 10, 2014 Pope Francis

¹⁹ Pope John Paul II, message on the Feast of Corpus Christi to 10,000 children who recently received their First Holy Communion, June 14, 1979

said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come.
 Give us each day our daily bread
 and forgive us our sins
 for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
 and do not subject us to the final test."²⁰

Let us say an Our Father together.

In the Gospel of John, we hear about a Pharisee who recognizes Jesus as teacher.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him."²¹

Let us now ask Jesus in our hearts to always recognize him as our tender, devoted teacher.

(A minute or two minute of silence.)

We are going to say one of the Fatima prayers to let Jesus know how much we love Him. Repeat after me: "O Most Holy Trinity, / I adore Thee! / My God! My God! / I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament!"²²

(A moment of silence.)

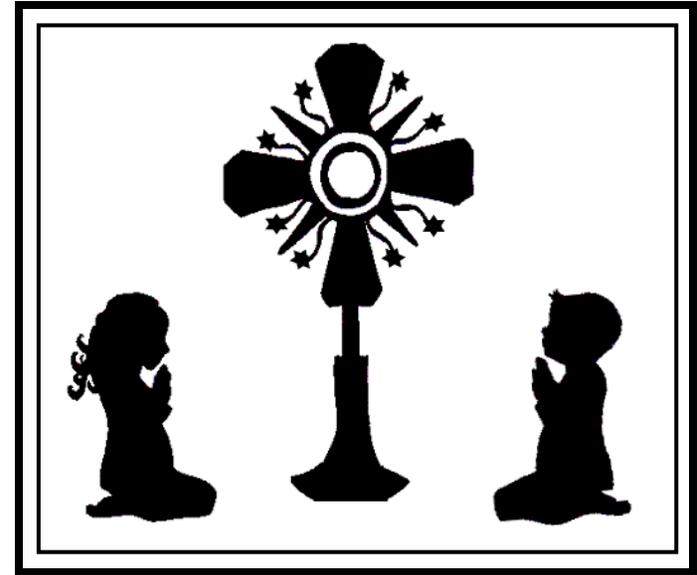
²⁰ Luke 11:1-4

²¹ John 3:1-2

²² Fatima Prayer taught by Our Lady of Fatima

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of
the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.



Repose Song: Holy God We Praise Thy Name

Holy God we praise Thy name; Lord of all we bow before Thee;
All on earth Thy scepter claim; All in heaven above adore Thee. Infinite
Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign! x 2

Hark, the loud celestial hymn; Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and Seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy, Lord! x 2

Holy Father, Holy Son, and Holy Spirit: three we name Thee,
Though in essence only one; Undivided God we claim Thee,
And adoring bend the knee while we own the mystery. x 2



Guided Children's Adoration



Exposition Song: Come Adore

Gather: Comprehensive #888

Song: Abba Father



St. Thomas Aquinas's Student's Prayer (Modified)

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your wisdom upon me when I don't understand things, chase away the darkness which causes me to sin. Grant me a quick mind to understand, a strong memory, a good and easy plan in learning, the ability to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to a successful finish. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Song: Jesus in the Morning

Gather: Comprehensive



Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us in your ways. Look upon teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, forever and ever. Amen.



Our Divine Teacher

References

Books:

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Music:

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