

St. Patrick School

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Definition

A plan created by the administration and faculty that involves practical actions which are integral to the life of the school and to the faith development of students, faculty and staff.

Rationale for Plan

- It's not as much about conveying information as it is about walking with those in formation (p. 1, Hurley)
- We teach children, not because they are Catholic, but because we are...It's an opportunity for us to teach about Jesus. It's an opportunity to teach about our faith...(p. 3, Hurley).
- Our Catholic schools...are some of the most effective ways to re-energize the Church today...(p. 3, Hurley).
- ...to reflect...on the nature and mission of the Church and how it informs what we do in a Catholic school (p. 5, Bennett).
- When one attends a Catholic school, one should come out with a concern for saving one's soul. A graduate of a Catholic school should not be content with knowing only that they are composed of mind and body, but that they have a heart and a soul as well (p. 8, Bennett).
- The Catholic school is where we learn to put the flesh on the bones of the Great Commandment: to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves (p. 8, Bennett).
- The Catholic school can make concrete the Jesus it attempts to embody both with its love and its service (p. 17, Bennett).
- Who do you say that I am? As teachers in a Catholic school, it is important that we create a climate that gives witness to the Christian faith (p. vi, Quinn).
- The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education in the faith. It is 'not simply an institution which offers academic instruction of high quality, even more important, is an effective vehicle of total Christian formation' (p. 230, USCCB).
- The Catholic school affords a particularly favorable setting for catechesis with its daily opportunity for proclaiming and living the Gospel message; for learning and appreciating the teachings of our Church; for acquiring a deep understanding, reverence, and love of the Liturgy; for building community; for prayer; for proper formation of conscience; for the development of virtue; and for participating in Christian service (p. 233, USCCB).

Spiritual Development Plan by Group

Goal: Promote a commitment to the Catholic faith and its teachings while serving others to increase the Kingdom of God.

A. Students

- Service Projects (all year): Service Project Portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation Service Portfolios (7-8)
- Mass (weekly and special liturgies)
- Reconciliation (monthly)
- Adoration and Benediction (weekly)
- Sacraments: Confirmation (Grade 8), Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation (Grade 2)
- Rosary Devotions (October & May)
- Respect for Life (October and January.)
- Dignity of the Human Person (Adult Safe Environment Program and Student Safe Environment Curriculum)
- Saints' Celebrations (classroom patron saints, St. Nicholas in December, Primary Grade Christmas Presentation in School Assembly; St. Patrick in March)
- Stations of the Cross during Lent and Living Stations (6th Grade)
- Continue Implementing "Encounter" in 6th grade; implementing "Chosen" and "Decision" programs in 7th and 8th grade religion program, implementing "Theology of the Body" program in 8th grade curriculum
- Traditions
 - All Saints Day Presentations (1st Grade)
 - 8th Grade Graduation Activities
 - K-8 Christmas Program
 - May Crowning (8th Grade)
 - Living Rosary (6th Grade)
 - New Altar Servers' Training (3rd Grade)
 - Liturgical Devotions (Advent and Lent)
 - Community Celebrations
 - Catholic Schools' Week
 - National Vocation Week
 - Fill the Crib
 - Stock the Box - SVDP
 - Clergy Appreciation (Pastor, Parochial Vicar, and Sisters' birthday celebrations),
 - Introduction to Spanish saints and Spanish culture as it relates to the Catholic faith
 - Chrism Mass (7th grade)
 - 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat.

B. Faculty/Staff

- Continue to work on being joy-filled servants who model the virtuous life
- Deepening our appreciation of the Church in the World through acts of mercy, kindness, treating one another with respect, and accepting responsibility.
- Coordinating classroom service projects and prayer
- Catechetical Sunday (September)
- Faculty Retreats
- Adopt-a- seminarian support and prayer
- Selected spiritual reading.
- Sports Leader Ministry

C. Administrative Goals

- Model the virtuous life as a servant leader.
- Support the pastoral leadership of the school and parish.
- Oversee the implementation of the Spiritual Development Plan.

References:

Bennett, G. (2005). *Being Catholic: From the heart*. Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association.

Hurley, J. (2005). *Catholic educators and the call to be witness*. Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association.

Pope Francis, (2014). *The Church of Mercy*. Loyola Press.

Quinn, E. (2005). *It's a Catholic school...let's keep it Catholic*. Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). (2005). *National directory for catechesis*.

Washington, DC: USCCB Publishing.

MONTHLY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

AUGUST

- Faculty to Back to School Mass
- Feast of the Assumption Mass
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in all Classrooms
- Introduce Sports Leader Ministry program to athletics and to classes; Virtue of the Week
- Continue implementation of religion series for Grades K-6; Faith and Life Series from Ignatius Press
- Grade 6 continues with “Encounter” along with “Faith and Life” series
- Grade 7 continues with “Chosen” and begins 1st year of Confirmation preparation
- Grade 8 continues with “Decisions”, “Theology of the Body”, and “Altarations” and completes 2nd year of Confirmation program ending with Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in March
- Grade 3 Begin Altar Server Training

SEPTEMBER

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Personal Bible Presentation for 6th Grade students
- Confirmation candidate commitment signing for 7th Grade
- Catechetical Sunday Blessing at weekend Masses
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayers in classrooms
- Continue Altar Server Training

OCTOBER

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms
- Stock the Box Collection for SVDP
- Pinning ceremony for 2nd graders preparing for First Communion at the school Mass

NOVEMBER

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Grade 1 All Saints' presentation in Church

- Veterans' Day recognition and prayer
- All-School Canned Food Collection
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- National Day of Giving
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms
- Operation Christmas Child Service Project led by 7th and 8th grades

DECEMBER

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Faculty/Staff Advent Retreat
- St. Nicholas School Visit
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8)
- Anniversary of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen's death
- Advent Readings & Prayers
- Christmas Programs (Grade PreK and K-8)
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms

JANUARY

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Prayers for Sanctity of Human Life
- All-School Baby Food Collection for Right to Life Program sponsored by 7th Grade
- National Vocations' Awareness Week
- National Catholic Schools' Week Celebration
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Grade 2)

FEBRUARY

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Blessing of Throats
- Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Lenten Readings & Prayers
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms

- Ash Wednesday Mass

MARCH

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Lenten Readings & Prayers
- Lenten Retreat for Faculty
- Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent
- School Patron Saint (St. Patrick) Celebration
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Sacrament of Confirmation (Grade 8) at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Daily Act of Contrition in classrooms

APRIL

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Earth Day Service Project
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms
- Greeters and Gift Bearers at weekend Masses - TBD
- Chrism Mass at Cathedral (Grades 7) - TBD
- Living Stations of the Cross (Grade 6)
- Easter Triduum

MAY

- Weekly Friday All-School Masses/Weekly Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Sacrament of the Eucharist: First Holy Communion by families during month of May
- "Fill the Crib" service project
- Living Rosary & May Crowning
- Remembrance of Venerable Archbishop Sheen's Birthday (May 9)
- 8th Grade Graduation & Mass
- Last Day of School students attend All school Mass
- Promote Vocation Awareness
- Service Reflection entered into portfolios (K-6) and Confirmation binders (7-8)
- Daily Prayer in classrooms