

## **GOD'S BLESSING on the NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

The Spirit of God rests upon us;  
the Spirit of God consecrates us;  
the Spirit of God bids us to go forth and proclaim God's love.  
Isaiah 61:1



### **PRESENCE of GOD**

The Lord is near to all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those that fear Him:  
He also will hear their cry, and will save them.  
Psalm 145:18-19

In the name of God the Father Who is the Source of all being;  
in the name of Jesus Who is the Son and our Redeemer;  
In the name of the Spirit Most Holy Who calls us to life, to holiness,  
to creativity and to love.  
Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is gracious, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy  
of praise, think about these things. Keep  
on doing what you have learned and  
received and heard and seen in me.  
Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

### **REFLECTION**

St. Paul makes a link between thinking, learning and acting.  
He gives us a list of eight words to think about: things that  
are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent and  
worthy of praise. These eight words describe the ideal  
Christian's character.

They are qualities that we can strive to live everyday.

- We can choose to tell the truth and not lie.
- We can show we are honorable by treating every person with respect and dignity.
- We can choose to do the just thing, the right thing when tempted to do wrong.
- We can choose to stay away from sinful things and keep our minds pure.
- We can notice things that are lovely, like God's beautiful creation.
- We can keep control of our tongue so that our words are gracious, and not rude or offensive.
- We can (study/work/play) hard, and give our best efforts to achieve excellence in everything we do.
- We can be kind and of service to others so that our actions are worthy of praise.

## **PRAYER**

**We pray that each of us may:  
be conformed to the image of Christ  
have a willingness to learn  
take pride in our efforts  
develop knowledge skill, ability and character  
let our light shine  
seek truth  
pursue excellence**

**We pray that parents, teachers, and administrators may:  
have wisdom  
be patient and kind  
communicate clearly  
maintain an environment conducive to learning  
be enthusiastic**

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11**

## **HYMN**

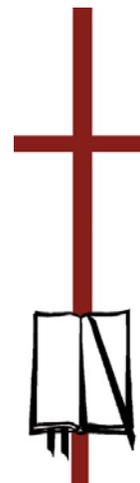
**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

## PRAYER

Loving God,  
Our Creator, our Savior, our Companion,  
bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake.  
Refresh our souls  
and renew our spirits  
as we embrace the work you have called us to:  
to grow in our Christian faith,  
to build community,  
to offer service to others,  
to grow in knowledge and wisdom  
We welcome those who are new to this community and  
ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts  
you have given them.  
Lord, make our hearts eager as we begin again our search  
for truth and knowledge in this place called \_\_\_\_\_.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Brother and Teacher.  
Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron of Teachers,  
intercede for all who are called to encourage and instruct others.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, patron of students,  
help all to achieve their best potential.

Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!



Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp upon my feet,  
and a light upon my path.

Psalm 119

The most important function of education at any level  
is to develop the personality of the individual  
and the significance of their lives  
to themselves and to others.