



Ottawa Catholic
School Board



September 2011



Welcome to the Faith and Fun Calendar!

It is NOT HOMEWORK, but it is a great resource for your family that is not meant to “overwhelm” but to “enrich”. Place it where it is visible and do what you can.













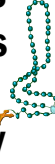













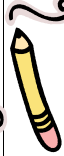
Each Month will focus on one of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCGE) developed by the Institute for Catholic Education
www.occb.on.ca/ice

Thank you for taking a few minutes out of your day to teach your children and yourself about our beautiful, vibrant, loving Catholic Faith. Please visit our website at www.faihandfun.ca to find a listing of common Catholic Prayers and information on praying the Rosary. We would love to hear from you.

Blessings,

Wendy and Margaret

Faith and Fun Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation 3c: The graduate is expected to be a reflective and creative thinker who thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems				1  St. Joshua	2  Holy Father's Intention	3 “For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say “Peace be with you’.” <i>Psalms 122</i>
4 Family Day 	5  Labour Day	6  Prayer Power	7 Pray the Glorious Mysteries or say 1 Hail Mary 	8  Birthday of Mary Mother of God	9  Family Chat	10 “Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation” <i>Psalms 85</i>
11 Family Day 	12 Online Resource 	13  St. John Chrysostom	14 Triumph of the Cross 	15 Pray the Luminous Mysteries or say 1 Hail Mary 	16  Catechism Byte	17 “The Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice” <i>Isaiah 30:19</i>
18 Family Day 	19 Family Chat 	20 Prayer Power 	21  St. Matthew	22  First Day of Autumn	23 Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries or say 1 Hail Mary 	24 “Rejoice in the Lord always, again, I say rejoice! The Lord is near.” <i>Philippians 4:4</i>
25 Family Day 	26 Pray the Joyful Mysteries or say 1 Hail Mary 	27  St. Vincent de Paul	28 Themes and Virtues 	29  Feast of the Archangels	30  Family Chat	 = check out the back for more fun stuff

September 1—St. Joshua

Joshua was the successor to Moses and was a faithful servant of God. He led the Israelites safely to the promised land. A great resource for this story is the Veggie Tales movie “Josh and the Big Wall”.

September 2—Holy Father's Intention

Pope Benedict XVI's General Intention for September is: “That all teachers may know how to communicate love of the truth and instill authentic moral and spiritual values.” Please pray one Our Father together for the Pope's intention.



September 4—Family Day

Today is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in the gospel (Matthew 18:15-20)? Is He wanting us to tattle and gossip about others? Or is He asking us to gather together as one group and worship in His name? How hard is it sometimes to not run and tell someone's secret? Next time you find yourself in this situation of wanting to tell something when you know you should not, try to remember WWJD? As a family, play a game of telephone. Whisper a message in one person's ear, then they whisper what they heard to the next person until the final person says out loud what they have heard. This shows how mixed up a message can get when it is spread from person to person.

September 5—Labour Day

The first Monday in September is known as Labour Day. It is a day set aside to pay tribute to working men and women. It has been celebrated in both Canada and the United States since 1894. Pray one Our Father for all those who work including parents, teachers, students and volunteers. Spend this last day of freedom together doing something you love!

September 6—Prayer Power

Heavenly Father: Thank you for this new school year. We ask you to bless our teachers, our parents and all children. Please help each one of us to do our best, to listen and to draw closer to you. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



September 8—Birthday of Mary, Mother of God

Today we celebrate the birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne, prayed fervently to God to give them a child despite their old age. God granted their prayer and gave them a daughter. Take some time today to say a Hail Mary together in honour of our Heavenly mother. Have a special dessert and sing Happy Birthday to Mary.



September 9 - Family Chat

Please read together the OCGE for this month. What does it mean to think reflectively? When you have a problem, do you take your time to think it through or do you rush into things? Try to put “thinking reflectively” into practice this month.

September 11 - Family Time

Today is the 24th Sunday in Ordinary time. The gospel reading (Matthew 18: 21-35) speaks about forgiveness and the importance of both being forgiven and forgiving others. As well, in the first reading we are told, “Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.” (Sirach 28:2) Has someone ever forgiven you for something - how did it feel? Think about the last time you went to confession and how at peace you felt afterward. Sometimes it is hard to forgive when you feel hurt. The sadness and anger will stay with you until you let go of those feelings and forgive the person who hurt you. Whenever you find it hard to love someone, take time to pray and ask for God's help. Celebrate the first week of school by planning a family dinner or a picnic after Mass. Enjoy these last few days of summer by being outdoors together.

September 12 - Online Resource

Here is a great family website: <http://www.familycatechism.com> You can learn catechism together through quizzes and a wealth of other knowledge on this family friendly site.



September 13—St. John Chrysostom

Today is the feast day of St. John who lived in the 3rd Century. He was an early Church Father and a Doctor of the Church. Chrysostom means “golden mouthed” and he was named this because of his

eloquence.

Prayer: *God, You are the strength of those who hope in You. You gave Your Church St. John Chrysostom, Your Bishop, who was endowed with great eloquence and was able to withstand great sufferings. Let us learn from his teaching and be inspired by the example of his patience. Amen.*

From Illustrated Lives of the Saints by Rev. H. Hoever

September 14—Triumph of the Cross

We remember today the Triumph of the Cross; by which Christ redeemed the world. The cross is the most universal symbol of our Christian faith.

Prayer: *“Dying you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life. Save us by your cross, Christ our Lord.”*



September 16 - Catechism Byte

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) verse 683, we can learn about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Read this passage together and try to remember to invite the Holy Spirit into your day. When you do, the Holy Spirit will help you to not only “think reflectively and creatively”, He will also help you to grow closer to Jesus. If you do not own a catechism, you can look the passage up online at <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm>

September 18 - Family Time

Today is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary time. The Gospel reading is from Matthew 20:1-16. Do you get upset if you feel you are being treated unfairly? That is how some of the workers felt in today's gospel. Would you have reacted in the same way; asking for more money because you had worked longer? What is Jesus trying to teach us in this gospel? The important thing to remember is the generosity of God, not that everyone should be treated exactly the same. Do your best to put others first all day without measuring to see that everything is equal.

September 19 - Family Chat

What does it mean to think creatively? Is it the same as being creative? This skill is also called “thinking outside of the box” and it means that we look at situations differently to try to come up with new solutions. This skill can sometimes take a long time to develop but anyone can do it by using their imagination and asking “what if?”. Try to come up with some “new” ways of solving problems before they happen so that you can be ready. For example, fighting with siblings over toys, deciding what TV program to watch or getting along with someone difficult.

September 20 - Prayer Power

Say this prayer together often until it is committed to memory. It is a prayer to invite the Holy Spirit into your life.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



September 21 - St. Matthew

St. Matthew was one of the twelve apostles, a tax collector and an author of one of the Gospels. Pray together that God may help each of us to be faithful like Matthew.



September 22 - First Day of Autumn

Today is the first day of autumn. Go for a walk after supper and enjoy God's amazing gift of Creation in the beauty around you.

Poem: *In the fading of the summer sun, the shortening of days, cooling breeze, swallows flight and moonlight rays, we see the Creator's hand. In the brownning of leaves once green, morning mists, autumn chill, fruit that falls, frost's first kiss, we see the Creator's hand.*

From Christian prayers and resources



September 25— Family Time

Today is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary time. The gospel (Matthew 21:28-32) challenges each of us - are we always obedient when we should be? When Mom or Dad ask you to do something, do you stop what you are doing and do what they have asked right away? When a teacher gives an assignment, do you put it off and then forget about it? Do we (parents) run stop signs and speed while driving? There are many opportunities in a day to practice obedience lovingly and faithfully. Make a new start today if you are lacking in obedience.

Sept. 27 -St. Vincent de Paul:

St. Vincent is the patron saint of charitable societies. He was born to a poor family but he did not let that stop him from becoming educated. He worked endlessly to help others from all walks of life. He was very humble. Both the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Sisters of Charity foundations began because of this great man.



Sept. 28— Themes and Virtues

The Ottawa Catholic School Board's theme for this school year is “Though many we are one body in Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12). Over the next school year we will be talking about this theme and exploring the virtues of faith, hope, love, dignity of human persons, community, stewardship for creation, justice and excellence.

September 29—The Archangels

Today is the feast of the three archangels - Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. “Angels are spirits without bodies, who possess superior intelligence, gigantic strength and surpassing holiness.”

Illustrated Lives of the Saints by Rev. Hoever
St. Michael, who is like God...pray for us.

St. Gabriel, man of God....pray for us, St. Raphael, God has healed....pray for us.

September 30—Family chat:

How have you been doing balancing home, school, work and prayer this month? Don't give up if things have been tough. This can be a busy month with school and new activities beginning. Talk about balancing schedules and remembering to keep God as #1.