



January 28, 2026

Dear Parents,

Thank you for celebrating with us Catholic Schools Week 2026. This is truly a time to celebrate the tradition of Catholic school excellence, faith-focused learning, strong communities, commitment to service, holistic education and integrational leadership.

February 14 - Love is in the air! Let's celebrate this Valentine's Day with warmth & prayer as we instill in the mind of our students the love of God and love of our neighbor as stated in the Scripture of 1 John 4:16.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of LENT in the church calendar. LENT is the time to do something that will help us grow closer to God and will help the life of Christ to grow in us. During LENT we go on a journey with Jesus. It is called a spiritual journey. With Jesus we fast, do good works and pray. Through daily activities, scripture reflections, children spend 40 days following Jesus' examples and grow closer to God. Here are a few reminders, please see the school calendar for more details.

FEB 2 & 3: Vision Screening at 8:30am

FEB 6: School Mass at 9am

FEB 11: School Mass at 8am followed by Mass & Pastries

FEB 12: Career Day

FEB 14: Valentine's Day

FEB 15: Family Mass at noon

FEB 16: President's Day NO SCHOOL

FEB 18: ASH WEDNESDAY MASS at 8am

Early Dismissal w/ NO DAYCARE

FEB 19: Noon Dismissal-WASC Meeting

FEB 20: NO SCHOOL-Religious Education Congress

FEB 25: School Mass at 8am

FEB 26: Open House at 6pm

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Amelita Martinez



Partners in

FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2026

St. Martha School

Amelita Martinez

Thoughtful Moments

St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia and employed as a slave to Philemon of Colossae, Turkey. St. Onesimus met St. Paul while running from Philemon for robbing him. Something about St. Paul's preaching touched St. Onesimus and he converted immediately. St. Paul adopted him as a spiritual son, freeing Onesimus from slavery. After making amends, St. Onesimus became a companion and associate in St. Paul's mission to spread the Gospel — including delivering one of his epistles!



Symbols in the Mass

Ever notice how many symbols are used in the Mass? Kneeling, shaking hands, the blessing of the water and wine, the elevation of the host. Each is an action in itself, but also has another, deeper meaning. They not only help us to experience Jesus' Last Supper but also represent the many ways God is present in our lives.

"Purification! You and I certainly do need purification.

Atonement and, more than atonement, love."

St. Josemaria Escriva



Lent is a season of renewal that invites us to step back from distractions and return to the heart of our faith. It's a good time to help children see how prayer, the sacraments, charity, and service reveal God at work in our lives.

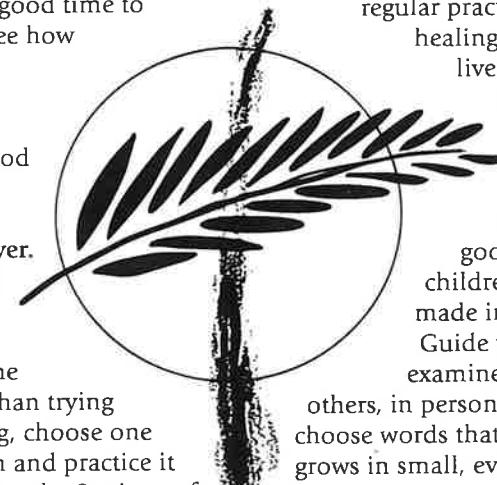
Embrace prayer. Lent is an ideal time to strengthen prayer within the family. Rather than trying to do everything, choose one shared devotion and practice it faithfully. Praying the Stations of the Cross, reading the Gospel of the day, or praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together can anchor daily life in God, even when time is limited.

Prioritize the sacraments. The sacraments are living encounters with

Christ that restore and sustain us. Renewing our commitment to Sunday Mass and making Confession a regular practice brings clarity, healing, and grace to our lives. These habits quietly shape our hearts and choices.

Refresh charity. Lent is a good time to remind children that everyone is made in God's image. Guide youngsters to examine how they speak to others, in person and online, and choose words that build up. Charity grows in small, everyday moments at home.

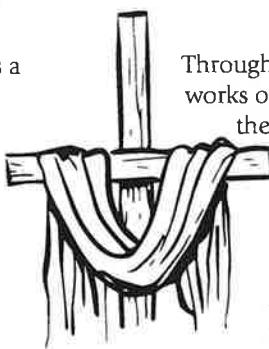
Encourage service. Holiness leads naturally to service. Children can learn this through simple acts: helping at home, being patient with siblings, or sharing their allowance. These small practices form generous hearts.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics use violet or purple in churches during Lent?

Similar to Advent, Lent is a season of preparation and hopeful expectation. Rather than anticipating Christ's birth, the Church prepares for the celebration of His Resurrection, when the saving promises announced at Christmas reach their fulfillment.



Through prayer, fasting, penance, and works of charity, the faithful unite themselves to Christ's forty days in the desert. The use of violet or purple during Lent reflects this spirit of repentance, sober reflection, and interior preparation, while also recalling Christ's kingship and sacrificial love.



Family Lent Calendar 2026

= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat = a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February						
"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).						
22 Stay after church and pray for a holy Lent. 	23 Display an image of Jesus to keep focused on Him. 	24 Practice patience — patiently! 	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Attend Mass together. Wear the cross of ashes all day. 	19 Help children choose Lenten promises of prayer, penance, and almsgiving. 	20 Share a meatless meal together. Pray for those who can't afford to have meat. 	21 Choose a family Lenten sacrifice — ex. giving up desserts, praying together, giving to charity.
1 March Stop to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory after Mass.	2 Pick a Beatitude to work on together this month (Matthew 5:3-11). 	3 Set up a good deed jar: For every good deed performed, add a jellybean. Enjoy on Easter. 	25 Have everyone pick a person or situation in the news to pray for at dinner. 	26 Commit to charitable speech: if it's not kind, don't say it. 	27 Family Movie Night Order a cheese pizza and spend time together. 	28 Have everyone do a chore they've been putting off.
8 After Mass, light a candle for the Pope's intentions. 	9 Encourage everyone to refrain from bickering today. 	10 Before bed, gather before a Crucifix and pray an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be.	11 Send a card to someone who needs cheering up. 	5 Pray one decade of the Rosary together each evening for the rest of Lent.	6 First Friday Make a brief chapel visit together to console Jesus' Sacred Heart. 	7 First Saturdays are dedicated to the Blessed Mother. In Mary's honor, pray a family Rosary.
15 Laetare Sunday The priest wears rose to mark the midpoint of Lent. Celebrate with a small treat.	16 Fill a box with gently used items you no longer need and donate it to charity. 	17 St. Patrick's Day Pray for Catholic school teachers, catechists, and missionaries — all who teach the Faith.	18 Help everyone examine their consciences with the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).	19 St. Joseph's Day Say a special prayer for fathers everywhere. Remember to pray for priests!	20 Family Fun Night Turn off the phones and take out the boardgames. Winner picks dessert! 	21 Attend Confession together and celebrate God's mercy.
22 After Mass, go over the homily in terms children can understand.	23 Write prayer intentions on slips of paper and place them in a bowl to pray for nightly. 	24 Encourage children to look for a sign of God's love for them. Share at dinner.	25 The Annunciation We celebrate Mary's faithful "Yes!" to God. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen together.	26 Put together an Easter basket and bring it to a lonely neighbor. 	27 Fast from recreational screen use from 12-3, the final hours Jesus hung on the Cross. 	28 Have everyone write a letter to Jesus, thanking Him for His sacrifice.
29 Palm Sunday Place palms around the crosses in your home, symbolizing Christ's victory.	30 Offer extra prayers tonight for everyone becoming Catholic this year.	31 Talk about what Lenten practices you want to continue after Easter.	1 April Ask forgiveness of those you may have hurt. Forgive those who have hurt you.	2 Holy Thursday Make a chapel visit together, fulfilling Jesus' request for our company (Matthew 26:40).	3 Good Friday Pray the Stations of the Cross together and meditate on each one. 	4 Holy Saturday Renew your baptismal vows as a family to be faithful to God.

VIRTUS® AWARENESS SESSIONS IN SAN GABRIEL REGION.

SESIONES DE VIRTUS® EN LA REGION DE SAN GABRIEL.

1/22/2026

Every VIRTUS® Session listed online has the following message in the note box: "ATTN: Participants must arrive on time in order to be admitted to the session. All Participants in Protecting God's Children and Keeping the Promise Alive Must be 18 or Older - No Minors, Even with Parental Consent".

Keeping the Promise Alive, Recertification (Only) Training – This session will be conducted in English.

St. Denis Catholic Church (Diamond Bar)

Saturday, January 24, 2026

10:00am – 11:30am / Potthoff Hall, Rooms B & C

Participants must call (909) 861 – 7106 to reserve a place.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios – Esta sesión se conducirá en español.

St. Marcellinus Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Sábado, 24 de enero, 2026

8:00am – 11:00am

Participantes deben llamar al (626) 806 – 4408 para reservar un lugar.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios – Esta sesión se conducirá en español.

Assumption Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Sábado, 24 de enero, 2026

6:00pm – 9:00pm / Salón Parroquial

Participantes deben llamar al (562) 612 – 8724 para reservar un lugar.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios – Esta sesión se conducirá en español.

St. Marcellinus Catholic Church (Los Angeles)

Sabado, 7 de Febrero, 2026

8:00am – 11:00am

Participantes deben llamar al (626) 806 – 4408 para reservar un lugar.

Manteniendo Viva la Promesa, Recertificación (Solamente) – Esta sesión se conducirá en español.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (Hammel) (Los Angeles)

Jueves, 26 de Febrero, 2026

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Participantes deben llamar al (909) 434 – 2456 para reservar un lugar.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios – Esta sesión se conducirá en español.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (Rowland Heights)

Sabado, 28 de Febrero, 2026

9:00am – 12:00pm

Participantes deben llamar al (626) 965 – 5792 para reservar un lugar.

Guadalupe González Coronado

VIRTUS® Facilitator

(626) 324 – 3968

gjc1978@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02 Boys Basketball Game HOME @ 3:45pm Vision Screening @8:30am VIRTUS St. Dorothy Catholic Church (Glendora) @ 7pm	03 Vision Screening @8:30am VIRTUS St. Elizabeth Catholic Church (Altadena) (Spanish) @6:30pm	04 Boys Basketball Game HOME @ 3:45pm	05	06 School Mass 9am Fingerprinting @ St. Rita Church (Sierra Madre)	07 VIRTUS St. Marcellinus Catholic Church (Los Angeles) (Spanish) @8am
08	09 Boys Basketball Game AWAY @ 3:45pm	10 Star Window 2 Ends VIRTUS Mayfield Junior School (Pasadena) @5pm	11 School Mass 8am Mass & Pastries Boys Basketball Game HOME @3:45pm VIRTUS Mayfield Junior School (Pasadena) @8am	12 Career Day	13 Fingerprinting @ Holy Angels School (Arcadia)	14  HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 
15 Family Mass @12 Noon	16 President's Day NO SCHOOL	17 Fingerprinting @ St. Dorothy School (Glendora)	18 Ash Wednesday Mass 8am Noon Dismissal NO DAYCARE	19 Noon Dismissal DAYCARE AVAILABLE Last Day for Re- registration WASC Meeting	20 NO SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS	21 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS
22  RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS	23	24 7 th Grade Field Trip	25 School Mass 8am Multicultural Day	26 Open House @ 6pm	27 Fingerprinting @ St. Denis Church (Diamond Bar)	28 VIRTUS St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (Rowland Heights) (Spanish) @ 9am

Weekly Events:

MONDAY - Cheer Practice 3- 4pm / Student Council 3-4pm

TUESDAY - Yearbook Club 3-4pm / Tutoring 3-4pm

WEDNESDAY - Choir Practice 2:30-3:20pm

Please check with teachers as these dates and times may vary