



Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division # 81

Philosophic and Foundational Commitments 1101 Prayer in the School	Administrative Application	
	Effective:	December 21, 2016
	References:	GP-1 Statement of Beliefs
	Status:	Operational

Preamble

The following guidelines may assist staff with prayer in the classroom, school gatherings, meetings, and formal gatherings.

Application

1. Opening School Day Prayer

Morning Prayer is one of the most important opportunities for prayer. As the Canadian Bishops expressed in their recent text, Family Book of Prayer, "Morning Prayer with our Risen Lord Jesus" is an opportunity "for praising our God in Heaven and offering our day and our work."

- a. The introductory rite of all prayer, as recommended by the Bishops, is:

*"In the +name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
Father, help your people,
Be with us as we pray . . .*

- b. It is the intention of these guidelines to ask each teacher in the classroom to share an intimate moment of prayer with his / her class.
- c. When there is a school participation in the Morning Prayer, i.e., intercom, the teacher and the students in each classroom can share a concluding prayer.
- d. In addition to the formal prayers, informal, spontaneous praying as well as the use of Holy Scriptures, especially the Book of Psalms, are encouraged for meaningful morning prayer and prayer at other times in the school day.
- e. Schools, where applicable, should acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 Territory, home of the Métis.

2. Prayers at Liturgies and Special Ceremonies

Any service or liturgy or worship should be a celebration by God's people in joyful praise of their God, asking him humbly for their needs. A few thoughts are offered to help schools prepare and celebrate these blessings more worthily. This is most profoundly seen in the celebration of the Eucharist. We should acknowledge the following whenever the community gathers to pray.



Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division # 81

- a. Full participation in all the ways mentioned in the Constitution of Liturgy (No. 30) should be promoted during the preparation and celebration of all gatherings.
"By way of promoting active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs, as well as by actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes. When appropriate, all should observe a reverent silence."
 - b. Arrangement of Elements
In any service or liturgy we have a bible service: We listen to God's word, we pray and reflect in response to it, and then we move to action - a blessing prayer, as follows:
 - i. **Introductory Rites**
The Sign of the Cross, and one or more of: hymn, procession, greeting, prayer (both silent and vocal). These elements precede and prepare the way for the Liturgy of the Word.
 - ii. **Liturgy of the Word**
Have a minimum of one scripture reading. Silent prayer or reflection is desirable after readings. Where possible, have each reading is proclaimed by a different reader. A homily or reflection is optional.
 - iii. **Blessing**
This prayer becomes the climax and focal point of the celebration. It is a prayer of faith, offered by the believing community.
 - iv. **Closing Prayer**
Closing prayers may include a litany or general intercession, perhaps ending with the Lord's Prayer.
3. **Source of Readings**
When God's word is being proclaimed during the celebration; a qualified reader should read from a dignified book, and the texts, if possible. It is preferable to use the Lectionary or the Lectionary Adopted for Children, both of which should be in schools. The Canadian bishops have approved these resources. When students see that we read the scriptures from the same "books" that are used by church, they realize that we hold the scriptures in high regard.
- a. Meetings
Meetings held at the school level, staff and committee meetings, should always involve prayer in some manner. The Book of Blessings from the Canadian Bishops, listed below, is an excellent source, as well as our own "Treasury of Blessings II".
 - b. School Assemblies Other than Liturgies
All activities of the Catholic school can promote gospel values; even when prayer is not the reason for gathering, there should always be a short introductory prayer rite - see IB, 2A, or IB, 2D. Introductory rites or closing prayer.
 - c. Special Community Events
These are special opportunities to acknowledge that we are a Catholic school and that we believe in certain traditions like prayer. It seems to be essential then that a scripture or prayer service always initiate whatever activity is planned, i.e. - Meet the Teacher Night; Parent Advisory; Awards evening; Graduation Exercises, etc.



Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division # 81

- d. Sports Events
Sports events have always been an important aspect of Catholic schools. A short introductory prayer rite would certainly be encouraged.
- 4. **Selected Resources**
Consult the Catholic Education Services Coordinator for a list of up to date prayer resources.