



A Novena for the Catholic Schools of Memphis

2026-2027

Nine Days of Prayer Before the Start of the School Year

Each day includes an intention, a Scripture verse, a reflection, and a prayer.

Opening Prayer (Pray Each Day)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, as we prepare to begin a new school year, we place our schools, classrooms, homes, and hearts into Your loving care. Bless our students, teachers, administrators, staff, families, and pastors. Fill us with wisdom, courage, patience, and joy. May our schools be places where faith is nurtured, truth is discovered, and every person is treated with dignity and love. Guide us throughout this school year so that all we do may give glory to You.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 1: A New Beginning

Scripture:

"See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

Reflection:

Each school year is a new beginning and a new opportunity to grow in faith, knowledge, and virtue. God has already prepared the path before us.

Prayer:

Lord, bless the start of this school year. Help us leave behind our anxieties and begin with hopeful hearts. Open us to the new opportunities You will place before us and help us trust in Your plan for our school community. Amen.

Day 2: For Students

Scripture:

"Let the children come to me." (Mark 10:14)

Reflection:

Every child is a beloved son or daughter of God, created with unique gifts and talents.

Prayer:

Jesus, bless all students as they prepare to return to school. Help them to grow in wisdom, kindness, responsibility, and faith. Protect them from harm and help them discover the gifts You have placed within them. May they always know they are deeply loved by You. Amen.

Day 3: For Teachers

Scripture:

"Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23)

Reflection:

Teachers participate in Christ's ministry by forming minds and hearts and accompanying young people in their growth.

Prayer:

Lord, bless our teachers. Give them wisdom in their instruction, patience in challenges, and joy in their vocation. Renew their strength when they grow weary and remind them of the lasting impact they have on the lives entrusted to them. Amen.

Day 4: For Parents and Families

Scripture:

"Train the young in the way they should go." (Proverbs 22:6)

Reflection:

Parents are the first teachers of the faith. The partnership between home and school strengthens the formation of children.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, bless our families. Grant parents wisdom, patience, and perseverance as they guide their children. Strengthen family relationships and help homes become places where faith, love, learning, and respect flourish. Amen.

Day 5: For School and Parish Leaders and Staff

Scripture:

"Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 20:26)

Reflection:

School and parish leaders and staff serve the mission of Catholic education through faithful stewardship and servant leadership.

Prayer:

Lord, bless our principals, pastors, administrators, office staff, counselors, coaches, custodians, cafeteria workers, and all who serve our schools. Help them lead with humility, integrity, and compassion. May their work support a thriving community centered on Christ. Amen.

Day 6: For Safety and Protection

Scripture:

"The Lord will guard your coming and your going." (Psalm 121:8)

Reflection:

We entrust every classroom, playground, hallway, bus, and school activity to God's loving protection.

Prayer:

Loving Father, watch over our school communities. Protect students, families, faculty,

and staff wherever they may be. Keep us safe from physical, emotional, and spiritual harm. May our schools be places of peace, respect, and belonging for all. Amen.

Day 7: For Faith and Christian Witness

Scripture:

"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

Reflection:

Catholic schools are called to form disciples who live the Gospel and share Christ's love with others.

Prayer:

Jesus, help our schools shine with the light of Your Gospel. Strengthen our commitment to prayer, service, and justice. May our words and actions reveal Your love and inspire others to follow You more closely. Amen.

Day 8: For Unity and Community

Scripture:

"Bear with one another through love." (Ephesians 4:2)

Reflection:

A strong school community is built on respect, compassion, forgiveness, and a shared commitment to the common good.

Prayer:

Lord, unite our school communities in faith and purpose. Help us value each person's dignity, celebrate our gifts, and support one another through challenges. Make our schools places where all feel welcomed, respected, and loved. Amen.

Day 9: For the School Year Ahead

Scripture:

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3)

Reflection:

As the school year begins, we entrust every lesson, friendship, activity, challenge, and success to God.

Prayer:

Gracious God, we place this entire school year in Your hands. Guide our learning, strengthen our faith, and deepen our love for one another. May everything we do draw us closer to You and help us become the people You created us to be. Through the intercession of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, and St. Joseph, protector of families, keep us always in Your care. Amen.

Closing Prayer (Pray on Day 9 or Each Day)

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. John Bosco, pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Lord Jesus Christ, bless our Catholic schools and all who enter them. May this school year be marked by faith, excellence, service, and joy. Help us to seek truth, choose what is good, and grow ever closer to You.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.