

good news™

2024-2025 Catholic Teacher Planner

FAITH 
 **HOPE**
LOVE

The
greatest
of these is
LOVE



1 Corinthians 13:13

Name _____



26 Monday

Green

What's the Word?
 The definition of **understand** is...
 How are the words *taught* and *learn* related to **understand**?

27 Tuesday

White

St. Monica

My Thoughts
 Sunday's Second Reading from James says, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only."
 I think this means...

28 Wednesday

White

St. Augustine

I Pray
 Lord Jesus, please help me **understand** and share how much you love me with all those I meet.

29 Thursday

Red

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Faith Facts
 Last Saturday's saint was called by Jesus and became an apostle. Two other saints are members of the same family.
 (Find the answer by the cross.)

30 Friday

Green

Faith, Hope, Love
 Is there something about your faith you would like to **understand** better?
 Ask a teacher or one of your friends to help you.



St. Bartholomew was brought to Jesus by his friend Philip (May 3) and called by Jesus himself to become an apostle. **St. Monica** was the mother of **St. Augustine**.



[Jesus] summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

Mark 7:14-15

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1

Sunday

Green

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Word of the Week

opened

2

Monday

Green

Labor Day (USA); Labour Day (CAN)

What's the Word?

The definition of **open** is...
What did Jesus mean when he told the man's ears to "Be **opened**"?

3

Tuesday

White

Pope St. Gregory the Great

My Thoughts

I think the best way for me to **open** my ears to listen to Jesus' words is...

4

Wednesday

Green

I Pray

Lord Jesus, continue to **open** my ears to your voice and **open** my heart to your love.

5

Thursday

Green

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Faith Facts

When you were baptized, the priest touched your ears and mouth. He asked Jesus to **open** them so you can listen and pray.

6

Friday

Green

Faith, Hope, Love

Before Mass begins this weekend, say a special prayer that you will be **open** to God as he speaks in the Liturgy of the Word.



St. Teresa's life is an example of someone who shows all the fruits of the Spirit. Talk with your friends about the fruits of the Spirit you can share this year.

7

Sat.

Green/White



Notes

[Jesus] put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!")

Mark 7:33b-34

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9

Monday

White

St. Peter Claver

What's the Word?

When Jesus **summoned** the crowd, he
a) called them
b) dismissed them

a) called them

10

Tuesday

Green

My Thoughts

I think I hear Jesus **summoning** me to...

11

Wednesday

Green

Patriot Day (USA)

I Pray

Lord Jesus, each day you call me to love others and work to learn as much as I can. Please help me do whatever you need me to do.

12

Thursday

Green/White

The Most Holy Name of Mary

Faith Facts

The Church gives us two lists of things we can do to show our love for God by serving others: the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

13

Friday

White

St. John Chrysostom

Faith, Hope, Love

Jesus asks each of us to take up our cross in order to follow him. Do you know what your cross is?

14

Sat.

Red

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Notes

[Jesus] summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Mark 8:34

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16 Monday Violet

What's the Word?
The definition of **fulfill** is...
What part of God's plan was **fulfilled** through Mary?

17 Tuesday Violet

My Thoughts
Which of the Beatitudes do you think best describes the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary?
Why?

18 Wednesday Violet

I Pray
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

19 Thursday Violet

Faith Facts
Sunday's Gospel tells the story of which **Joyful Mystery of the Rosary**?

(Find the answer by the cross.)

20 Friday Violet

Faith, Hope, Love
Prepare for Christmas by reading Chapters 1 and 2 of St. Luke's Gospel. Ask your family to read along with you.



Sunday we will hear the story of **The Visitation, the 2nd Joyful Mystery of the Rosary**. **The Visitation** recalls Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

21 Sat. Violet
St. Peter Canisius

Notes

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23 Monday

Violet

St. John of Kanty

What's the Word?

The word **wisdom** means...
Did you know there is an entire group of books in the Bible called the **Wisdom Books**, one of which is called **Wisdom**?

24 Tuesday

Violet

Christmas Eve
The Vigil of Christmas**My Thoughts**

I would like people to think of me as a person of **wisdom** because...

25 Wednesday

White

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

I Pray

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and **wisdom** to know the difference.

26 Thursday

Red

St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Boxing Day (CAN)**Faith Facts**

We celebrate the **3rd Mystery of the Rosary** on Christmas Day!

27 Friday

White

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Faith, Hope, Love

The infant Jesus brings a message of peace on earth. Bring Jesus' message of peace into your family today.

Red

The Holy Innocents

[Jesus] went down with [Mary and Joseph] and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Luke 2:51-52

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The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

diligently

30 Monday

White

What's the Word?

When the magi journeyed to see Jesus, they bowed to show their respect. We say they "paid him **homage.**"

31 Tuesday

White

St. Sylvester I

My Thoughts

If I could visit the Holy Family,
I would bring...
Because...

1 Wednesday

White

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

I Pray

Lord, Jesus, may we honor your holy name, enjoy your friendship in life and be filled with eternal joy in the kingdom where you live and reign forever. Amen.

2 Thursday

White

St. Basil the Great
St. Gregory Nazianzen

Faith Facts

The Gospel on the Feast of the Holy Family was the story of which **Joyful Mystery of the Rosary?**

[Find the answer by the cross.]

3 Friday

White

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Faith, Hope, Love

Think about the challenges you will face during 2025.
Which ones scare you?
Which are exciting?



This year's Gospel on the Feast of the Holy Family was the story of **The 5th Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.**

4 Sat.

White

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Notes

[Herod] sent [the magi] to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

Matthew 2:8

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Thoughts on Sunday's Readings

The Jewish people have always had many laws and traditions which give stability and direction to their lives. They know God gave them these laws as guides for their benefit because he loved them. In the **First Reading** from Deuteronomy, Moses told Israel to listen to and learn the laws which have come from the Lord.

Observing these laws will allow them to enter the Promised Land someday. Notice that the people are told not to add to OR subtract from any of God's commandments. Only God as the Giver of the Law has the authority to make any changes in it.

Thousands of years later, Jesus and his disciples were still faithfully observing these traditions. But Jesus knows that following tradition for its own sake, without any connection to the meaning of that tradition, is starting to get off track. Tradition is there to guide us into that deeper meaning as soon as we're ready to accept it.

In Sunday's **Gospel**, Jesus is trying to help people grow in their understanding of what they do and why they do these things.

- Discuss similarities and differences in the meaning of teaching and learning.

Another element to the meaning of these words is added through the word *understanding*. As a teacher you know well how hard it is to get your students to UNDERSTAND what you teach them. Jesus often faced the same obstacles as he delivered his message.

Help students learn what the word *defile* means. Use the words from the **Second Reading** to help you: "Religion that is pure and UNDEFILED before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27).

A Motto to Live By

- Call attention to another passage from Sunday's Second Reading from James: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only..."
- What does this mean for us?

Point out how in the lives of all the saints we have models that show us how to accomplish this.

Feasts and Saints

Tuesday, August 27

St. Monica

322-387

St. Monica's faith and love were manifested in a life devoted to prayer, especially for her husband and her son, the great St. Augustine. Monica loved both of them very much, but realized that until each of them was ready to change his life and be baptized a Christian, she could not do much but continue to pray.

Eventually her prayers were answered, and both men were baptized. She is truly a model of how to be a loving and patient spouse and parent.

Wednesday, August 27

St. Augustine of Hippo

354-430

Augustine is considered one of the great saints of the Church, even though his early life was far from saintly. Although he was a brilliant man, he cheated in school!

After his conversion to Christianity at the age of 28, he was called back to Africa, his birthplace, and named bishop of Hippo. Augustine is considered one of the "Four Great Latin Fathers of the Church." His writings, especially *Confessions*, earned him the title Doctor of the Church, a title similar to a Ph.D.

Discuss the relationship between St. Augustine and his mother, St. Monica. Though her son seemed hopelessly lost in sin, Monica never gave up on him. She prayed constantly for his conversion. Remind students that their own parents (teachers too!) want the best for them and will continue loving and praying for their children no matter what. When parents "nag," it is for the same reason. (Recall last week's Second Reading about discipline: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13.)

Sunday, August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

This feast will give you an opportunity to discuss what dying for our beliefs is all about. Read the account of John's death in Mark 6:17-29.

Mass Prayer for the Week

Encourage the recitation of the first part of the Confiteor. Point out that this Latin word means "I Confess." (Complete text can be found on the inside front/back cover of the planners.)

Readings: 22nd Sunday in OT

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Psalms 15

James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

August 2024

25 Sunday

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

26 Monday

Green

What's the Word?

Your teacher helps you **understand** the new things you learn every day. Jesus helps you, too.

27 Tuesday

White

St. Monica

My Thoughts

On Sunday we will hear, "Be doers of the word." I think that means....

28 Wednesday

White

St. Augustine

I Pray

Dear Jesus, please help me **understand** and share how much you love me with all my friends.

29 Thursday

Red

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Faith Facts

Last Saturday's saint was called by Jesus and became an apostle. Two other saints are members of the same family.

(Find the answer by the cross.)

30 Friday

Green

Faith, Hope, Love

Ask a teacher, your parents or a friend to help you **understand** your faith better.

31 Saturday

Green/White

Monday

Before you read/discuss this week's Gospel passage, talk about the ancient Jewish tradition of washing hands.

- We also wash our hands mostly to promote cleanliness and to prevent the spread of sickness and disease.
- For the Jewish people, washing hands accomplished the same thing, except it went beyond physical cleanliness and became a regular religious ritual practiced by all faithful Jews. This is the reason the Pharisees questioned the behavior of Jesus and his disciples.
- Have the children noticed the priest washing his hands during the Eucharist? This practice dates back to this same ritual washing tradition of the Jews.
- Make a list of things we do regularly, sometimes without thinking much about it. So why do we do these things?
- Discuss some different customs. Maybe your parish has a yearly custom or event such as a parish day, picnic, special dinner or maybe a liturgical service you do every year.
- Another word for these things is tradition.

Family Activity

- Have a family discussion about traditions that are special. Invite each family member to talk about his/her favorite thing the family does together and why it is so special.
- OR**
- If this activity is not practical for many of your students, encourage children to think about their own favorite tradition.
- OR**
- Have a discussion about church or school traditions.

Tuesday

While students are working on the Journal exercise, invite them to share their favorite traditions with the class.

- What do they remember best, or even more important, WHY do they remember these things?
- The traditions that are the most special are filled with memories. While we constantly seek to make new memories, we must also draw on the past. This is true for both family and Church traditions.

Thursday

- Encourage the recitation of the first part of the Confiteor. Point out that this Latin word means "I Confess." (Complete text can be found on the inside front/back cover of the planners.)

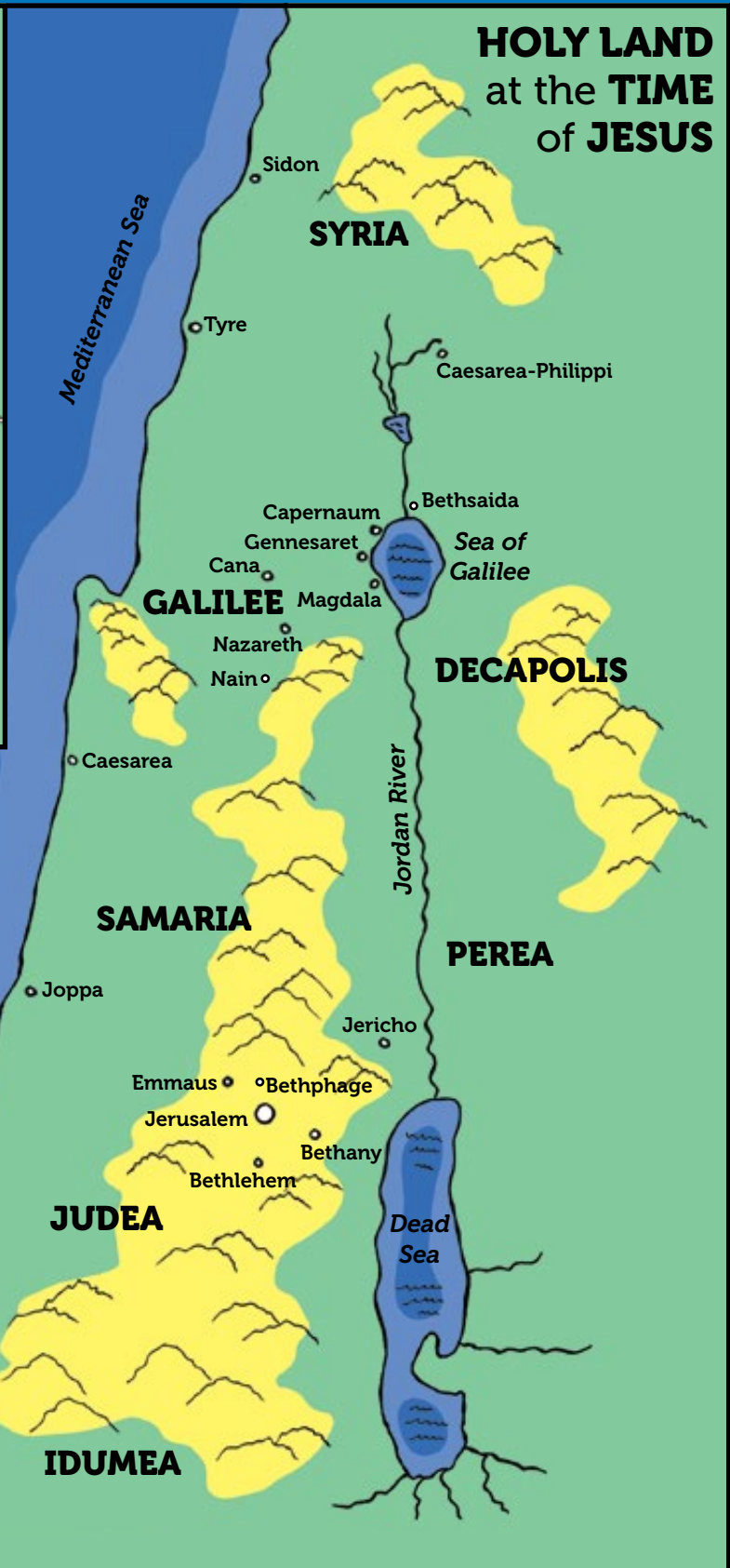
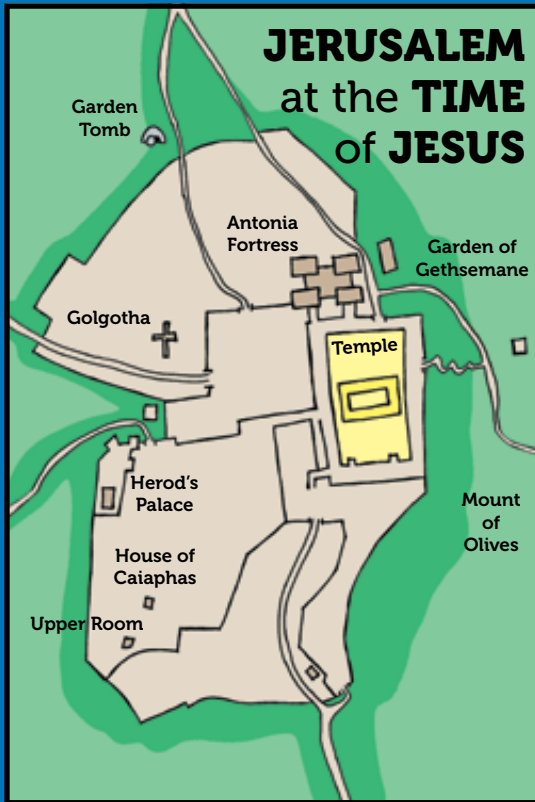
Friday

Gather in your **Prayer Space**.

Sunday's Second Reading from the Letter to James says, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." (This passage can be found on page 31 of the planners.)

- Becoming "doers of the word" means we show others how much Jesus loves them, and the best way to help others understand is by loving them ourselves. How did Jesus show others he loved them?
- How can we do the same? (Examples are contained in the second half of the Reading [James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27].) Read it to the class.
- Ask students for their ideas about how to show others that Jesus loves them.
- Encourage following through with this week's Disciples... exercise.
- Close with the Lord's Prayer or another prayer chosen by the class, or some spontaneous prayers.

0 INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



REGIONS

Bodies of Water

Cities

ISBN 9781682794920

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Good News Planner™ produced by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026
Toll-free 800-325-9414 • creativecommunications.com ©2024

Elementary Teacher Code ZSH24

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