Religion Bulletin Boards

2026-2027

Faith-Centered Bulletin Boards for the School Year

Purpose of Bulletin Boards in Catholic Education

Bulletin boards are an essential teaching tool in every classroom. When thoughtfully designed, they:

- Introduce new concepts
- Reinforce ongoing lessons
- Display student work connected to faith and academics
- Create a visually engaging environment that supports Catholic identity

Every classroom in a Catholic school or PREP program should maintain at least one bulletin board dedicated to faith formation. These boards should be updated regularly to keep students attentive and involved.

Guiding Principles for Teachers and Catechists

Effective bulletin boards should be:

- Interactive — inviting students to respond, participate, or contribute
- Educational — clearly connected to classroom instruction or faith themes
- Mission-centered — reflecting Catholic values, traditions, and current Church teaching
- Age-appropriate — accessible to the developmental level of your students

Interactive boards help students recognize that what is posted is not decoration but part of their learning and spiritual growth.

Throughout the School Year

It is important to

- Introduce students to key traditions in Catholic education
- Highlight concerns and teachings currently emphasized in the Church
- Review and reinforce foundational prayers students should know

This reinforces a strong tone for faith formation throughout the year.

Bulletin Board Themes for This Year – Winter Edition

Spontaneous Prayer Methods

Students will continue to be introduced to simple, accessible ways to pray spontaneously.

Featured methods. this edition: A Prayer tree which will help students to focus on intercessory prayer for various intentions through these months.

Traditional Prayers

This edition focuses on Intercessory prayer, prayers of Praise, and prayers of Contrition

Grade-level prayers

These boards help students build a strong foundation of memorized prayer as they progress through the grades. Each grade should have a special patron and should continue to pray to that patron. (e.g. Guardian angels.)

Teachings of Pope Leo XIV

We will introduce students to Pope Leo XIV's guidance on:

- Pope Leo's Christmas message
- Prayer intentions

Implementation Tips

- Refresh boards monthly or bi-monthly
- Incorporate student work whenever possible
- Use symbols and visuals that reinforce Catholic identity
- Connect themes to lessons, prayer, and schoolwide activities
- Encourage student interaction (prompts, intentions, reflection cards)

Goals:

By the end of this school year, students should:

Recognize and practice spontaneous prayer methods
Know and understand key traditional prayers
Demonstrate awareness of Catholic teaching on technology and social media
See bulletin boards as living parts of their faith formation

December

Pray – Prepare - Plan





Christmas Traditional Prayers

Focus: Intercessory prayer—The Christmas season is a time for asking and a good opportunity to focus on intercessory prayer**.**

Directions:

- Display an empty tree on the bulletin
- Provide a supply of blank ornaments
- Invite students to write intentions on the ornaments and color them;
- Place ornaments on the tree.
- Remember intentions each day during morning prayer/ include a few intentions each time of praying together.

Note: During January, the ornaments could be replaced by snowflakes; during February, hearts.

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Digital Disciples --How to Use the Board Throughout the Month using technology

- **Introduce Pope Leo XIV's Christmas Message--**Pope Leo XIV's Christmas messages emphasize themes of peace, hope, and compassion, inviting us to reflect on the significance of Christ's birth.
- **Teach the three virtues**
  - For younger children:
    - http://www.pursuegod.org/
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjIc
    - https://www.youtube.com/user/chooselovefoundation?sub_confirmation=1
  - For older students: Have the students research the Pope's messages on Peace, hope and compassion. Have them find examples—pictures/news articles showing these virtues in real life. Include student contributions on the Bulletin Board.

- **Examples might include:**
  - Catholic Charities
  - St. Jude Children's Hospital
  - Tunnel to Towers
  - Covenant House
  - St. Francis Inn
  - St. John's Hospice

Advent Prayers

Use a bulletin Board to teach students Advent customs and prayers, The prayer beginning "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment..." is a beloved Catholic devotion often called the Christmas Novena Prayer of St. Andrew. Despite its popular name, the prayer was not written by St. Andrew, nor is it technically a novena in the usual sense of nine consecutive days of prayer. The title comes from the fact that many Catholics traditionally begin praying it on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and continue praying it fifteen times a day until Christmas.

The Christmas Novena Prayer helps us imagine being present at Jesus' birth. By praying it during Advent, we thank God for sending His Son, honor Mary as Jesus' mother, and prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas with faith and joy,

(*See full explanation of prayer on following pages,)*



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem,
in piercing cold.

In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ
and of His blessed Mother.





[Advent Wreath Prayer - Prayers - Catholic Online]

[Printable Jesse Tree Ornaments | Faithward.org]

PRAISE GOD

Glory to God In the Highest





Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow\

The Christmas season continues into January as the month of January looks to new beginnings. Teaching and reviewing Prayers of Praise is appropriate at this time.

- At the primary level, focus on the Glory Be.
- In the middle grades,focus on the Gloria at Mass using this prayer daily at the beginning or end of the day until the students have committed it to memory.
- The Divine Praises is an appropriate prayer for the upper levels. Again, repeating this prayer daily will help students commit it to memory.

Provide each student with a copy of the prayer for your level

At the beginning of the new year, decorate a bulletin board with the message of the angels during the Christmas season. Give each student a cutout of an angel Have them write a prayer of praise on the angel. Use the angels as a border around the bulletin board.



Create a collage of photos contributed by students that show things that they consider to be blessings, This could include church, school, family, friends, home, etc. Have the students explain why they consider these to be a blessing.

February

Prayers of Contrition

The season of Lent begins in February in 2027. This is a good time to teach and review prayers of Contrition. While many are initially taught the traditional Act of Contrition in preparation for First Penance, it is important that they are made aware of other prayers of Contrition such as those said at Mass (Confiteor and Kyrie), invocations used at the beginning of Litanies, and Scriptural verses which express sorrow for sin. Design a bulletin board around the theme of the Prodigal Son with a prayer of contrition appropriate for the level. Suggestions are on the right. At the youngest levels, it can be simply, "I am sorry, God."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgPTLqK4MKo

Come back to me, with all your heart.



I AM SORRY, GOD.

My Lord, I am heartily sorry for all my sins, help me to live like Jesus and not sin again

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Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner

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O my God, I am sorry for my sins. In choosing to sin, and failing to do good, I have sinned against You and Your Church. I firmly intend, with the help of Your Son, to make up for my sins, and to love as I should.

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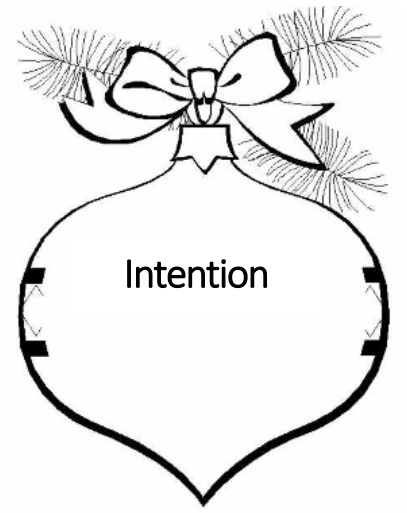
Oh My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and avoid the near occasions of sin.

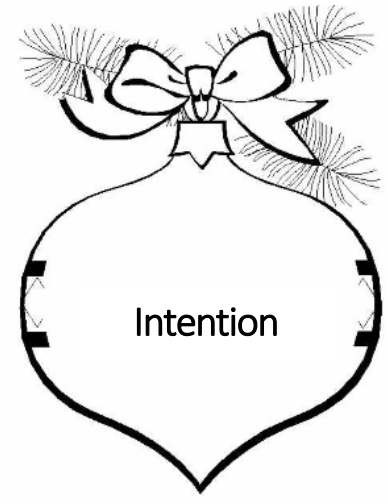
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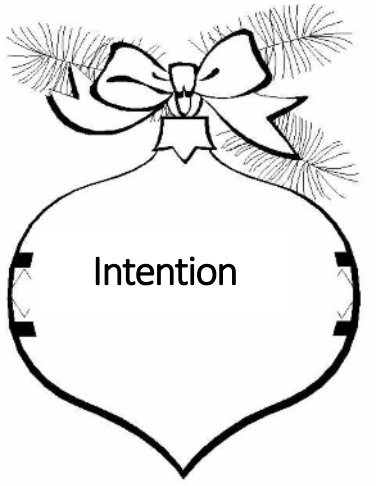
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

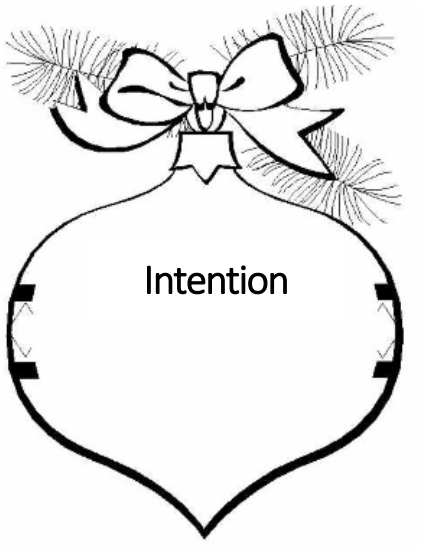
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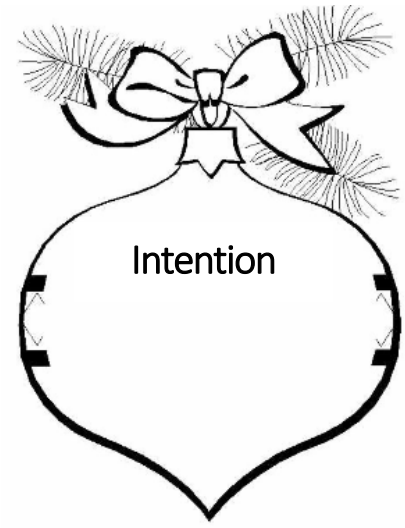
I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

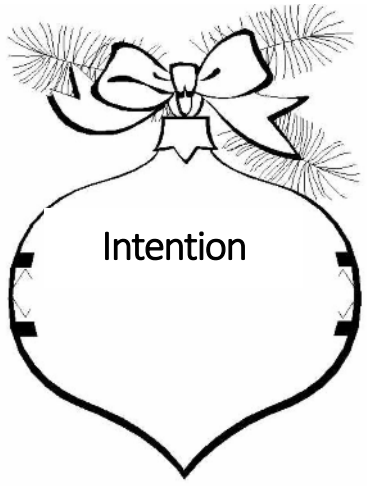

Intention

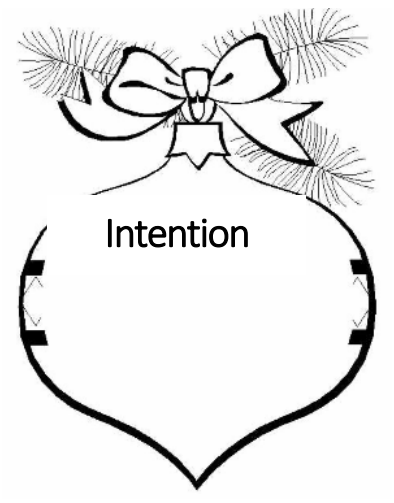

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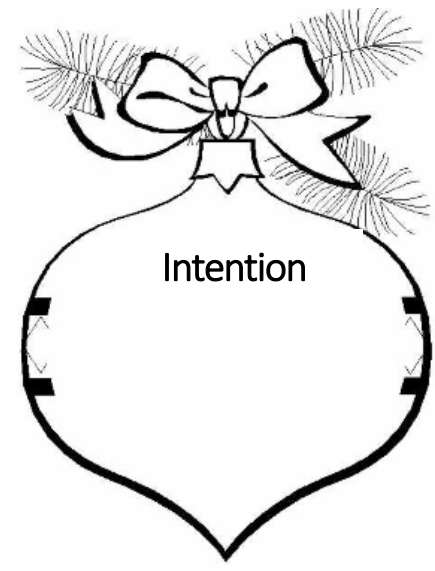

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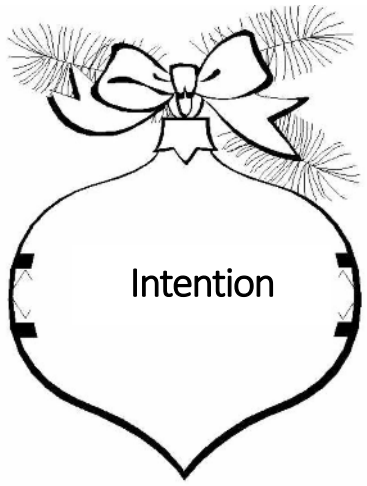

Intention


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Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His blessed Mother. Amen. 🙏

This traditional Christmas prayer is often prayed during the Advent and Christmas seasons. It is also known as the *Christmas Novena Prayer of St. Andrew*, although it is not technically a novena in the usual sense. Many Catholics begin praying it on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and continue through Christmas Eve.

Explain its history and meaning

The prayer beginning "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment..." is a beloved Catholic devotion often called the Christmas Novena Prayer of St. Andrew.

Its History

Despite its popular name, the prayer was not written by St. Andrew, nor is it technically a novena in the usual sense of nine consecutive days of prayer. The title comes from the fact that many Catholics traditionally begin praying it on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and continue praying it fifteen times a day until Christmas.

The exact origin of the prayer is not firmly known. It became widely used through Catholic prayer books and devotional practices, especially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The custom of praying it during Advent developed as a way of preparing one's heart for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Its Meaning

The prayer is a meditation on the mystery of the Incarnation. Rather than asking for many things, it invites us to place ourselves spiritually at Bethlehem.

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment"
This opening blesses the very time when God entered human history. Catholics honor not only the event but the sacred moment itself.

***"In which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary*"**
This affirms two central Christian beliefs:

- **Jesus is truly the Son of God.**
- **Mary is the Virgin Mother chosen to bring Christ into the world.**

"At midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold"
These words help us imagine the humility and poverty of Christ's birth. The King of Heaven came not with earthly power but in simplicity and vulnerability.

"***In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer...*"**
The prayer then turns into a petition. We ask God to receive our intentions because of the merits of Jesus and the intercession of Mary.

A Deeper Spiritual Insights

Many saints taught that Advent is not only about remembering Christ's birth 2,000 years ago. It is also about:

1. **Welcoming Christ into our hearts today.**
2. **Preparing for His coming in glory at the end of time.**

This prayer beautifully captures all three dimensions. Each time it is prayed, we spiritually kneel beside Mary and Joseph at Bethlehem and contemplate the astonishing love of God becoming one of us.



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.	Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.	Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.
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Blessed be God. Blessed be his holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be his most Sacred Heart. Blessed be his most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste Spouse. Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.	Blessed be God. Blessed be his holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be his most Sacred Heart. Blessed be his most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste Spouse. Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.	Blessed be God. Blessed be his holy Name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be his most Sacred Heart. Blessed be his most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste Spouse. Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.
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