

School's out: Summer prayers and blessings for families and educators



Area schools started dismissing for summer break last week. By next Friday, school children and teens from all parts of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Baltimore should be finished the school year and ready for some rest and relaxation...

And swimming and outdoor play...

And summer camps and trips to the beach...

I can almost taste the snowballs and boardwalk fries, can't you?

No doubt, the smiles of teachers everywhere are getting bigger and brighter. They are wrapping up report cards and exam grades, covering bulletin boards, and unplugging their classroom electronics.

The start of summer is truly the happiest time of the year for students and teachers. Prayers of gratitude are going up each minute of the day.

Summer prayers and blessings:

Let's put ourselves in the hands of our loving God and pray together
that He will bless all of us and our families
during the wonderful months of summer.

Summer blessing for families:

*May we make our homes places of relaxation,
joy, love, peace and safety.*

*May we be generous and considerate,
not thinking only about ourselves,
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.*

*Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts
during these months of summer and vacation days.*

*Grant us refreshment of mind and body.
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Teachers' prayer for the end of the school year:

*Christ, Teacher and Lord,
Bless all in this school as we seek to end our year
with the grace You so generously provide.
We give thanks for the students and the faculty, the administrators,
and all who have contributed to this year of nurturing and growth.
We affirm all the positive moments:
Of insight, of the excitement of learning,
Of accomplishment, of creativity,
Of laughter, of a sense of community.
We recognize the times of struggle, of difficult work,
of misunderstanding,
Even of failure...
We give these to You for transformation,
So they can become seeds that will find fertile soil.
As we leave for the summer,
May we take with us the knowledge
that You will keep us all in Your embrace
so we may rest and be restored,
And so we can continue in the ongoing discovery of Your Love.
Amen.*



Photo by Patti Murphy Dohn

End of school year prayer:

*O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank You for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities,
joys and sorrows.
The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons,*

*the holidays and holy days,
The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,
All have come forth from Your hand.
While we trust that Your purposes
have always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate
Just what You have been up to in our school.
Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to Your will,
With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams.
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as You have done this past year.
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.
May we continue to grow
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives.
Amen.*



***Wishing all of you a wonderful summer filled with blessings and God's
grace...
Be safe and enjoy the days ahead of rest and relaxation!!
God is good: All the time!!***