

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: ON THE PATH TO HOLINESS

Faith Play Day 2026

As this is a Play Day, students will rotate through different cooperative activity stations. Each activity connects to an aspect of our 2026 Catholic Education Week theme. Stations are designed to foster teamwork, reflection, and joy, so that everyone feels included and uplifted. Larger schools may need to add more stations; smaller schools may choose fewer depending on time. Senior students may serve as group leaders and activity helpers.

Theme One – Pilgrims of Hope: Journey with a Purpose

Activity One – *Footsteps of Holiness*

Purpose:

To help students recognize that every small step in faith and kindness brings them closer to holiness.

Materials Needed:

Pre-cut paper footprints (a variety of colors), markers, tape

Preparation:

Cut out enough footprints so each student has at least one. Create a space (hallway, gym floor, bulletin board) where footprints can form a visible “pilgrim path.”

Instructions:

Each student writes or draws on a footprint one way they can live as a pilgrim of hope on the path to holiness (e.g., “Pray before bed,” “Help my brother,” “Stand up for a friend”).

Students then place their footprints in sequence to form a large path leading to a cross, heart, or image of Christ.

Once complete, the “Footsteps of Holiness Path” becomes a communal reminder that together, every small action helps us journey closer to God.

Activity Two – *Lanterns of Light for the Journey*

Purpose:

To symbolize the light of Christ guiding pilgrims to holiness.

Materials Needed:

Lantern templates, LED tea lights, markers, scissors, glue

Instructions:

Students decorate lanterns with symbols of holiness (crosses, doves, rainbows) and write a short prayer or verse on top, such as “*Be holy, for I am holy*” (1 Peter 1:16). The lit lanterns represent walking together in God’s light.

Activity Three – *Pilgrims' Prayer of Hope*

Purpose:

To reflect creatively on how hope and holiness guide our lives, using prayer instead of poetry.

Materials Needed

Paper, pencils, markers, optional decorative borders

Instructions:

Students work individually or in small groups to write a short, original prayer about being pilgrims of hope on the path to holiness.

Encourage them to include four parts in their prayer:

- Praise: Thanking God for the gift of hope
- Petition: Asking for guidance on the path to holiness
- Reflection: Sharing how they can live hope each day
- Blessing: Offering hope to others

Students decorate their prayers with symbols of hope (cross, sunrise, dove, footprints).

At the end of the rotation, a few volunteers may share their prayer aloud as a communal act of faith.

Theme Two – Pilgrims of Hope: Journeying Together in Community

Activity Four – *Pilgrims' Chain of Unity*

Purpose:

To show how each person's hope and holiness links us together as one community.

Materials Needed

Strips of construction paper, markers, staplers/tape

Instructions:

Each student writes a word or short phrase on a paper strip that represents how they bring hope to the community (e.g., "Kindness," "Sharing," "Helping others").

Students decorate their strip with simple designs or symbols.

All strips are linked together into a large paper chain, symbolizing the unity of the school as pilgrims walking the same path.

The completed chain can be hung in the gym, hallway, or chapel as a sign of being *Together on a Journey*.

Activity Five – *Pilgrims' Puzzle of Community*

Purpose:

To reflect on how every person is a unique and essential part of our pilgrim family.

Materials Needed:

Large cardboard or cardstock puzzle pieces (pre-cut), markers, crayons, stickers

Instructions:

Each student decorates one puzzle piece with their name and a drawing/symbol of how they bring hope to others.

When all pieces are assembled, the puzzle reveals a cross or heart at the center (drawn on the base).

This symbolizes that even though we are different, when joined together in Christ, we form a strong, holy community.

Theme Three – Pilgrims of Hope: Answering the Call to Serve

Activity Six – *Works of Mercy Pilgrimage*

Purpose:

To show how service leads us closer to holiness.

Instructions:

Students choose one Corporal Work of Mercy and create a picture of how they can live it (feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, etc.). They share how serving others helps them live as holy pilgrims of hope.

Activity Seven – *Songs of Hope and Holiness*

Purpose:

To celebrate holiness through music and unity.

Instructions:

Play an uplifting hymn such as, “Here I Am, Lord” or a joyful song about walking together in faith. Students sing, reflect on the lyrics, and share how music inspires them to live with hope and holiness.

Theme Four – Pilgrims of Hope: Living in Solidarity

Activity Eight – *Social Justice Tree of Hope*

Purpose:

To reflect on how holiness calls us to stand with others.

Instructions:

On paper leaves, students write or draw ways they can support others (e.g., “Invite a new student to play,” “Recycle to care for creation”). Leaves are added to a large tree, showing how holiness grows when we journey together.

Activity Nine – *Share and Care Circle*

Purpose:

To see how small acts of kindness bring hope.

Instructions:

Students sit in a circle and share examples of kindness they've given or received. Each writes a new "Pilgrim Pledge" of how they will bring holiness into their community. Cards are displayed as a "Circle of Hope."

Theme Five – Pilgrims of Hope: Peace and Joy in the Journey

Activity Ten – *Heart of Hope Banner*

Purpose:

To create a community symbol of peace, joy, and holiness.

Instructions:

On a large banner, students draw or write prayers, verses, or images of peace and joy. Together, the banner shows how pilgrims of hope walk in holiness with love.

Activity Eleven – *Gratitude Notes for the Journey*

Purpose:

To practice holiness through gratitude.

Instructions:

Students write a note of thanks to someone who has guided or encouraged them on their journey (teachers, parents, friends). Notes are decorated with symbols of hope and delivered to spread joy.

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for walking beside us on our pilgrim path.

You call us to be people of hope, sharing Your love with everyone we meet.

As we journey together in faith, help us to listen for Your voice, to follow the footsteps of Jesus, and to encourage one another along the way.

Fill our hearts with peace, guide our actions with kindness, and make us instruments of Your holiness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, our light, our hope, and our guide.

Amen.