

*(last update: Feb. 2022)*

## **SUGGESTED PROJECTS for CCD SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT**

Parent Discretion / Supervision and/or assistance is required.

All finished projects to be submitted to [ctkhomeschoolre@gmail.com](mailto:ctkhomeschoolre@gmail.com)

### I. Music & Movement:

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Objective: For the students to learn the music that they will be using in sacramental celebrations, as follows:

#### **For Pre-K to 2nd Grade**

1. The Lord's Prayer (by Theresa-Rose) <https://vimeo.com/437934637>
2. I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (by Stacie) <https://vimeo.com/436284480>
3. We Come to the Table (by Theresa-Rose) <https://vimeo.com/437906166>
4. Shine, Jesus, Shine (refrain) by Stacie <https://vimeo.com/436437933>

#### **For 3rd to 5th Grade**

5. Jesus, Come to Us (by Madi) <https://vimeo.com/436859342>
6. Act of Contrition (by Stacie) <https://vimeo.com/436854637>
7. Blest Are They (by Madi) <https://vimeo.com/436861903>
8. Holy Spirit Come (by Greg) <https://vimeo.com/437404252>

#### **For 6th to 8th**

9. The Apostle's Creed (by Stacie) <https://vimeo.com/437388073>
10. One Spirit One Church (by Madi) <https://vimeo.com/437730380>
11. Lord, Send Out Your Spirit (by Stacie) <https://vimeo.com/437872794>
12. Send Down the Fire of Your Justice (by Greg) <https://vimeo.com/437417594>

The shared google drive below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EZl7740daOuEjeB0ZWSwSLjSHsV4LROf?usp=sharing>

Has the pdfs of the sheet music.

## II. Writing Projects

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Objective: For the students to learn to express their 'faith journey' through writing.

### Suggested Projects:

Pre-K to 2nd:

- Draw God or write to God.
- Draw your feelings about God. Write a Dear God letter, and tell God something.

3rd to 5th Grades: Write your own prayer.

6th to 8th Grades: Any one of the following

- Write a poem or compose a song about your personal experience of faith.
- Watch a mass online, or come to church in person and write a reflection paper on the homily
- Write about a particular experience of where, when, and how you met God today?

## III. Photo + Writing Projects:

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Objective: For the students to learn to experience joy in giving.

Each student is asked to consider making a donation of old toys, old clothes, old books, etc. He/she is encouraged to write about how donating or giving makes him/her feel. A parent is requested to take a photo of what his/her child intends to donate.

In addition to the photo/s, the older students (the 6th-8th graders) may pretend to be a journalist and write a news article of his/her donation.

IV. Virtual Tour of Museums (where there is Religion in Art)

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Objective: For the students to discover spiritual and religion expressed in visual art

Instruction: The parents and their children are encouraged to search for museums all over the world that offer a virtual tour of their art, say, the Vatican, for instance. The following are examples that may be observed:

Crucifixes

The Sistine Chapel

Pieta

Da Vinci's Last Supper

St. Peter's Basilica, Bernini

V. Faith and Spirituality in Musical Theater.

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Objective: For the students to learn and be entertained at the same time, especially now that we are having a pandemic.

Introduction: Theater gives us the ability to feel and experience deeply. Theater has the responsibility to tell majestic and important biblical stories with grace, respect, and heart. Some shows provide an interpretation to the unknown backstory that occurs in between these events, including assumptions about how difficult it must have been for each character during this intense experience as mere humans living out a massive, world-changing, and godly event.

Theater allows modern-day audiences to see themselves in this story, encouraging each one of us to ask larger questions of faith, leadership and belief, all while humming along to some of the greatest songs ever written.

V. Faith and Spirituality in Musical Theater (Con't)

The following are suggested viewing materials for both parents and children to enjoy. Please note that the discretion of the parents is necessary.

**A. From Pre-K to 2nd grade:**

**The Sound of Music** by Rodgers & Hammerstein  
(Disney+ or DirecTV)

Maria is a novice nun who goes to serve as governess of an Austrian Naval captain's seven children. She is torn between being a nun and expressing her love for the Captain. This takes place before the Nazi takeover of Austria. The score includes songs in Latin, inviting the study of the language, its tradition within the Roman Catholic Church, the development of Romance languages from spoken Latin, and Gregorian chant and choral music. Consider "Dixit Dominus," "Morning Hymn," "Alleluia," "Gaudeamus Domino," and "Confitemini Domino."

**Children of Eden** (1991) by Stephen Schwartz.

This musical is about family relationships, though loosely based on the first five books of the Bible. It opens with the creation story in the Garden of Eden, of Adam and Eve and the serpent, before moving on to the tale of Cain and Abel. The second act of the play deals with the story of Noah's Ark. Though the play doesn't follow the Bible stories to the letter, the show is clearly respectful of religion.

**Two by Two** (1970)  
Prime Video

Genesis from the Old Testament, with Noah's preparation for the Great Flood and its aftermath. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two\\_by\\_Two\\_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_by_Two_(musical));  
[http://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com/shows\\_t/twobytvo.htm#](http://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com/shows_t/twobytvo.htm#)

VI. Faith and Spirituality in Musical Theater (Con't)

**B. From 3rd to 5th grades:**

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** (1970) by Andrew Lloyd Weber and  
Tim Rice  
(Amazon Prime) (xfinity stream)

The musical is based on the biblical story of Joseph, son of Jacob, from Genesis 37–50. The favored son, he is betrayed by his jealous brothers and sold into slavery and driven to Egypt. Though faced with adversity, Joseph perseveres through wit and faith and becomes the right-hand man of the Pharaoh. He is tasked with planning for the extreme famine he prophesied. When his brothers come to find food, Joseph makes them pass a test before he forgives them. The story of Joseph is found not only in Christianity, but also in Judaism and Islam (Hayes 190).

It is important to note that it does not portray the major religious themes and does not mention God at all. It wasn't intended to be a religious performance and the creators just happened to use a Biblical story for inspiration. Nevertheless, it focuses on the religious themes of repentance, faith and reconciliation presented via universal themes of growing up, jealousy and forgiveness, making the themes universal that anybody can relate to.

## VI. Faith and Spirituality in Musical Theater (Con't)

### C. For 6th - 7th Grades

**Godspell** (1971) By Stephen Schwartz

Net ix, Amazon Prime

Godspell is based on the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament, with a few parables from the Gospel of Luke. Godspell is a musical made up of improvised scenes based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, and music based on traditional Episcopal hymns. The show centers on a group of followers who are called to gather together to create a community following a very loving and knowledgeable teacher. There are only two named characters: Jesus, the leader and one of the followers, a character called John the Baptist/Judas. The rest of the acting ensemble are called by their own names.

Children will enjoy the way that the acting ensemble brings a range of stories, also known as parables, to life using a host of theatrical devices including vaudeville, story theater, improvisational games, and a variety of musical styles. They will also enjoy the high-energy, playful style of performance; the tight harmonies and powerful choral singing; bold, exciting lights that often move and change colors; and the lively dancing.

Note that there are adult themes mentioned as part of some of the parables – adultery, murder, arrogance, greed, etc. – but most situations are treated comically.

Some children, those who are younger, may find parts of the second act a little disturbing, depending on their familiarity with the story of the last days of Christ as told in the Gospel of St. Matthew. There are some scary moments: when the mob turns against Jesus and calls for his crucifixion and Jesus's death on the cross. The mood and tone of the lights gets darker and the performance style becomes very realistic and serious. However, there is very little violence and all of it is theatricalized – for example – a red ribbon is used to represent blood. However, the musical ends with an upbeat, hopeful note as Jesus is carried away with a peaceful song and the ensemble re-enters to close the evening with a joyful song and dance number.

## VI. Faith and Spirituality in Musical Theater (Con't)

### D. For 8th Grade:

#### **Jesus Christ Superstar** (1971) by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice (Hoopla)

Jesus Christ Superstar is a 70s rock opera that depicts the last seven days of Jesus Christ's life. It explores the Roman-Biblical setting of Jesus' final days through the eyes of contemporary, modern storytellers. It is said that this musical allows people to see Jesus as a human being, like themselves, who has to go through the trials of humanity. The audiences see Jesus as perfect, but able to feel the hurt of every event leading to His betrayal and death.

“The messages of this show resonate with all who see it. For believers and non-believers, the Bible provides incredible stories about people who experience indescribable world-changing events. Jesus Christ Superstar is one of several biblical- fictions that tell the interpretive back-story of these stories. Creators, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, express their interpretation of what this story means for our lives. In a nation divided, how do we approach one another? Do we yell “crucify Him” against those we don't agree with or understand, or do we stand alongside them and see the world through their eyes?”

As we struggle with the conflict of our present world, Jesus Christ Superstar gives an opportunity to see ourselves mirrored in the emotion in the story. People can relate to the apostles, wondering what will happen to them if they stand up for what they believe, or Jesus, feeling betrayed by those around him, or Judas, feeling remorse for his actions and struggling with being seen as a villain for standing up for what he thought was right. Both of these characters are questioning “why me?”

The inner turmoil and acceptance of a ‘calling’ can be magnificent and daunting at the same time. This rumination represents one of the greatest human struggles of all time.”

#### **Leonard Bernstein's) Mass** (1971) by Stephen Schwartz (PBS.Com)

Bernstein composed the music and co-wrote English texts with Stephen Schwartz and Paul Simon. A Catholic-style Mass addresses the necessity of God in people's lives and the role of the Mass. Conflict is ultimately resolved with a hymn of praise to God restoring the faith of the three featured choirs. Leonard Bernstein created an innovative work based on the Tridentine Mass of the Roman Catholic Church. Liturgical passages are sung in Latin, while the rest is performed in English. (More on [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass\\_\(Bernstein\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_(Bernstein)))

For any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at Tel. 862 371 3606 or at [ellen.estallo@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.estallo@gmail.com). Thank you!

Have fun!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Estallo', written in a cursive style.

Ellen Estallo  
CTK Music Director  
Friday, 10 July 2020