



FROM RAISING LITTLE SAINTS, ONE YEAR AT A TIME

A Blessing for the School Room

and choosing a saint to walk the year with your children

At our house the school room is the kitchen table — the same table that has been a chapel, a classroom, a barn office and a confessional. Wherever your children learn, that place deserves to be blessed before the first lesson is opened. Do not wait for the perfect morning. Gather the books, gather the children, and begin.

HOW WE BLESS THE ROOM

1. Stack the books on the table and light a candle. Have holy water ready — your parish keeps it by the door, and no priest ever refused a mother who asked for some.
2. Gather everyone, the littlest on a hip, and make the Sign of the Cross together.
3. Read aloud: “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” (Psalm 126:1)
4. Father puts a hand on each little head and prays the blessing below — over the mother, the children, the room they learn in, and their school books.
5. Sprinkle the holy water over the room, the books and each child. Let the children do some of the sprinkling — they will remember it longer than any lesson.
6. Then a feast, not a test. Make the first morning a special breakfast, and ask your pastor to bless the children and their books at Mass that week.

If at all possible, let Father do the blessing. It gives him a way to be part of the homeschool year from its very first morning — and the children look forward to it year after year. A father's hand on a child's head, asking God to bless the books, is something they will remember when the lessons are long forgotten.

THE BLESSING

May this year be blessed in this house: every book and every chore, every bright hour and every hard one. May the anchors hold, the rhythm breathe, and our family's rule be kept with laughter and mercy. May each child grow one year closer to the saint God dreamed when He made them — and may their mother walk this year in peace, not pressure. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.





A FRIEND IN HEAVEN FOR THE YEAR

Choosing a Saint for Your School



Every homeschool needs a patron — a friend in heaven who has taken your family's year as a personal assignment. Choose one for the school and, if you like, one for each child. Do not overthink it. The saint who keeps coming to mind is usually the one who has already been praying for you.

St. Joseph — guardian of the home and of fathers; the quiet worker

Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom — the mother who ran the first homeschool, in Nazareth

St. Anne — mother of Mary, who tradition tells us taught her daughter to read

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton — a mother of five who taught her own children, then founded Catholic schools in America

St. Thomas Aquinas — patron of students; his classmates called him the dumb ox

St. John Bosco — patron of children and their teachers; won boys by kindness

St. Joseph of Cupertino — for the child who dreads the test; he dreaded them too

St. Monica — for the mother of a hard child; seventeen years of prayer, and then St. Augustine

For each child, the name saint or Confirmation saint is a natural choice — or the saint who fought that child's particular battle. There is a saint for every struggle.

WRITE IT DOWN

Our school is under the patronage of _____ this year.

Our school's name: _____

The saints walking with each of my children:

If your school has no name yet, this is a lovely day to give it one. Many families name it for their saint — St. Joseph Academy, Seat of Wisdom Homeschool — and hang it over the table where the children can see it.

A PRAYER TO OUR PATRON

Saint _____, pray for our school this year. Ask Our Lord to give us diligent minds, obedient hearts and a home at peace, so that everything we learn at this table may lead us closer to Him. Holy Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us. Amen.

Jesus, I trust in You.