

# Fun Ideas for the Classroom



## Short Puppets Plays

Try using puppet plays that are easy enough for the students to put on a show themselves. This is a great tool to help students learn about the saints, Mass, Reconciliation, and bible stories. The plays are free and can be printed off the web site.

<http://www.catholicmom.com/puppet.htm>

Make your own puppets! Sock puppets, paper bag puppets or tennis ball head puppets.

## Story Time

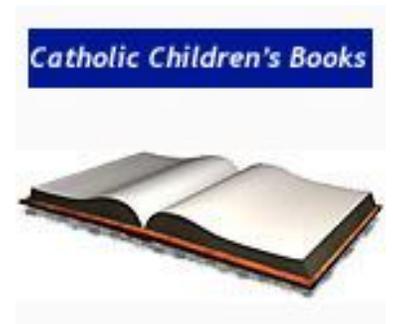
Introduce a story in the beginning or end of class. There are some great Catholic/Christian children's books on the market. Story time can also be used when kids are making crafts!

Saint books for younger students from Catholic Truth Society

<http://www.cts-online.org.uk/index.html>

Saint books for older students and teens from Bob and Penny Lord

<http://www.bobandpennylord.com/>



### Other great books for Elementary students:

Tale of the Poisonous Yuck Bugs: Based on Proverbs 12:18, by Aaron Reynolds (Part of a series of books)

You Are Special by Max Lucado

Because I Love you by Max Lucado

You are Mine by Max Lucado

## Start a book club:

**The Dog Days of Summer Catholic Fiction Giveaway:** [Catholicmom.com](http://Catholicmom.com)

This blog is giving away some great Christian fiction books, must comment on their site by Aug 31<sup>st</sup> to participate.

**Bethlehem Books:** Has brought back some great classic Christian books. The web site gives recommendations for different age groups and gender. Based in Bathgate, North Dakota!

<http://www.bethlehembooks.com/>

## Flannel Boards



<http://www.bettylukens.com/index.php>

<http://www.thefeltsource.com/index.html>

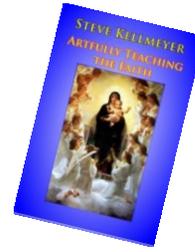
Flannel boards for Pre-school-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This is a great tool for hands-on learning of bible stories. Students can find the correct piece and place them on the board as the teacher tells the story. Kids love this!

## Introduce famous works of Art

God is Truth, Goodness and Beauty.

Sister Wendy Beckett Books on Art: See [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) Resellers  
These books on the beauty of sacred art range from elementary to adult.

Art Curriculum: Artfully Teaching the Faith by Steven Kellmeyer  
Art prints and books at <http://www.bridegroompress.com/zencart/>  
Gives insight and teachings of the faith using sacred art from the masters.



Teaching the Language of Faith Series; Bethlehem books  
The Saving Name of God the Son; Jean Ann Sharpe, Art by Fra Angelico  
<http://www.bethlehembooks.com/holychild/> Includes ideas of how to use this book.



### Craft Salt Dough Recipe

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup salt  
1 cup cold water

Directions: In a large bowl, mix table salt and flour together. Gradually add 1/2 cup of water and mix to desired consistency. Knead the dough on a flat surface, adding a few more drops of water as needed (but not making it too moist). Once the dough is made, you can divide it up into small portions to roll into 1/8" thick pieces with a rolling pin. Use cookie cutters to cut out a variety of shapes or just mold shapes, and place the shapes on aluminum foil for baking. If you want to make hanging ornaments, pierce the dough through with a toothpick while it's wet. Bake them in the oven at 200 degrees F until hard. Baking times varies depending on oven and dough thickness. Make sure the dough is completely baked. You can cover the dough with aluminum foil if it starts to darken before completely baked through. Paint when completely dry.

### Sacramental Prep

<http://www.ourfathershouse.biz/>

#### Miniature Mass Kit

**\$125.00**

A must for every Catholic home and classroom. Use for altar boy training or First Communion preparation. For children ages 3-12. See web site for what is all included in this kit.



#### Child-size Brass Monstrance

**\$39.00**

Lovely brass replica of an original, this vessel stands 8 1/2" tall. The back piece is threaded (instead of hinged) making it easy to use and hard to break.

#### Baptismal Set--no Paschal candlestick

~~\$85.00~~ **\$74.00 On Sale!!**

Note: Paschal candlestick is out of stock. (Price has been adjusted.) Three scripted lessons introduce the elements and symbols of Baptism through beautiful hands-on materials.