

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

4:30 PM, LABOR DAY, IN SCOTT LOUNGE

Officiant:

Welcome to the annual Blessing of Backpacks!

A few words here about the significance of new beginnings, the rhythm of the academic year, the gift of our freedom to “go to school,” and the importance of being open to learn throughout our lives.

Hymn 412, verses 1, 5 & 6 – *Earth and all stars*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is a day filled with joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray to you for all schools that they may be lively centers for learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of goodness. We pray also for our places of work, that our time laboring may be fruitful and enriching.

As students begin the year, give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the majesty of the world you have created. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. Enable them to grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year and all the days of their lives.

Now O God, bless these backpacks (*book bags, briefcases, totes, diaper bags etc.*) and the students, teachers, and workers who carry them. In the name of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

- *Then luggage tags will be distributed to mark the event.*