



# Teaching with Parodies

*Singing aids learning and memorization of lessons*

SR. NANETTE M. ZEIMET, SND

I have come to learn the value of music and poetry. Twenty years ago I taught my first religious education class. I was given a first-grade class, and I had no idea how to teach children that age. They were studying the Great Commandment.

How could I expect these children to memorize something they could barely read, much less understand? Children like to sing, and they like poems that rhyme. With that in mind, I wrote my first parody about the Great Commandment to the tune of “London Bridge.” By setting it

to music, the children learned it that very day.

The next year I wrote parodies to help the children learn about prayers, the Mass, the Bible, and First Communion.

We all learn in different ways. In my teacher training I discovered that “musical” is one of

Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences. The three styles of learning are auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. Many auditory learners benefit from music. Visual learners are helped by having the words in front of them. Kinesthetic learners engage by acting out gestures. Hopefully, these parodies will help you with your lesson plans. A few are listed here, but many more are found by accessing this article at *Catechist.com*.



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## Song Parodies by Sr. Nanette:

### Great Commandment Song

To the tune of “London Bridges”

Love God with all your heart,  
all your heart, all your heart.  
Love God with all your heart.  
I love Jesus.

Love God with all your mind,  
all your mind, all your mind,  
Love God with all your mind.  
I think of Jesus.

Love God with all your soul,  
all your soul, all your soul.  
Love God with all your soul.  
I pray to Jesus.

Love God with all your strength,  
all your strength, all your strength.  
Love God with all your strength.  
I trust Jesus.

Love your neighbor as yourself,  
as yourself, as yourself.  
Love your neighbor as yourself.  
My friend Jesus.

### Mass Song *To the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain”*

We will go to Mass on Sundays, yes we will. | We will go to Mass on Sundays, yes we will. | We will go to Mass on Sundays. | We will go to Mass on Sundays. | We will go to Mass on Sundays, yes we will.

We will listen to God’s Word at Sunday Mass. | We will listen to God’s Word at Sunday Mass. | We will listen to God’s Word. | We will listen to God’s Word. | We will listen to God’s Word at Sunday Mass.

The readings and the Gospel we will hear. | The readings and the Gospel we will hear. | the readings and the Gospel | the readings and the Gospel | The readings and the Gospel we will hear.

We will say the Our Father and the Creed. | We will say the Our Father and the Creed. | We will say the Our Father. | We will say the Our Father. | We will say the Our Father and the Creed.

We’ll receive the sacrament of Eucharist. | We’ll receive the sacrament of Eucharist. | We’ll receive the sacrament. | We’ll receive the sacrament. | We’ll receive the sacrament of Eucharist.

This is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. | This is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. | This is the Body and Blood. | This is the Body and Blood. | This is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord. | We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord. | We will go in peace to love. | We will go in peace to love. | We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

► Find more song parodies in the web version of this article at *Catechist.com*.



### Praying Song

To the tune of "On Top of Old Smokey"

I want to get closer / to God every day. / I will study the Scriptures / and then I will pray.

I'll pray to the Father / and also the Son, / the Holy Spirit, / together as one.

I say the Lord's Prayer / and Hail Mary too, / saying the Rosary / like us Catholics do.

I tell God I'm sorry / when I fail to do good. / I ask God's forgiveness / as all Christians should.

I go to Mass Sunday, / the Gospel I'll hear. / We say the Our Father, / a prayer I hold dear.

Receiving Communion / at Mass when I go / brings me closer to Jesus / as you may well know.

I pray for myself and / other people as well. / I praise and adore God, / thanksgiving I tell.

I speak to God daily / in whatever I do, / but I have to listen / to await something new.

I know that God hears me / and loves me a lot. / That is something important / I have never forgot. /

### BIBLE

To the tune of "BINGO"

The Bible is a storybook of God and all creation. / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / of God and all creation.

It tells about how God created light and sky and earth and sea / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / sky and earth and sea.

And also sun and moon and stars and animals and humans / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / animals and humans.

We read about the stories of Moses, Noah, Abraham. / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / of Moses, Noah, Abraham.

We read about the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and John. / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / Matthew, Mark, and Luke and John.

I like to read a book that tells stories about Jesus. / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / stories about Jesus.

It tells about what he has done, his teachings and his healing. / BIBLE, BIBLE, BIBLE / his teachings and his healing.

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