February 2026

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for
Middle School and High School Students

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
in collaboration with St. Joseph Ministries

February 2026

For children with incurable diseases.

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering

> Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's February 2026 Intention
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at https://thepopevideo.org/

Reflection

Reflection by Bridget Bullio
Bridget and husband Mark Bullio live in the Midwest with their five children.

I'll never forget that first seizure. I turned around to find my sweet baby - who just seconds before was happily playing on the floor - folded in half, jerking, and turning blue. That was the first of countless seizures.

For our family, this month's intention is deeply personal. Our ten-year-old daughter Anna suffers from Dravet Syndrome, a rare, severe, and lifelong form of epilepsy. Her first seizures began when she was just six months old, setting us on a road marked by deep uncertainty, but also by astonishing grace and love.
Dravet Syndrome is more than just seizures. It touches nearly every part of daily life. Anna has developed more slowly than her peers, deals with restricted mobility, and struggles with limited communication. Even her body temperature and sleep are affected.

Children like Anna require constant care and vigilance. Yet through every challenge, Anna radiates joy, courage, and peace. She is a light to everyone she meets. Next to the sacraments, Anna is the greatest source of grace for our family. Through the gift of Anna, we have learned so much: patience, compassion, and the strength that comes from surrendering everything to God. In short, Anna has taught us the way of trust and love.

As we join Pope Leo in prayer this month, may we hold all children with incurable diseases close to our hearts. May we honor their dignity, uplift their families, and allow their lives to remind us that every person—no matter their abilities—is willed, loved, and necessary; each one reveals something sacred about the heart of God.

Sacred Scripture

- Read **Psalm 34:18** or **Mark 10:14–16**

Note: Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

Saint Connection

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922–1962)—physician, mother, and champion of the dignity of all human life.

- As a doctor, St. Gianna cared deeply for the sick, especially children and vulnerable patients.
- Her compassion and respect for every human person reflect Christ's love for the suffering.
- St. Gianna reminds us to see the face of Jesus in every child, especially those who carry heavy burdens.

Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the intention. Allow students to share their thoughts aloud.

- What challenges, physical, emotional, or spiritual, might children with incurable illnesses face?
- How might their families experience suffering, stress, or fear?
- Why is hope especially important for those facing long-term or lifelong illnesses?
- How can we support these children and families through prayer, acts of kindness, or advocacy?

Extension Activities:

- Invite students to create prayer cards or write letters of encouragement for children in hospitals or pediatric care centers.
- Host a "Hope Board" where students post prayers or messages for sick children and their families.

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:
    - Loving God, we lift up to You all children suffering from incurable diseases and the families who care for them. Surround them with Your comfort, peace, and strength. Inspire doctors, nurses, and caregivers with wisdom and compassion. Through the example of St. Gianna, help us to see every child as precious in Your sight and to bring hope to those who suffer. May Your healing presence never leave them. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross