



skiturgies

PAGEANTS, PLAYS, RITES AND RITUALS
FOR THE CHURCH YEAR



Blessing *of* Backpacks



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SCRIPT: **Blessing of Backpacks**

AUTHOR: **Wendy Claire Barrie**

(Children are invited to gather in the chancel with their backpacks. Following the blessing, small wooden crosses may be given out for the children to place inside the backpacks.)

CELEBRANT: God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.

END

About the Author...

WENDY CLAIRE BARRIE is the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in New York City. Her background in Early Childhood Education and Theatre Arts have served her surprisingly well in the church, and she is trained in both Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and GodlyPlay. Wendy is passionate about the full inclusion of children in worship, and in the life of the church.

When she has free time she loves to explore, read and bake, and she is the proud mother of an eight year-old son, Peter.

