

# Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2022

St. Matthew Religious Education

## Thoughtful Moments

### Talk about God

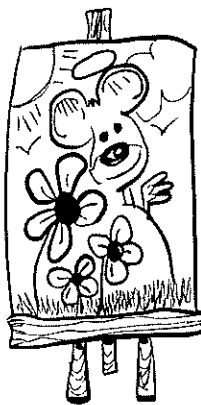
Children are naturally curious about God. Discuss your child's concept of Him. Does he see God as a loving parent or a harsh police officer, for example. Children are more likely to want to spend time with someone who is kind. Remind them that Jesus wants us to know God as our Father who loves and accepts each of us unconditionally.

### A family novena

Introduce your children to the power of the novena. Together choose an intention and spend the next nine days praying about it. You can pray the Rosary for nine days, recite the Divine Mercy chaplet, or even write a novena service of your own. Even better, find out if your parish has a novena service you can attend as a family.

*"And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart."*

(Luke 2:51).



## Help children love the Mass

At each Catholic Mass, Jesus Christ becomes sacramentally present among us, feeding us with the fullness of love. Helping children know and love the Mass will help them experience His love throughout their lives.

**Prioritize.** A busy family can have competing activities throughout a weekend. Yet, going to church together sends a strong message to children that Mass is more important than any of them. Don't miss Mass on Sunday or Holy Days. If you know you'll be traveling for vacation, research nearby Catholic churches and Mass times beforehand.

**Prepare.** Discuss the Gospel before Mass and read Scripture together often. Help children perform a daily

examination of conscience and go to Confession regularly to ensure everyone eligible can receive Communion.

**Pray.** Praying as a family is one of the ways to activate the graces we receive through the Sacraments. Start with a decade of the Rosary or traditional prayers before meals or bedtime. Our sacramental life sanctifies our everyday life. **Sing.** Children (of all ages) can connect with the celebration of Mass through the hymns. See

who can sing the loudest.

**Celebrate!** The Sacraments are channels of God's life, love, and grace. Write a special family prayer you can pray together to thank God for His many gifts after Mass. Afterwards, celebrate with a special dessert or fun family activity.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The world's religions bear witness to the truth that God's children yearn for the One who created us. In turn, He draws us to the mysterious encounter known as prayer.

Prayer is the raising of our minds and hearts to God, or the petition of good things

## Why do Christians pray?



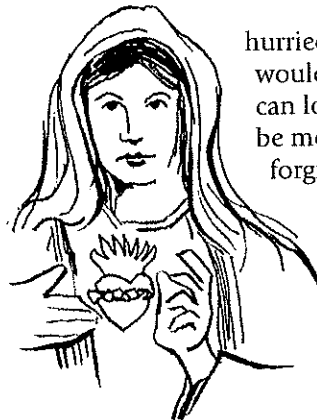
from Him that are in harmony with His will. Christian prayer is the personal and living relationship of the children of God with their Father, with His Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit. It's how we stay connected with the One who loves us most.

## Encourage children to embrace Mary's virtues

May is a month in which we honor our Blessed Mother in gratitude for leading us to her Son. She shows us how to follow Him by sharing the practice of virtues, such as:

**Humility.** Even when Mary learned she would be the mother of the Savior, she still considered herself a "lowly handmaid" (Luke 1:48). She surrendered to God's will. Children can practice humility by doing what they're asked willingly and quickly, and by waiting their turns patiently.

**Generosity.** After the Annunciation, Mary



hurried to Elizabeth's house knowing that her cousin would need help when St. John was born. Children can look for ways to help at home. They can also be merciful by letting go of grudges and choosing forgiveness instead.

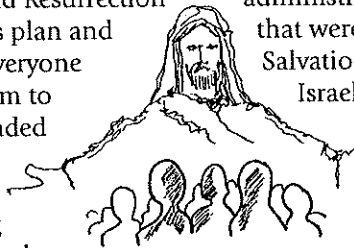
**Gratitude.** Mary's Magnificat is a prayer of praise, joy, and thanksgiving to God for blessing her and fulfilling His promises. Tell children to say "thank you" when someone does something nice for them. Encourage them to look for ways to share their gifts with others in need.

### Scripture LESSON

#### Luke 24:46-53, Know Him, love like Him

The disciples' heads had to have been spinning. Jesus reminded them that His suffering, death and Resurrection had been part of God's plan and that they should tell everyone about it and invite them to repent. Then, He ascended and was taken from their sight.

As they stood staring at the heavens, two angels appeared to clarify matters for them. Jesus was enthroned in Heaven, but He had left them with a mission. They had to build up and maintain the Church and tell everyone the Good News. The blessings of



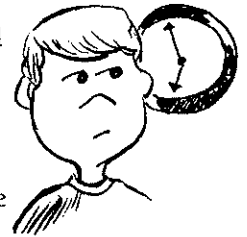
the New Covenant come through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments that were entrusted to the Church. Salvation now extends beyond Israel to encompass all nations. Then other generations after them would encounter Christ and believe in Him.

#### What can a parent do?

Tell children about Jesus and how He wants us to live. Tell them His story, spend time with Him in prayer, and receive the Sacraments regularly. Then people will know we belong to Christ if we treat them like He did.

### Parent TALK

It is important to me that we eat together as a family but every night I had to call Tobin three or four times for dinner. The food would get cold and my temper hot while we waited for him to join us. Finally, I decided to try something new.



The next night I announced that I would ring a bell at 6:00pm each night when dinner was ready. Whoever wanted to eat was welcome. An hour later, dinner would be over and the kitchen would close until breakfast the next day.

The next night I rang the bell and everyone came ... except Tobin. We said grace and enjoyed a nice, hot meal.

An hour later, Tobin came down looking for supper, puzzled that I didn't call him again. I reminded him that dinner was at 6:00pm and he missed it. "But I'm hungry," he said. "Then you'll really enjoy breakfast. We're having pancakes," I replied calmly and walked away. He was never late again.

### Feasts & Celebrations

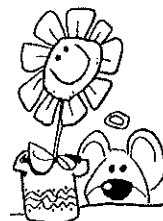
May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker (1st century). Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a humble carpenter who was dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima (1917). The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, and asked that they pray the Rosary for peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia.

May 19 – St. Celestine V (1296). Born in Italy, Peter di Morrone was a

monk and hermit who founded the order of the Celestines as a branch of the Benedictine order. He was elected pope and accepted because the papacy had been vacant for two years. He resigned to return to his humble, pre-papal life but was imprisoned by his successor and died in prison.

May 30 – St. Joan of Arc (1431). Patron of France, St. Joan was inspired by God in a vision to lead the French to victory during the Hundred Year's War against England. She was captured and falsely accused of sorcery. She was canonized in 1920.



#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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