

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2022

St. Matthew Religious Education

Thoughtful Moments

Lay a foundation

Don't hesitate to talk to children about topics that may seem beyond youngsters' understanding right now. The Holy Trinity or the Real Presence might go over their heads at this moment, but will become clearer in time. Others will remain mysteries as they do for us. Look at it as sowing seeds for later harvest.

Prayer works

The Israelites were so sinful that God was ready to destroy the entire nation. But Moses prayed for them, and God relented. Prayer can make a difference.

A parenting win

Say, "I love you," until they're sick of hearing it ... and then say it again. Praise them in public like God did, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

"... When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing ... And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:3-4).



Take back Sunday

In the Third Commandment, God instructed us to keep holy the Lord's Day - Sunday. This is a challenge in today's busy world but God commands this for our good. We need a day of rest to grow in holiness and thrive in God's care. Try these tips to "take back" your Sundays in the midst of a busy family life:

Highlight the Mass. It's vital for our souls that we reconnect with God and receive His grace. That's why attending Sunday Mass is at the heart of what we do as Catholics. Communion with Jesus is critical for our holiness. Instill a Mass habit in children early.

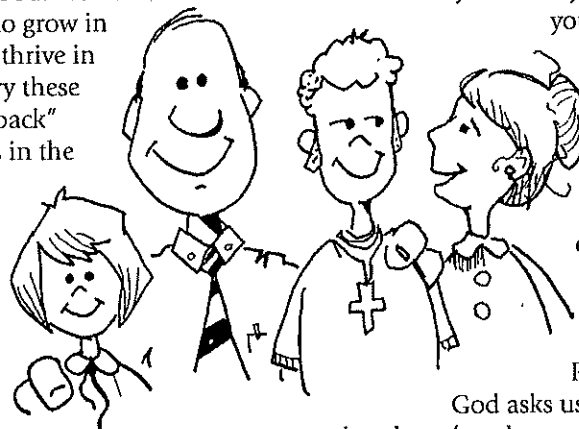
Have a slow, easy day, especially if

your weeks are busy. Slow down the pace of your Sunday and focus on your family.

Enjoy a day of rest. Avoid unnecessary work so you can center your day around God and family. Finish homework before Sunday. Cook on Saturday or eat leftovers on paperware so that cooking is unnecessary.

Remember that God asks us to avoid work that doesn't recharge us.

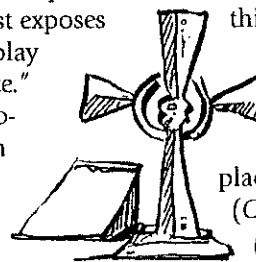
Share love. Allow Mass to remind all to be patient, use kind words, forgive annoyances, show love. Consider adopting a Sunday habit of putting money in the poor box at church, visiting a lonely neighbor, or preparing a box for a food or clothing drive.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics practice Adoration?

Adoration is a time-honored, powerful devotion in which the priest exposes a consecrated host in a display holder called a "monstrance." The adorer is literally eye-to-eye with Christ, in the form of the Blessed Sacrament, who gazes on us with love (Mark 10:21).

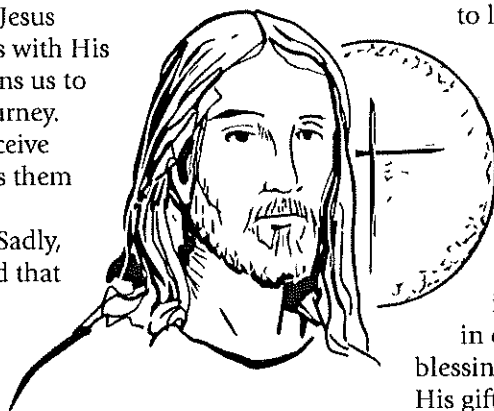


Since one is adoring God, this action fulfills the First Commandment. It's pleasing to Him and beneficial for our souls. For these reasons, Adoration has a unique place among Catholic devotions (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #1378).

Help children treasure the gift of Holy Communion

When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus comes into our hearts and nourishes us with His grace, heals our wounds, and strengthens us to fight temptation. He is food for our journey. Teaching children how to reverently receive Holy Communion is a gift that benefits them forever.

Remind them who Communion is. Sadly, many Catholics today don't understand that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Explain to children that Jesus is truly present (CCC #1374). He's there every Mass



to listen to them, help them, and love them.

Refresh Communion manners. Show children how to receive Communion reverently, whether by mouth or by hand. Teach them to walk back to the pew, hands folded, kneel in prayer as they consume the Host, and offer prayers of thanksgiving.

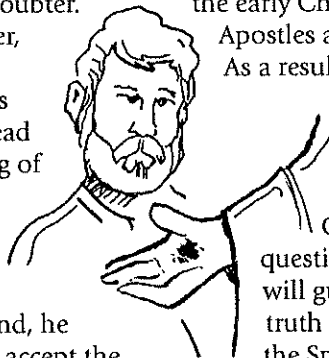
Stay after Mass. As long as the Host is in our bodies, we are a tabernacle. Stay in church until the priest gives the final blessing. Encourage children to thank Jesus for His gifts before leaving for home.

Scripture LESSON

John 20:19-31, From doubt to faith

Poor Thomas. A faithful friend and energetic evangelist and yet he will always be known as the doubter. Through Thomas, however, we learn that doubts and questions are not enemies of our faith. Often they lead to a greater understanding of God's truth.

Even though Thomas was with Jesus for three years and witnessed amazing miracles first hand, he still needed more help to accept the Resurrection. Far from scolding him or being disappointed in his lack of faith, Jesus invited Thomas to do what was



necessary to become convinced.

Notice, too, that Thomas didn't leave the early Church, nor were the other Apostles angry at his lack of faith.

As a result, he was able to find the answers he needed in the Church.

What can a parent do? Tell children that God isn't upset by our questions or doubts. In fact, he will guide our search for the truth and Jesus promised that the Spirit would help those who seek it (John 16:13). God knows that people who probe their doubts and fears often reach the truth.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 10 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion because it recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.

April 11 - St. Stanislaus of Kraków (1079). As Bishop of Krakow in 1072, St. Stanislaus attempted to reform the violent king of Poland, Boleslaus II. When his efforts failed, he excommunicated the king. In retaliation, Boleslaus murdered the

saint.

April 27 - St. Zita (1278). Born in Monsagrati, Italy, St. Zita became the servant of the wealthy Fatinelli family. Famous for her miracles in helping the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned, she is the patroness of domestic workers.

April 30 - Pope St. Pius V (1572). Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. He established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal.



Parent TALK

My daughter recently celebrated her twelfth birthday. She hasn't had a party since the pandemic began so she asked to go bowling with her friends, but she didn't want presents. She said, "I have enough stuff; I just want to be with my friends." She wrote on the invitations, "Your presence is my present. Instead, please bring contributions for the Knights of Columbus soup kitchen," her favorite charity.

Ten girls spent the afternoon giggling, bowling, and eating birthday cupcakes. At the end, we found that the guests brought so many cans of food, we could barely cram them into my car. When Kara opened her birthday cards, many of them held checks. Her friends donated close to \$400 in Kara's honor.

I don't know which pleased me more, Kara's generosity in thinking of others on her birthday, or the generous kids she has chosen as friends.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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