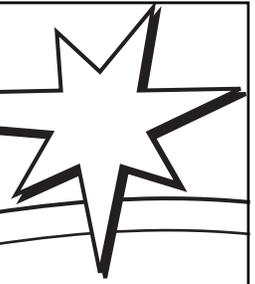


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

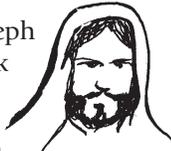
May 2015



Thoughtful Moments

St. Joseph the Worker

Our primary responsibility is to fulfill our daily obligations. Yet, St. Joseph demonstrated that work can lead to holiness if our efforts are for God.



St. Joseph was not rich. He and Mary made a modest Temple offering when Jesus was born. As a carpenter he had to work hard to support his family. Yet, he offered all he was to raise God's son and protect him from harm. St. Joseph made everyday life holy.

Tell the story

Not every birth or arrival in a family is accompanied by angels but each one is exceptional nonetheless. Every year, tell your child the story of how he or she came to your family and how special your family became as a result.

The Honor Chair

When a family member has reason for celebration, set aside a place of honor at the dinner table or in the family room. Decorate a special chair with colorful paper or balloons. With the person sitting in the chair, take turns offering congratulations. End with a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of your family.



Give your family the gift of Sunday Mass every week

In the hectic pace of a busy family, getting to Mass on Sunday can be a struggle. Between soccer games and scout meetings, dance lessons and play dates, going to Mass is one more activity competing for precious time.

Yet it is the most important thing you can do for your family all week. Why? Consider some of the ways your children benefit from weekly Mass.

Tradition and security. How many things do you still do today that you've done since you were a small child? No matter what other changes take place in their lives, the Mass is a constant to which your children can cling.

Children learn by repetition,

through consistency and from example. When Sunday Mass is part of their regular routine, children learn how to maintain the habit of weekly attendance. Seeing the importance you place on the habit teaches them obedience and discipline.

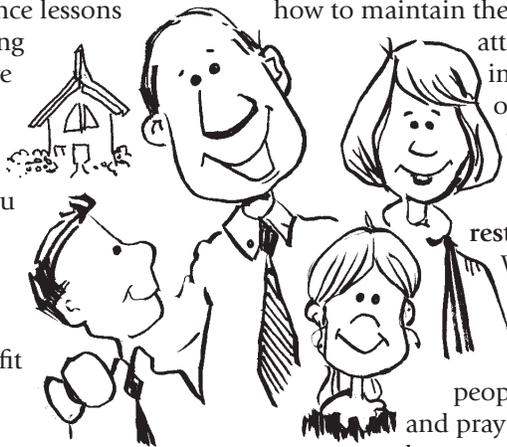
Visiting the rest of the family.

When in church, our children are surrounded by the Body of Christ -

people who care about and pray for them. Mass becomes an oasis in an

increasingly hostile world.

The week starts with a God-centered focus. Attending Mass at the beginning of the week helps children learn that God comes first on Sunday and every day.



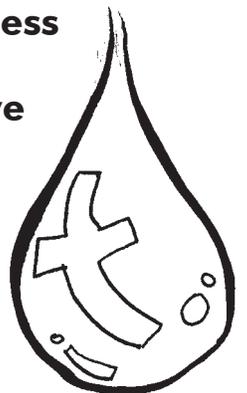
Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics bless themselves when they enter and leave church?

Old Testament Jews washed with water before entering the Temple precincts. Building on a ritual familiar to the Jews, John the Baptist used water to represent repentance of sin and purification.

So when we cross ourselves with holy water entering and leaving the church,

we recall that history. But we also refer to our Baptism when the priest used water to symbolically wash away our sin and protect us from evil.

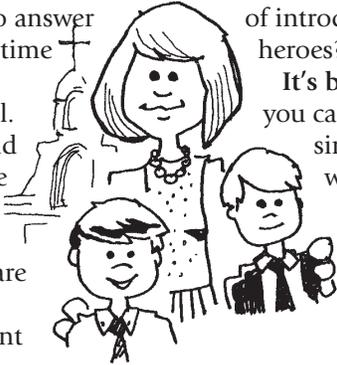


Why are we Catholic?

“Why are we Catholic?” It’s hard for parents to answer that question in terms children can grasp. Next time you’re asked, simply say that we are Catholic because Catholicism is true, good, and beautiful.

It’s true. Jesus started the Catholic Church, and since he is God, he always teaches the truth. The Church helps us understand Christ’s teachings.

It’s good. The Church is about goodness and can turn sinners into saints. Simply put, saints are ordinary human beings who did extraordinary things for the love of God. Why not make a point



of introducing youngsters to these every-day Catholic heroes?

It’s beautiful. The Mass is full of Catholic beauty you can share with your children. Encourage them to sing the hymns and note the words of love and worship the composers wrote. And stay after Mass on Sunday to admire the statues and stained glass windows in the church.

Tell your children that because you love them, you want the best for them. That’s why you are raising them Catholic.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20; A message for us, too.

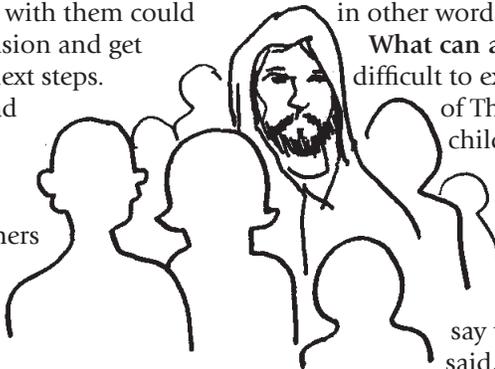
When Jesus appeared to the Eleven on the mountain top in Galilee, it was so the crowd with them could witness his Ascension and get instructions for next steps. Now that they had been taught and witnessed Jesus’ glory, he wanted them to teach others how to live as God’s children. As his followers today, that’s our mission, too.

Jesus gave his listeners three commands: Go, make disciples of all nations, and baptize them. Baptism signifies a renewed relationship with

the Father, as revealed through the Son, to be filled with the Holy Spirit – in other words, the Holy Trinity.

What can a parent do? It’s difficult to explain the concept of The Trinity to children. But we don’t have to understand it to believe it. We affirm it each time we make the Sign of the Cross and say the words Jesus said, “in the name of the Father, and of the

Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” We also remember that the Cross of Jesus is the means by which we can follow him into eternal life.



Feasts & Celebrations

In May we celebrate our true mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can honor her by praying the Rosary and observing her feast days.

May 14 – Ascension of the Lord. This Holy Day of Obligation marks the completion of Jesus’ mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. *(Note: In some dioceses, observance has been moved to the following Sunday.)*

May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes (1937). Fr. Christopher Magallanes was part of the Catholic Action Movement

in Mexico, resisting the anti-Catholic Mexican government. Despite great persecution, he founded a seminary at Totatiche. Eventually, he was arrested, tortured, and martyred.

May 25 – Pope St. Gregory VII (1085). During dark days for the Church, Pope Gregory worked to eliminate simony (the buying and selling of sacred offices), unlawful marriages of the clergy, and lay investiture (kings and nobles appointing Church officials). St. Gregory fought attacks on the authority of the Church. For this he suffered and died in exile.



Parent TALK

Getting my family to pray together was a struggle. The kids complained it was boring and routine.



It was time to rethink the way we were praying as a family. Since each person’s relationship with God is personal and unique, I

realized the children should have a say in how we pray. So I set new guidelines the next day. Here’s what we do:

Television, computers, and telephones are turned off for 30 minutes after dinner.

Together we pick a page from the children’s Bible and take turns reading it aloud and look for its messages. (Hint: we read chapter introductions in my Bible for help.)

Then we pray. We may pray the Rosary, talk from our hearts, or sit together in silent prayer. But we all get to vote on the method.

Now I don’t have to drag anyone to prayer. My children feel like it’s really family prayer time.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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