

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2018

**St. Martin of Tours Parish and School**

Jason Fightmaster, Principal

Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Joseph the Worker

As a carpenter, St. Joseph, earthly father to Jesus, used the work of his hands to serve his family and community. He taught his Son his trade, working side-by-side in his shop. Jesus also learned dedication, integrity, and the dignity of work from the example of his earthly father.

As the protector of the Holy Family and the spouse of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is an example of strength and obedience and devotion to God.

### Our spiritual GPS

Children understand the importance of maps. When we want to travel somewhere new, a map or GPS can show us how to get there. The 10 Commandments are our spiritual GPS – if we follow them, we will get where we want to go.

*"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me"* (Matthew 18:4-5).

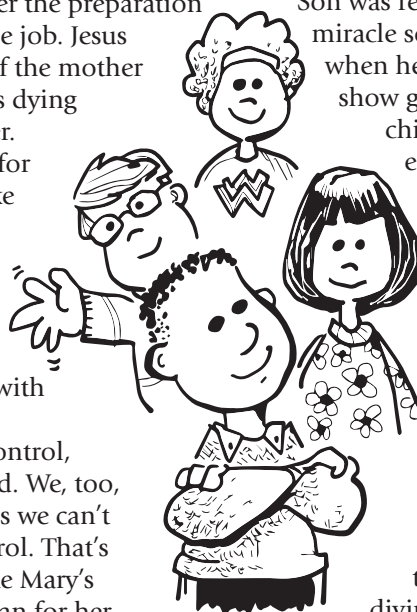


## Parenting tips from the Mother of God

God chose Mary to be the Mother of his Son, and gave her the preparation she needed to do the job. Jesus thought so highly of the mother she became, that his dying thoughts were of her. During this month for mothers, we can take parenting tips from the Mother of God:

*"May it be done to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). When faced with events beyond her understanding or control, Mary leaned on God. We, too, encounter situations we can't understand or control. That's when we can imitate Mary's trust in God. His plan for her worked out better than she could have dreamed. The same will be true for us.

*"Do whatever he tells you"*



(John 2:5). Mary knew when her Son was ready for his first public miracle so she gently nudged him when he hesitated. We, too, can show gentle confidence in our children's competence and encourage them to reveal their strengths when they hesitate to believe in themselves.

*"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart..."* (Luke 2:19).

When the extraordinary happens, our first impulse is to tell someone. We want advice or attention. Yet, throughout life with her divine Son, Mary kept to herself and reflected in private moments. She sought only God's counsel because he knows best.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in history is to bring people to her Son. "The Virgin Mary... is clearly the mother of the members of Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #963).

When Jesus hung on the cross, Mary and St.

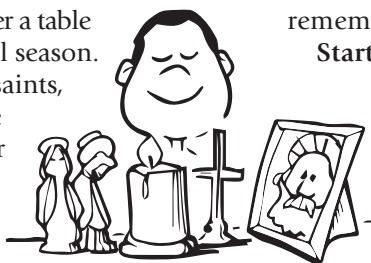


John were there (John 19:26-27). Jesus told her, "Woman, behold your son," and to John, "Behold your mother." At that moment Mary became the mother of us all. Because of her special relationship to Jesus, she is the perfect intercessor for us.

# Make your home a church

Your home can be a domestic church in which you meet God every day. Try these suggestions for creating a sacred space:

**Give prayer a central place in your home.** Cover a table with a special cloth in the color of the liturgical season. Add a crucifix and small statues or pictures of saints, a family Rosary, a Bible, and add a candle. Leave space to kneel before it. No space for a prayer table? Fill a large basket with pillows, your Bible and some Rosaries, and take it wherever you can gather for prayer. Use it often.



**Add sacred objects.** Put a crucifix in every room, add holy water fonts, put up icons. Displaying sacred objects in each room of your home will help your family to remember that God is always with you.

**Start personal spiritual traditions.** Pick days that are special to each of you – birthdays, patron saint feast days, anniversaries. Sing favorite hymns, recite prayers that you write yourselves. Read your favorite Scripture story or verse.

## Scripture LESSON

### Matthew 28:16-20, "I will be with you always."

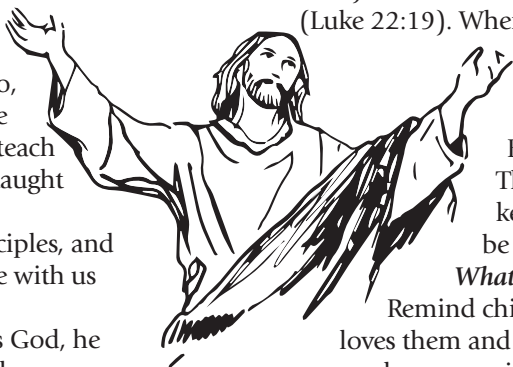
Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the mountain-top in Galilee so the crowd with them could see the Resurrected Christ and get their final instructions: to go, baptize and make disciples, and to teach them all he had taught them. Jesus also promised his disciples, and us, that he will be with us always.

Because Jesus is God, he is present everywhere. However, we encounter him in a special way in the Sacraments, especially in Holy Communion. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed

them and gave them to his disciples, saying, *"This is my body ... (this is my blood) ... Do this in memory of me"* (Luke 22:19). When the priest prays over the bread and wine at Mass, they become Jesus' Body and Blood. This is how Jesus keeps his promise to be with us always.

**What can a parent do?**

Remind children that Jesus loves them and is with them everywhere, especially in the Sacraments. Tell them that in every Catholic church where the Eucharist is kept, Jesus is really present, waiting to spend time with them.



## Feasts & Celebrations

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

**May 20 – Pentecost (1st century).** Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

**May 27 – St. Augustine of Canterbury (604).** Despite mistakes and failures, Augustine persevered as a missionary in rough and dangerous

times in England. Wisely, he purified and retained local customs into Christian rites. His efforts would eventually bear fruit in the conversion of England after his death.

**May 30 – St. Joan of Arc (1431).** The patron saint 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. Her troops successfully freed Orléans from the English. She was captured, sold to the English, and falsely accused of sorcery. She was canonized in 1920.



## Parent TALK

When my father died, we began visiting the cemetery regularly to pray for him. I noticed that some of the



surrounding graves looked neglected. They had dead flowers or mildew obscured the name on the stone. It was sad that the people buried there had no one

to take care of their memorials.

Prior to our next trip, we picked up cleaning supplies. We spiffed up the tombstones and cleaned up the areas around the graves. We said a prayer over each tombstone we cleaned for the person it named.

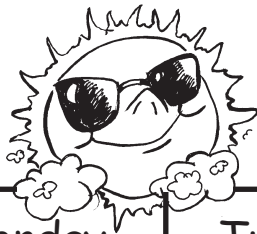
"Why are we doing this?" Tessa asked. "The dead people won't care."

I explained that caring for graves and praying for the people they contain is considered "burying the dead" – one of the Corporal Works of Mercy the Church asks us to do for others. I reminded the children that whatever kindness we do for others, we do for Jesus.





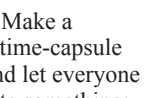






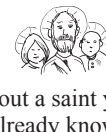




















## Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

© Copyright 2018 Success Publishing & Media, LLC



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  Pray the "Glory Be" as a family in honor of the Blessed Trinity.	<b>2</b>  Bless each child this morning before the day's activities begin.	<b>3</b>  Honor St. Thomas, patron saint of architects, by making a house out of marshmallows and toothpicks.	<b>4</b>  Happy 4th of July! Offer a family prayer for troops overseas.	<b>5</b>  Make a time-capsule and let everyone contribute something: family photos, holy cards, keepsakes. Open it at the end of the summer.	<b>6</b>  Attend First Friday Mass or Benediction as a family.	<b>7</b>  Draw pictures of your favorite sacred images – saints, crosses, angels – and put them up around your home.
<b>8</b>  After Mass today, write a family prayer to say every Sunday this summer.	<b>9</b>  Recite the Apostle's Creed as an act of faith.	<b>10</b>  Visit a nearby park and enjoy God's creation. Don't forget the sunscreen.	<b>11</b>  Catch fireflies in a jar. Release them before you go to bed.	<b>12</b>  Learn about a saint you don't already know and devise ways to imitate him or her.	<b>13</b>  Family Fun Night: Play board games, sing songs, eat popcorn together.	<b>14</b>  In honor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, take a nature walk.
<b>15</b>  Say a prayer for someone going through a difficult time today.	<b>16</b>  Go stargazing. Lie on a blanket in your backyard together and gaze at the night sky.	<b>17</b>  Pray together for a person in the news.	<b>18</b>  Take a family vow to speak only kind words today.	<b>19</b>  Attend daily Mass today. Pray for your family.	<b>20</b>  Abstain from TV as a Friday sacrifice.	<b>21</b>  In honor of St. Joseph, do something nice for your father.
<b>22</b>  Listen carefully to Father's homily at Mass today and talk about something you learned.	<b>23</b>  Share a story about Jesus with someone else, just like the Apostles did.	<b>24</b>  Make one positive choice today that will make a difference at home.	<b>25</b>  Serve fish tonight for dinner in honor of St. James who was a fisherman.	<b>26</b>  Pick up a blade of grass and think about the one who made it.	<b>27</b>  Say, "I forgive you" to someone who hurt you.	<b>28</b>  Visit a nursing home. Be prepared to stay and listen for a little while.
<b>29</b>  St. Martha served Jesus with love. After Mass today, prepare a treat or snack for someone else in her honor.	<b>30</b>  Pick a Beatitude and live it all day (Matthew 5:3-11).	<b>31</b>  Play a card game together.				





# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> St. Alphonsus Liguori loved the Eucharist. In his honor, visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle in your parish.	<b>2</b> Watch a science program together on TV. Marvel at the wonders God has created.	<b>3</b> Send a note to your pastor or favorite priest to thank him for his guidance and sacrifice.	<b>4</b> Attend Confession as a family, then have a family dinner afterwards to celebrate.
<b>5</b> Eat ice-cream sundaes after Mass today to celebrate the Lord's Day.	<b>6</b> The Transfiguration: Wear something white to remember that Jesus' clothes turned "dazzling white" (Luke 9:29).	<b>7</b> Be a peacemaker. Do something nice for someone you don't like.	<b>8</b> St. Dominic spread devotion to the Rosary. In his honor, pray a family Rosary together.	<b>9</b> Create a prayer space outdoors. Find a shady tree, place a crucifix or a statue of Our Lady at the base, and share time in quiet prayer.	<b>10</b> Do something special for someone you love.	<b>11</b> Celebrate the patron of television, St. Clare, by watching family-oriented shows together.
<b>12</b> Jesus is the Bread of Life. Eat bread with every meal today in his honor. At Mass today, thank Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist.	<b>13</b> Pray for all the suffering souls in Purgatory.	<b>14</b> Blow bubbles outdoors and think of Heaven as they rise.	<b>15</b> The Assumption: Celebrate Mary's Assumption by attending Mass and praying the Memorare together.	<b>16</b> Make popsicles: blend fruit, sugar, and yogurt and pour into Dixie cups. Insert popsicle sticks and freeze. Enjoy!	<b>17</b> Family Game Night: Turn off electronic entertainment and take a walk tonight.	<b>18</b> Celebrate the joy of laughter by renting a funny movie or telling jokes.
<b>19</b> Attend Mass as a family and pray for peace.	<b>20</b> Make dinner as a family, give everyone a job, and sit down to eat it together.	<b>21</b> Ask the pastor what your family can do to help out in the parish.	<b>22</b> Celebrate Baptism. Have a backyard water fight, complete with water balloons, squirt guns, and the garden hose!	<b>23</b> Bake cookies together. Discuss how we can follow God's recipe for our lives.	<b>24</b> Share a simple, meatless meal and put the money saved in the poor box at church.	<b>25</b> Gather all the loose change in the house and put it in the collection basket during Mass this weekend.
<b>26</b> Share God's love by inviting a parish family to Sunday lunch after Mass.	<b>27</b> Read a story from the Bible and spend 10 minutes in silence thinking about what you just read.	<b>28</b> In honor of St. Augustine, start a good habit and practice it all day.	<b>29</b> Have an end-of-summer picnic in the backyard or on the living room floor.	<b>30</b> Talk about what you would say to Jesus if he came to visit you in your home.	<b>31</b> Learn a Latin phrase such as "Ora Pro Nobis" ("pray for us") and say it over and over again today.	