

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

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St. Martin of Tours Parish and School

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Thoughtful Moments

St. Germaine Cousin

Born to poor parents near Pibrac, France, St. Germaine suffered from a deformed right hand, sores on her neck and ill health from neglect and abuse. Despite this, she was never bitter. She walked to Mass daily – even in the winter – and shared what she had with the poor. The most powerful proof of St. Germaine's holiness was her forgiveness of her abusive stepmother, Hortense. She is the patroness of abuse victims, people with disabilities, and shepherdesses.

Make anger work

Teach children that it isn't healthy to pretend we're not angry when we are. Instead of giving in to anger, though, find a solution to the problem. *"In your anger do not sin"* (Psalm 4:4).

Biblical advice for kids

"Children, obey your parents (in the Lord), for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1-2).

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).



The lazy days of summer offer many opportunities to bring your family closer to God. Try ideas like these to have a happy and holy summer:

Sing a psalm. Choose a psalm that praises God for his mercy, kindness, and love, such as Psalm 103. Learn a new line each week and sing or recite it together at dinner time or bed time. By summer's end, you will have learned a new way to praise God.

Strengthen a virtue. Virtues are good habits. For example, temperance can be practiced by limiting the amount of time spent watching television or using electronics. Charity can be

strengthened by volunteering for a local aid organization as a family.

Read a story. The Bible is a library of books that weave together the story of our family of faith.

Read about heroes, brave rulers, warriors, prophets and thrilling victories. For example, the first book of Samuel (chapter 16) begins the account of David, a poet and musician, warrior and king with an extraordinary love for God. Or, read about the remarkable journey

Moses led out of slavery found in the book of Exodus."

Visit him each week. Weekly Mass is an important way to bring your family closer to God. Even when you are on vacation, visit www.parishesonline.com to find a Mass close by.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

The sacrament of Confirmation completes Baptism. In Confirmation, the recipient receives an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and an increase of spiritual gifts. He or she is spiritually equipped and called to be a public witness to

Why do Catholics get confirmed?



Christ in both words and deeds (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1303).

Confirmation can only be received once. Confirmation recalls Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on Jesus' disciples in the Upper Room and strengthened them to preach the Gospel (Acts 2:1-4).

Help children love Confession

All children need reassurance that they are loved even when they make mistakes. That's why Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He wanted to give us an outward sign of his unconditional love and forgiveness. Try these tips to help children appreciate God's special, forgiving love:

"Who, Me?!" Children often think of sin as relative. "It was okay to hit her because she hit me first." "I took his pen because he took my glove." Children need to know that God's rules are the ones to follow. Use the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides.



"Say you're sorry." Even young children can understand the need to say they're sorry when they do something wrong. That's the first step toward taking responsibility for our actions and changing our behavior.

Change. Avoiding future sin means deciding to change. The priest may have suggestions, but you can also help your child figure out how to keep from "messing up" in the future.

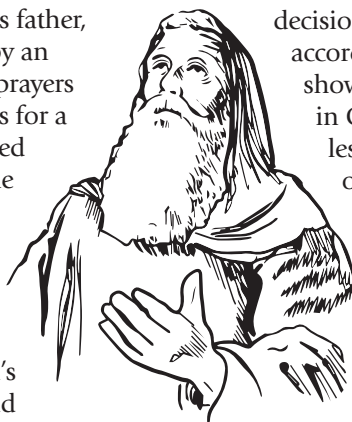
Remember – forgiving sin is what God loves to do most.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 1:57-66, 80.
Take God at his word.

Sometimes God has to take drastic action to get our attention. Before John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, was visited by an angel and told that his prayers for a son and his prayers for a savior would be answered in a miraculous way. The angel's appearance should have convinced Zechariah, but he was still unsure the message was true. So, God shut Zechariah's mouth to open his mind and heart to the truth.

After the angel's visit, Zechariah silently watched his wife's body swell with her miraculous pregnancy. After



the baby's birth, Zechariah demonstrated his obedience. His decision to name his son John according to the angel's message shows the growth of his faith in God. Having learned his lesson, his mouth was opened. Zechariah's first words showered praise on God and told the people around him of God's faithfulness and awesome love.

What can a parent do? We can always trust God's love and care. He will never fail us. Help your children listen for God's voice and remember that all things are possible for God.

Parent TALK

Last summer I wanted to make sure that – in the busy pace of our summer – our family prayer didn't get neglected. My pastor suggested we keep prayer journals.



We went to an office-supplies store to buy some pretty journals. I explained that this would be where we would write requests to God for ourselves, petitions for others, but also thoughts and dreams we want to share with God. I explained that we would gather each night and write in them together.

Kara wrote her prayers as letters addressed to God and told him about her day. Tessa listed her prayer petitions and drew pictures "for God." I recorded my prayers and meditations about Scripture I read that day.

The prayer journals were the perfect devotion for the summer. Kara said, "It's like talking to a good friend. I can tell him anything, and I know my prayers are in good hands."

Feasts & Celebrations

June 3 – Corpus Christi Sunday (1264). On this feast, we celebrate the transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. St. Juliana of Belgium had a vision of the full moon, representing the Church, with a dark spot in it, representing the missing solemnity. In 1264, Pope Urban IV ordered a Church-wide celebration for Corpus Christi, and asked St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Office for the feast.

June 8 – St. William of York (1154). Born into a noble family in England,

St. William was named archbishop of York, but was slandered by political opponents. Despite this, St. William was never bitter or resentful. He died about two months after his consecration, probably poisoned.

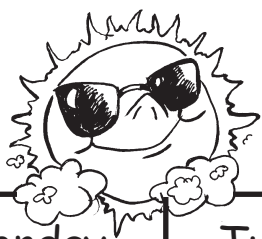
June 16 – St. John-Francis Regis (1640). Born in France to a rich merchant, St. John-Francis joined the Jesuits when he was eighteen. Once ordained a priest, he was sent to southern France to start missions. He convinced his hearers to follow Christ more faithfully.

































Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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JULY

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



AUGUST

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