

Partners in FAITH™

September 2017

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

St. Mary Catholic Faith Community

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Thoughtful Moments

St. Wenceslaus

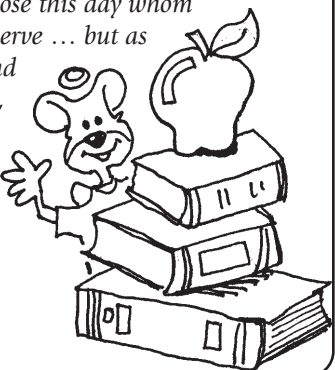
As the king of Bohemia, Wenceslaus worked closely with the Church to end the persecution of Christians in his country. He encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick and poor. His efforts at reform sparked opposition among the nobility. One morning, on his way to Mass, King Wenceslaus was assassinated on the church's doorstep in a coup led by his brother, Boleslaus. It is said Wenceslaus told him, "May God forgive you," as he fell.

All the difference

Jesus' Resurrection is the most important reality that shapes our Christian lives. It is this truth that proves that the Gospel is real. Those of us who believe in the Resurrection live differently. We live with hope.

"And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

(Joshua 24:15).



Resolutions for the new school year

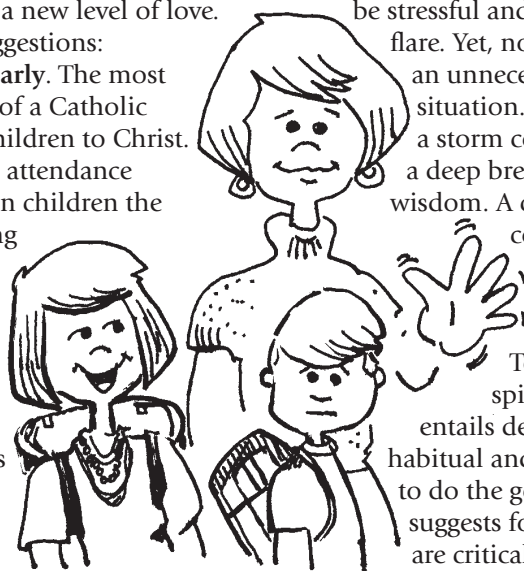
Each new school year means parents can build on lessons learned from prior years and implement strategies to take families to a new level of love. Consider these suggestions:

Sacrament regularly. The most fundamental goal of a Catholic parent is to lead children to Christ. Make weekly Mass attendance a priority. Inspire in children the habits of examining their consciences, telling God they're sorry for their sins, starting fresh, and experiencing Christ's forgiveness with Confession monthly or more.

Encourage hard work. A child's job is to learn skills necessary for a successful adult life. Hard work is key. Assign daily chores to teach work ethic and responsible behavior. Put

completed and excellent homework at the top of the list.

Discipline calmly. Parenting can be stressful and tempers can flare. Yet, no one wins in an unnecessarily tense situation. When you feel a storm coming on, take a deep breath and pray for wisdom. A calm, cool, and collected parent has more effect than a volatile one.



Foster virtue. To become spiritually successful entails developing a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. The Church suggests four virtues that are critical. These "Cardinal Virtues" are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Pick one to work on during each school quarter this year. See the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for help.

Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics have beliefs that aren't in the Bible?

Everything Catholics believe is rooted in Scripture. Catholics believe the Bible contains truths but some are more obvious than others. The Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, interprets these truths using Scripture and the Tradition handed down from the

Apostles. Scripture and Tradition together "mak[e] present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no.80). Through the years, the Church grows in knowledge of Scripture and clarifies truths that were once unclear.

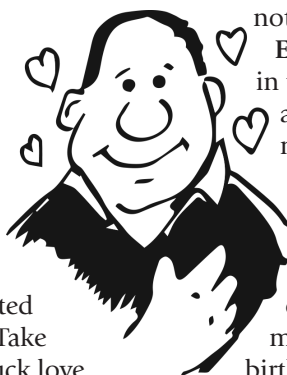


Show your family your love

"We love because he first loved us" (1John 4:19). Families are built on love. Teaching our children about love - how it feels, what it looks like and how much they are loved helps them learn to love others, too.

Tell them. We assume they know but it's important to say it, anyway. Each day, tell children "I love you" or describe how you feel about them.

Surprise them. Communicate love in unexpected ways. Spread a picnic on the family room floor. Take a walk together at dusk and notice the sunset. Tuck love



notes in lunches or under pillows.

Eat together. Shared mealtimes are key to staying in touch. Chat about school or work, tell stories, talk about current events. The content doesn't matter as much as the company.

Uphold truth. Keep promises. Tell the whole (age-appropriate) truth. Admit when you are unsure.

Record memories. Visual reminders of family love can be powerful. Display framed photos of children around the home. Include happy moments - holidays, milestones, vacations, birthdays.

Scripture LESSON

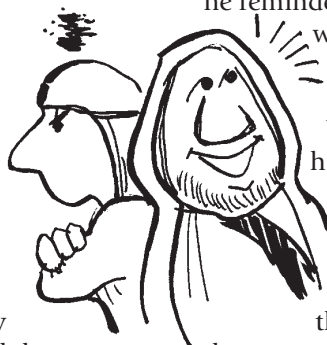
Matthew 20:1-16a, The first shall be last

In this Gospel reading, Jesus compares God's kingdom to a vineyard and God to a generous landlord. The landlord hired groups of workers to work his land at different times of the day: at the start of the workday, at midmorning, noon, midafternoon, and finally, at five o'clock in the evening. Yet, no matter when they were hired or what work they did, all workers received the same pay.

On the surface, it doesn't sound fair that someone who worked an hour

received the same wages as another who labored eight. When the full-day workers complained to the landowner, he reminded them that he paid them what he promised. They lost nothing by his generosity to others.

What can a parent do? In his unbounded generosity, God wants all of his children to be with him in Paradise, no matter how late in life they gave him their hearts. Remind children that we can never assume to know the state of someone's soul or the strength of their love for God. We may judge actions, but only God can judge hearts.



Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary's birth brought her parents joy, and we are joyful too - because of Mary's "Yes," she became the mother of Jesus.

Sept. 19 - St. Januarius (304). Bishop of Benevento, Italy, during a time of great persecution, Januarius visited Christians in prison and was arrested. He and his companions were beheaded.

Sept. 26 - Saints Cosmas and Damian (303). These saints were two Arab brothers who studied medicine in Syria and lived their Christian faith

by treating people without charge. Unfortunately, this was during a time of persecution and such virtue made them targets of persecution. They were martyred for their faith. They are the patron saints of physicians.

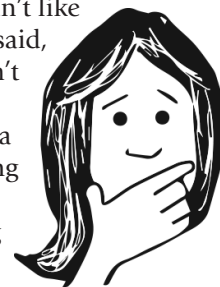
Sept. 29 - Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Archangels.

Members of the third hierarchy of angels around the throne of God, archangels are entrusted with important missions to mankind, such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother to tell her she had been chosen as the Mother of God.



Parent TALK

I overheard my girls talking about themselves and I didn't like what I heard. Tessa said, "I am so dumb. I can't do anything right." Kara said, "I'm such a klutz. I keep dropping everything." I was dismayed by hearing such negative self talk.



The next morning I wrote a Bible verse on an index card and posted it in the kitchen. We stood in front of it and read, "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!" (Psalm 139:13). It's a reminder that God created each of us deliberately and out of love. Our assignment was to repeat the verse daily that week until we memorized it.

Each week, I will post a different verse for us to learn about about God's love and care. Our minds will soon be filled with God's word, leaving no room for negativity.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible (Rev.))