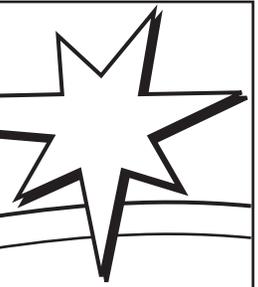


Partners *in* FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2021

Saint Matthew Catholic Church
Durham, NC



Thoughtful Moments

Afraid of mistakes?

Sometimes we get overwhelmed by the weight of our job as parents. We worry that our mistakes will have lasting negative consequences. *"Your every act should be done with love"* (1 Corinthians 16:14). Remember that if all you do is performed with love, based in love, and out of true love, you will be in harmony with God's will.

A good friend

When we see someone doing good, we are inspired to do good, too. The opposite is also true. Children whose consciences are still being formed can be easily led into sin by the bad examples of their friends. Be watchful about the company children keep and encourage friendships with those who do good.



Thou shall not kill

One way to model the 5th Commandment is to avoid watching television shows or movies about killing and to refuse to allow violent video games.

For fathers

"In word and deed honor your father that his blessing may come upon you; For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots" (Sirach 3:7-9).



Teach children to love being Catholic

Catholic parents aim to help children ultimately return to God in Heaven. Their best opportunity for doing so is to grow up surrounded by adults who authentically practice their Faith and to remain active and practicing Catholics throughout their lives.

Try these tips to help children love being Catholic:

Encourage awe and wonder. What happens between God and his children is stunning. Give youngsters opportunities to experience the awe and wonder of a personal relationship with God through liturgy, sacraments, devotions, acknowledging answered prayer, encountering creation, and more.

Answer questions. Asking questions

is a normal part of growing up. Encourage questions and answer all you can. Keep a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* handy or refer to

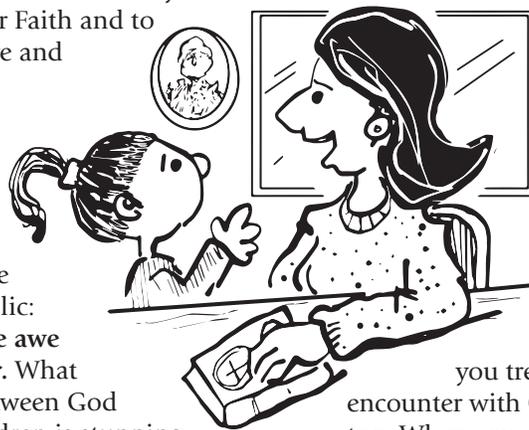
it online at www.usccb.org. The glossary makes it easy to find topics. If you get stumped, ask your priest for help.

Share what you love.

Children imitate what they see and hear at home. When

you treat Mass as an encounter with Christ, children will, too. When you worship and pray together, children absorb your love.

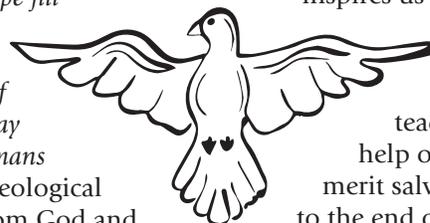
Don't force it. The surest way to turn children off is to try to force a child to love being Catholic. Instead, show all that is loveable, open the Church door, and invite her in. Let the Holy Spirit do the rest.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics have hope?

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13). Hope is a theological virtue that comes from God and

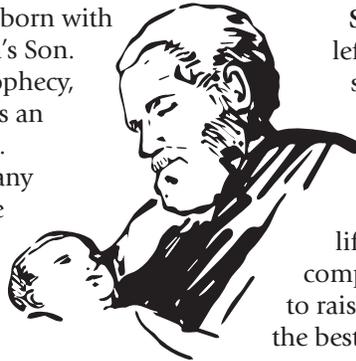


inspires us to await eternal life. It inspires us to place our trust in Christ's promises. This virtue teaches us to rely on the help of the Holy Spirit to merit salvation and to persevere to the end of our earthly life.

The best father on Earth

Scripture doesn't tell us that St. Joseph was born with special graces, yet he was chosen to raise God's Son. The Bible doesn't say that he had a gift of prophecy, yet Joseph never doubted God's word. He was an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life.

Ever faithful. It would have been hard for any man to believe his fiancé was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. As a faithful Jew, though, Joseph knew what was written about the birth of the Savior. His devotion to God's Word helped him recognize God's will.



Steady protector. At a moment's notice, Joseph left everything behind to whisk his family to safety (Matthew 2:13-15). Joseph's hard work and skill helped keep his family safe in a foreign land.

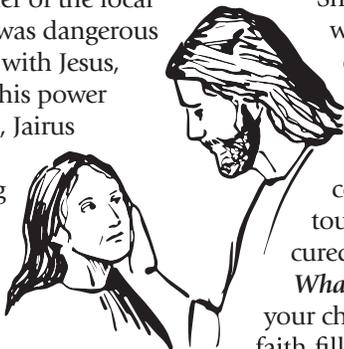
Good man. Scripture calls St. Joseph, a "righteous man," meaning he lived a virtuous life (Matthew 1:19). For example, he was compassionate by his treatment of Mary. Who better to raise the Son of God and care for his Mother than the best father on Earth?

Scripture LESSON

Mark 5:21-43, Rewards of faith.

Jairus had a daughter who was critically ill. As the leader of the local synagogue, he knew it was dangerous to have anything to do with Jesus, let alone acknowledge his power as the Son of God. Still, Jairus risked everything to approach Jesus and beg for his daughter's cure. He believed that Jesus could and would help him, and he was rewarded for his faith.

There was also a woman suffering from a serious hemorrhage. According to Jewish law, her constant bleeding would have made her unclean, and most people



would have nothing to do with her.

She was afraid Jesus wouldn't want to touch her either, but she knew he had the power to cure her. So great was her faith that she was convinced she could just touch his garment to be cured.

What can a parent do? Tell your children of these two faith-filled people and how their faith was rewarded. Remind them that they can turn to Jesus and trust him to help in any situation. Great things are possible when we believe.

Parent TALK

It has become challenging to get help around the house. I agree that chores are boring, but our home will only work well when we pull together.



I decided to implement some new rules.

First, each bed has to be made, clothes in the hamper, and bedrooms tidied before a screen gets turned on. This way, children learn that responsibilities have to be met before enjoying free time.

Next, I assigned each child a set of household chores and a timeframe in which it has to be completed. If someone beats that time, the minutes saved will be added to their screen time.

Finally, each person will take a turn as Inspector Clutter. The Inspector roams the home looking for stray possessions and "jails" them in a basket. To bail them out, the owner must perform an extra chore.

Motivation and humor will surely be more effective than nagging!

Feasts & Celebrations

This month we honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The unquenchable flame of the Sacred Heart symbolizes Christ's unending love for us. Mary's pure mother's heart goes out to everyone loved by Her Son who loves Him back.

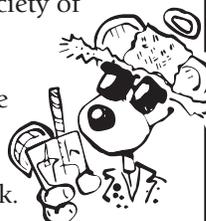
June 1 – St. Justin (165). When ordered by a pagan judge to renounce his faith or die, St. Justin responded, "Nobody in his senses would give up truth for falsehood." He was beheaded as a result.

June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga and his companions (1886).

While serving Ugandan King Mwanga, St. Charles and 21 of his friends were executed for refusing the evil king's immoral demands. They were all baptized before they died.

June 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591).

St. Aloysius prayed vigorously and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was told to ease up in order to study and spend time with the other students. He died while nursing the sick.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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