

## Activities for Learning Prayers

Knowing a prayer by heart makes it easier to pray from the heart, to focus on its meaning. Learning the basic prayers doesn't have to take a large block of time, if it is done on a regular (daily) basis. Here are some suggestions to help you get started.

1. Say or read the prayers through once each day, perhaps at bed time. You might start with just one easy one at first (such as the Sign of the Cross) and add the others one at a time, after each has been learned, until you are saying all of them each night. It is important to continue saying them together even after they are learned.
2. Practice together during a routine activity such as setting the table, preparing a meal, doing dishes, folding clothes, riding to or from other activities, waiting for activities to start or even during TV advertisements!
3. Write down the words to the prayer and each day cover or erase one word from each line until the whole prayer is learned. For example:

Hail Mary, full of \_\_\_\_\_,  
The \_\_\_\_\_ is with you,  
Blessed are you among \_\_\_\_\_, and  
Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your womb,  
Jesus.

4. Have your child draw a picture to illustrate each line of the prayer. Hang it where it can be seen often.
5. Print the words or lines of the prayer on separate index cards. Mix them up and have your child sort them into the correct order.
6. Print and decorate the prayer on heavy paper or light cardboard. Cut it into pieces, one for each word, and reassemble them like a jigsaw puzzle.
7. Make up hand motions to go along with the words of the prayer.
8. If an older brother or sister who has learned the prayers is willing, have him/her help your younger child learn them.
9. Once your child has learned the prayers, continue to use them. Perhaps he/she could teach a younger brother or sister. You don't have to wait for the Religious Education Program to begin teaching prayers!