

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2020

**Saint Mary Catholic School**

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## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Catherine of Siena

Born in Siena, Italy, St. Catherine was a Doctor of the Church and a mystic. From a young age, she had regular conversations with Jesus. She resisted her parents' efforts to have her marry by cutting off her hair! Instead she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and served the poor. She successfully coaxed Pope Gregory XI back to Rome from Avignon, France. She also mediated disputes and wrote *The Dialogue* concerning the spiritual life.



### Reminder

Each of us was made by a loving Creator who knows and calls us by name. No matter your child's IQ, athletic abilities, or the condition of his bedroom, he has great value in God's eyes. Remind him that God loves him for exactly who he is – even more than you do.

*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).*



## Show children how faith is done

Children read our signals, even when we don't intend to communicate them. When parents are worried or concerned, children can tell. In uncertain times, we can help youngsters live as people of hope by living with hope, ourselves.

**Stay calm.** To calm a child's fear, let her know that you have confidence in God's love and care for each of us and she can trust him, too.

**Question.** Asking questions help us feel more confident about our beliefs. Help children find answers to their questions and doubts. Refer to Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. If you get

stumped, ask your parish priest for guidance.

**Pray.** Pray together before meals, at bedtime and for special intentions like the health of friends and family.

**Keep your eyes on Heaven.** Hang a crucifix in your home.

When you get overwhelmed by pessimistic news in the media, stand before it to join in family prayer.

**Do for others.** Place a bowl on a table to collect change for almsgiving. Donate the coins to your parish poor box on Sunday.

**Act** – Let your children "catch" you living your faith. Attend Mass each week and holy day, and go to Confession. When others are in need, reach out to them and encourage children to help as well.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics celebrate First Holy Communion?

Any time a sacrament is received, it's cause for celebrating. All the sacraments convey God's grace, but in this one we receive God himself. First Holy Communion is special because it's the first time (of many) when Jesus comes into



our hearts and souls and fill us with graces. First Holy Communion also means that the communicant is one step closer to becoming a full member of the Catholic Church (Confirmation is often the last step). What a lot to celebrate!

## Strengthen the affection connection

The best discipline strategies in the world won't work unless your children know you love them. Here are four ways you can use to communicate love:

1. Say, "I love you," until they're sick of hearing it ... and then say it again. Praise them in public like God did, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

2. Welcome your children's friends. Try to see that yours is the house in which everyone wants to play. Your children will appreciate your



Christian hospitality to their friends.

3. Let your children serve you. Every family member is called to serve the other members. That means children should have the opportunity to give love as well as receive it.

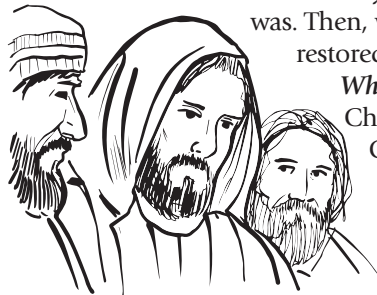
4. Learn their love language. Each person receives love in a specific way. Some need to hear it said. Others need evidence, such as affectionate notes or small gifts.

Parents showing love is the best way for children to learn how to experience God's love for them.

### Scripture LESSON

#### Luke 24:13-35, Jesus hides in plain sight

Ever spend minutes searching for something, only realizing it was in front of you the whole time? Maybe this was how the two disciples felt after Jesus appeared to them. Cleopas and his friend were so blinded by their sorrow and disappointment at Jesus' death, they didn't even recognize Jesus when he joined them on the road!



Jesus gave clues to his identity that he quoted from Scripture, showing how his Death and Resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. The disciples were so sure Jesus was still "lost" they

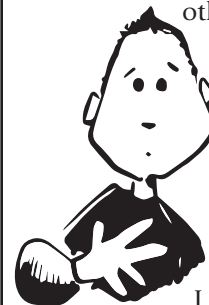
didn't realize they'd "found" him. Only when Jesus broke bread with them did they see him for who he was. Then, with their faith restored, he vanished.

#### What can a parent do?

Children often want God to reveal himself in spectacular ways that have little to do with who he is. Parents can teach children that the real way to find out who God is requires spending time with him, reading Scripture, and seeking him in the people around them. Then we will truly come to know Jesus as he is.

### Parent TALK

I received a note home from Pete's teacher saying that he caught Peter cheating. The teacher reported that he and another boy sent signals to each other to share their



answers on a test. I was stunned because I know Pete had studied. Pete promised he didn't cheat and it was all a misunderstanding.

I agreed to email the teacher to get more information before imposing a consequence.

The teacher said he watched as Pete tapped on his desk and pointed with his pencil to a question with which he needed help. There was no mistake. Frankly, I felt foolish for thinking that he would have accused Pete unless he was sure. I just didn't want to believe it.

Pete lost access to his screens for a month and had to write an essay on the virtue of honesty. And I learned better ways to partner and support our teachers.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 5 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century).** On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

**April 16 – St. Benedict Joseph Labré (1783).** Nicknamed "the poor man of the Forty Hours (Eucharistic) devotion," St. Benedict spent much of his life as a poor pilgrim. He voluntarily lived on the streets continually absorbed in prayer.

**April 23 – St. George (c. 300).**

Although many legends surround St. George, we know he was a soldier under Emperor Diocletian who persecuted Christians, and that he died a martyr in Palestine. He is a patron of England, Portugal, Germany, Spain, and Italy.

**April 28 – St. Peter Chanel (1840).** St. Peter Chanel entered the Society of Mary and was sent to evangelize the Marshall Islands. Despite adversities, he baptized a few natives, including the chieftain's son. The entire island converted two years after his martyrdom.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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