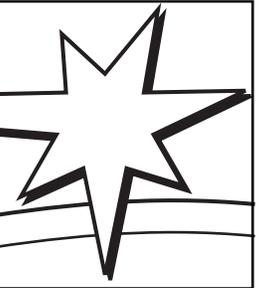


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2015

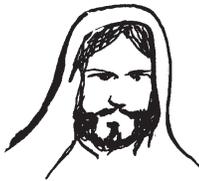
St. Mary IC School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Joseph the Worker

As the earthly father of Jesus, St. Joseph showed how hard work and dedication can lead to holiness if our efforts are for God.

St. Joseph was not rich. As a carpenter he had to work hard to support his family. He must have been worried when he found out that Mary was expecting the Son of God. Yet, he offered all he was to raise God's son and protect him from harm. Thus, St. Joseph made everyday life holy.



Parent pep-talk

Ever say something about yourself that isn't flattering? We all have our moments, but rethink the negative self-talk especially when children can hear. Instead, give yourself a pep-talk. It's more effective. Be kind to yourself.

Family as treasure

"[T]he home represents the most precious human treasures, that of encounter, that of relations among people, different in age, culture and history, but who live together and together help one another to grow." Pope Francis



Convince your children of your love

Children who feel loved are more confident, kinder, and less vulnerable to emotional problems. And, when children know they are loved by their families, they can understand that they are loved by their heavenly Father.

Communicate feelings openly. Express how you truly feel. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Don't expect children to know without being told.

Ask thoughtful questions and listen intently. It's a simple act but can be a powerful demonstration of love. Asking and listening quietly communicates that you value your child's thoughts. It can demonstrate love and heal without your ever saying a word.

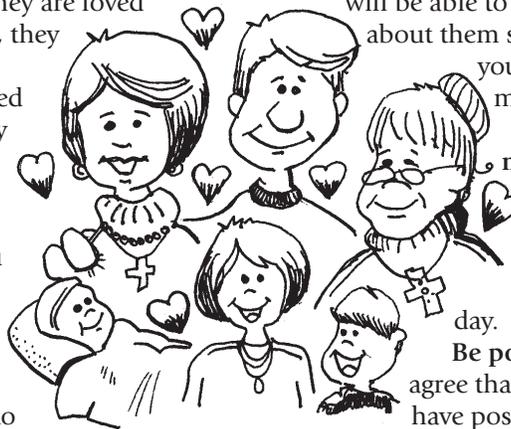
Let your actions speak for themselves. When you love someone, you have to act accordingly. Youngsters will be able to tell how you feel about them simply by the way you treat them over the months and years.

Touch has a lasting memory. Hugs, kisses and loving touches can speak louder than any words. Dole them out freely every

day.

Be positive. Researchers agree that happy families have positive communication patterns. Aim for five positive interactions to every negative one. Verbally compliment and encourage one another sincerely.

Speak the truth always. Speaking the truth, even and most often when it hurts, makes you trustworthy. Then children will know to believe you when you say, "I love you."



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we believe the Church is the "Temple of the Holy Spirit?"

The Israelites worshipped God in the Temple of Jerusalem. This temple no longer exists. Instead, we worship God in the Church, which is not limited to a particular place.

The Church is alive with the Spirit of Christ. Jesus is present in the Word of Scripture, and in



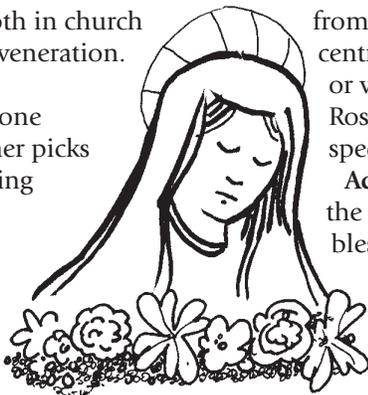
the sacred signs of the Sacraments entrusted to the Church. St. Augustine said, "What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church."

Family fun with Mary

The month of May is when Catholics, both in church and at home, offer up to Mary honor and veneration. Try these ideas at home:

Rosary Relay: When praying the Rosary, one person starts a Rosary prayer and the partner picks it up halfway through and finishes it. Praying this way keeps both people focused and enthusiastic.

Shine the shrine: Create a Mary prayer space for the entire month. Frame a picture of Mary (either downloaded



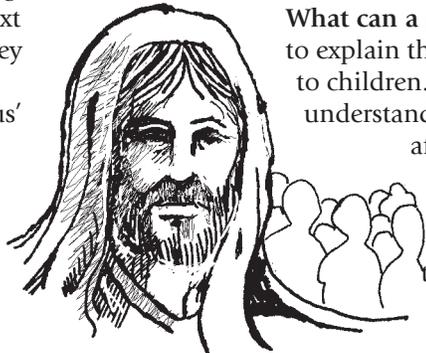
from the Internet or drawn by hand) and place it in a central place in the home. Keep fresh flowers in a glass or vase next to it. Every day during May, pray your Rosary, Memorare, or Litany before the picture as a special Mary devotion.

Add a dash of blessing to Grace: Throughout the month of May, tack on a simple request for her blessing to your mealtime grace. "Mother Mary, pray for us," can follow just about any prayer you come up with and keep her fresh in your mind during May.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20; A message for us, too.

When Jesus appeared to the Eleven on the mountain top in Galilee, it was so the crowd with them could witness his Ascension and get instructions for next steps. Now that they had been taught and witnessed Jesus' glory, he wanted them to teach others how to live as God's children. As his followers today, that's our mission, too.



Jesus gave his listeners three commands: Go, make disciples of all nations, and baptize them. Baptism

signifies a renewed relationship with the Father, as revealed through the Son, to be filled with the Holy Spirit – in other words, the Holy Trinity.

What can a parent do? It's difficult to explain the concept of The Trinity to children. But we don't have to understand it to believe it. We

affirm it each time we make the Sign of the Cross and say the words Jesus said, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

We also remember that the Cross of Jesus is the means by which we can follow him into eternal life.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 15 – St. Isidore (1170). Isidore was born in Madrid to a poor farming family. He married St. Mary de la Cabeza and worked for a wealthy landowner. A devout Catholic, he spent many hours in prayer and was energetic in the care of the sick and poor. It is said his food baskets were never empty.

May 12 – Sts. Nereus and Achilles (100). Nereus and Achilles were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard and served under the Emperor Trajan. After they converted to Christianity, they refused to serve the

Emperor. They were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 25 – St. Mary Magdalen de'Pazzi (1607). Born to a distinguished Florentine family, Catherine de' Pazzi was expected to be a woman of high society. Instead, she became a Carmelite. The year after she made her vows, she experienced ecstasies, became a mystic and a healer. Years of spiritual hardship followed. Her ecstasies were recorded in three large volumes.



Parent TALK

The behavior of one of the girls in Anne's class was making her miserable. The girl would tease, insult, and instigate fights with all the other students. I asked what the teacher thought, and Anne said the girl was able to avoid the teacher's notice.



At first I told Anne to show empathy and said that maybe the student didn't get enough attention at home. Perhaps try telling the girl to stop, and explain that what she was doing was unkind. I wanted Anne to forgive and extend a hand of friendship. It did no good. Anne was miserable.

Finally, I met with the teacher. She listened and assured me she would handle the situation. There was a quick change. At special lunch meetings, the girls learned tips on how to be a good friend and were encouraged to write positive comments about each other. I was delighted that the teacher used compassion and empathy to build friendships among the students.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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