

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

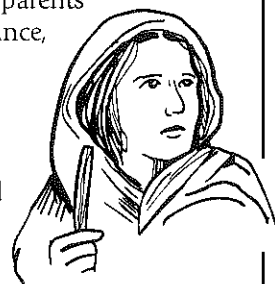
June 2018

St. Nicholas Academy
Aideen Briggs, Principal

Thoughtful Moments

St. Germaine Cousin

Born to poor parents near Pibrac, France, St. Germaine suffered from a deformed right hand, sores on her neck and ill health from neglect and abuse. Despite this, she was never bitter. She walked to Mass daily – even in the winter – and shared what she had with the poor. The most powerful proof of St. Germaine's holiness was her forgiveness of her abusive stepmother, Hortense. She is the patroness of abuse victims, people with disabilities, and shepherdesses.



Make anger work

Teach children that it isn't healthy to pretend we're not angry when we are. Instead of giving in to anger, though, find a solution to the problem. "In your anger do not sin" (Psalm 4:4).

Biblical advice for kids

"Children, obey your parents (in the Lord), for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1-2).
"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).



Have a holy summer

The lazy days of summer offer many opportunities to bring your family closer to God. Try ideas like these to have a happy and holy summer:

Sing a psalm. Choose a psalm that praises God for his mercy, kindness, and love, such as Psalm 103. Learn a new line each week and sing or recite it together at dinner time or bed time. By summer's end, you will have learned a new way to praise God.

Strengthen a virtue. Virtues are good habits. For example, temperance can be practiced by limiting the amount of time spent watching television or using electronics. Charity can be

strengthened by volunteering for a local aid organization as a family.

Read a story. The Bible is a library of books that weave together the story of our family of faith.

Read about heroes, brave rulers, warriors, prophets and thrilling victories. For example, the first book of Samuel (chapter 16) begins the account of David, a poet and musician, warrior and king with an extraordinary love for God. Or, read about the remarkable journey

Moses led out of slavery found in the book of Exodus."

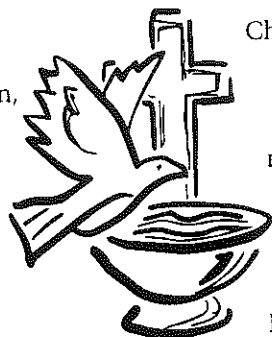
Visit him each week. Weekly Mass is an important way to bring your family closer to God. Even when you are on vacation, visit www.parishesonline.com to find a Mass close by.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics get confirmed?

The sacrament of Confirmation completes Baptism. In Confirmation, the recipient receives an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and an increase of spiritual gifts. He or she is spiritually equipped and called to be a public witness to



Christ in both words and deeds (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1303). Confirmation can only be received once. Confirmation recalls Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on Jesus' disciples in the Upper Room and strengthened them to preach the Gospel (Acts 2:1-4).

Help children love Confession

All children need reassurance that they are loved even when they make mistakes. That's why Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He wanted to give us an outward sign of his unconditional love and forgiveness. Try these tips to help children appreciate God's special, forgiving love:

"Who, Me?!" Children often think of sin as relative. "It was okay to hit her because she hit me first." "I took his pen because he took my glove." Children need to know that God's rules are the ones to follow. Use the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides.



"Say you're sorry." Even young children can understand the need to say they're sorry when they do something wrong. That's the first step toward taking responsibility for our actions and changing our behavior.

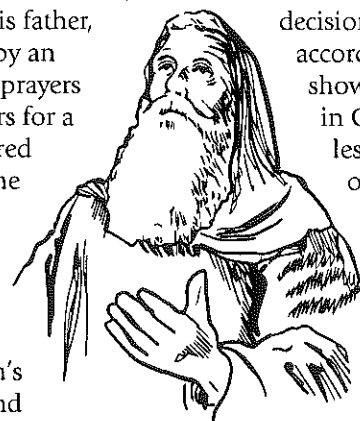
Change. Avoiding future sin means deciding to change. The priest may have suggestions, but you can also help your child figure out how to keep from "messing up" in the future.

Remember – forgiving sin is what God loves to do most.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 1:57-66, 80.
Take God at his word.

Sometimes God has to take drastic action to get our attention. Before John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, was visited by an angel and told that his prayers for a son and his prayers for a savior would be answered in a miraculous way. The angel's appearance should have convinced Zechariah, but he was still unsure the message was true. So, God shut Zechariah's mouth to open his mind and heart to the truth.



After the angel's visit, Zechariah silently watched his wife's body swell with her miraculous pregnancy. After

the baby's birth, Zechariah demonstrated his obedience. His decision to name his son John according to the angel's message shows the growth of his faith in God. Having learned his lesson, his mouth was opened. Zechariah's first words showered praise on God and told the people around him of God's faithfulness and awesome love.

What can a parent do? We can always trust God's love and care. He will never fail us. Help your children listen for God's voice and remember that all things are possible for God.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 3 – Corpus Christi Sunday (1264). On this feast, we celebrate the transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. St. Juliana of Belgium had a vision of the full moon, representing the Church, with a dark spot in it, representing the missing solemnity. In 1264, Pope Urban IV ordered a Church-wide celebration for Corpus Christi, and asked St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Office for the feast.

June 8 – St. William of York (1154). Born into a noble family in England,

St. William was named archbishop of York, but was slandered by political opponents. Despite this, St. William was never bitter or resentful. He died about two months after his consecration, probably poisoned.

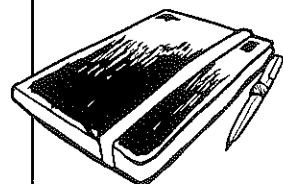
June 16 – St. John-Francis Regis (1640). Born in France to a rich merchant, St. John-Francis joined the Jesuits when he was eighteen.

Once ordained a priest, he was sent to southern France to start missions. He convinced his hearers to follow Christ more faithfully.



Parent TALK

Last summer I wanted to make sure that – in the busy pace of our summer – our family prayer didn't get neglected. My pastor suggested we



keep prayer journals. We went to an office-supplies store to buy some pretty journals. I explained that this would be where we would write requests to God for ourselves, petitions for others, but also thoughts and dreams we want to share with God. I explained that we would gather each night and write in them together.

Kara wrote her prayers as letters addressed to God and told him about her day. Tessa listed her prayer petitions and drew pictures "for God." I recorded my prayers and meditations about Scripture I read that day.

The prayer journals were the perfect devotion for the summer. Kara said, "It's like talking to a good friend. I can tell him anything, and I know my prayers are in good hands."

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
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