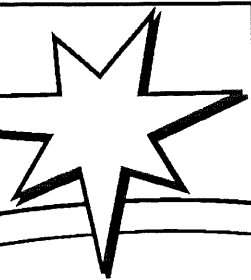


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2025

St. Patrick Church and School
Shireen Santiago, Principal

Sunday Mass: a sacred invitation – will you accept?

If a friend invited your family to dinner and told you Jesus would be there, wouldn't you do whatever it took to attend, knowing the immeasurable blessing of being in His presence? Each time Mass is celebrated, Jesus is truly present. Do whatever it takes to attend every Sunday Mass so your family is blessed by:

Nourishment for the Soul – Just as parents ensure their children eat well to grow strong and healthy, Jesus provides the spiritual food we need to strengthen our souls. The Eucharist is not just symbolic; it sustains and transforms us.

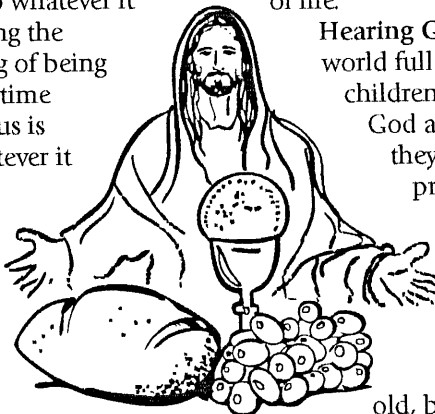
Obedience to God – He explicitly calls us to keep the Sabbath holy. Bringing children to Mass teaches them

to prioritize God's law, reinforcing the importance of obedience in all aspects of life.

Hearing God's Word – In a world full of distractions, children must learn to listen to God above all else. At Mass, they hear Scripture proclaimed, forming a habit of recognizing and responding to His voice.

Belonging to a family – Every Catholic, young and old, belongs to God's family, the Church. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Children bless others simply by being active members.

Regular Mass attendance isn't just a duty—it's a gift that helps children become spiritually strong.



Thoughtful Moments



St. Catherine of Siena

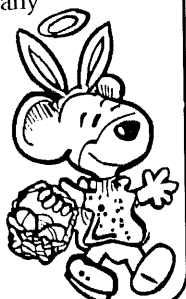
Born in 1347, St. Catherine of Siena experienced divine visions from a young age. Rejecting marriage over her mother's objections, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and embraced a life of poverty, prayer, and charity. Known for her wisdom, she became a sought-after advisor and peacemaker. Her theological contributions and spiritual writings earned her the title of Doctor of the Church, recognizing her lasting influence on Catholic doctrine and devotion.



PACT — prayers on the go

If you have just a few minutes to pray as a family, focus on the four essential forms of prayer: Petition, Adoration, Contrition, and Thanksgiving. Entrust all your concerns to God, reflect on His goodness and love, seek His forgiveness in areas where you have fallen short, and express gratitude for His many gifts – especially His mercy. Amen!

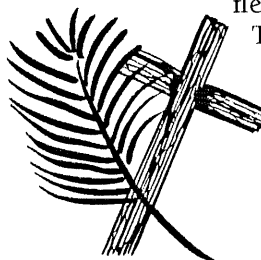
"In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics commemorate Palm Sunday?

Catholics observe Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, recalling Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds honored Him with palm branches, shouting "Hosanna!" During Mass, we receive blessed palms, symbolizing victory and the



fleeting nature of human praise. The liturgy includes the reading of Christ's Passion, shifting from joy to solemnity, preparing us for His suffering and sacrifice.

This day calls for solemn and thoughtful preparation for the most solemn week of the year and the joy of Easter.

Make Easter joy last all year

Easter joy isn't meant for just one morning—it's meant to be lived every Sunday. As Pope John Paul II reminded us, "Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death" (*Dies Domini*). Keep that joy alive by making every Sunday a "little Easter."

Joy follows sacrifice. Just as darkness precedes the dawn, atonement for sin prepares us to fully experience Easter's triumph. Make Fridays penitential in your home—share meatless meals, fast from entertainment,

go to Confession, serve others through acts of charity.

Rejoice in second chances. Jesus knows our good intentions don't always hold, so He gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Go as a family at least once a month. When children see you seeking God's mercy, they'll know it's there for them too.

Immerse yourself in the Mass. It's not meant to be observed but lived. Read the Scriptures beforehand, sing wholeheartedly, and pray with intention. Celebrate the Resurrection with true joy.



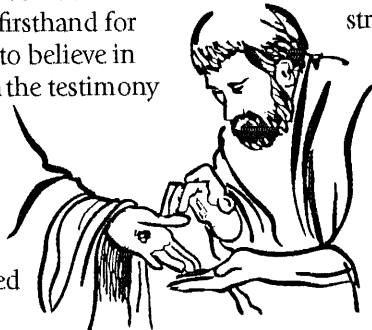
Scripture LESSON

John 20:19-31, Mercy triumphs over doubt

Poor Thomas! Despite his years of faithful discipleship, he will forever be known as "the Doubter." Even after witnessing Jesus' miracles firsthand for several years, he struggled to believe in the Resurrection. Not even the testimony of multiple eyewitnesses could convince him that his Lord had returned.

Yet Jesus, in His mercy, met Thomas in his doubt. A week later, Jesus appeared to him, offering the proof Thomas needed—even inviting him to touch His wounds. Thomas hesitated, but when confronted with the Truth, he embraced it.

What can a parent do? Remind



children that God is not troubled by our questions or doubts, especially when we say, "I'm

struggling—please help me." As we grow in faith, we will encounter ideas that challenge or confuse us. In those moments, we can turn to God in prayer and seek wisdom in the teachings of the

Church, guided by the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas' journey of doubt ultimately led him into deeper intimacy with Christ. The same can be true for us— if we are willing to seek and trust.

Parent TALK

For more than a week, Tessa came home upset about the environment in her classroom. The way Tessa told it, the teacher had little



control over the class, nor any idea of what the kids were up to when her back was turned. When it continued into the next week, I decided to

email the teacher to tell her I wasn't happy.

As I started typing, I realized I wasn't being fair. What if Tessa wasn't giving me the whole story? Shouldn't I be helpful rather than critical?

My email instead asked for a meeting and the teacher responded immediately. When we met, she acknowledged that there were issues in class but detailed the excellent steps she was taking to get on top of them. Further, she had suggestions for how I could support her at home.

This experience convinced me to be a partner rather than a critic.

Feasts & Celebrations

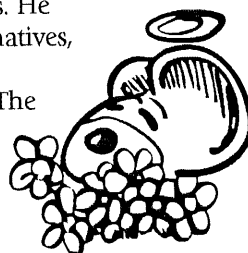
April 7 – St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle (1719). St. John was born at Rheims, France, to a noble family, and was ordained a priest in 1678. He taught groups of poor and rich children together – which was unusual for that time. He formed the Brothers of the Christian School, a successful community of educators.

April 13 – Palm Sunday. This Sunday recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when He was greeted by crowds waving palms. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.

April 23 – St. Adalbert of Prague

(997). St. Adalbert was bishop of Prague, but his evangelizing activities earned him enemies and he was forced to leave. He was later invited by the Duke of Poland to evangelize Pomerania and Hungary and was martyred.

April 28 – St. Peter Chanel (1841). St. Peter Chanel entered the Society of Mary and was sent to evangelize the Marshall Islands. He baptized a few natives, including the chieftain's son. The entire island converted two years after his martyrdom.



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