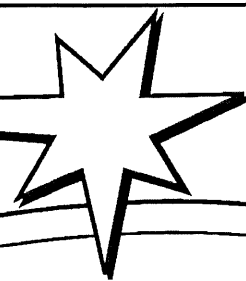


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2025

St. Patrick Church and School
Shireen Santiago, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Augustine of Canterbury

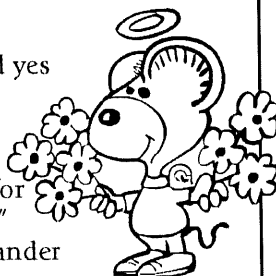
St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who was friends with Pope St. Gregory the Great. Pope Gregory thought so highly of St. Augustine that he sent him to go and re-evangelize England, whose people were disheartened because of ongoing invasions. Thankfully, King Ethelbert of Kent welcomed the monks to England and allowed them to preach the Gospel there. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England, and St. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.



"May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)

When faced with events beyond her understanding or control, Mary leaned on God. We, too, encounter situations we can't understand or control. That's when we can imitate Mary's trust in God. His plan for her worked out better than she could have dreamed. The same will be true for us.

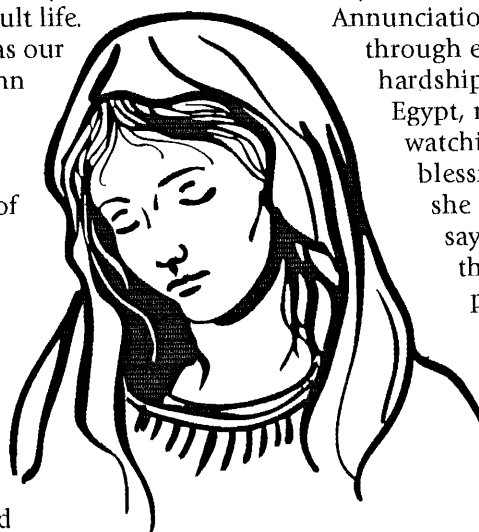
"Our Lady said yes for the human race. Each one of us must echo that yes for our own lives."
Caryll Houselander



"Behold your Mother"

Remember, although she was full of grace, Mary lived a mostly ordinary, often difficult life. Jesus gave her to us as our spiritual mother (John 19:27) so we could follow her example, know Him more deeply, and be part of His family.

Mary leads us to Jesus. In the Gospels, Mary always brought people to Jesus—or brought Him to them. She talked about Him, pointed to Him, and stayed near Him. When we pray the Rosary as a family, Mary helps us reflect on Christ's life, one mystery at a time. If you want your family to grow closer to Jesus, start by spending time with His mother.



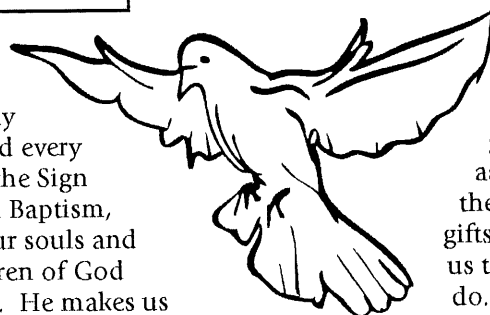
Mary is a model for family life. Her "yes" to God at the Annunciation continued daily, through every joy and hardship — fleeing to Egypt, raising Jesus, watching Him suffer. In blessings and struggles, she shows us how to say "yes" to God through our parenting challenges.

"Behold your mother" (John 19:27). Mary isn't distant — she's our

mother. Jesus wants us to draw close to her, talk to her, and love her. We are never alone. We can always turn to God, but our heavenly mother is always with us, praying for us, and guiding us home.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

As the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is invoked every time we make the Sign of the Cross. In Baptism, He dwells in our souls and makes us children of God (Romans 8:15). He makes us



Why do Catholics invoke the Holy Spirit?

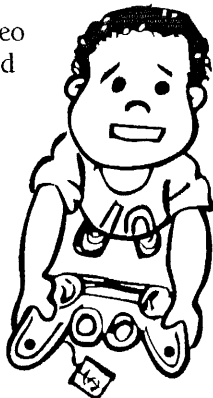
receptive to God's grace. He also teaches and helps us to pray. He guides and protects us, just as He guides and protects the Church. Through His gifts, He inspires and enables us to do the good we ought to do.

What to do when “everyone else is doing it”

Your 10-year-old wants to play a T- or M-rated video game because “everyone else has it.” Your 8-year-old wants a phone to send emails and messages like “all” her friends. So how do we decide wisely when our children insist that everyone else is doing it?

Start by asking: Is this good for my child’s soul? Will it help build the virtues essential to strong character—faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance? Or could it hinder growth of these critical virtues?

Seek guidance from trustworthy parents,



especially those with more experience. Their perspective can help you see more clearly.

Trust your instincts. Just because something is popular doesn’t mean it’s good. If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. God often speaks to us through that quiet inner sense.

Most importantly, pray. Actively ask God for the grace to lead your children well. He can reach their hearts in ways we can’t. A simple prayer — “Jesus, I trust in You” — can lead to the best, most trustworthy guidance.

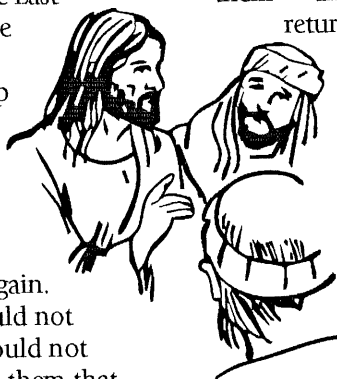
Scripture LESSON

John 14:23-29, Jesus is always with us

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus’ Farewell Speech at the Last Supper. After spending three years together, He had to prepare the close-knit group for His departure. He was going to suffer, die, and rise again. After that night, everything would be different: they would not see Him in the same way again.

Yet, He promised He would not leave them orphans. He would not abandon them. He assured them that He would remain with them if they loved Him and kept His word. Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, teach, and remind them of all

He taught them. Lastly, He promised them — and us — that He would return.



What can a parent do? Remind children that Jesus is still present among us today in the Church. Tell them we meet Him in prayer, encounter Him in the Sacraments, hear Him in the Scriptures, and receive Him in the Eucharist at Mass.

Encourage them to pray to Him whenever they want. He loves them always and is never too busy or too far away to help them.

Parent TALK

My older daughter, Kara, was late getting ready for school every day—making the whole family late.



Meanwhile, my other daughter, Tessa, regularly “forgot” her chores. I was pretty frustrated with their irresponsibility.

Finally, I told them, “If you’re late or forget your responsibilities, you’ll write an essay.” The next time my older daughter was late, I assigned a 300-word essay on the importance of being on time. Her first draft was sloppy, so I had her rewrite it – twice. The final version was thoughtful—and she started showing up on time.

When my younger daughter skipped her chores, I assigned her a paragraph detailing why chores matter. She ignored it at first and lost play time, but eventually completed the assignment and started “remembering” her chores.

The results? Calmer mornings, an ordered home, and a powerful lesson learned: responsibility is part of family life. Discipline, done with love, benefits everyone.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker (1st century). Joseph, a humble carpenter, was entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus—a responsibility he carried with quiet strength, unwavering devotion, and deep obedience to God.

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima (1917). The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, and asked that they pray the Rosary for peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

May 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena (1444). St. Bernard channeled his boundless energy and joy into running the local hospital during the great plague in Europe. At twenty-two, he became a Franciscan friar. After years in solitude, he traveled around Italy, preaching. He later became the General of the Friars of the Strict Observance.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today marks the completion of Jesus’ mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven. (Observance may be moved to Sunday.)



Our Mission

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