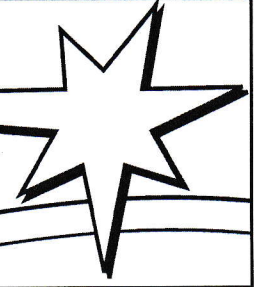


Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2020

St. Francis Xavier Parish Religious Education (818)504-4411

www.sfxburbank.com



Thoughtful Moments

St. Francis Caracciolo

Originally named Ascanio, Francis was born in the Abruzzi region of Italy to a noble Neopolitan family. Even as a child, he was noted for his gentleness and virtue. He often slipped away to visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and shared his food with the poor. This kindness and holiness marked the rest of his life. At twenty-two, he became a priest. He befriended the nobleman, Adorno, with whom he co-founded the Minor Clerks Regular.

A good friend

Friendship skills aren't natural to everyone. One has to be a friend to attract friends. Some examples include: staying in touch by phone, smiling and waving "hello," listening when a friend talks.

Thou shall not kill

One way to model the Fifth Commandment - "You shall not kill" - is to avoid watching television shows or movies about murder and to refuse to allow violent video games.



Make the most of family time

The pandemic has brought us more time together as a family than we ever imagined. With parts of the country slowly reopening, families can still make the most of this time together over the summer. Here are some ideas:

Rosaries for Troops.

Men and women in harm's way appreciate handmade Rosaries that meet special criteria for those serving in hostile areas. Consider making this a family project. This website can show you how: <http://www.seatofwisdom.net/rosary.htm>.

Get away at home. Sick of being at home? Take a virtual trip each day for a week to a place you have always wanted to visit. On Italy day, for example, play

a game of soccer, listen to Italian arias, dance the tarantella, eat pasta and sauce.

Joyful Noise Night. Children of Christ have much to celebrate.

Designate one night a week as Joyful Noise Night and ask each person to bring to the table one joke, cartoon, comic or funny story. Outlaw glum faces for the entire evening.

Every Sunday

Holiday. Make every summer Sunday a family holiday. Prohibit chores. Turn off personal devices. Dress up and stream Mass together if you can't get to church. Make an act of spiritual communion.

Spread joy and hope by creating driveway or sidewalk art with a hopeful Biblical message or create your own sacred art.

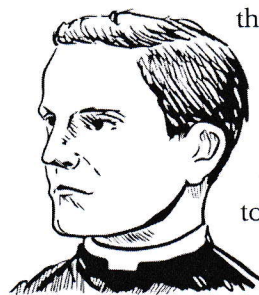


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics need their priests?

At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist, offering himself under the veils of bread and wine (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), #1374), to the Father and then giving himself to us.

To ensure the sacrifice of

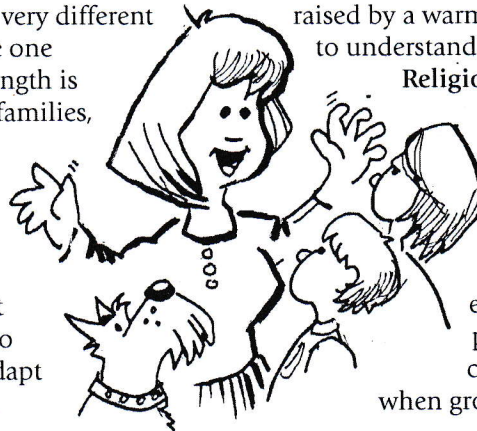


the Mass would be offered until his return, Jesus ordained his Apostles as the first bishops. As well as saying Mass and ministering sacraments, the priest is to be a spiritual father to the souls in his care, teaching, consoling, and praying for them.

Parents and faith matter more than ever

When the world around us looks so very different from what we have come to know, the one constant on which we can rely for strength is our faith. In close and loving faithful families, parents pass on their faith to their children so that it's available when needed. Building trust and showing love are important first steps.

Close parent-child bonds make the difference. Researchers found that when a child feels emotionally close to a parent, he or she is more likely to adapt the parent's religious practices. When



raised by a warm and affirming parent, it is easier for a child to understand and relate to a warm and loving God.

Religious parents model what they preach.

Children are motivated to follow in their parents' religious footsteps when the parents practice what they preach. That kind of authenticity is compelling.

Surrounding children with a loving faith community, teaching faith practices, encouraging service, and being a consistent presence were noted as convincing to children who adopted their parents' faith

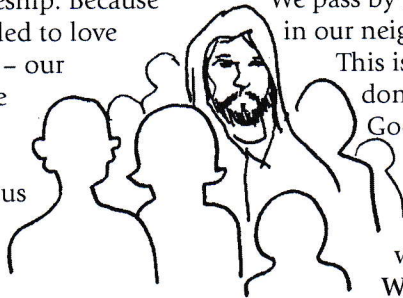
when grown.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 10:37-42, "Whoever receives you receives me"

In this passage, Jesus outlines the challenges of discipleship. Because he is God, we are called to love him above all things – our families included. He calls us to take up our crosses and to follow him. He calls us to spend our lives, not seeking our own comfort and security, but in loving service to others, firstly to God. We do all of these by God's grace, not our own strength.

Jesus identifies closely with his disciples. At Baptism, God came to dwell in our souls. Our mission is to



make Christ's love for others visible.

We pass by Jesus every day, present in our neighbors, however hidden.

This is why every kindness done to our neighbors, God counts as done to him personally. He will reward us even if it's just a cup of cold water.

What can a parent do?

Encourage your child to do something unselfish for someone else today. Tell her that even if no one else notices, God will, and he will reward her here, if not in Heaven. And that's what truly matters.

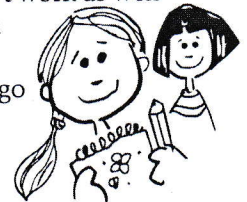
Parent TALK

As my children get older, my old discipline tools don't work as well as in the past. When they break rules or make bad choices, "go to your room" isn't enough.

So I bought a few Catholic reference books, a children's Catechism, Butler's Lives of the Saints and some drawing and writing materials. When the girls need "redirecting," I now assign short reports, projects, or essays depending upon the misdeed.

When Tessa "forgot" to put the money I gave her into the poor box, I assigned a three-paragraph report on St. Nicholas who gave away his money to the poor. When Kara missed turning in a couple of assignments, I had her illustrate a comic book about St. Catherine of Alexandria, who is said to have converted 50 pagan philosophers using her wisdom and knowledge.

Partnering with the saints to raise my children works so much better than giving time-outs.



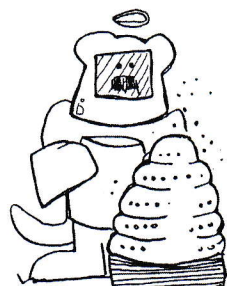
Feasts & Celebrations

June 7 – The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. Today, we celebrate the Trinity – one of the great mysteries of our Faith. The Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ revealed this mystery before his Ascension into Heaven (Matthew 28:19).

June 19 – St. Juliana Falconieri (1341). Born in answer to a prayer by her devout parents, Juliana grew up to become the foundress and mother superior of the Servite Nuns. She was known for her charity, holiness, and wise counsel.

June 20 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary. In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1944.

June 30 – First Martyrs of Rome (64). Men, women, and children who were martyred under the Emperor Nero, who blamed the Christians for the disastrous fire of 62. A piazza in Rome is named in their honor.






































Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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www.partnersinfaith.com
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible (Rev.).)

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>	<p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>	<p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Bless each child this morning before the day's activities start.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Have an egg-and-spoon race in the backyard. The winner picks dinner.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Resolve not to complain today.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy 4th of July! Offer a prayer for troops overseas and for their families.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>If you cannot attend Mass, watch it online as a family. Pray for those affected by COVID-19.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Start a summer memory book. Each week, add pictures and record family memories.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pick a person or event in the news and devote a family prayer to it.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Punch a hole in the bottom of a plastic cup to blow through. Dip in a pan of soapy water. Blow bubbles!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Create a family dinner together. Let each person make a different part of the meal.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Watch a good movie and eat popcorn together.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Rejoice! Put on some music and have a dance-off!</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Listen carefully to the homily at Mass today and talk about one thing you learned.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pick a Beatitude and live it all day (Matthew 5:3-11).</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Make suncatchers! Decorate tracing paper with colored markers. Display in a window.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>At dinner, pray together for anyone going through a difficult time today.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Today, enjoy a caramel-themed dessert in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sit outside and watch the sunset. Marvel at God's creation.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Set up an obstacle course in the yard. Take turns or form teams and have a relay race.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Watch a streamed Mass together and pray for the Pope's intentions.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>"Finish the story!" One person starts and the others take turns adding to it.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Catch lightning bugs in a jar. Release them before going to bed.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Practice patience.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pretend to be a character from a movie or book. See who can guess your character first.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Give up a favorite treat, just for today as a Friday sacrifice.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Build a campfire in the backyard. Roast hotdogs and sing campfire songs.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>After Mass today, pray for the souls in Purgatory.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Say "I forgive you" to someone who hurt you today.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Honor Jesus' grandparents St. Joachim and St. Anne by praying for all grandparents.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Tidy the house and set the table nicely, to honor St. Martha, who hosted Jesus.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Build a blanket fort in the living room and read books by flashlight.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Have an A-Z scavenger hunt around the yard. Photograph something that starts with every letter.</p>	

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>During Mass, watch for something you haven't noticed before. Share it at dinner.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Play "Guess the saint." Give clues to see if others can guess your chosen saint.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>In honor of St. John Vianney, send a priest a thank you card.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Draw pictures on the sidewalk or driveway with colored chalk.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>The Transfiguration Ask everyone to name a way God's love changed life for the better.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Exercise empathy by playing, "How would you feel if you were...?"</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>In honor of St. Dominic, pray a family Rosary together.</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>Watch a streamed Mass together and pray for your personal intentions.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Whenever you hear a siren, say a prayer for the safety of all involved.</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>To honor St. Clare, the patroness of television, bless the TV. Dedicate it to God's service.</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Practice listening. Show love by giving others your full attention.</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Put up paper in the yard. Fill spray bottles with watercolors and aim at the paper.</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Offer up an unpleasant chore as a prayer for someone else.</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Place some flowers before a statue of Mary in honor of her Assumption into Heaven.</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>After Mass, pray for victims of violence.</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Stargaze. Lie on a blanket in the yard and admire the night sky.</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Cool off by washing the car together.</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Name something God has given you for which you are truly grateful.</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Make ice-cream sundaes together.</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Learn a new board/card game together.</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>In honor of our Blessed Mother, pray the "Hail, Holy Queen" together.</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>After Mass, review the Gospel (<i>Matthew 16:13-20</i>). Talk about what it means.</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Talk about what you would say to Jesus if he came to visit you in your home.</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Look for a way God showed he loves you today and share it at bedtime.</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Play frisbee outside.</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Do a jigsaw puzzle together. Discuss how God helps us to fit our lives together.</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>In honor of St. Augustine, start a good habit and practice it all day.</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Tonight, turn off the TV and the phones, and spend family time together.</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>Choose (or make up) a short family prayer to say together every day this school year.</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>At dinner, share your favorite memories from the summer.</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Look for a way God showed he loves you today and share it at bedtime.</p>	<p>32</p>  <p>Play frisbee outside.</p>	<p>33</p>  <p>Do a jigsaw puzzle together. Discuss how God helps us to fit our lives together.</p>	<p>34</p>  <p>In honor of St. Augustine, start a good habit and practice it all day.</p>	<p>35</p>  <p>Tonight, turn off the TV and the phones, and spend family time together.</p>