

CONNECTIONS

Your Resource for Building a Strong Catholic Family

Baptism and Life



Let's review what we as parents and families promise to the church when we baptize a child. "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" This quote comes from the Rite of Baptism. Sometimes it is good that we remember what was asked of us

during this Rite. So the question is: How do we train our children to keep God's commandments and to love God and our neighbor. You are doing some of that right now by reading this article.

Parents often have a difficult time teaching children the ways of the world AND the ways of God. One possible way to accomplish this is to find an older person, not ancient, with whom to discuss parenting. There is a lot of wisdom in our community. Remember, God gave parents the responsibility to be their children's guides, not to be their

friends. Children seem to thrive when they know the consistent loving boundaries that are set up for them in a family.

Another way is to pray together, even very simply when you are together in the car this summer. Keep it simple, but show your children that you too focus on God. And do not forget the power of attending Mass as you travel to different communities on vacation. This simple act shows the universality of the Catholic Church

Is the Catholic Mass the Same Everywhere You Go?



The answer is – Yes!! While local customs and traditions are reflected in individual parishes, the same Mass is offered everyday all around the world. The readings, the organization of the liturgy, the prayers and the Eucharistic celebration of the Mass are the same no matter where you are. This means that you could attend Mass in Africa, Asia,

South America or even a small island in the middle of the Pacific and know that it is the same Mass being offered at your local parish. This is one of the greatest aspects of the Church! It's what unites us as one universal Catholic family.

So the next time you are at Mass, no matter where that may be, remember your brothers and sisters all around the

world who are celebrating the same liturgy. We are one family united in our Creed, our doctrines, our sacraments and our hierarchical structure based on apostolic succession. The thousands of priests who offer Mass around the world are united to their bishops who are united to the Holy Father, the pope, and the successor of St. Peter.

Symbol Key



Prayer and Worship

Understanding what happens at Mass and incorporating prayer into family life.



Family (The Domestic Church)

Incorporating Catholic customs and traditions into family life.



Formation

Fills in the holes of faith knowledge that may have missed growing up and highlights what makes Catholics distinct



Charity and Service

Highlights charity and service opportunities for the family within St. Francis Parish and the greater community.

Charity and Service

Sharing Nature's Abundance



Late spring is when many gardeners gleefully start the planning process for their summer and fall harvests. After pouring through seed catalogs and making multiple trips to the local garden center, seeds and/or plants are carefully selected and planted in the ground in hopes that the harvest will bring about an abundance of crops. Weeding, watering and careful cultivation ensure that the crops are a success and provide plenty of fresh produce. With this in mind, consider sharing your crops with those that are not as talented or have limited resources. Whether you are a backyard gardener or a frequent farmers' market shopper, consider doing the following this growing season:

- Planting more than you need in order to share with others.
- Sharing your crops via the Saint Francis Hope Diner.
- Buy some additional fruits and vegetables and give them to the Saint Francis Food Pantry or other food distribution system.
- Make, can or freeze some of your excess produce for distribution to the homeless and/or less fortunate families.



Mission Statement

The Strong Catholic Families initiative at St. Francis will provide support to help families pass on the traditions of the faith and share the love of Christ.

For more information visit:

<http://www.stfrancisherwood.org/>

(Go to: Faith Formation then Strong Catholic Families)

Taking Jesus With You



Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy a slower pace without the hustle and bustle of school, sports activities, etc. Routine is thrown aside for a brief time as the kids stay up later and the day is less structured. For most families, there will be weekends of camping and some type of extended vacation. The challenge is this: How do we stay connected with our faith and with Christ during this time of rest and relaxation?

There is an easy solution to this problem. Take Christ with you! There is no rule that says you can't say family prayers around a campfire, or that you can't take your rosary with you on a hike around the lake. Get the kids involved in searching for the oldest or most architecturally interesting Catholic Church in the town you'll be visiting and make a point of going to Mass. If you are traveling to a fun destination abroad, attend Mass at the Cathedral in whatever city you are in. God always welcomes you as a guest in His house, no matter where you are.

The larger point to doing this is to help our children realize that they are part of the Catholic community, which extends well beyond our home and parish. As Catholics, we belong to the Body of Christ, which is present in every campground, amusement park, and city in the world.

This summer, the Strong Catholic Families Committee is focusing on the idea of "Taking Christ with You Wherever You Go." We will host a **parish event on June 2nd** in which you can receive a St Christopher statue and also create a travel journal. This statue can be easily packed and taken on any family trip, and should help to serve as a reminder for you and your family that no matter where you are, Christ is present. As family, you are a domestic Church and that doesn't change just because you are on vacation. We encourage you to join us after the 8:30 & 10:30 Masses on Sunday, June 2nd for this fun family event.



WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words for the Lords Prayer

D E L I V E R C L L I W
 J I M O D G N I K J X V
 G G N O I T A T P M E T
 A T I L E A D N A M E E
 K R C V B L L I V E H A
 N E V A E H J O M F D R
 T S N I A G A T O Z P T
 E P D E W O L L A H W H
 N A A N R E H T A F K W
 O S E V I G R O F T Z B
 D S R E L U A M E N S W
 T G B L G W Y L I A D L

Against
 Amen
 Bread
 Daily
 Deliver
 Done
 Earth
 Evil
 Father
 Forgive
 Give
 Hallowed
 Heaven
 Kingdom
 Lead
 Name
 Temptation
 Trespass
 Will