

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2023

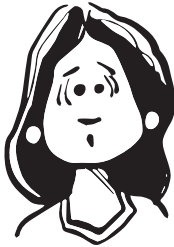
Holy Spirit School



## Thoughtful Moments

### Parental worry

It is normal for parents to worry about their children. Even Mary and Joseph worried about Jesus (Luke 2:48). Healthy concern keeps us diligent and focused. However, when anxious, it is best to turn to God and pray for wisdom, guidance and protection. Identify what makes you most anxious as a parent and give it over to the Lord in trust.



### Require obedience

Parents want to teach children to make good choices and develop good judgment. Part of this process involves requiring their obedience. "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them" (Luke 2:51). Jesus might have preferred to stay in the temple in Jerusalem, but He obeyed His parents and went home. Requiring our children to obey us teaches them to obey God.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



## Here's to a happy, holy Summer

The slower pace of Summertime gives many families a necessary break from schooltime routines. Summer days also provide opportunities to focus on family, faith and worship. Try these fun ways to have a happy, holy Summer.

**Make Sundays different.** Greet Sunday rested and refreshed with an early bedtime Saturday night. Set the tone of the day by listening only to reverent music. Wear special, Sunday-only clothes to Mass. Avoid unnecessary work, errand running, and screen time. Dedicate the day to God and family.

**Enjoy fresh air.** Use nature walks or hikes as opportunities to teach children about God's abundant goodness and creation. Remind them that God made everything in the natural world.

**Express yourself.** Do art projects, write stories, and draw pictures.

For example, mix bubble solution with washable paint in a bowl. Use straws to blow bubbles in the mixture. Then place paper atop the colored bubbles to create designs. When dry, fold the papers in half to make cards, and write the message "God's love is bubbling over for you" on the outside. Give the cards to people who need

encouragement this Summer.

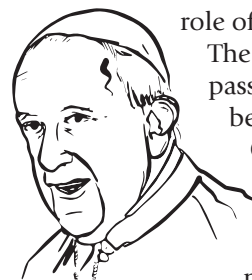
**Express gratitude.** Consider grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, friends, priests, and neighbors. Together, write a thank you note to each one. Choose a Bible verse that expresses thanks. Send it and brighten someone's Summer day.



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why do Catholics follow the Pope?

All Catholics – including the Pope – follow Jesus. The ministry of the Pope, called the "papacy," was begun by Jesus when He gave Peter "the keys of the kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 16:19). By doing so, Jesus gave Peter a special



role of leadership in the new Church. The authority given to St. Peter is passed to his successors who also become visible head of the Church. The Pope brings unity to the entire community of Catholics and helps us continue Jesus' saving mission.

# Our spiritual fathers

Jesus instituted the priesthood to continue His saving work on Earth after He ascended to heaven. Today, priests continue to minister to us as spiritual fathers, especially through the Sacraments. We support priestly vocations when we ...

**Pray for priests.** Priests are responsible for the souls in their care. They bear our spiritual burdens and are especially in need of graces. Pray together nightly for your parish priests by name.

**Thank your priest.** Each moment of a priest's



workday is spent in service to others, from morning Mass to late-night hospital calls. His days are long and often thankless. Send your parish priests notes or cards to thank them for their care.

**Pray for religious vocations.** God calls each of us to a particular place in His kingdom. Answering His call will make us happier, holier, and help more souls than anything else. Be generous if your son feels called to Holy Orders. It's what will make him happiest on Earth, and God is never outdone in generosity (Matthew 19:29).

## Scripture LESSON

### Matthew 10:26-33, Do not be afraid

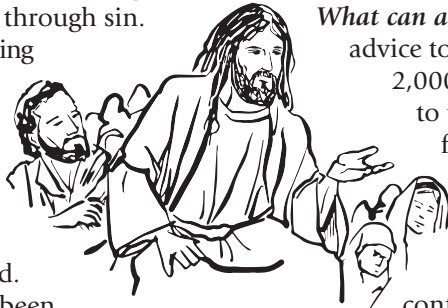
In this Gospel reading, Jesus told His disciples not to fear encountering persecution, but to fear separating themselves from God through sin. Loving God involves being faithful to Him in what He tells us to do. This faithfulness will prepare us for heaven, but it will also bring us into conflict with the world.

Conflict has always been a part of the Church's experience. Instead of being afraid, we can trust God, who watches over all the details of our lives with a loving gaze. Jesus told his disciples that God had even

counted all the hairs on their heads. He loves us so much, He is interested in even the smallest details about us.

**What can a parent do?** Jesus' advice to His followers 2,000 years ago applies to us today. If we stay focused on God and what He wants from us – and for us – we'll be able to take the conflicts we encounter

in stride. Making time for daily family prayer, Sunday Mass and monthly Confession will help us keep our gaze pointed toward Heaven.



## Feasts & Celebrations

**June 11 – Corpus Christi Sunday (1264).** On this solemnity, established by Pope Urban IV, we celebrate the transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist at Mass. What a gift!

**June 17 – 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 22 – Saints Thomas More and**

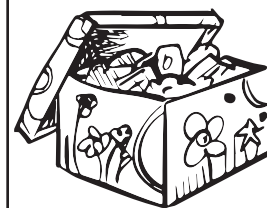
**John Fisher (1535).** St. John Fisher was a bishop and the royal chaplain. St. Thomas More was Lord Chancellor and a friend of the king. Both men refused to recognize the king as head of the Church of England and were martyred.

**June 24 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1st century).** Before St. John was born, his father, Zechariah, received a message from the angel Gabriel foretelling his birth. His doubt was punished by his being struck speechless until John's birth.



## Parent TALK

Last Summer, I proposed making a Memory Box to store souvenirs from the summer so we could



record what we did while school was out. I thought the children would enjoy looking at it when they

were older. I knew I would.

The girls covered a shoebox with wrapping paper to make it look cheerful. To make it durable, we brushed on a coat of white glue thinned with water.

Throughout the Summer, we added bags of beach sand, empty seed packets from the garden, movie tickets, maps from our day trips, invitations to graduation parties, and even autographs from visiting friends and family.

At the end of the Summer, the Memory Box went on the bookshelf in the family room. When we started planning this year's Summer activities, we took down our Memory Box and relived our fun memories from last year. We also got ideas for this Summer, too!

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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