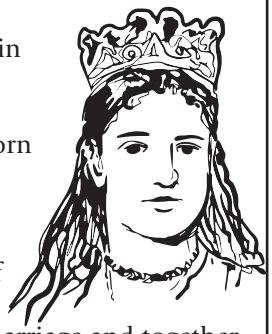
Partners *in* FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith. October 2019

Father Andrew White, S.J. School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Hedwig of Silesia



A model of steadfast faith in prosperity and hardship, St. Hedwig was born to the Duke of Croatia and married the Duke Henry of Silesia. They had a happy marriage and together founded a convent, monasteries and hospitals. Two of their children, Henry and Conrad, caused their parents considerable hardship with their fighting until Hedwig negotiated a truce. After her husband's death, Hedwig became a Cistercian nun and lived simply, only keeping her wealth for charity.

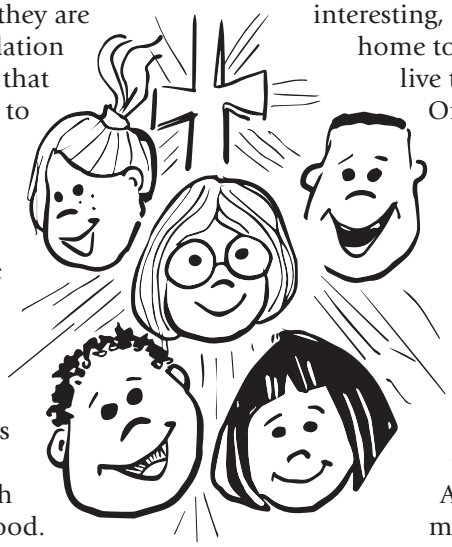
Too busy?

At the end of our lives, we aren't going to think, "I wish I had worked more." We are going to long for more time with our loved ones. A child needs the undivided attention of his or her parent for a little while each day. Don't be so busy that you miss even one special moment with yours.

"... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Help your child live a good Catholic life

The best way to ensure our children will live good Catholic lives as adults is to build a strong Catholic foundation while they are young. That foundation will make it likely that they will continue to live their faith. Consider these suggestions:



Lay the foundation. Make sure your child is getting the Catholic education she deserves so she has all the necessary resources on which to draw in adulthood. Support her religious education, whether she attends Catholic school or the parish school of religion, by supervising homework and helping her master the prayers and doctrine required.

Present positive influences. Present to youngsters grown-ups whose lives you would like your children's to mirror when they are adults. Invite interesting, religious adults to your home to talk about how they live their faith. Bonus: Offering appropriate role models gives children substitutes for the less-desirable celebrities of today.

"Do as I do." Don't kid yourself into thinking that you can live by the world's rules yourself but expect your children to follow God's rules. Abraham's nephew, Lot, made that mistake and lost most of his family during an emergency. They didn't respect him because his words and deeds didn't match (Genesis 19). To raise faithful Catholics, we have to be faithful Catholics ourselves – and that begins with going to Mass every week.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have litanies?

A litany is a prayer formed by a list of invocations and petitions. It is part of the rich prayer tradition of the Church. Litanies are addressed to God, Jesus, Mary, and the saints. The saints, who are closer to God, can intercede with God for us here on earth. Today, litanies sometimes are used in the Church's worship. Only a few are approved, including the Litany of: the Saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph.

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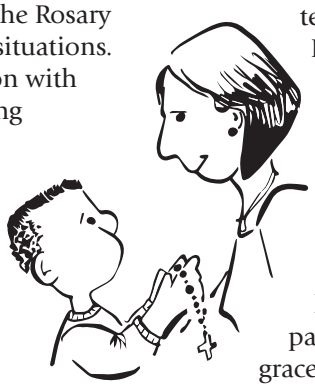
Celebrate the Rosary with children

Catholics over the centuries have turned to the Rosary for miraculous help in seemingly impossible situations. Sharing love for this timeless Catholic devotion with children will arm them with a powerful lifelong prayer tradition.



The prayer that leads to prayer. The gentle repetition in the Rosary is meant to still our minds and direct our hearts to communion with God. The meditative nature of the prayer helps calm children and direct their thoughts to God.

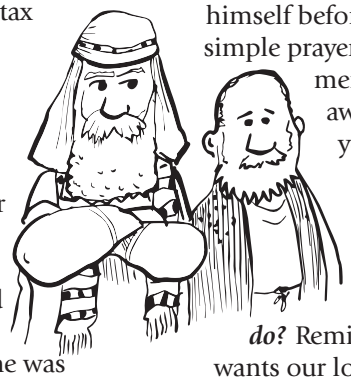
Gospel stories. The mysteries of the Rosary tell the stories of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. By praying the Rosary with youngsters, we revisit these events and help them to grow in knowledge of Christ.

Role models. Praying the Rosary and meditating on the lives of Jesus and Mary gives us strong models of virtuous lives, from Mary's obedience during the Annunciation and her fortitude during the Crucifixion, to Jesus' entire life of virtue – justice, temperance, and courage, in particular. Regular Rosary meditation opens us to the graces needed to acquire those very virtues.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 18:9-14, Humble Prayer

Jesus often told stories to illustrate truths of God's kingdom. In this story, he used a Pharisee and a tax collector to talk about prayer. Like most of his stories, this one had an unexpected ending.



The Pharisee marched up to a position of honor in the temple to pray, presumably to be seen and admired. He focused his prayer on himself and offered thanks that he was superior in holiness to all around him. He listed his many good (but largely meaningless) deeds and looked with disgust upon the tax collector.

By contrast, the tax collector stood in the back and humbled himself before God, offering a simple prayer relying on God's mercy. He was sorrowfully aware of his sinfulness, yet was also aware of God's powerful mercy. For his humble, contrite prayer, he was reconciled with God.

What can a parent do? Remind children that God wants our love more than anything else. No matter what we do, he'll always love us and want us back in his friendship. He will always forgive us if we're truly sorry.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels. On this feast day, remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they have done in helping us.

October 6 – Blessed Marie Rose Durocher (1849). Marie-Rose was born in Canada. Unable to join the convent, she worked as a hostess, housekeeper, and parish worker. She became known for her perseverance and tactfulness. At the bishop's request, she founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a teaching order.

October 14 – Pope St. Callistus I (222). A Roman slave, Callistus was jailed for losing his master's money. After his release, he became superintendent of Church lands and was ordained a deacon. Known for his merciful treatment of sinners, he was elected pope but was opposed for 18 years by an antipope, dividing the Church.

October 18 – St. Luke the Evangelist (1st Century). St. Luke was a Christian physician from Antioch. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.

Parent TALK

It always bugs me that All Saints Day gets overshadowed by Halloween. Last year, I thought of a way to combine them. I challenged my son to bypass the superheroes and instead portray his favorite saint.

After scouring through books, Joshua decided on St. Michael. When we read how he led the angels in the great battle against Satan, Joshua was proud to dress as someone still protecting us today.

We found a cool warrior costume and put a cross on the chest. We made wings and a spear from cardboard we painted silver. It was perfect.

As we went door-to-door, neighbors asked him what character he was dressed as and Joshua beamed as he replied, "St. Michael the Archangel."

Not only did Joshua enjoy gathering candy that night, he made quite an impression on the neighbors. After all, it's not every day you're in the company of an angel.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children

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