

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2022

Saint Mary Catholic School

Peter Rodgers, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

Happy New Year!

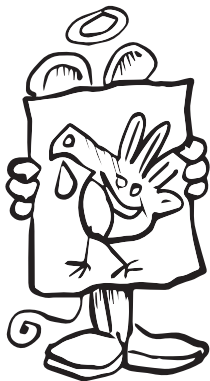
Each year the Church begins a new liturgical year on the Sunday closest to the feast of the Apostle Andrew (November 30). This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 27. We begin Year A in the liturgical cycle. Celebrate by lighting the first candle in your Advent wreath.



Pick a cause

Prayer isn't the only thing we can do to make the world better; it's the best thing we can do. Try this: Choose an event from the news that brings concern to your family. Then find a saint devoted to that cause. For example, St. Vincent Ferrer – the patron of reconciliation – ask him to intervene to end the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting among holy ones, no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, which is out of place, but instead, thanksgiving" (Ephesians 5:3-4).



Encourage saints as heroes

Children learn by imitation. However, many values presented by today's celebrities won't lead to holiness or happiness. Instead, introduce youngsters to true heroes – the saints.

The saints were real people. Living a saintly life is not all haloes and holy cards. Some saints had chaotic home lives, worked difficult jobs, and others were known for their tempers. Make a point of reading books or watching movies about your children's "birthday" saints, or those who share their interests in art, sports, and hobbies, for example. Help saints come alive.

Share your favorites. Are there saints or holy people to whom you're especially drawn? Whether famous or lesser-known, tell your children about them and what you admire in them. Sharing heroes gives

you a chance to explain how to choose role models.

Draw comparisons. Few compliments are more powerful than being positively compared to your hero.

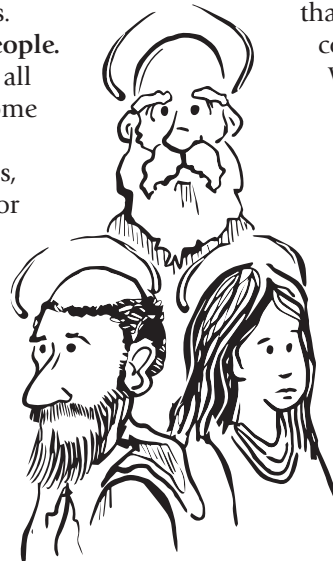
When children demonstrate a virtue for which their saint is known, point it out!

"You were generous like St. Elizabeth of Hungary," or "Good job studying for your spelling test – just like St. Thomas Aquinas."

Seek their advice.

Many saints wrote about conquering problems we also face, such as uninspired prayer life, unpleasant

work, or temptation. Remind youngsters that the saints struggled, too, but didn't give up. Encourage them to think, "What would a saint do?"

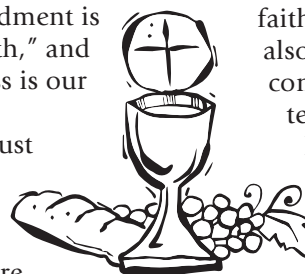


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why are Catholics required to attend Mass on Sunday?

The Third Commandment is "Keep holy the Sabbath," and attending Sunday Mass is our Catholic response.

However, we aren't just to attend Mass; we are to assist. By doing so, we prove that we belong to Christ and are



faithful to Him and His Church. We also "give witness to...(our) communion in faith and charity... testify to God's holiness and our hope in salvation, [and] strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2182)

An illuminating tradition

The Advent wreath is one of the most popular devotions of the season. It is a symbol of our watchful wait for the Savior. Here's how to make your own.

Supplies: Styrofoam ring, markers, evergreen branches that you buy or gather, wire or twist ties, three violet (purple) candles, one rose (pink) candle.

Directions: On the Styrofoam ring, mark four "Xs" equal distances apart where the candles will sit. Press a candle into the ring at each "X" to make an indentation. (Don't leave the candles in place yet.)



Wrap the evergreen branches around the ring to cover it completely. Secure the greens with wire or twist ties. Place the candles in the indentations you created. Add ribbons or pine cones and decorate as you choose.

The three violet candles represent preparation, and are lit during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of Advent. The rose candle, lit during the 3rd week, is a reminder to rejoice.

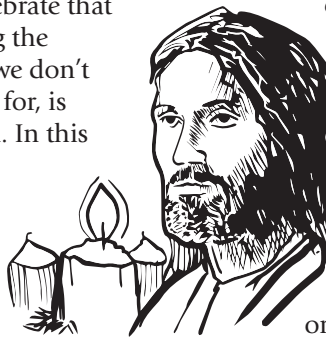
Light a candle each night during Advent and offer prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 24:37-44, Be prepared.

We know Jesus came more than 2,000 years ago and we will celebrate that arrival next month during the Christmas season. What we don't know, and must be ready for, is when He will come again. In this reading, He urges all his followers to be ready for whenever He comes again. That is what Advent is all about: anticipating our Lord, wondering at the mystery of His coming, and marveling at the light of his glory when He arrives.

What can a parent do? Help your family prepare for Jesus. Start by resolving as a family to avoid sin. Go to



Confession together. Make a concerted effort to be considerate of each other, do assigned chores, show extra patience. Then, light the Advent wreath and pray together each night during the season. Either come up with your own prayer service, or pray a family Rosary.

Finally, savor the Bible story of Jesus' coming. Marvel over the Annunciation. Exclaim over the Visitation. Celebrate the Birth. When Christmas finally arrives, the whole family will share in its wonder and excitement together.

Parent TALK

Losing my father last year was hard. So when All Soul's Day came, we headed for Sacred Heart Cemetery, where he is buried.



Dad's headstone had just been installed so we prayed in front of it. Then we got to work clearing away leaves and planted the mums I brought. Kara said that we made Dad's grave look like he was loved.

Before we left, Tessa looked around at the neighboring sites and noticed some hadn't been visited in a while. So we cleaned up those graves, too. Tessa picked wild flowers for the graves. As we worked, we read each person's name off the headstone and prayed for him or her.

When we finished, Kara asked if I thought Grandpa was watching. I said I was sure that Grandpa was standing by our Lord's side telling Him all about his wonderful granddaughters. That idea made us all feel better.

Feasts & Celebrations

In November we celebrate the saints on All Saints Day (November 1) and pray for our loved ones and those in Purgatory on All Souls Day (November 2).

November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo (1584). After earning doctorates in civil and canon law by the age of 21, he was called to Rome to be cardinal and bishop of Milan.

November 20 – Solemnity of Christ the King. God promised His people a king who would triumph over their enemies. Jesus is our King. In Baptism and

Confirmation, we are brought under His kingship.

November 22 – St. Cecilia (230). A native of Rome, St. Cecilia was forced to marry although she wanted to consecrate herself to God. She converted her husband, and both were martyred for their faith.

November 27 – First Sunday in Advent. During this season, we anticipate Christ's birth and his coming on the last day. Catholics around the world light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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