



Saint Aloysius Religious Education

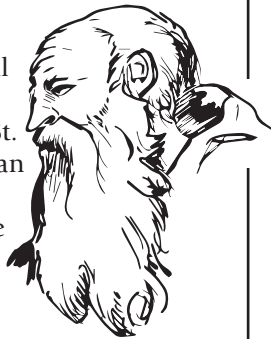
Caldwell, NJ



Thoughtful Moments

St. Jerome

After a classical education in his native Stridon, St. Jerome became an expert in Greek and Latin. At the age of 18, he was baptized in Rome and began more rigorous study. He was ordained, went to Constantinople in 380 AD to study Scripture, and then to Rome as secretary to the pope. It was then he completed his great work of translating the Bible into Latin, called the Vulgate. "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ," said Jerome.



Confession spirals

Spiral notebooks make good Confession companions. In a spiral notebook, children can copy the form for Confession as a reminder, the Act of Contrition, the Holy Spirit prayer, and common prayers your priests may give for penance. They can also jot down their sins to tell the priest and then easily tear them out afterwards.

"Hold fast to instruction, never let it go; keep it, for it is your life"
(Proverbs 4:13).



Make a fresh start with a new school year

Each new school year offers a new beginning. This is a chance to rethink your priorities, create a new family rhythm, and acquire virtues so parents and children can grow and learn.

Rethink priorities. In past school years, have you found your family pulled in too many directions by a too-busy life?

Consider blocking out time for family activities you value most: family meals, prayer together, Mass, religious education, school work, visiting relatives. Make these "immoveable." Then schedule other activities that will fit without causing stress. Say "no" to anything else.

Create a new family rhythm. Creating a predictable rhythm to days can give

your family life order, balance, and joy. Base the rhythm on anchor points of waking, bedtime, meal times, and school/work. Add in natural, calming

activities children can count on such as morning prayer, nighttime devotion, bedtime stories, and spiritually seasonal activities.

Acquire virtues. Virtues help us give the best of ourselves. As a family, choose a virtue each month

that you would like to strengthen. The four Cardinal Virtues are considered key to acquiring others. Prudence enables us to make good choices. Justice helps us to play fair and see others' points of view. Fortitude ensures we don't give up when the going gets tough. Temperance keeps us from overdoing and keeps us in balance.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why is our Church called "Catholic"?

The word "catholic" comes from a Greek word that means "throughout the whole" or "universal."

The first record of the Church being called "Catholic" quotes a first-century letter from St. Ignatius to the Smyrnaeans,



"Where the bishop appears, there let the people be, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." St. Cyril of Jerusalem (347) wrote, "Now it [the Church] is called Catholic because it is throughout the world, from one end of the earth to the other."

All God's children are loved

God created each of his children unique and all have great value in his eyes. How can you help youngsters appreciate and respect all God's children?

Nurture curiosity. Bring the world into your home. The local library is a rich source of books, maps, music, and movies about other cultures and people to whom you can introduce your children. Encourage youngsters to wonder what it is like to live in places different from theirs.

Encourage flexibility. Children who can adapt to new situations, improvise, and shift

strategies to meet challenges become more independent and creative problem solvers. They are also more likely to be competent in dealing with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

"Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). Everyone on earth is God's beloved child. People who look, act, and sound different have life stories that are distinctive from ours. Teach children to show respect and empathy for those with disabilities, physical or mental difficulties, or who are experiencing hardships and may need help.



Scripture LESSON

Luke 16:19-31, Learn God's language of love

This is the story of a rich man who enjoys his life on earth, and a beggar who suffers, ignored, outside his door. In the afterlife, it is the rich man who suffers torment and begs for relief.

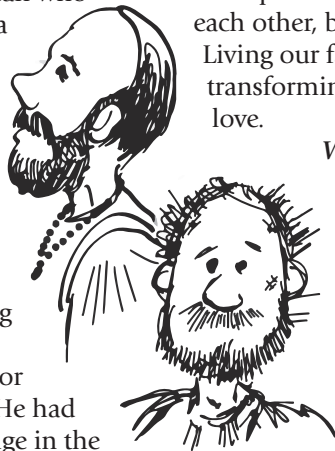
The rich man was condemned for two reasons. The first was because he had become blind to the suffering of others. He deliberately ignored the misery of the poor man right outside his door. He had the resources to bring a change in the man's situation but did nothing.

The second is because the rich man knew what Scripture said about how

God expects his followers to care for each other, but he ignored it. Living our faith means transforming prayer into deeds of love.

What can a parent do?

The key to learning God's language of love and how he wants us to speak it can be found in the Bible. Put your family Bible in a conspicuous spot in your home, one that will remind you to read it together daily. Then talk about putting what you learn into action.



Feasts & Celebrations

September 16 – St. Cyprian (258). Born in Carthage to pagan parents, Cyprian converted to Christianity. A renowned theologian and speaker, he became a priest and then bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against heretics and set guidelines for readmitting lapsed Christians. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and executed.

September 28 – St. Wenceslaus (929). As the king of Bohemia, Wenceslaus worked to end the persecution of Christians in his country.

He encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick and poor. Political conflict led to his assassination by his brother. The "Good King" was immediately recognized as a martyr.

September 28 – St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions (1630). Lawrence was born in the Philippines to Christian parents—a Chinese father and a Filipino mother. Accused of murder, he fled, traveling with four Catholic priests and a leper to Nagasaki, Japan where there was violent persecution. They were arrested, brutally tortured and martyred on Okinawa.



Parent TALK

Up to now, the questions my children have asked about our faith have been easy to answer. What I don't know off the top of my head, I can look up in the *Catechism*, the *Bible*, or our other Catholic sources.

As they get older, the questions get more challenging. "Where did Jesus go after he died and before he rose?" "If you do something you once knew was wrong but forgot, is it still a sin?" And my favorite, "is your iPhone a false god? You are on it all the time."

To stay ahead of my girls, I stepped up my own religious education. I take an online scripture study class. I belong to a challenging women's faith group. I also attend lectures our pastor offers whenever I can.

Just as my learning didn't end when I graduated from school, my faith education can't stop with my Confirmation.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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