

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2016

Saint Aloysius Religious Education

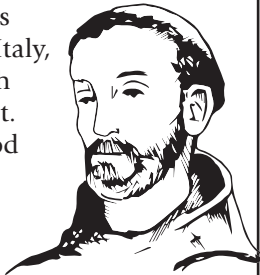
Caldwell, NJ



Thoughtful Moments

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1182 to a rich textile merchant. He enjoyed good food, fine clothes, and a busy social life. He changed when he became seriously ill on his way to a battle. Then, St. Francis took the Gospel message literally and devoted his life to living in poverty. Followers gathered around him, wanting to imitate his way of life, and in 1210, he received approval to found the Franciscan Order.



The Guardian Angels

Guardian angels are "angels assigned to protect and intercede for each person" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 336). The intervention of the angels on our behalf is one way God takes care of us. Pray the Guardian Angel prayer with children often.

"Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy."
Pope Francis



Nurture your child's love for God

Young children do not need to be taught to love God. They easily trust in his love and love him back. Childhood is the perfect time to start building a lifelong connection between our little ones and their true Father.

"God Time" every day. Youngsters are curious about everything, especially about what they cannot see. Set aside a predictable time daily to talk about God. Be ready to answer their questions and read the Bible together so they learn to recognize God's voice.

Prayer as a part of life. Teach children that prayer is a conversation. Encourage spontaneous praise for God's creative work, gratitude for prayers granted, and urge youngsters to

listen as well as talk.

Picture this. Children benefit from visual images when learning complex concepts. Display pictures of Jesus, Bible stories, and the saints. Regularly encourage youngsters to draw their idea of how Jesus and the Father look. It's easier to pray to someone we can picture.



Parish home. Baptized Catholics have a right (and obligation) to attend Mass every Sunday and to be part of a parish family. Bringing our children into the presence of Christ and those who love him awakens a love for God and Church, creates a strong Catholic identity at an early age, and helps them feel at home in God's house.

Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics use incense?

Incense is made from frankincense, which is made from the sap of desert trees. When burnt, the sweet smell signifies something pleasing to God and the smoke symbolizes one's prayers rising up to God: "Let my prayer be incense before you;



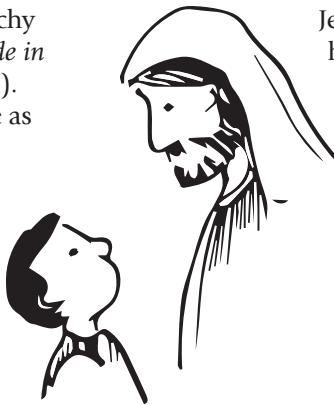
my uplifted hands an evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2). Incense is used to draw attention to important objects or areas of the event, for example, the altar, the Gospels, and the priest. Incense is used to venerate the Blessed Sacrament.

Do what Jesus did

"What would Jesus do?" is more than a catchy phrase for children. "...Whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as he lived" (1 John 2:6). Consider teaching children three ways to live as Jesus lived:

Show love. Jesus asked us to love one another as he did. We can show love by speaking with respect or patiently working through disagreements with friends, classmates, and siblings.

Study God's Word. The Bible contains all we need to know to live forever. When



Jesus was found in the temple at age 12, he already had a thorough knowledge of Scripture and its application. Make religious education and family Scripture reading priorities.

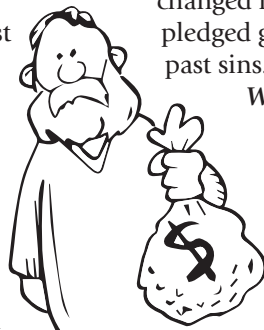
Become comfortable with sacrifice. For the Father, Jesus gave up all that a Jewish man could expect: a home, career, family, and ultimately, his life. Our children have to sacrifice some aspects of a worldly life to live a godly one. Help youngsters learn to say "no" to occasional desires so they can build spiritual muscle for the journey ahead.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus makes a special friend.

Zacchaeus was not a popular man. As the chief tax collector in Jericho, he probably took more than his share and became wealthy amidst other people's misery. Imagine the crowd's reaction when Jesus spotted Zacchaeus in a tree and invited himself to dinner at Zacchaeus' home. People were stunned that Jesus would choose to associate with someone they excluded. For his part, Zacchaeus scrambled down from the tree and fell all over himself to make Jesus feel welcome.

It didn't bother Jesus that Zacchaeus was unpopular or sinful. He often befriended the most unlikely people.



As it turned out, Zacchaeus was so eager for Jesus' friendship that he changed his life as a result and pledged generous amends for past sins.

What can a parent do?

Encourage your children to ignore gossip and nasty comments made about peers. If they have questions about the suitability of a friend, tell them to come to you instead. Teach youngsters to respect everyone, even those who are excluded by others. Jesus was tolerant and quick to forgive. We need to do the same.

Parent TALK

Emily wanted to be Maleficent for Halloween - a strong female character who used powerful magic to subjugate a kingdom. Glamorous but horrible. I wasn't thrilled with my daughter imitating a villainess who cursed a kingdom.

"You know, God has given saints powers, too," I said. "St. Padre Pio read souls and St. Anthony could heal."



Emily thought for a few minutes.

"Was it true St.

Clare of Assisi

turned back an army all by herself?" she asked.

"As an answer to prayer," I said. "She put the Eucharist in a monstrance on the convent walls and prayed for protection. The attackers fled."

"I'll be St. Clare," Emily decided. "Faith was her super power. Courage, too." On Halloween, Emily wore a brown tunic with a rope belt and a brown veil. We made a monstrance out of pipe cleaners, glitter, and aluminum foil. We'd come a long way from Maleficent!

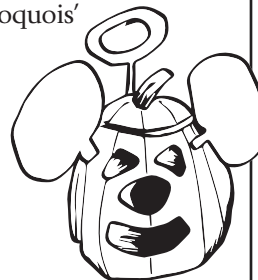
Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 6 - St. Bruno (1101). Bruno was born in Germany, studied in France and became a theology professor. With six other companions, Bruno founded the Carthusian Order in 1084, whose rule for life was based on prayerful solitude, manual labor, and poverty. He was never formally canonized.

Oct. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Pius V created this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks at Lepanto. Since it was believed that they won after praying the

Rosary, the feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII.

Oct. 19- Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and companions (1649). Six Jesuits and two laymen became missionaries to Native American tribes in North America. After spending more than 20 years in a difficult ministry, St. John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois' respect by his valor in death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped only to return to his ministry but was also murdered.



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