

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

October 2023

St. Philomena Parish

www.stphils.com



Thoughtful Moments

St. John XXIII

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born to a poor farming family in Bergamo, Italy. His ordination as a priest in 1904 began a lifetime serving the Church as: the bishop's secretary, a military chaplain, cardinal-patriarch of Venice, and finally, as "Good Pope John." He often visited the poor, the sick and prisoners. He worked to uphold their dignity and improved relations with the Eastern Church. He is remembered for opening the Second Vatican Council. He died in 1963.



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



Fall saints for a good school year

The saints in heaven help us on Earth with their prayers. We can also follow their examples to heaven. Through the autumn months, these saints can be beacons of light for children:

St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron of students. Brilliant but humble, he became one of the greatest minds of the Church, studying, teaching, and defending the Faith. He began study with a prayer: "Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

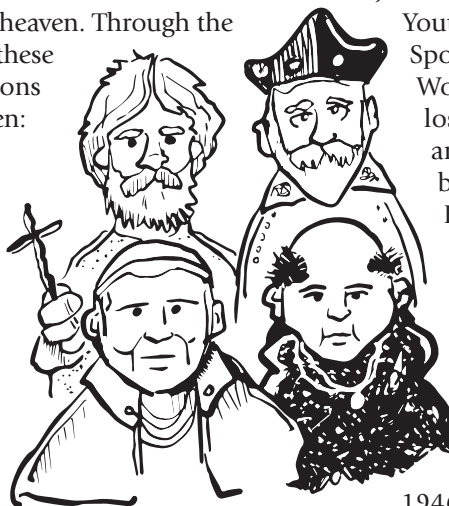
St. Sebastian, named patron of athletes, bravely endured suffering for the Faith. Young athletes can ask him to inspire their strength, good sportsmanship, and self-discipline in

their faith and on the field.

St. John Paul II, patron of World Youth Day and Catholic Sports, was born Karol Wojtyla in Poland. He lost his mother, father, and older brother before his 21st birthday. His promising academic career was cut short by the outbreak of World War II. After enrolling in a secret seminary in Kraków, he was ordained a priest in 1946 and eventually

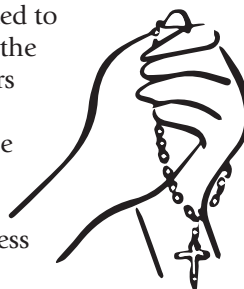
became one of the longest serving popes in Church history.

St. Philip Neri is patron of holy friendships. A valuable part of our school experience is learning to make friends. Call on the intercession of St. Philip Neri when navigating friendship challenges and to find holy friends.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Traditionally attributed to the Dominican Order, the Rosary is a set of prayers that focuses on the mysterious events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Several Marian apparitions and countless saints and popes have



Why do Catholics pray the Rosary?

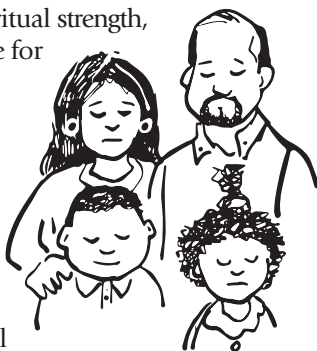
recommended the Rosary as the "powerhouse" of devotions. Many mistake it as Marian devotion, but the prayer is actually a meditation on Jesus' life through Mary's eyes. Meditating on the prayers and mysteries of our Faith opens us to graces that make us more Christ-like.

The family that prays together...

Praying together as a family is a source of spiritual strength, protection, nourishment, and much-needed grace for families. Use these tips to strengthen a family prayer habit in your home:

Set reasonable expectations: Based on children's ages and abilities, develop a mix of formula prayer, Scripture reading, and spontaneous prayer that will make up your family prayer routine.

Practice: Prayer is a conversation. Teach children how to have a warm, sharing, prayerful conversation with God. Demonstrate how it can be done.



Be consistent: Meet in the same place and same time every day for a specific amount of time. Children will learn that regular prayer is a priority and a vital habit.

Be generous: Allow each member to choose an intention – someone or something for which to pray. That way, prayer becomes even more personal.

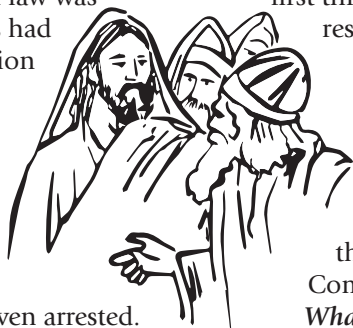
Keep it simple: God wants to encounter our hearts with His grace. If family prayer is as simple as offering intentions before a Crucifix and closing with a hymn of praise, that's good prayer.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40, It all comes down to love

In this Gospel passage, a lawyer starts a debate with Jesus on which of the 613 commands in Jewish law was the most important. Jews had been debating that question for generations without coming to agreement. Egged on by the Pharisees, the lawyer hoped to get Jesus to say something against Jewish law so He could be discredited or even arrested.

Jesus silenced them all by saying that everything starts and ends with love – love of God and love of neighbor. Even the Pharisees couldn't argue with that. The Ten Commandments can be



divided into two categories: those recommending respect for God (the first three) and those detailing responsibilities toward neighbors (the last seven). In the end, it is about love. The lawyer was brought to silence. The debate resulted in the gift of the Two Greatest Commandments.

What can a parent do? Talk with children about how easy it is to love people who are nice to us but loving everyone, even if they're not nice, is what God really wants us to do. It's how God loves us.

Feasts & Celebrations

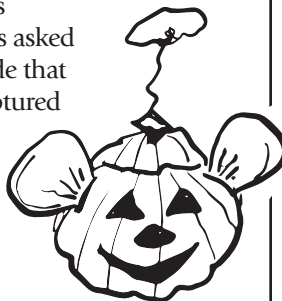
October 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels. All of us have a guardian angel in charge of protecting us and watching over us day and night. Today, remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they have done in helping us.

October 5 – St. Faustina Kowalska (1938). Born Helena Kowalska, St. Faustina joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy against her parents' wishes. In 1931, Jesus appeared to her and told her to paint an image of the Divine Mercy and to spread devotion to His mercy.

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 A.D. 70 and 85.

October 23 – St. John of Capistrano (1456). Born in Capistrano, Italy in 1386, St. John studied law at Perugia. He eventually joined the Franciscans. Renowned for his preaching, he was asked to lead the crusade that successfully recaptured Constantinople from the Ottomans and saved Christendom.



Parent TALK

Tessa 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, saints have amazing powers, too," I said. "St. Padre Pio read souls and St. Clare of Assisi turned away an army attacking her monastery."

Tessa thought for a few minutes. "Did St. Clare do that 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," Tessa decided. "Faith was her super power. Courage, too." On Halloween, Tessa wore a brown tunic with a rope belt and a black veil. We made a monstrance out of pipe cleaners, glitter, and aluminum foil. And there was no sign of Maleficent!

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