

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2025

St. Philomena Parish

www.stphils.com



Thoughtful Moments

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

St. Aloysius wanted to be a priest but had to wait for his father's approval. As the eldest son of a Marquis, St. Aloysius was expected to inherit the position. After three years, he was permitted to join the Jesuit Order in 1585. His studies for the priesthood were interrupted by a devastating plague. He helped tend the victims and shortly died after catching the disease. He is remembered for his purity, holiness, penances, and scholarly brilliance.



Jesus reveals the Father's love

Through the Gospels, Jesus teaches us about God's incredible love. By His example, He encourages us to respond as sons and daughters to a Father who loves us selflessly, extravagantly, compassionately, infinitely.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep"
(John 10:14-15).

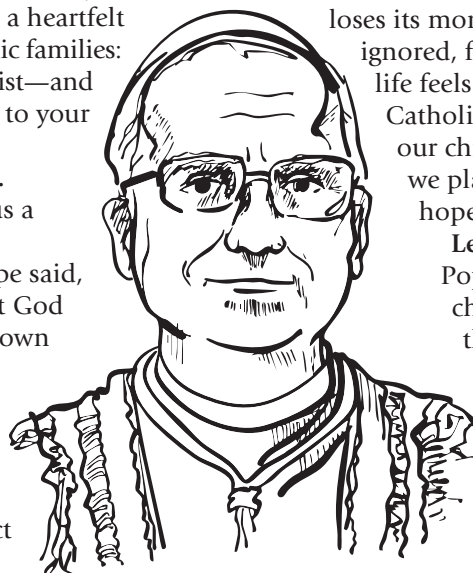


Pope Leo urges parents to raise faithful Catholics in a troubled world

In his first papal homily, Pope Leo XIV delivered a heartfelt message to Catholic families: stay rooted in Christ—and pass that faith on to your children.

Jesus as model.
"[Jesus] showed us a model of human holiness," the Pope said, reminding us that God made Himself known in every stage of life: as a trusting child, a curious teenager, and a devout adult. Jesus is the perfect example of obedience, humility, and service—qualities we can nurture in our children.

Parents have a mission. The pope said, "We are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Jesus the Savior."



When faith fades, he warned, society loses its moral compass—mercy is ignored, families fall apart, and life feels empty. Passing on the Catholic Faith isn't just for our children's sake—it's how we plant seeds of love and hope that will bear fruit.

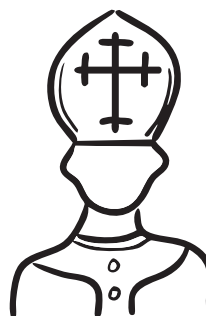
Lead by example. The Pope closed with a challenge, "It is essential that we too repeat with Peter, 'You are the Christ...'" (Matthew 16:16). The Holy Father said Peter's response is meant to be ours, too. "It is essential to do

this ... in our personal relationship with the Lord, in our commitment to a daily journey of conversion." If you live as if Jesus is Lord of your whole life, your children will, too.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics call the pope Peter's successor because we believe Jesus appointed St. Peter as the first leader of the Church, saying, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). Peter became the first

Why do Catholics call the Pope "Peter's Successor"?



bishop of Rome, and his authority has been passed down through an unbroken line of popes. Each pope inherits Peter's role as the visible head of the Church on earth, guiding the faithful in unity, truth, and pastoral care.

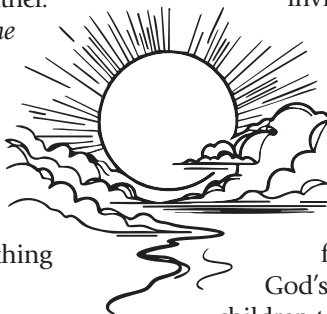
"What is God like?"

Explaining an infinite God to children can be challenging, but Jesus teaches us to think of God as our own Father.

"No one is father as God is Father" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #239). Here are three truths to share:

"Merciful and gracious." God isn't cold or distant. He is moved by our suffering (Exodus 3:7-8). He gives good gifts (Matthew 7:11), and even gave us His Son (Romans 8:32). If He withholds something we want, it's to offer something even better.

"Slow to anger." God's love doesn't fade. He never



tires of forgiving us if we are repentant. His patience invites us to be more patient—with our children, our families, and ourselves.

"Abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." The Bible is one long story of God keeping His promises. In the Old Testament, He vows redemption and restoration. In the New, He fulfills them through Christ. Reassure children that the same "forever" love is for us today.

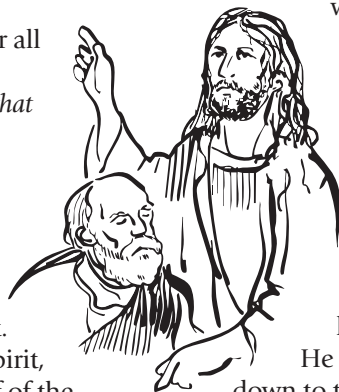
God's love is real, unshakable, and personal. Teach children to respond.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 16:13-19, "Who do you say that I AM?"

This passage marks the foundation of the Catholic Church—established to endure for all time. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It's a question not about popularity or public opinion, but about truth. At its core, Catholicism is built on the truth of who Jesus is. And truth stands, whether it's popular or not.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simon answered on behalf of the others: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). In response, Jesus renamed him Peter, meaning "Rock," and entrusted him



with the keys to the kingdom. This was more than symbolism; it was the transfer of real authority to teach, to forgive, and to welcome people into the Church.

What can a parent do?

Trust that Jesus established the Church on Peter to be a visible, lasting guide. Through it, He preserves the truth passed down to the Apostles. When our own faith is strained, Peter's bold witness reminds us: Jesus is who He says He is, and His Church stands on that unshakable truth.

Parent TALK

Toby and Alden fought over everything. I tried mediating, negotiating, even punishing, but nothing worked. I decided to step out of it.



The next night, the fight was about who got to pick the next

television show. I calmly turned off the TV and told the kids that when they agreed on what to watch, they could turn it back on. Instead, they stomped out.

The next fight was about which book I should read at bedtime. Again, I calmly got up and walked to the doorway. I said that when they could agree on a book, I would be back, but they better hurry. It was 15 minutes to bedtime.

A few minutes later, they came to get me. "We decided that you should read a book we both wanted to hear," said Alden. "This way, we both win." Needless to say, I read that book with great enthusiasm.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 2 - Saints Marcellinus and Peter (304). St. Marcellinus, a priest, and St. Peter an exorcist, were martyred under Emperor Diocletian. St. Peter freed the prison-keeper and his family from demonic influence by his prayers, and they were eventually baptized by St. Marcellinus.

June 9 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she continues to support us by her prayers as our spiritual mother.

June 15 - The Most Holy Trinity. Today, we honor the central mystery of our Faith – that there is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus revealed this mystery after the Resurrection (Matthew 28:19).

June 28 - St. Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 202). As bishop of Lyons, Irenaeus investigated and disproved assertions of the Gnostics, who claimed to have secret knowledge imparted by Jesus. In great service to the Church, Irenaeus clarified Church teaching and gradually ended the influence of the Gnostics.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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