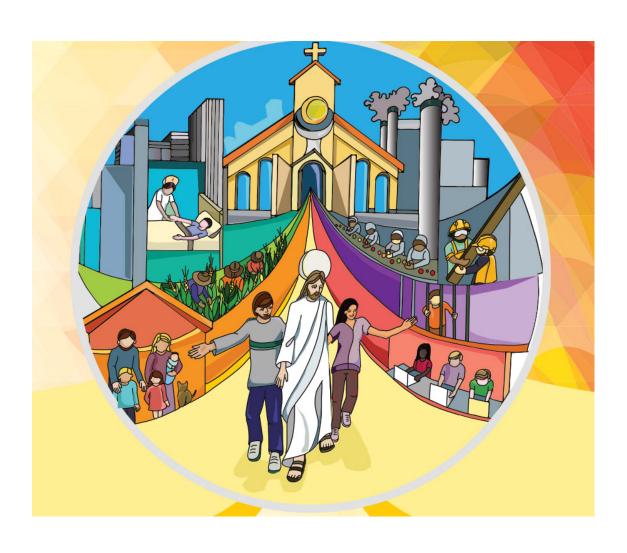
Holy Family Area Faith Formation Parent Handbook



Faith Formation Staff

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Sacraments

Participating in the life of the church is a large part of any good Faith Formation Program. The expectation of this program is that you agree to attend Sunday Mass and Reconciliation on a regular basis. Here are the scheduled times for your convenience.

Area Reconciliation Schedule

Check the Area Website (www.holyfamilyarea.org) for the current Reconciliation Times. Reconciliation times can also be made available by appointment.

Area Mass Schedule

September through April

Saturday: Sunday:

5:00pm St. Andrew, Granite Falls
7:00pm Spanish Mass at St. Joseph, Montevideo
8:30am St James, Dawson
10:30am St. Joseph, Montevideo

May through August

Saturday: Sunday:

6:30pm St. Joseph, Montevideo (with Spanish elements) 8:30am St. James, Dawson

10:30am St. Andrew, Granite Falls

Curriculum

The following curriculum is used within all parishes of the Holy Family Area:

Elementary:

- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies "Promise"
- Augustine Institute's "Signs of Grace: You Are Forgiven" & "Signs of Grace: You Are Loved".
- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies "Good News"
- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies "Venture"

Middle School/ High School:

- "The Theology of the Body for Teens Middle School".
- "Credible Catholic"
- "Altaration"
- "The Search"
- "YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body".
- Symbolon for YDisciple

**More information can be found about these programs online with the following publishers:

pflaumweeklies.com sacraments.augustineinstitute.org ascensionpress.com crediblecatholic.org formed.org

For more specific information on your child's curriculum, please reach out to the Area Coordinator of Faith Formation.

Guidelines for the Journey

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at Faith Formation classes is very important for the continual spiritual growth of the child. Please have children arrive 5 minutes before class begins; arriving late is disruptive to the rest of the class. If you know that your child is going to be absent, please make sure to contact the Faith Formation Coordinator so they are not making calls to see where your child is. You have registered your child to be with us for class, so we are responsible for them unless you tell us differently. The Calendar is included online at www.holyfamilyarea.org.

CLASS TIME

St. Andrew	Grade K-9	Wednesday - 6:45-8:00 PM at St. Andrew, Granite Falls
St. James	Grade 1-5 Grade 6-9	Wednesday – 3:30-4:30 PM at St. James, Dawson Wednesday - 6:45-8:00 PM at St. James, Dawson
St. Joseph	Grade K-4 Grade 5-9	Sunday - 9:00-10:15 AM at St. Joseph, Montevideo Wednesday - 6:45-8:00 PM at St. Joseph, Montevideo

<u>HFA CONFIRMATION PREP</u> – (Generally, Grade 10 and 11 students from all parishes) Year 1 and Year 2 students 2 Sundays/Month - 6:00-8:00 PM at St. Joseph, Montevideo

CLASS CANCELLATION/CHANGES

WEDNESDAY CLASSES: When the local public school has cancelled school or closed school early due to severe weather there will **NOT** be Faith Formation classes that evening at that parish. If a storm develops later in the day, be sure to listen to the radio to hear of a cancellation; we inform KDMA. We also send an email to notify you of any instant cancellations and a group text message. If other changes in the schedule are necessary, you will be notified by an announcement in the church bulletin or by a note/newsletter sent home with your child. **Please check with your child** *after each class session* as to materials/letters/notices they might have for you.

COMMUNICATION

Parents will be kept informed of important information, dates, etc. through the Area church bulletin, flyers, emails, and notes sent home, and through our Facebook Page – Holy Family Area Faith Formation/Youth Ministry or Follow us on our website: www.holyfamilyarea.org. It is very important that you update your contact information year after year, so we know the best way to reach you.

DISCIPLINE

Ideally in a Christian educational program, discipline would not even be a topic of conversation. Realistically, we are dealing with young people who sometimes need help setting priorities. We recognize that learning cannot take place unless the environment is one with order and purpose, where every person and all property are respected. Furthermore, faith formation classes are short in length. For catechists to have enough time to teach the necessary concepts, they should not have to spend a lot of time on discipline.

Our volunteer catechists have an important and awesome task – the task of helping parents to impart the light of faith to young Christians in a way that will give meaning and joy to their lives now and in the future. This task can best be accomplished in an atmosphere that speaks of GoD's presence – an atmosphere in which there is peace, order, love, and joy. Catechists try to model respectful and compassionate behavior so that children, too, will respect and value themselves and others as children of GoD. Catechists and students will take time to discuss conduct that is appropriate to maintain this type of atmosphere in the classroom.

The Discipline Policy:

- 1. Minor discipline problems are handled directly by the catechist in the classroom.
- 2. The first time a major problem occurs, the Catechist will dismiss the student from class and send student with an Incident slip. Student must report to the Faith Formation Coordinator(FFC)/ Site Coordinator(SC). The FFC/SC meets with the student to discuss the problem and possible solutions. The student remains in the office until he/she can identify the behavior that attributed to this situation. The student may return to the class IF they understand what they did and attest that their behavior will change. After class, the Catechist will visit with the FFC/SC to go over the details of what had happened, and if the situation was rectified or not.
- 3. If the student is asked to leave class a second time during the same class, he or she again reports to the FFC/SC with another Incident slip. The FFC/SC visits with the student. The student will remain with the FFC/SC for the remainder of the class. The FFC/SC will visit with the catechist after class. There will also be a call to the parent to notify them of the situation.
- 4. If the student is asked to leave class 3 or more times in a calendar year, parents will be contacted to notify them of the situation and ask for their help from home to rectify the situation.
- 5. Anytime there are 6 or more Incident slips turned in to the FFC/SC for any single student in a calendar year, Parents will be contacted for a Conference with the student, Area Faith Formation Coordinator, Catechist, and our pastor (if his schedule allows). At this conference, options on disciplinary actions in the future will be presented and agreed upon by all present.

For any concerns regarding the learning environment, parish facilities, or any other factors regarding the well-being of the child, parents are encouraged to communicate these concerns to the Faith Formation Coordinator/Faith Formation Assistant/Site Coordinator.

Enhancing the Journey

The journey of faith involves much more than classrooms, textbooks, desks, and papers! Young people will best "take to heart" the message of Christ when they have good Christian models all around them and when they have been given opportunities to practice their beliefs in real life situations. They will benefit greatly if the teachings that they receive on Wednesdays/Sundays concerning our Christian beliefs, values and practices are exemplified at home and carried over into their daily lives. Special opportunities to help young people live out their faith include:

FAMILY LEARNING:

Parents are welcome to join us at any time in the classroom. Occasionally materials for enriching faith at home will be made available. Families <u>are strongly encouraged</u> to make use of these resources as a way of opening the door for quality conversation within your family circle. Students may be asked to bring pieces of these back to class the following week to share with peers what was learned in the home. Please take the home lessons seriously. It is a great learning experience for the entire family.

SERVICE NIGHTS:

As an Area Faith Community, it is our goal to help students understand the beauty of living in community and supporting our fellow members of the Body of Christ! Other projects we could do throughout the year: Feed My Starving Children, Stuff the Bus, Backpack Program, local Nursing Home visits, etc. Parents are also welcomed and encouraged to create service opportunities for Faith Formation staff and classes. If you know of a great service project we can do, please let your Faith Formation Coordinator(s) know! Watch for more information to be sent home with children and in the bulletin; please support your child in their acts of service!

YOUTH GROUP/ YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

All Junior/Senior High Students are **strongly encouraged** to attend these special events, as well as to watch the calendar for other youth activities to help students grow in their faith outside of the classroom. Examples include:

- Youth Group Sessions
- Young Women's/Young Men sessions
- TEC Together Encountering Christ weekends
- Totus Tuus
- Steubenville Youth Conferences
- Catholic Heart Work Camp/Mission Trips
- And many more yet to be determined!

YOUR VOCATION AS A PARENT:

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children (CCC 1653). The home is where a child first experiences the Catholic faith. You teach primarily by the example you set. It is extremely important for children to experience the love of God in their homes. The Faith Formation Program aims to work in partnership with parents to assist them in living their vocation as educators of their children. The Faith Formation Program should merely complement, not replace, the catechesis that your children should receive in the home.

Please ensure that your children participate in the life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Finally, please make every effort to have your child arrive on time for their Faith Formation session. This is particularly important because our sessions are held only once a week. Your child(ren) should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes prior to the start of the session unless there are special events going on that evening.

We remind you that the role of a Faith Formation program can only be secondary to you, the parent. We encourage you to do all you can, and we promise to do the best we can to aide and guide the sacramental preparation of your child. We do not prepare children to receive their first Communion. Instead, we prepare children to receive their 500th Communion. In the same way we do not prepare children for their first penance, but instead to receive the grace and forgiveness of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis for the rest of their lives.

- Attend Sunday Mass together.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with your child.
- Do an examination of conscience with your child.
- Help your child to fully participate in the Mass. Remember if you do not sing or recite the responses, neither will your child(ren).
- Pray with your children, you are their first example of the faith. Examples of Grade level prayers/expectations are on the next pages.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Our faith is a complex and mature faith that takes a lifetime to develop and understand. For this reason, the Bishops of the Catholic Church tell us that adult faith formation is not only important, but IS NECESSARY – to the extent that it is considered the *primary* way to pass on the faith. "Catechesis for adults, since it deals with persons who are capable of an adherence that is fully responsible, must be considered the chief form of catechesis" (General directory for Catechesis). We agree that adult faith formation is necessary, and so we will be focusing on adult education at multiple times during the year.

Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation Students and their parents will be expected to attend four (4) Parent/Student Formation Nights throughout the 2-year process to Confirmation. Students are generally confirmed in the Spring of Year 2, after successfully completing all the necessary classes and learning experiences presented at the beginning of Year 1.

GRADE LEVEL PRAYERS

Titles	GRADE LEVEL Introduced	Prayers
Sign of the Cross	K or 1	In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
Guardian Angel Prayer	K or 1	Angel of God, My Guardian Dear, To whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day, be at my side, To light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen
Prayer Before Meals	K or 1	Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Glory Be	K or 1	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Hail Mary	2	Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
Our Father	2	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.
Act of Contrition	2	O, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen
Apostles' Creed	3	I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
Ten Commandments	3	 I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. 4. Honor your father and mother. You shall not kill. 6. You shall not commit adultery. 7. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
The Great Commandment	3	"You shall love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39)
The New Commandment	3	"This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you." (John 15:21)
Seven Sacraments	4	Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist Sacraments of Healing - Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick Sacraments of Service of Communion - Holy Orders, Matrimony

GRADE LEVEL PRAYERS

Titles	GRADE LEVEL Introduced	Prayers
The B eatitudes	4	Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Seasons of the Church & Colors	4	Advent - Purple (Blue); Christmas - White; Ordinary Time - Green Lent - Purple; Easter - White; Ordinary Time - Green
Corporal Works of Mercy	5	Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Shelter the homeless. Clothe the naked. Care for the sick. Help the imprisoned. Bury the dead.
Spiritual Works of Mercy	5	Share knowledge. Give advice to those who need it. Comfort those who suffer. Be patient with others. Forgive those who hurt you. Give correction to those who need it. Pray for the living and the dead.
Holy Days of Obligation	5	Dec 8–Immaculate Conception; Dec 25–Christmas; Jan 1–Soleminty of Mary Mother; 40 days after Easter–Ascension Thursday; Aug 15–Assumption; Nov 1–All Saints Day
Stations of the Cross	6	 Jesus is condemned to death. 2. Jesus accepts his cross. Jesus falls the first time. 4. Jesus meets his mother. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross. 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. Jesus falls the second time. 8. Jesus meets the women. Jesus falls the third time. 10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes. Jesus is nailed to the cross. 12. Jesus dies on the cross. Jesus is taken down from the cross. 14. Jesus is buried in the tomb. Jesus is raised from the dead.
Precepts of the Church	6	 You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. You shall confess your sins to a priest at least once a year. You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence. The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to their abilities. To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.
How to Pray the Rosary	7	1. Pray the Sign of the Cross and the Apostles' Creed. 2. Pray the Lord's Prayer. 3. Pray three Hail Marys. 4. Pray the Glory Be. 5. Pray the Fatima Prayer 6. Say the first mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer. 7. Pray ten Hail Marys while meditating on the mystery. 8. Pray the Glory Be. 9. Pray the Fatima Prayer 10. Say the second mystery; then pray the Lord's Prayer. (Repeat 7, 8 and 9 and continue with the third, fourth, and fifth mysteries of the day in the same manner.) 11. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
Fatima Prayer	7	O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.

GRADE LEVEL PRAYERS

Titles	GRADE LEVEL Introduced	Prayers
Hail, Holy Queen	7	Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this land of exile. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; lead us home at last and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus: O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary	8	 The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel The Visitation of Elizabeth The Birth of Our Lord Jesus The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple Finding Jesus in the Temple
The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary	8	 The Agony in the Garden 2. The Scourging at the Pillar The Crowning of Thorns 4. The Carrying of the Cross 5. The Crucifixion
The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary	8	The Baptism in the Jordan 2. The Wedding at Cana Proclamation of the Kingdom 4. The Transfiguration The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper
The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary	8	 The Resurrection 2. The Ascension The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth
The 7 Capital Sins	9	Sloth; Envy; Gluttony; Lust; Greed; Anger; Pride
Fruits of the Holy Spirit	9	Love; Generosity; Joy; Gentleness; Peace; Faithfulness; Patience Modesty; Kindness; Self—Control; Goodness; Chastity
The Nicene Creed	10	I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light form Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (At the words that follow, up to and including "and became man, "all bow.) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I Confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	11	Wisdom; Understanding; Counsel; Courage; Knowledge; Reverence; Fear of the Lord

Fun Prayer Ideas for Your Family

Your family can pray together in fun and unique ways with the four types of prayer:

- 1. Adoration (praise)
- 2. Confession (sorry)
- 3. Thanksgiving (thank you)
- 4. Supplication (please praying for needs of others and self)

Pray together at meal time or another time you gather together.

Complete the Sentence Prayer: Pray a prayer that has all four types listed above! For example:

- "Lord, you are...(praise and worship);
- "Lord, forgive me for...(confession of sin);
- "Lord, thank you for...(thanking God);
- "Lord please help...(praying for other's needs);
- "Lord, I need...(pray for your needs).

ABC Prayers: Take turns offering a prayer about something starting with each letter of the alphabet.

Global Prayer: Spin a globe (or flip through pages of a world atlas). Where your finger lands, you'll pray for that place in the world.

Bonfire Prayer: Each person holds a stick or small piece of wood. Say a prayer (silently or out loud), then toss your stick in the fire, symbolizing our prayers are given up in trust to God.

Bubble Gum Prayer: Give each person a colored gum ball and ask them to pray for something represented by the color they chose. Close with a big bubble AMEN!

Cube Prayers: On a wooden block or small square cardboard box, draw or stamp a different symbol on each of the six sides. Each person rolls the cube like a dice, then offers a prayer according to the symbol on top.

Ball Toss Prayer: Have a group of people stand in a circle. One person begins by holding a soft object like a Nerf ball or bean bag (be creative—go outdoors and use a water balloon!). The person holding the object offers a prayer then tosses it to someone else, who prays, and tosses to someone else. Continue until everyone has had the ball and offered a prayer.

Headline Prayer: With older kids, lay out the newspaper and let each person choose a story to pray about.

Hand Squeeze Prayer: Gather as a group in a circle. Hold hands and close your eyes. Choose someone to say a prayer. When they are done, they squeeze the hand of the person next to them and you go all the way around. (Give the option to "pass.")

Flashlight Prayer: In a dark room, give everyone a flashlight (you can also hand out colored tissue paper to cover the flashlight). With each prayer that is offered, the flight is flipped on then turned off. This can be done randomly or in a circle.

Paper Airplane Prayer: Ask each person to write a simple prayer on a sheet of paper. Form each sheet into an airplane and shoot it across the room after each prayer is read.

Paper Towel Prayer: Take a roll of paper towels and spend some time putting a prayer concern on each sheet. Re-roll! Every day tear off one sheet and life up prayers for that particular concern or person.

Parachute Prayer: Gather around a large sheet, with people holding on to the edges. Each time a prayer is offered, raise the sheet high, then lower it slowly.

Prayers of Healing/Blessing: One person kneels in the center of the circle and all others gather around to lay their hands on his head/shoulders/arms. Offer prayers of thanksgiving, healing, comfort, or whatever is needed.

Hat Prayer: Each person writes a prayer concern or joy on a slip of paper. All the prayers are tossed into a hat. Every person draws out a slip of paper and prays for that request. Be creative on the hat (could be baseball, cowboy hat, sombrero, etc.).

Washed Away: Each person is given a washable marker to write on their palm one sin they want washed away. Pray a prayer of confession. Bring out a basin of water, soap and a towel. Have each person wash their own hand OR another person's. Through baptism and Jesus' death on the cross, our sins are forgiven! Prayer a prayer of thankfulness as you raise your clean hands!

Candle Prayer: Light a tea light candle for every prayer that's offered. (Can be done as thanksgiving or as prayers for others' needs.)

Prayer Journal: Designate a notebook as your family's prayer journal to track prayer concerns and joys.

Chocolate Chip Prayer: Make chocolate chip cookies. At snack time, each person gets a cookie and offers a prayer of thanks for every chocolate chip they discover! E-Mail Prayer: Use technology to keep in prayer connection with far-off relatives! Create a family prayer chain that goes throughout your relatives' e-mail addresses. It 's a great way to share faith and learn about each others' lives.

Hand Prayer: Use your fingers to remind children of people to pray for:

- Thumb those closest to you (family and friends)
- Pointer those who lead and guide you (teachers, pastors, police, coaches)
- Middle those in authority (city, nation and world leaders)
- Ring this weakest finger reminds us of those who are sick, lonely or sad
- Pinky this smallest finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last

Prayer Calendar: At the beginning of each month, fill in a blank calendar with at least one prayer concern for each day. Use it every day, such as at dinner time.

Prayer Walk: Choose a specific location to walk around in. As you walk, pray for the needs of those associated with the site (i.e., school, hospital, etc.).

Signs of the Cross on my Body Prayer: This can be done individually or in pairs, each one making the sign of the cross as directed:

- On the ears (that I might listen for God's voice and hear God's Word)
- On the eyes (that I might see God's glory in all of life)
- On the lips (that I might say the name of Christ and speak of God to others)
- On the heart (that I might remember that I am loved by God and belong to Him)
- On the hands (that I might show God to others through my work and deeds)
- On the feet (that I might follow Christ and walk in His way)

Siren Prayer: When you hear the siren of a fire truck, ambulance or police car, offer a prayer for the driver, the person needing help, and their families.

Nature Prayer: On a gorgeous day, go outside and lie on the grass. Use all of your senses to experience God's goodness. Offer prayers for what you hear, see and feel in nature.

Prayer Chains: Cut strips of paper and write a prayer on it. Link them together! They can simply be a reminder of your day's (week's/month's) prayers or you could unlink them one-by-one as you pray together the prayer concern listed.