



*A Catholic family formed in faith, nourished by the Eucharist, and sent forth to spread the Light of Christ.*

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## Family of Faith Volume IV: Christian Prayer

Father, we thank you for another year of possibilities. Inspire us to put aside any fear or insecurity and joyfully lead our children to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. As A Family of Faith:  
May our ears hear your voice.  
May our eyes see your presence in our daily lives.  
May our lips share your word.  
May our hearts be filled with your compassion.  
May our hands do works of charity.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who shows us what it truly means to be human.  
Amen.

**A Family of Faith** seeks to strengthen families in which children learn the joys of following Jesus and the truths of the Catholic Faith through the witness given by their parents/guardians. Through monthly gatherings and print materials, parents/guardians receive everything they need to explore and to share the Catholic Faith at home.

The **goals** of the *A Family of Faith* program are 1) to encourage and equip parents/guardians to fulfill their God-given duty and privilege of educating their children in the Faith; 2) to support and nurture strong Catholic families who image the Blessed Trinity; 3) to provide parents/guardians the opportunity for continued growth in the Faith; 4) to build community and celebrate Catholic life together.

Specifically, **Volume Four** explores God's communication with His People throughout human history and God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him. As you and your children grow in faith together, your children will learn and grow through fun activities and through your example and witness to faith.

**Each month families will gather** to pray and to share their lived experiences with one another. Adults will then remain in the Parish Center for adult formation as the children explore prayer in peer groups.

**Following each monthly gathering, you will complete two lessons with your children at home.**

- You'll see that the **Parent's Guide** (PG) follows the same format from October through April.
- Monthly overview pages explain what your family will learn, questions your family will explore, words your children should know at the end of the month, the Saint of the month, car conversation starters, a Scripture verse and a memory verse.

- “Your Catholic Home” gives you one tradition each month to bring the Faith into your family life.
- A lesson overview page lists the age-appropriate activities from which you’ll choose. You will complete two lessons per month using the provided activities. **You do not need to complete every activity within each of the two lessons. You decide which activities will best help your children to fulfill the monthly objectives.** The activity icons indicate the type of activity: scissors for creative activities/crafts; trees for outdoor activities; a Bible for Scripture activities; an apple for direct instruction, etc.
- Each month features a Prayer Board activity (indicated by the purple icon showing a tack) that your family will display on your cork board. These activities help families to explore the various forms of prayer within Christian tradition and to remember how prayer is a response to God’s invitation to be in relationship.
- Each month ends with a wrap-up summary of the main ideas in each lesson as well as space to reflect on how your family formation experience is progressing.
- An **Essay Appendix** is provided in the back of the Parent Guide. For each Lesson a brief essay provides a summary of Church Teaching that assists parents in facilitating the Lessons.
- The website provides links to short videos that you can use with the monthly activities. <https://www.stambrosehaven.com/a-family-of-faith-yr-4>
- The **Activity Book** provides sheets that accompany several PG activities. The book is not meant to be completed by the child independently.

#### SEPTEMBER FORMAT

- September eases you into the program with 2 simple activities that review the Bible and basic Catholic prayers. (see PG 4-7)
- Prayer Board Activity—see PG p. 3
- Set the tone in September by deciding when your family faith sharing will take place. Choosing a consistent day/time is helpful.

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***“Family Catechesis...precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis. Thus there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children’s catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal.” –St. Pope John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae****