

10 Ways You Can Raise Awareness of God's Presence Within Your Family

1. Establish a **Prayer Center**.
 - Use a windowsill, table, corner of the counter – make it somewhere everyone passes throughout the day.
 - Display a Bible, Rosary or Cross maybe even a candle that can be lit when the family prays together.
2. **Setup a Prayer Dish/bowl/jar**.
 - Use a bowl or a container with a lid.
 - Put slips of paper and pencil nearby.
 - Encourage family members to write their prayer needs down and put them into the dish.
 - When the family prays together before a meal or at bedtime, pray for “the needs listed in our prayer dish/bowl/jar.”
3. Maintain a **“Liturgical Centerpiece”** on your family table.
 - Use tablecloth or place mat in color of the liturgical season, (i.e. green for Ordinary Time, Purple for Advent & Lent).
 - Throughout the year, rotate symbols of our faith or items appropriate to the time of year, for example, in May you could have a picture or statue of Mary as the centerpiece, during Advent, make your advent wreath your centerpiece.
4. Using the Bible, come up with a **family Motto** (check out Pinterest – there is some great stuff there 😊)
 - Hang or stencil it on a wall in your family room or living room.
5. Choose a **Family Mantra**
 - Examples include: (Leader) God is good all the time. (Respond) And all the time, God is Good! **Or** (Leader) As for me and my family (respond) We will serve the Lord.
6. **Pray before and at the end of meals**
7. **Customize Ritual Blessings**
 - (at Bedtime) Good Night (*name*), and God Bless you.
 - (upon Departing) “May your Guardian Angel protect you and return you safely to me”.
8. Employ a **Conversation Starter** before important or stressful discussions. “May the Word of God be in our minds and on our lips and in our hearts throughout our conversation”
9. Choose a **feast day as a special family day**. Serve special foods, have family members come up with prayers in honor of the day and the family. As a family research the history of the feast, when appropriate, invite children to perform a skit around the feast.
10. Designate one **meal a week for God Table Talk**.
 - What is one way you saw God in someone this week?
 - How were you Christ to your friends or our family this week?