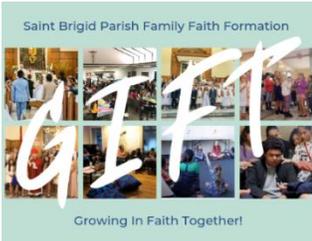


Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) – October 2021

Month Theme: “E” – Encounter & Entrance Procession



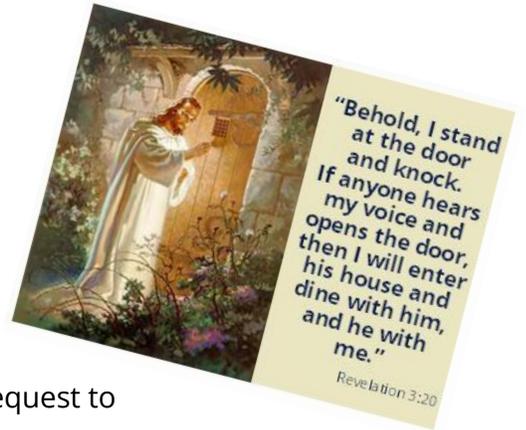
Home Kit Resources and Activities for the month:

Each month’s home kit includes resources and activities for continuing to grow in faith throughout the month!

In the month of October, we looked at how the Eucharist involves an “E”ncounter and also looked at the Entrance Procession as our highlight from Mass.

Scripture Memory Verse Card

- Swap out this month’s verse in your Magnetic Holder (received in the September Home Kit)
- October’s Bible Verse: Revelation 3:20
 - “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”
 - How does this passage make you feel about Jesus’ request to visit you?
 - How have you invited Jesus into your life and your family’s life? What could you do differently this month to make him feel more welcome?



Saint of the Month Card



Each month we will have a saint of the month, with a brief quote or prayer of theirs, and their card can get added to your family’s prayer card ring. If you are returning this year, you can add your cards to last year’s ring or start a new one!

- GIFT Cover Card and Key Ring
 - Includes our prayer for families from the September opening session
 - St. Thomas Aquinas
 - This month we included an excerpt from one of his Eucharistic Hymns:

“May the Bread of Angels, become bread for mankind; The Bread of Heaven puts all foreshadowing to an end; Oh, thing miraculous! The body of the Lord will nourish the poor, the servile, and the humble.”

- As a family, discuss what it means to you that Jesus became “bread for mankind” and/or what bread of angels or bread of heaven means to you?

NextStep Family Card: Come to the Altar

Use this Next Step Card from Evangelical Catholic to think about how your family prioritizes and prepares for Mass. Take some time over the next couple weeks to have a family discussion on ways to get more out of Mass. Make a plan and put it into action. Visit the EC Next Step website: <https://www.ecnextstep.com/courses/cometothealtar> for more resources and ideas.



COME TO THE ALTAR

1. Know your answer to the question, "Why do we have to go to church?"
2. Make Sunday Mass attendance non-negotiable.
3. Reflect on the Sunday Gospel as a family before going to Mass.
4. Ask your kids about their experience of Mass.

WHY DO WE GO TO CHURCH?
Kids can tell if you're going just because. Find your "why" for going to Mass and share it with them in meaningful, motivating ways. A few ideas:

- We love Jesus and want to be close to him. He's with us at Mass in a special way.
- It's the most powerful way to pray—even if we don't feel it.
- We get God's heavenly food at the altar to grow in our faith.
- Going to church is like the beginning of the week helps us put God first every day.

MAKE MASS NON-NEGOTIABLE
Make a firm commitment to go, and take that weekend accordingly. It's not always easy to get to Mass with kids in tow, but if it's treated as optional, kids grow up thinking of it as optional. Over time, it'll get easier!

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL
Before Mass, find the Sunday Gospel at bible.iceberg.org. Open in a short review, read the passage out loud and ask questions to spark discussion.

- What is this passage about?
- What part of the story do you have questions about?
- What message or message is this about?
- How do you think this person in the story feels? Do you ever feel like that?
- How does this apply to our lives?
- How was God present to you at Mass?
- What can we do this week to respond to what we heard?

WHAT'S IT LIKE FOR THEM?
Mass often feels boring to kids. Listen in on their experience.

- What did you find interesting about the readings or homily?
- What can we do this week to respond to what we heard?

Need a list brought to you by bible.iceberg.org www.ecnextstep.com

nextstep ecnextstep.com/courses/cometothealtar

Partners in Faith Monthly Newsletter

- Read through the monthly newsletter from Partners in Faith to get ideas on living the Catholic faith at home

Parts of the Mass Mini Posters



Use the mini posters on the Entrance Procession and the Sign of the Cross and their discussion questions to spend more time talking about these parts of the Mass this month.

All Saints Info Sheet and Faith Hero Interview

We celebrate All Saint's Day on November 1. Use the "Getting to Know the Saints" handout to learn more about our heroes and models of faith. Use the "Everyday Faith Hero Interview" sheet on the back to think of someone in your everyday life whose faith you admire. Spend some time as family interviewing that person and coming up with ideas of what you'd like to include in your own family's faith practice.



SAINTS BY OUR SIDE

Getting to Know the Saints Family Handout

There are many different ways to get to know the saints. Here are a few ideas to get your family started.

1. Celebrate All Saints Day (November 1). One of the great gifts of our Catholic faith is our rich tradition of honoring our heroes with sainthood. On All Saints Day, we recall and pray with these saints. It is important to continue to tell the stories of faith for their own lives.
2. Together as a family, name and tell of some of the traits that these people (saints and so on). After that, pick which is the Gospel proclaimed on that day described in the Beatitudes and reflect on it.
3. As a family, create your own book of favorite saints and create a "chapter" of a drawing or whatever helps to connect also focus on how this saint showed others and how we can learn from it. Create a decorative cover for your book.
4. Create an inspiration box based on a drawing, write an inspiring quote (e.g., "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because I have found the life that is in Christ Jesus, who died for us, that he might free us from all iniquity and purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good deeds.") Use any kind of container (plastic container) to hold your inspiring or motivational word, you can use a drawing of the saint as a family and the children are invited to reply with people you named in your lives will follow the example of these people.
5. Pray a Litany of the Saints as a family and the children are invited to reply with people you named in your lives will follow the example of these people.

Everyday Faith Hero Interview

Getting to know the Saints helps us have different heroes and models for living out our faith. But sometimes, it can be hard for us to relate to their lives, especially if they lived a long time ago or in a different culture.

Think of someone in your everyday life whose faith you admire (not a parent, grandparent, friend, neighbor, etc.). What is about their faith you like and/or want to include in your own life? Use this interview sheet and/or come up with questions of your own.

A Faith Interview with _____

What is your favorite prayer or way to pray?

When do you feel closest to God?

Have you always believed in God and/or had faith?

What is your favorite part about going to Church?

Whose faith do you admire and why?

Use this space to draw a picture or write down some ideas from the interview that you'd like to use in your own life or your family's life.