Year of Faith Thoughts for the Family

Describing Family and Faith Identity

Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith

Faith Themes
Through the Holy Spirit, Christ unifies us and makes us holy. The marks of Christ's church are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Natural Teachable Moments
- Before a family reunion, or when visiting grandparents or attending a get-together with extended family
- When celebrating a family tradition that your child loves
- When looking at our country's flag or that of another country

Many families have particular ways to identify themselves. For example, in Europe there is a rich tradition of crests, shields, and flags that carry a family's identifying symbols. In the Celtic world, colorful tartans identify traditional family names. In Latin American culture, the icon that unifies people and gives them a common identity is Our Lady of Guadalupe. Although she appeared in what is now the outskirts of Mexico City, she belongs not only to the Mexican people but to the entire hemisphere. Besides the Virgin of Guadalupe, Latin American people identify themselves by their respective flags and anthems.

The Catholic Church has ways to identify itself, too. Its particular characteristics are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. These four marks of the church are not characteristics that the church creates or develops or learns; they are qualities that Jesus Christ shares with his church through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the source of unity and holiness. The Catholic Church is one because of Jesus, who is its head and whose Spirit unites different people and a diversity of gifts into one body. The church is holy because of Jesus; as the church lives in union with Christ, the Holy Spirit sanctifies and guides its actions. The church is catholic (the word means “all embracing”) because its mission is to proclaim Christ to the whole world and to serve all people. And the church is apostolic because it remains faithful to the faith it received from the apostles.

How can your child see the holiness and faithfulness of the church? By the way members of the church love one another and make sacrifices to help other people in the world. Were people to look at your family as representative of the Catholic faith, what would they recognize in the way you speak, act, or relate to others? What identifying marks would they see in your family?
Absences: Please contact the office at 480-344-5226, or pam@olmctempe.com if your child will be absent. If your child has three (3) unexcused absences in a row he or she may be withdrawn. Unexcused absence means we have not heard from you to report your child’s absence.

Usually circumstances need to be discussed with the coordinator, Pam Myskowski.

Food for Thought
Don’t forget! When you are purchasing your Food for Thought Cards after mass or ordering online at www.olmctempe.com tell them you are an R.E. family so they will credit our account. This is a great year around fundraiser for our program with proceeds going directly to benefit the R.E. students, so please be as supportive as you can. Just using the Fry’s or Bashas rechargeable cards: 99 families x $100.00 a week = $297.00 weekly profit! And no extra out of pocket cost!

Thank You to Families who purchased Food Thought Cards in September & October: Hamm, Kedrowski and Tobin.

Safety
Parents must sign in their child(ren) in and out of class every-week. The sign in and out books are posted by each classroom door.

No Sessions
November 12th: Veteran’s Day
November 21, 22 & 25th: Thanksgiving Break!

Mass Attendance
Children and Family Faith sessions do not replace or count towards Mass attendance each week. Children in grades 1st grade and up are to be attending Mass weekly on a regular basis.
Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith continued...

Starting the Conversation
Talk about any crest, symbol, traditional celebration, ritual, sign, or fabric pattern that identifies your family as coming from a particular heritage or tradition. Share its history with your child and explain why it is meaningful to you. Then brainstorm together about what your family would put on a new crest or a family website that would show the world what you value.

To Help You Pray
Begin prayer with your child by inviting him to still his heart and mind so as to focus quietly on God's presence. After praying, give him a few moments to pray silently to God in his own words. You might say something like: “Now, if you want, take a few moments to say to God whatever you'd like. You can pray this silently in your heart—and I'll be doing the same.”

A Prayer Moment with Your Child
Let's thank Jesus for the gift of his church:
Loving Jesus, thank you for creating a church
that shares in your holiness and love.
Help me to love the church
and to identify with unity and holiness, as it does.
Amen

52 Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith: Opportunities for Catholic Families to Share God's Love
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Saint Facts for November
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

Feastday: November 18
Died: 1852
Canonized By: Pope John Paul II

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin (Feast day - November 18) Born in Grenoble, France, in 1769, Rose joined the Society of the Sacred Heart. In 1818, when she was forty-nine years old, Rose was sent to the United States. She founded a boarding school for daughters of pioneers near St. Louis and opened the first free school west of the Missouri. At the age of seventy-one, she began a school for Indians, who soon came to call her "the woman who is always praying". Her biographers have also stressed her courage in frontier conditions, her single mindedness in pursuing her dream of serving Native Americans, and her self-acceptance. This holy servant of God was beatified by Pope Pius XII in 1940 and canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988.
Donation Needs

Thank You!

Paper Towels
Popcorn
Pretzels
Dry Fruit Snacks
Animal Crackers
Gluten Free Snacks
Package juice drinks

Upcoming Event
Last Sessions in December 2012
Family Advent/Celebration!
More information coming Soon!

Children’s Ministry:

Monthly Children’s Mass: The First Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass
For Lectors, Greeters/Ushers, Gift Bearers and Children’s Choir.
Children ages 1st - 8th grade are encouraged take part in this ministry.
To Volunteer for the: Children’s Choir contact Kim at kim@olmctempe.com.
For Lectors, Greeters/Ushers, or Gift Bearers contact Pam at pam@olmctempe.com.

Next Children’s Mass is December 2, 2012

2011-12 Yearly Service Project ends Sunday, November 25th
Raising Money for the Children in Haiti
Raised $1200.00
Still time to raise more
Donations jars are by the Sign In & Out Books.
Every Penny Counts! Thank You!

The Children’s Offering Envelopes that will are available by all entrance to the church in the back
of church for children to use for their weekly offering.
Early learning and practice leads to a life time of giving.
**Child’s Thanksgiving Prayer**

Thank you God for all that grows,
Thank you for the sky's rainbows,
Thank you for the stars that shine,
Thank you for these friends of mine,
Thank you for the moon and sun,
Thank you God for all you've done!

Amen

**Family Thanksgiving Day Prayer**

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

Amen

**Mary’s Club**

Mary’s Club Meets the third Thursday of each month September - April
Open to all Parish Girls Kindergarten - 6th Grade

**Next meeting is November 15th**

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
**Where:** Fine Arts room located in the preschool building. Each month’s activities will include a

**Pray for the Children and their Families that are preparing to make their First Reconciliation during Advent.**

**Works of Mercy (in partnership with OLMC Elementary School)**

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”...Matthew 5:7

**St. Vincent de Paul Collections**

Please bring the donation(s) to the collection box located by the Atrium door.
Thank You!

**November: Canned Food**