

October Family Catechesis

Month of the Holy Rosary



St. Joseph Stringtown Holy Cross *St. Joseph Olney

Oct 2023

Welcome Families

We have a Catholic Faith filled year of Monthly gatherings, activities, and loads of family fun.

We will continue with the OSV Alive in Christ workbook. The online testing of eAssessments, Sacrament workbooks, Confirmation Service hours, lessons, and other items are all required.

We will have monthly Check-In's for All the Sacraments to foster the parish to home connection with a Team to communicate and share in the faith journey.

Each month will consist of:

- Catholic Faith Focus
- Live Your Catholic Faith
- Family Prayer
- Catechesis (teaching)
- Act of Love and more...

October Faith Focus Marian Procession & Rosary

- 4- Holy Cross 6:30 pm [CYM]
- 4- First Reconciliation Parent meeting & Confirmation Check-In
- 14/15 - Confirmation Commitment
- 21/22- Blessing Cup for 2nd graders

November Faith Focus All Saints Day

- 1- Holy Cross Mass 6:30 pm
- 1- Confirmation Check-In
- First Reconciliation Check-In
- 4/5- Blessed Candle for 3rd graders

Upcoming
event

All Saints Family Catechesis

November 1

Holy Day of Obligation

Come to Mass dressed as your favorite Saint
and afterwards enjoy an All Saints Trunk or Treat!



(Saint ideas listed inside newsletter)

Catholic Faith Focus October

How To Pray the Rosary

Praying the Rosary

1. While holding the crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.

2. On the first bead pray the Our Father.

3. Pray one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads for an increase in faith, hope, and charity. After the last Hail Mary, pray the Glory Be.

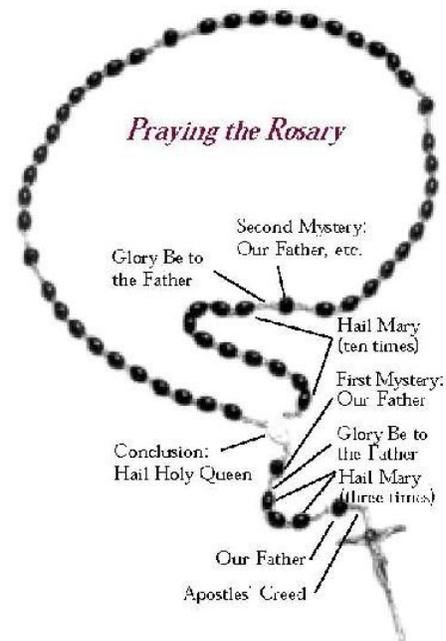
4. On the next single bead, announce the First Mystery, then pray the Our Father.

5. Pray one Hail Mary on each of the next ten beads while meditating on the mystery. After the last Hail Mary, pray the Glory Be.

6. After each decade and the Glory Be, say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy."

7. On the next single bead, announce the Second Mystery, then pray the Our Father. Repeat steps 5 and 6. Continue with the Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

8. At the end of the last decade and the Glory Be and the Fatima Invocation, pray the Hail Holy Queen.



Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

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

Hail Mary

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

The Glory Be (The Doxology)

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

Fatima Invocation

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Please see the Mysteries of the Rosary listed on the other side.



Mysteries

The Joyful Mysteries (Mondays and Saturdays)

1. The Annunciation of the birth of the Lord to Mary by the archangel Gabriel (Lk 1:26-38).

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: HUMILITY

2. The Visitation of Our Lady with St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist (Lk 1:39-56).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

3. The Nativity of Our Lord (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: POVERTY

4. The Presentation of the Christ child in the Temple (Lk 2:22-32).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: OBEDIENCE

5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: JOY IN FINDING JESUS

The Luminous Mysteries (Thursdays)

1. The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan (Mt 3:13-16).

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: OPENESS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. The Self-Manifestation of Our Lord at the Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mk 1:14-15).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: REPENTANCE AND TRUST IN GOD

4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord (Mt 17:1-8; Lk 9:28-29).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: DESIRE FOR HOLINESS

5. The Last Supper, when the Eucharist was Instituted (Mt 26).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: ADORATION

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays)

1. The Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mk 14:32-42).

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: SORROW FOR SIN

2. The Scourging (Jn 19:1).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PURITY

3. The Crowning with Thorns (Mk 15:16-20).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: COURAGE

4. The Carrying of the Cross (Jn 19:12-17).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PATIENCE

5. The Crucifixion (Mt 27:33-56; Mk 15:22-41; Lk 23:26-49; Jn 19:16-30).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PERSEVERANCE

The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesdays and Sundays)

1. The Resurrection (Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: FAITH

2. The Ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: HOPE

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: LOVE OF GOD

4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Song 2:8-14).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: GRACE OF A HAPPY DEATH

5. The Coronation of the Blessed Mother (Rev 12:1-4).
FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: TRUST IN MARY'S INTERCESSION

Live Your Catholic Faith:

Take one night a week and pray the Rosary as a family!

Family Prayer



St. Michael Prayer

Can a prayer be inspired by a battle? Pope Leo XIII wrote the Saint Michael prayer in 1884, after seeing a frightening vision: evil spirits, trying to fulfill Satan's boast to destroy our Lord's Church within a century, were engaging in fierce attacks against it.

Although the Pontiff also saw St. Michael casting Satan and his demons back into Hell in his vision, he was so horrified by what he had seen he felt compelled to help defend our faith in this struggle.

In the Saint Michael prayer, he throws down the gauntlet to "the father of lies" as Jesus calls the devil in John's Gospel (8:44), by enlisting the help of a very special Archangel:

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the Divine Power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam
throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.*

Saint Michael makes a great general in this fight between Christ and Satan for our souls! After all, we read in Revelation (12:7-9) that "there was a great battle in heaven; Michael and his angels fought with the dragon...and that great dragon...who is called the devil and Satan, who seduces the whole world...was cast unto the earth, and his angels [the demons] were thrown down with him."

Saint Michael's very name (in Hebrew, Micha'el meaning "Who is like God?") denotes the war cry uttered in that battle. Note that when we talk about Satan or the devil here, we are also referring to his "army" of fallen angels, the evil spirits referred to in the Saint Michael prayer.

Pope Leo XIII saw to it that the Saint Michael prayer was recited after every low Mass throughout the world.

Each of us has had our own battles against the dark side trying to turn us away from eternal life with our Creator. Satan's idea for our eternal life is one spent with him in hatred and misery and he's after as many souls as he can get!

As Saint Peter once noted *"be sober and watch, because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). "The evil spirits who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls" mentioned in the Saint Michael prayer have surely been busy, but in asking for help we can fight back against them every day.

Prayer and the sacraments are an essential part of what Saint Paul called the "armor of God" in his letter to the Ephesians. The Saint Michael Prayer can help us *indeed "stand against the deceits of the devil"* (Eph 6:11) by *"taking the shield of faith"* (Eph 6:16). Remember, God permits us to be tempted by the devil but gives us the grace to resist him through prayer in our daily lives.

Let us not be afraid to ask for Saint Michael's help in this prayer and others like it. We need to remember that each time we pray we work to defeat our real enemies, not each other, but rather the devil and his evil spirits.

As Saint Paul put it, we fight *"not against flesh and blood but against principalities and power, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness"* (Eph 6:12). With God's help in prayer, they can all be overcome. In 1994, Pope St. John Paul II asked us to pray the St. Michael Prayer.

Say this Prayer *daily* after your rosary, your Meal prayer, etc...

Family Prayer for October

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the Divine Power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam
throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen!*

Catholic Faith Focus for November

Saint Ideas for Girls:

- Saint Rita— Classic black robes.
- Saint Clare of Assisi— Carry a monstrance.
- Saint Teresa of Avila— Carmelite order, brown robes carry a book and a feather.
- Saint Scholastica— black and white robe and carry a crucifix.
- Saint Faustina— Carry a picture of the Divine Mercy image. Also, she had stigmata.
- Saint Katherine Drexel— black robe, with a black and white scarf and wear a big crucifix necklace.
- Saint Margaret Mary— long gown and carry a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Saint Marguerite— Her order wore fabric tied around their heads in white and black.
- Saint Therese of Lisieux— Carmelite order, brown robes. Carry roses and a crucifix.
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary— long gown and carry a basket with some bread and roses.
- St. Brigid of Ireland— Scottish Princess. Craft a St. Brigid's cross to carry with you.
- St. Helena— Long flowy gown and she carry a cross.
- St. Cecilia— She was crowned with roses and lilies by angels. If you dress up as St. Cecilia, be sure and carry an instrument!
- St. Rose of Lima— She is often depicted with a crown made of roses.
 - St. Lucy— Also known as St. Lucia. She wore a green wreath on her head with candles all around it. This crown gets paired with a white dress and a red ribbon tied around the waist.
 - St. Philomena— She wears flowers as a crown, and you can carry an anchor.
 - Mary— White fancy gown, and wear a tiara,
 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla. She was a modern doctor. Wear a white lab coat and carry a baby doll (or a little baby sibling).
 - St. Joan of Arc. Girl dressed in armor. Simple armor can be made from cardboard, duct tape, and aluminum foil. Armor can also be found at the Dollar Tree around Halloween time.
 - St. Zita. Wear a simple dress, an apron, and a handkerchief in your hair. Carry a broom or a duster. Can also carry bread or roses in your apron.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe— Wear a pink dress with a black ribbon tied around the waist. This is a symbol of pregnancy. Then you need a long blue veil with golden stars on it. You could paint them on with gold glitter glue or use gold foil star stickers. This is a great costume to pair with San Juan Diego!
- Our Lady of Fatima— Also known as Our Lady of the Rosary. Dress in a white gown with a white veil trimmed in gold with a crown placed on top. Carry a rosary.
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary/Our Lady of Lourdes—Wear a white dress or robe, and a white veil. Tie a blue ribbon or sash around your waist and carry a rosary.
- Saint Josephine Bakhita— She wears a fun bonnet!
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton— She wore a black, floppy bonnet.
- Blessed Anne Marie Taigi— She wears a white, ruffly bonnet.
- Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Dress as a Native American girl and carry a cross made from 2 sticks tied together.
 - Saint Agnes— white, or yellow gown and carry a stuffed lamb.
 - Saint Genevieve— Carry a candle.
 - Saint Mary Magdalene— Wear a long wig and carry a bottle of perfume.

Saint Ideas for Boys:

- St. George— Dragon slaying saint. Very superhero, wear armor, but not wings or a crown
- St. Michael— Archangel. Wear armor, carry a sword, and you'll need some wings and sandals.
- St. Ferdinand III of Castile— Armor, sword, and crown.
- St. Gabriel— White robe, wings and carry a horn.
- St. Francis of Assisi— Franciscan, brown robes. Safety pin some stuffed animals around your robe, or a bird on your shoulder.
- St. Anthony— Also a Franciscan. Patron saint of lost objects, so tape commonly lost objects (such as keys and tv remotes) around your robe. He is often pictured carrying the Christ child, so you could alternately carry a baby doll or little sibling.
 - St. Anthony the Abbot— Carry a crutch and a book.
 - St. Benedict— black robe and pin a stuffed raven to your costume.
 - St. Padre Pio—Wear a brown robe, a cross around your neck, put on a beard, and don't forget your stigmata rags!
- St. Ignatius - Founder of the Jesuits. Mostly pictured in black. He was a soldier when he was younger, so you could actually wear armor if you wanted.
 - St. John Bosco— Also generally pictured in black. He loved to juggle! Carry 3 balls.
- St. John Vianney—Black robe with a white shirt over the top and a green sash or scarf over your shoulders for his stole. Add crosses to the stole by hot gluing ribbon, or sticking on pieces of yellow electrical tape.
- St. Jose Maria— Wear glasses.
- St. Francis Xavier— Black robes.
- St. Vincent de Paul— He wears black robes and a black skull cap. This could also be made from felt.
 - St. Francis de Sales— Carry a sword and a scabbard in the shape of a cross.
- St. Andre Bessette— Andre worked as a farmhand, shoemaker, baker, blacksmith, and factory worker.
- St. Martin de Porres—carry a pair of play-dough scissors because St. Martin was a barber.
- St. Blaise— Usually pictured in purple. Carry 2 fake candles.
- St. Nicholas— Wear a white beard, red robe, and carry a little sac of chocolate coins.
- St. Athanasius— White beard, carry a book.
- St. Valentine—Wear red and carry a heart.
- St. Ambrose— Carry a beehive or a toy bumble bee.
- St. Gregory of Nazianzen— Carry a book.
- St. Patrick— Wear green and carry a shamrock.
- St. Pope John Paul II— Carry a big crucifix on a stick.
- St. Peter— Wear some keys tied to your belt
 - St. Joseph— He was a carpenter. Carry a hammer and ruler on your belt.
- St. James or John— Carry a string of fish or a fisher's net.
- St. John the Baptist— Wear fur and carry a cross and a shell.
- St. Matthew— Carry a money bag since the Lord called him while he was a tax collector.
 - St. Phillip— Carry a cross or loaves and fish.
- St. Andrew— Carry a "St. Andrew's Cross".
- St. John— His symbol is an eagle. • St. Paul— Carry a sword and a book.
- St. Mark— His symbol is a winged lion. Pin a Lion stuffed animal onto your robes. You could even cut your lion some wings out of paper and tape them on.
- St. Dominic Savio— Often pictured in a suit with a bow tie.
- St. Maximilian Kolbe - Wear striped pajamas, a beard, glasses, and a prison ID tag.
- San Juan Diego - Wear a sombrero and carry roses. If you have a sister, it would be great to pair this costume with Our Lady of Guadalupe!
- St. Florian - You can put together an easy firefighter costume by putting strips of duct tape and electrical tape around the bottom of khaki pants. Add some red suspenders and a hat.
- St. Olaf - if you have a Viking costume or a pirate costume, you're ready to go.
 - St. Isadore - A farmer costume is easy to throw together at the last minute
- St. Gerard Majella— Carry a bible, skull, and/or crucifix.
- St. Thomas More— Make a simple hat out of paper.
- St Jerome— Carry a stuffed lion or pin it to your costume.
- St. Thomas Aquinas— Carry a book and a feather.
 - St. Sebastian— Cover yourself in arrows.
- St. Dominic— White robe, black cape

Catechesis: All Hallows Eve Explained

HALLOWEEN- THE CATHOLIC WAY

What is HALLOWEEN?

"ALL HALLOWS' EVE" is where the name of halloween comes from. A hallowed person is another name for a saint. We call October 31 - All Hallow's Eve because it is the eve of All Saints' Day which is on November 1.

The mass that the Catholic Church celebrated on Nov. 1 was called "Allhallomas". This meant mass of all the hallowed (saintly people). It was commonly called "All Hallows' Day".

The night before Nov.1 became known as *Allhallowe'en*, which was short for "evening before All Hallows' Day." It was then shortened to what we now know as Halloween.

Why do we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day?

1 November 1 is a special day called the feast of All Saints. It is the day the Church celebrates with all the people who have died and are now with God in heaven. Everyone who has lived and died in Jesus' love is a saint. We do not know the names of all the saints. Some of these people were so much like Jesus that after they died, the Church said they were definitely in heaven.

2 November 2 is a special day called the feast of All Souls. It is celebrated in honor and remembrance of the souls of our dearly departed loved ones, and to pray for other souls that still need our prayers. The Church honors this day as a solemn day for all souls in purgatory who are being cleansed before entering Heaven.

How can we celebrate Halloween?

1. Dress up like "Little Saints"
Let's do our best to remind everyone that this day is the eve of the feast of All Saints. We honor the saints by dressing up like them instead of dressing up as anything that glorifies sin, horror or rebellion from God. By our good example, people will be curious to learn more about "All Hallows' Eve" and may even study the lives of the saints.

2. Visit the graves of our dearly departed
On Nov.1 and Nov.2, let's go to the cemeteries to pray at the graves of our dear departed. We can also adorn it with flowers and lighted candles.

3. Go to Mass
On Nov.1 and Nov.2, the most important thing we can do is to attend the Holy Mass and offer it for all the Holy Saints, and our dearly departed loved ones. By doing this, we give honor to them.

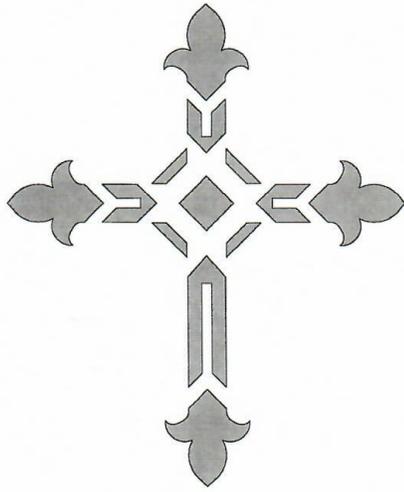
4. We say a prayer
While we celebrate Halloween, we pray to and honor our saints and pray for our dearly departed. We can say the rosary or other prayers at home or upon visiting the grave of our departed loved ones.

Act of Love

Do something *unexpectedly* good for someone.

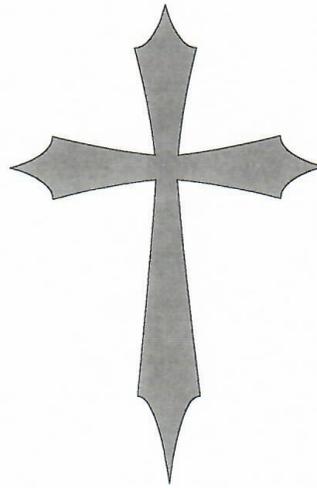
Stencils for your Pumpkin

Shine the **light of Christ** for all to see



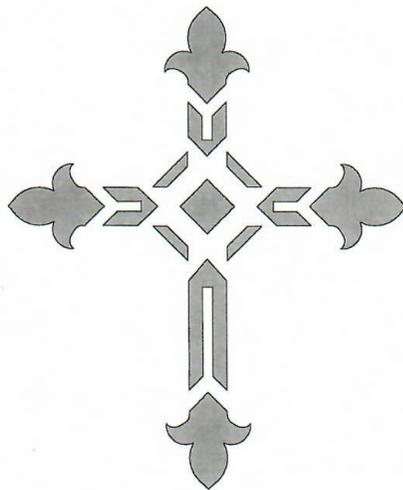
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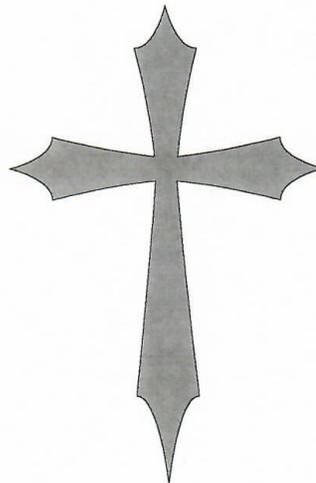
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