

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

March 2019

St. Boniface School
Sr. Miriam Kaeser, Principal

Thoughtful Moments

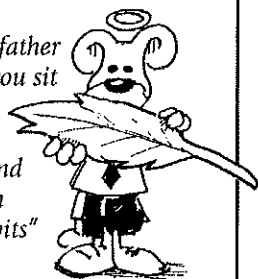
St. Matilda
St. Matilda was known for her beauty, holiness and intelligence. She was happily married to Henry the Fowler and had five children. Beloved by her subjects, she was known for donating generously to the poor. When Henry died, his two oldest sons fought over the crown. They persecuted Matilda for her generosity and took control of her money. Later, they apologized, but she chose to spend the rest of her life in simplicity and prayer in the convent.



Model cool

If we keep our cool when everything else around us is out of control, we model self-control and patience for our children. These valuable skills will help them to avoid temptation and sinful impulses long after they are no longer under our watchful protection.

"Remember your father and mother when you sit among great men; lest you be forgetful in their presence, and be deemed a fool on account of your habits" (Sirach 23:14).



Become someone new this Lent

March 6th begins Lent – the chance to become the person God intends us to be. The desert of Lent allows us time and space to take back control of our environment, become more present to our families, and revise the messages we send to others.

Take control. What can be shed? Sort through and declutter drawers, toy closets or living spaces with the goal of dumping unwanted and unneeded possessions. Choose one area a week during Lent. The end result can be clear space to store newer, more useful goods or the perspective to appreciate what is left.

Become intentional. Family life can become a treadmill of work, school,

sports, clubs, and activities. Yet, the ability to say "no" allows us to be intentional about how we choose to spend our time. Our primary need is for our family to connect with God and each other. These connections are from where our strength flows.

A "no" to others may be a "yes" to God and family.

Reform speech. How we speak is the primary way we build connection – with coworkers, neighbors, friends, family. This Lent, resolve to use speech only to build up others with positive words and phrases. Promise to reject swears or curses,

and use God's name only reverently and prayerfully. The benefits will be immediate and eternal.



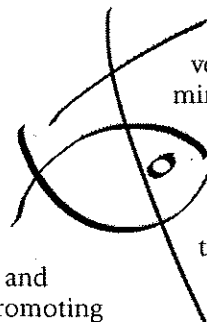
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics give up meat during Lent?

Beginning in the second century, Christians have traditionally given up eating meat as a sacrifice. Meat was considered a luxury the Church asked the faithful to do without during certain days and seasons. The Church isn't promoting

vegetarianism but is encouraging mindful sacrifice.

Today, we are still asked to make the small sacrifice on Fridays by giving up meat – especially during Lent – to recall the incredible sacrifice of Christ giving his life on the Cross for our salvation.

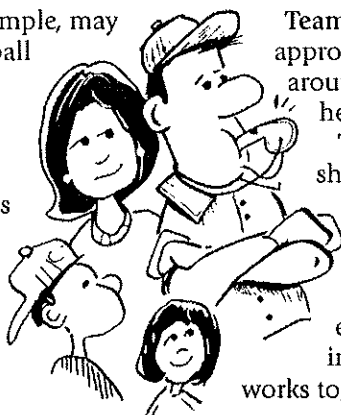


Raise a player for God's team

Playing on a baseball or soccer team, for example, may teach children how to be good soccer or baseball team players, but few adults still play baseball or soccer. Children need life-team skills that are best taught in the family.

Team players work for a common goal. One way to teach this is to give children chores and let them know that their contribution is important and necessary to the wellbeing of the family.

Team players obey the rules. Build these skills by setting family rules for behavior and performance, and enforcing them.



Team players follow instructions. Give children age-appropriate instructions for doing homework, helping around the house, or working on extra projects to help.

Team players share resources. Cheerfully sharing common resources like those in the kitchen or bathroom, for example, helps youngsters learn planning and cooperation.

Team players do their part. Skilled team players know that teams work best when everyone plays their part. After all, the most important team is God's team where everyone works together to win.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32, We can always go home again.

The scribes and the Pharisees were furious when Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners into his company. They didn't approve of Jesus befriending such people, especially when he was harsh with the scribes and Pharisees. In response, Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son.

The younger son asked his father for his share in the family estate and squandered it in a country far from home. With his money gone and his situation desperate, he returned to his father, humbled, and asked for mercy. Overjoyed by his son's return, the

father gave him a princely reception. This is the spirit in which God receives us when we come home to him.

Convinced he was the "good" son, however, the older brother resented the warm welcome his younger brother got. Like the Pharisees and scribes, he was miffed at the prospect of sinners becoming acceptable to God.

What can a parent do? Help your child to understand that no matter what we have done, we can always come home to God. He is always waiting to joyfully welcome us back.



Feasts & Celebrations

March 12 – St. Seraphina (1253): Born to a poor family in San Gimignano, Italy, she suffered from a mysterious, paralyzing illness. Once beautiful, she was disfigured and in constant pain. Abandoned, she found comfort in the sufferings of Jesus crucified and in the prayers of St. Gregory the Great. She bore her sufferings with extraordinary patience until her death.

March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland (c.461). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped by pirates and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but

later returned to become the bishop of Ireland. He is credited for having established the Church there.

March 19 – St. Joseph (1st century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families. We know little about him, but the Bible tells us he was a "righteous man" (Matthew 1:19). He is the patron saint of a happy death, because he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary.



Parent TALK



Tessa had a best friend in middle school, Vicky. One day, it seemed that Vicky stopped talking to her, and Tessa had no idea why. When she asked, Vicky wouldn't answer. Tessa was very upset and asked my advice.

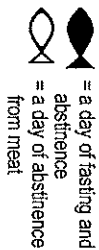
Together, we read from St. Matthew's gospel, chapter 18. In it, Jesus suggests always talking directly to one another when difficult situations arise. If that doesn't work, bring along a friend or two to see if they can mediate. If that doesn't work, go to an authority. Tessa thought that was a great idea, and asked her friend Sarah to help.

As it turns out, Vicky was having a rough time at home. A relative living with the family was unkind to her and Vicky felt alone. The girls went together to a teacher to get help.

Through this situation, Tessa learned that that Bible has all kinds of practical and useful advice.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible (Rev.))



Family Lent Calendar 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>						
<p>10 Pay close attention for something during Mass that you haven't noticed before.</p>	<p>11 As a family, adopt a priest or member of a religious order in your diocese and pray for him or her every day during Lent.</p>	<p>12 Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in a central place to keep the focus on him each day.</p>	<p>13 Contact Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS, catholicrelief.org) to see how you can help any of their ongoing projects.</p>	<p>14 Put a jelly bean (or candy of your choice) into a jar every time someone performs a good deed. Share together at Easter.</p>	<p>15 Avoid bickering. Try to find peaceful, constructive ways to resolve disagreements instead.</p>	<p>16 Set up a family altar using a crucifix, a candle, and a Bible. Include statues of favorite saints and pictures of loved ones for whom you want to pray.</p>
<p>17 <i>St. Patrick of Ireland</i> St. Patrick was influential in spreading the faith in Ireland. In his honor, pray for Catholic missions at dinner.</p>	<p>18 Forgive someone who hurt you today. Ask forgiveness of anyone you may have offended—even if you didn't mean to offend him or her.</p>	<p>19 <i>Solemnity of St. Joseph</i> St. Joseph is the patron of families, fathers, and travelers. Pray for families who are struggling.</p>	<p>20 Resolve to only use kind, encouraging words with each other today.</p>	<p>21 Serve pretzels -- a traditional Lenten food. The crossed arms of the pretzel symbolize arms crossed in prayer.</p>	<p>22 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together. It can be said on regular rosary beads. Find it here: http://ow.ly/XC69k.</p>	<p>23 Fill a box for a needy family or homeless shelter. Include canned goods, warm clothes in good condition, toiletries, and toys.</p>
<p>24 Light a candle in church today for someone who has passed away or who needs special help.</p>	<p>25 <i>The Annunciation</i> Read about the Annunciation together (Luke 1:26-38) and talk about ways you can say "Yes" to God this week.</p>	<p>26 Ask each person to share a game, toy, or treat with someone else in your home.</p>	<p>27 Review your Lenten offerings and refresh your commitment to them.</p>	<p>28 Prepare for Confession by making an examination of conscience, with the Ten Commandments and the Eight Beatitudes as guides.</p>	<p>29 Figure out how much you saved not eating meat today and put that money into the poor box at church on Sunday.</p>	<p>30 Go to Confession as a family. Go out afterwards for a treat to celebrate God's forgiveness.</p>
<p>31 <i>Laetare Sunday</i> Today, have a special meal to celebrate the halfway point of Lent.</p>	<p>1 April Choose someone featured in the news today and pray for him or her at dinner tonight and for the rest of the week.</p>	<p>2 Pick a friend or neighbor and perform an anonymous good deed for him or her.</p>	<p>3 Collect stuffed animals or soft pillows in good condition and bring them to a local nursing home.</p>	<p>4 Think of someone you don't like and say three nice things about him or her.</p>	<p>5 <i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i> In honor of St. Vincent, make and mail cards to express your gratitude for the work of your priests.</p>	<p>6 Hot cross buns are a traditional Lenten treat. Defrost frozen bread dough and shape into rolls. After baking, put icing crosses on them and enjoy!</p>
<p>7 Ask each family member to name something they learned or found interesting from the Gospel or homily at Mass.</p>	<p>8 Make Easter "sun-catchers." Decorate tracing paper with Easter symbols using colored markers. Hang them in the windows.</p>	<p>9 Go for a walk together and look for signs of new life.</p>	<p>10 Make an Easter basket for a friend. Fill it with favorite treats, a prayer card and a Rosary.</p>	<p>11 <i>St. Stanislaus</i> St. Stanislaus died as a martyr for his faith. In his honor, pray for Christians suffering for the faith around the world.</p>	<p>12 Go on a electronics fast from 12:00pm to 3:00pm, in memory of the three hours Jesus hung on the Cross.</p>	<p>13 Place any final donations into the box you set up on March 23rd. Make a family trip to deliver it to its destination.</p>
<p>14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Use your Palm Sunday palms to make crosses to place in the rooms in the house you use the most.</p>	<p>15 Tonight and every night this week, pray for the catechumens coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p>16 Make Triduum Tri-folds. Fold a sheet of paper into thirds (one for each holy day). On each fold, draw symbols representing the Last Supper, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.</p>	<p>17 Ask each family member to write a letter to Jesus thanking him for his sacrifice on the Cross.</p>	<p>18 <i>Holy Thursday</i> Read the story of the Last Supper at dinner -- either from Scripture or a children's version -- and discuss.</p>	<p>19 <i>Good Friday</i> Pray the Stations of the Cross as a family today and meditate on each one.</p>	<p>20 <i>Holy Saturday</i> Color Easter eggs as a symbol of the new life we receive in Christ.</p>