

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

October 2021

The Catholic Communities of Stapleton, Arnold and Callaway
Fr. Thomas Gudipalli

One Minute Meditations

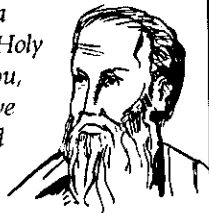
God is Love

God is the creator of the universe, who made everything from nothing. Yet, He is not a remote, uninvolved God. Nor is He an unforgiving judge waiting for us to mess up. Rather, God is our Father who loves us more than we could ask to be loved.

His temple

St. Paul teaches that "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own." We understand it is unhealthy to overeat or abuse drugs or alcohol. Yet, we don't always acknowledge the harm of watching movies and television shows with violence or sex, or listening to music with profane lyrics. God's temple deserves respect. "Therefore, glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

"Daily prayer is the foundation of sanctity. Some prefer it in the morning. Some late at night. However, whenever, wherever, it's a must!" Timothy Cardinal Dolan



"Lead us not into temptation ..."

No one is exempt from temptation. Being enticed by the attractions of this world is part of our human condition, but successfully fighting it makes us stronger and holier.

Watch for it. Temptation strikes when we are least able to fight it. Identify what tempts you most and try to anticipate when you are weakest. Then devise a plan of action – not just a resolution – to help you resist.

Pray through it. When Jesus caught His disciples sleeping in the garden instead of praying, He said, "Watch

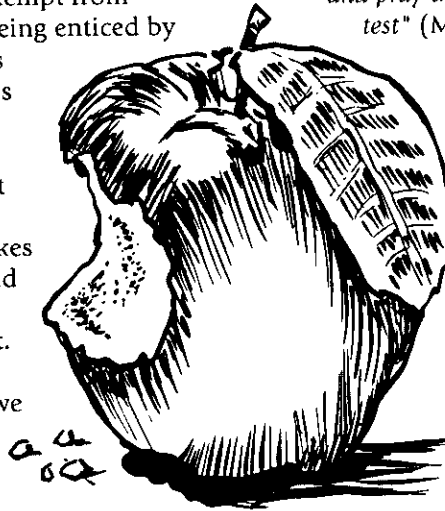
and pray that you may not undergo the test" (Matthew 26:41). Overcome

temptation by being alert to it and praying instead of indulging in it.

Run from it.

Sometimes fleeing temptation is the best way to resist it. "God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Avoid people, places or situations that give you trouble.

Don't start it. It is easier to resist temptation if you stop it when it starts. Then it won't have the force of habit. Though it is never too late to ask for God's help, the longer you live with the temptation, the harder it will be to turn to Him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

In Old Testament kingdoms, the queen mother played a significant role in her son's governance of His kingdom. Her power and authority flowed from her position as it related to her son.



Why do Catholics turn to Mary?

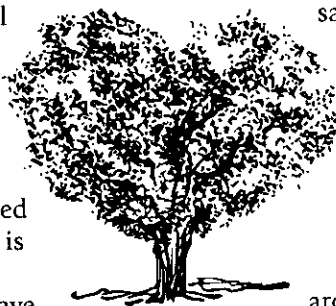
His subjects often petitioned her to speak for them. As Queen Mother of Heaven, Mary's purpose is to further her Son's kingdom. When we turn to her, she acts with her authority to bring our concerns to her Son, and He is always inclined to fulfill her wishes.

God's love never changes

It's only human to want to be loved. Unfortunately, even the best friend or lover will let us down once in a while. That can leave us lonely or searching for the wrong kind of love. Fortunately, God will never let us down. His love is the right kind of love to have.

His love never changes. Standards set by humans change over time. Something considered "in" today, can be "out" in no time. God's love is unchanging and unending.

Friends come and go. Sooner or later, you have



to leave your friends or they leave you. But Jesus said, "... behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God never leaves.

He loves us for who we really are.

There's nothing God doesn't know about us, and He adores us anyway. If God likes you, others will, too. To please God we have to fill ourselves with love for Him and other people, and that makes us even nicer to be around. Pass it on.

from Scripture

Mark 12:28-34 - The first Commandment

The Jewish authorities often tried to draw Jesus out and get Him to say something counter to Jewish law. That way He could be discredited – or worse. Yet, the strategy never worked for them. In fact, one of the scribes was so impressed by Jesus' response to a challenge by the Sadducees that he posed a question of his own. He sincerely wanted to learn from Jesus' answer.

The scribe asked which of the commandments was most important. Jesus said everything starts and ends with love – love of God and love of each other. To love God is to



love one another. They are as inseparable as the beams of the cross. While it is easy to love God, loving others is more difficult.

But true love of neighbor is measured by how we treat those who are neither family nor friends. It means including people when the natural inclination is to exclude or avoid them. Jesus loved prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even His political enemies. This is how God loves and He calls us to do no less.

Q & A Why is a Catholic Funeral important?

Although no one enjoys dwelling on death, most of us will mourn and bury loved ones in our lifetimes. Friends may counsel us to skip the church funeral and just "get it over with," but our faith provides the strength we need to deal with death.



The Church has created Rites to help us face the difficulties and reality of death.

Every baptized Catholic has a right to a Catholic funeral. The Rites of a Catholic Funeral include Prayers after Death, Prayers in the Presence of the Body, the Scripture Prayer Service at the Wake, the Funeral at Church (with or without Mass), and the Internment Prayer Service at the cemetery. Together these services not only make up the total Catholic Funeral Service, but also provide the Church's special prayers for the deceased. The Rites also support families and friends who are grieving for their loved one.

Catholics are entitled to a Catholic Funeral whether they are frequent or infrequent Mass attendees. (For specific questions, check with your local parish.)

Feasts & Celebrations

In October we celebrate the Rosary especially on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. The Rosary helps us to meditate on Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

October 6 – St. Bruno (1101). Bruno was born in Germany, studied in France and became a theology professor. With six other companions, Bruno founded the Carthusian Order in 1084 and helped reform the clergy in Rome.

October 14 – St. Callistus I (222). A Roman slave, Callistus obtained his

freedom and was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callistus's election caused an eighteen-year schism, spawning the first anti-pope. In a time of trial and confusion, he reopened the Church to all. He was martyred in Rome.

October 20 – St. Paul of the Cross (1775). Paul was inspired by a vision to start a religious order dedicated to the Passion of Christ. He founded the Passionists in 1720, lived a penitential life, worked miracles, and cared for the poor and sick.



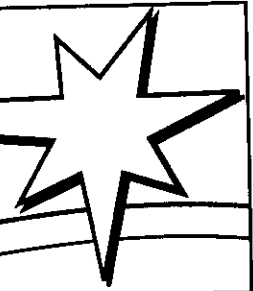
Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

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Thoughtful Moments

"No" is a loving response

Parents know that to build responsible adults, we have to wean children from an expectation of instant gratification. Youngsters must learn to separate wants from needs. They don't always want what is good for them. When we say "no," we empower them to practice virtues of self-control, prudence, and moderation.

Always pray

Remind children that even when they feel alone, God is there. Explain that He never will leave them and always hears when they talk to Him. Teaching your children to pray whenever they are frustrated, angry, and nervous, or even when they are happy, helps them remember that they have a direct line to Jesus. He promised to be with us always, even to the end of time.

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day."

St. Gianna Molla



Raise children who care

Studies show that children have the capacity to be empathetic and compassionate from a young age, but to become caring, ethical people, they need adult guidance to develop the necessary virtues. Teaching children to care about others is a powerful step toward helping them to live Jesus' commandment to "love one another."

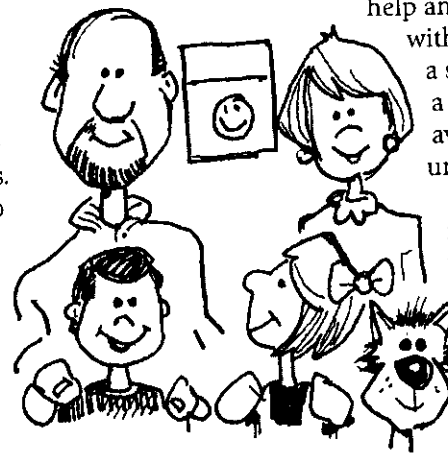
Show that it matters. A popular reaction to others' misfortune is to laugh or find it funny. Don't indulge. Instead, point out the reaction of the person involved. For example, "That girl who got splashed when the car hit the puddle is not laughing. Look at her face. She looks sad and uncomfortable."

Demonstrate that you care. Let children catch you in the act of kindness by putting yourself out to help an elderly neighbor with yardwork, giving a sympathetic ear to a troubled friend, or avoiding uttering an unkind word.

Don't respond to rudeness. Explain that there are many reasons why someone could be rude, "Wow, that cashier must have had a really bad day to talk in such a mean voice to us at the supermarket. What

do you think?" This teaches your child that when someone is nasty to you, you don't have to be mean in response.

Acknowledge kindness. Show that you notice when your child does something kind. Acknowledge and praise the effort.



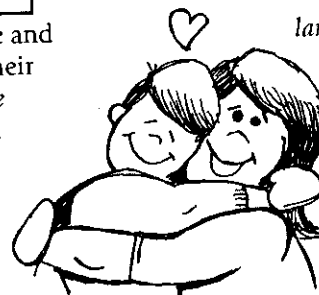
Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics teach children filial piety?

Filial piety is reverence and respect children show their parents (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2215). This helps children respond to the Fourth Commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the

land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

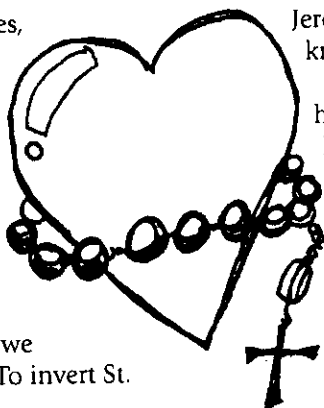
Catholics also expect children to respect their brothers and sisters as a contribution to harmony and holiness in family life. In turn, parents build in children the foundation for a life of faith.



October is the month of the Rosary

The Rosary is a powerful prayer to which popes, saints, and Catholics have turned over the centuries for miraculous help in seemingly impossible situations. When we inspire a love for this time-honored devotion in our children, we gift them with the skill to avoid sin and strengthen their faith throughout their lives.

A connection to the Gospels. The mysteries of the Rosary describe the events of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. By praying the Rosary, we remember these events described in Scripture. To invert St.



Jerome's famous quote, knowledge of Scripture is knowledge of Christ.

The prayer of virtue. We are all called to be holy and virtuous, but what does that look like? Praying the Rosary and meditating on the lives of Jesus and Mary gives us models of virtuous lives, from Mary's obedience during the Annunciation and her fortitude during the crucifixion, to Jesus' entire life of virtue - justice, temperance, and courage, in particular. Regular Rosary meditation opens us to the graces needed to acquire those very virtues.

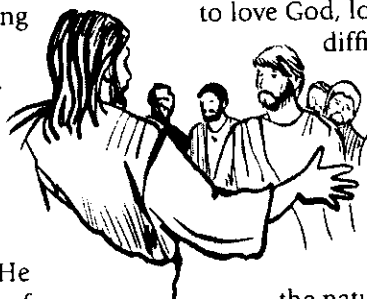
Scripture LESSON

Mark 12:28-34 - What is most important?

Jesus threatened the comfortable life of hypocrisy the scribes and pharisees enjoyed at the expense of the Jewish people. They worked to discredit Him by tempting Him to say something that violated Jewish law. The strategy never worked for them. In fact, Jesus' wisdom impressed one of the scribes so much that he asked to hear more. He sincerely wanted to learn from Jesus' answer.

The scribe asked which of the commandments was most important. Jesus said everything starts and ends

with love - love of God and love of each other. To love God is to love one another. They are as inseparable as the beams of the cross. While it is easy to love God, loving others is more difficult.



What can a parent do? True love of neighbor is measured by how we treat those who are neither family nor friends. It means including people when

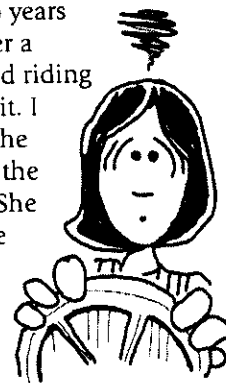
the natural inclination is to exclude them. Remind children that Jesus loved thieves, lepers, even His political enemies. This is how God loves and He wants us to do the same.

Parent TALK

When Kara was two years old, my sister gave her a toddler car. Kara loved riding around the house in it. I watched one day as she rammed the car into the wall and stopped it. She got out, slammed the door and yelled, "\$#&*!"

I admit, I used profanity and showed more temper than I should. Seeing my beautiful toddler mimic my behavior was shocking. It was a clear signal that my tiny daughter was watching what I did with an eye toward imitation. I felt humbled and ashamed.

Since that time, I have worked to authentically live my Catholic faith each day, not just on Sundays during Mass. I realized that if I wanted my children to be faithful Catholics, I had to be one myself. Now we are all aware Jesus is present in our family and we want Him to be pleased by how we live.



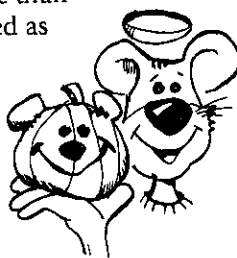
Feasts & Celebrations

October 14 - Saint Callistus I (222). Born a slave in a Roman household, St. Callistus was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callistus fought against heresy and showed compassion toward sinners. He was martyred in Rome.

October 20 - Saint Paul of the Cross (1775). Born in Italy to a poor but noble family, St. Paul was inspired by a vision to start a religious order dedicated to the Passion of Christ. He founded the Passionists in 1720 and was elected superior general of the order. He became a priest, lived a

penitential life, and cared for the poor and sick.

October 24 - Saint Anthony Mary Claret (1870). St. Anthony became a traveling preacher in the Catalonia region of Spain before becoming the archbishop of Cuba. In 1849, he founded the Claretian orders and the Religious Publishing House that published more than 200 works. He served as confessor to Queen Isabella II and defended the doctrine of infallibility in the First Vatican Council.



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