

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

June 2021

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

## One Minute Meditations

### Baptismal bargain

When we are baptized, God forms an unbreakable covenant with us promising His unconditional love. *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39). Our part of the bargain is to obey him and love Him, and put Him first in our lives. At Baptism, we are marked as God's child for life. That won't change.

### A perspective check

*"Do not lose your inward peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset."*

St. Francis de Sales

### Adoration

*"The acknowledgment of God as God, Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists ... The first commandment of the law obliges us to adore God"* (Catechism of the Catholic Church).



## Make a difference to your parish

The Catholic parish is a place of wonder and awe. It is in the arms of our parish that we experience God's love, and share it with others. Each parishioner is important to a parish, especially now. Consider these ideas to make a difference to yours:

**Take your place.** As pandemic restrictions ease around the country, you can once again take a seat at your parish table. You take it when you attend weekend Mass, seek peace from Sacraments such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, and participate in parish ministries.

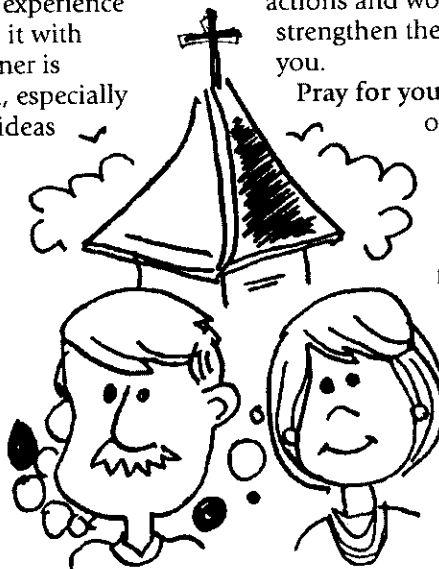
**Boost the faith of others.** Even the strongest Catholics can sometimes falter

in their faith. Look for opportunities to share Gospel values through your actions and words and you will strengthen the faith of those around you.

**Pray for your parish.** This is one of the most important contributions you can make. Join parish intentions to your own in daily prayer. Pray for parish ministries. Offer prayers for your priests and parish staff.

**Build it, serve it, or pay for it.** When there is a need in the parish, don't wait for an invitation. Your parish family depends upon your efforts.

**Help it grow.** Invite friends, coworkers, or neighbors to join you in worship. Your parish might be the spiritual home they've been searching for.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do priests wear a white collar?

The white collar or "Roman collar," dates back to the 15th century when priests placed linen or cotton collars over their outer clothing to be easily distinguished. This evolved into the collar we see on most priests today when wearing their black "clerics."



According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), "Outside liturgical functions, a black suit and Roman collar are the usual attire for priests." When wearing a white collar, it means he's "on duty" to give blessings, offer counsel, and administer Sacraments.

# Savor a saintly summer

The slower pace of summer offers opportunities to nurture faith in creative ways not feasible in hectic times. Consider these ideas:

**Visit a shrine.** Holy places where relics are preserved, an apparition has taken place, or one that encourages a particular belief or devotion offer opportunities for prayer and pilgrimage. Look for directories of shrines in the U.S., including [www.catholicshrines.net](http://www.catholicshrines.net) or from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) <http://ow.ly/OYvj30bAayl>.

Attend daily Mass. Meeting God in the

Eucharist begins a summer day with grace. Daily Mass is a full Catholic immersion in Christ, in the Sacraments, and the saints, all at once.

**Gather with other Catholics.** As we emerge from pandemic conditions, spending time with other Catholic friends can provide a community of faith-filled companions. Attend Mass together, socialize together, brainstorm Gospel-centered life solutions together.

**Look for signs of God's love.** Find a park or green space near you where you can center your heart and mind on Jesus. Observe His creation and become more aware of His presence.

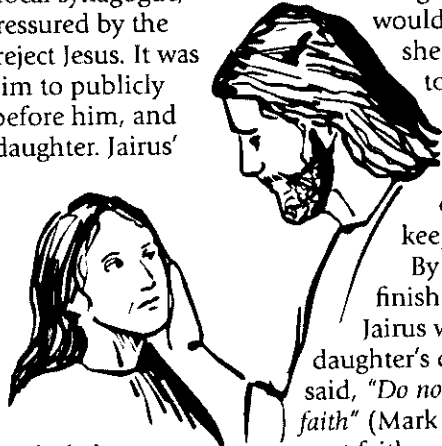


## from Scripture

### Mark 5:21-43, Faith in action.

As the leader of the local synagogue, Jairus was probably pressured by the Pharisees to avoid or reject Jesus. It was a courageous act for him to publicly approach Jesus, bow before him, and beg for a cure for his daughter. Jairus' faith in Jesus was that strong.

On the way to Jairus' home, Jesus was delayed by a woman with a serious hemorrhage. According to Jewish law, her constant bleeding would have excluded her from most social contact. She thought Jesus wouldn't want to touch her and secretly grabbed His cloak



believing that any contact would cure her. In fact, she was cured, but Jesus told her that it was her faith that provided the cure. We should never allow fear of our unworthiness to keep us from God.

By the time Jesus finished with the woman, Jairus was told of his daughter's death. Jesus simply said, "Do not be afraid; just have faith" (Mark 5:36), and Jairus' great faith was rewarded. No matter how desperate your situation may appear, trust Jesus to help. Even death is under His control.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**June 11 - Sacred Heart of Jesus.** The image of Jesus with His heart exposed in unquenchable flame is a reminder of His intense and eternal love for us.

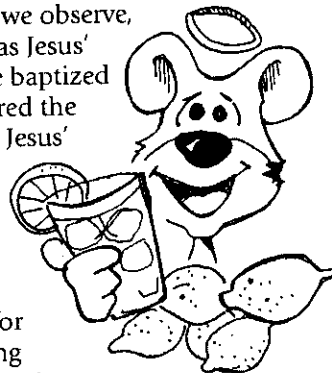
**June 22 - Immaculate Heart of Mary.** In response to a request by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1945.

**June 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591).** St. Aloysius prayed vigorously and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was ordered to cut back on penance in order to

study and spend time with the other students. He died while nursing the sick.

**June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist.** The only saint whose birth and death we observe,

St. John was Jesus' cousin. He baptized and prepared the people for Jesus' coming. He even baptized Jesus and was later executed for denouncing Herod's marriage to his sister-in-law.



## Q & A

### Is there really such thing as sin?

Dealing with sin is uncomfortable and following God's rules is hard. The world tells us that sin doesn't exist. While we may think we are "good" and others may look up to us, eventually God will decide if we have been "good." Since His opinion is the one that matters, His rules rule.

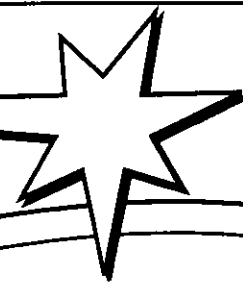


**Sin is real.** The world tells us that sin doesn't exist but Catholics know that "sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*) The law can be found in the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and in Scripture. The law says sin is real.

**Unconfessed sin separates us from God.** "For you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt" (Isaiah 64:6). Avoiding guilt means missing God's forgiveness. Each evening, examine the day's actions and ask if they would please God or not. Resolve to do better and take steps to change. Seek absolution through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living, Success Publishing & Media, LLC, Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™* (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax <http://www.infaithpublishing.com> (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2021

The Catholic Communities of Stapleton, Arnold & Callaway  
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## Thoughtful Moments

### Afraid of mistakes?

Sometimes we get overwhelmed by the weight of our job as parents. We worry that our mistakes will have lasting negative consequences. "Your every act should be done with love" (1 Corinthians 16:14). Remember that if all you do is performed with love, based in love, and out of true love, you will be in harmony with God's will.

### A good friend

When we see someone doing good, we are inspired to do good, too. The opposite is also true. Children whose consciences are still being formed can be easily led into sin by the bad examples of their friends. Be watchful about the company children keep and encourage friendships with those who do good.



### Thou shall not kill

One way to model the 5th Commandment is to avoid watching television shows or movies about killing and to refuse to allow violent video games.

### For fathers

"In word and deed honor your father that his blessing may come upon you; For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots" (Sirach 3:7-9).



## Teach children to love being Catholic

Catholic parents aim to help children ultimately return to God in Heaven. Their best opportunity for doing so is to grow up surrounded by adults who authentically practice their Faith and to remain active and practicing Catholics throughout their lives. Try these tips to help children love being Catholic:

**Encourage awe and wonder.** What happens between God and his children is stunning. Give youngsters opportunities to experience the awe and wonder of a personal relationship with God through liturgy, sacraments, devotions, acknowledging answered prayer, encountering creation, and more.

**Answer questions.** Asking questions

is a normal part of growing up. Encourage questions and answer all you can. Keep a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* handy or refer to

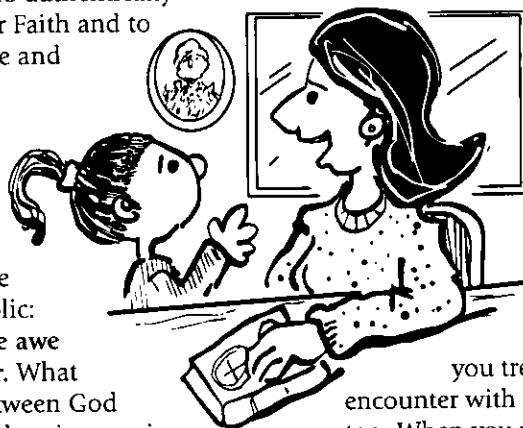
it online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). The glossary makes it easy to find topics. If you get stumped, ask your priest for help.

**Share what you love.**

Children imitate what they see and hear at home. When

you treat Mass as an encounter with Christ, children will, too. When you worship and pray together, children absorb your love.

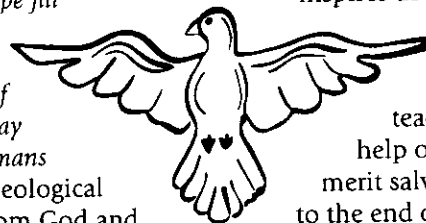
**Don't force it.** The surest way to turn children off is to try to force a child to love being Catholic. Instead, show all that is loveable, open the Church door, and invite her in. Let the Holy Spirit do the rest.



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why do Catholics have hope?

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13). Hope is a theological virtue that comes from God and

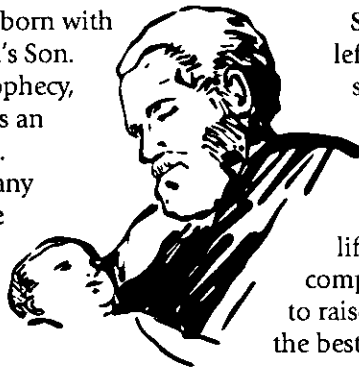


inspires us to await eternal life. It inspires us to place our trust in Christ's promises. This virtue teaches us to rely on the help of the Holy Spirit to merit salvation and to persevere to the end of our earthly life.

## The best father on Earth

Scripture doesn't tell us that St. Joseph was born with special graces, yet he was chosen to raise God's Son. The Bible doesn't say that he had a gift of prophecy, yet Joseph never doubted God's word. He was an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life.

**Ever faithful.** It would have been hard for any man to believe his fiancé was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. As a faithful Jew, though, Joseph knew what was written about the birth of the Savior. His devotion to God's Word helped him recognize God's will.



**Steady protector.** At a moment's notice, Joseph left everything behind to whisk his family to safety (Matthew 2:13-15). Joseph's hard work and skill helped keep his family safe in a foreign land.

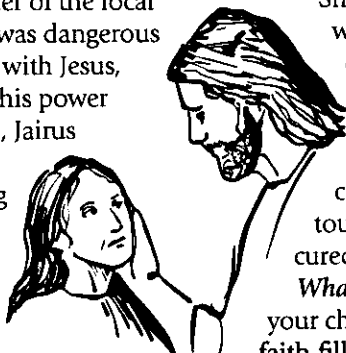
**Good man.** Scripture calls St. Joseph, a "righteous man," meaning he lived a virtuous life (Matthew 1:19). For example, he was compassionate by his treatment of Mary. Who better to raise the Son of God and care for his Mother than the best father on Earth?

### Scripture LESSON

### Mark 5:21-43, Rewards of faith.

Jairus had a daughter who was critically ill. As the leader of the local synagogue, he knew it was dangerous to have anything to do with Jesus, let alone acknowledge his power as the Son of God. Still, Jairus risked everything to approach Jesus and beg for his daughter's cure. He believed that Jesus could and would help him, and he was rewarded for his faith.

There was also a woman suffering from a serious hemorrhage. According to Jewish law, her constant bleeding would have made her unclean, and most people



would have nothing to do with her. She was afraid Jesus wouldn't want to touch her either, but she knew he had the power to cure her. So great was her faith that she was convinced she could just touch his garment to be cured.

*What can a parent do?* Tell your children of these two faith-filled people and how their faith was rewarded. Remind them that they can turn to Jesus and trust him to help in any situation. Great things are possible when we believe.

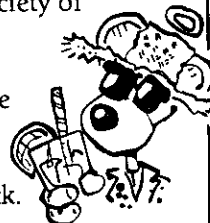
### Feasts & Celebrations

This month we honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The unquenchable flame of the Sacred Heart symbolizes Christ's unending love for us. Mary's pure mother's heart goes out to everyone loved by Her Son who loves Him back.

**June 1 – St. Justin (165).** When ordered by a pagan judge to renounce his faith or die, St. Justin responded, "Nobody in his senses would give up truth for falsehood." He was beheaded as a result.

**June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga and his companions (1886).** While serving Ugandan King Mwangi, St. Charles and 21 of his friends were executed for refusing the evil king's immoral demands. They were all baptized before they died.

**June 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591).** St. Aloysius prayed vigorously and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was told to ease up in order to study and spend time with the other students. He died while nursing the sick.



### Parent TALK

It has become challenging to get help around the house. I agree that chores are boring, but our home will only work well when we pull together.



I decided to implement some new rules.

First, each bed has to be made, clothes in the hamper, and bedrooms tidied before a screen gets turned on. This way, children learn that responsibilities have to be met before enjoying free time.

Next, I assigned each child a set of household chores and a timeframe in which it has to be completed. If someone beats that time, the minutes saved will be added to their screen time.

Finally, each person will take a turn as Inspector Clutter. The Inspector roams the home looking for stray possessions and "jails" them in a basket. To bail them out, the owner must perform an extra chore.

Motivation and humor will surely be more effective than nagging!

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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