

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2011

St. Matthew Catholic School

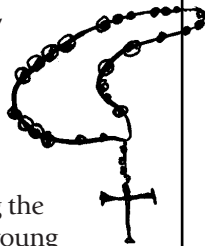
Beverly Viotti, Principal



## Thoughtful Moments

### Settle for Mass

If your children have trouble settling down for Mass, try arriving 15 minutes early and praying a decade of the Rosary together. Kneeling together in the quiet church and whispering the prayers will give even young children the idea that church is for praying not for playing.



### Exit quickly

After Mass is over and the recessional hymn is finished, try not to linger in the church if others are staying behind to pray. Many people choose to pray in the presence of the Eucharist and get distracted by noisy, after-Mass conversations. Perhaps you can visit with fellow parishioners in the vestibule of the church or another appropriate place after Mass has concluded.

### Emmaus walk

After the Resurrection, Jesus met two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. Take a walk as a family on Easter Sunday (April 24th) and talk about the miracle of God's love for each of us.



## Regular spiritual family checkups

Just as taking children to the pediatrician for regular checkups is important for maintaining their physical health, regular maintenance is important for a family's spiritual health. Try these suggestions for crafting a schedule to keep your family on track, moving together toward Heaven:

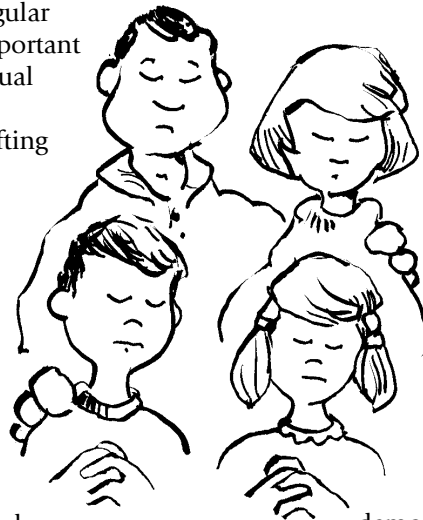
**Daily:** Take time to pray together in the morning before the day begins and at night when it ends. Ask God to help you grow strong as a family in his love.

**Every week:** Attend Mass as a family whenever possible. If activities interfere, split up but don't let anything keep you from bringing your children to Mass each Sunday and Holy Day.

**Every Month:** Everything children need to know to build strong consciences and make good decisions is in the Bible. The key is knowing where to look. Take time each month to read Scripture together and discuss how its lessons apply to your lives.

**Every year:** Spend a whole day in a favorite park or vacation spot playing and praying outdoors. Center your day around God, thanking him for your blessings.

**Regularly:** Find ways to demonstrate praise and affection to each person in the family – adult and child – and make time to talk alone with each one. Don't forget, spouses need attention, too. Children learn about receiving and giving God's love from their families.

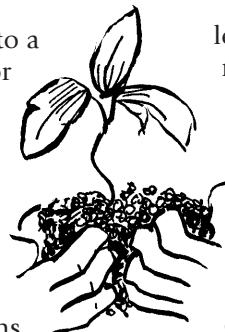


## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## What is the Catechumenate?

A person who enters into a period of instruction prior to Baptism into the Catholic Church is called a "catechumen" and the process of formation is called the "catechumenate."

During the period of formation the catechumens



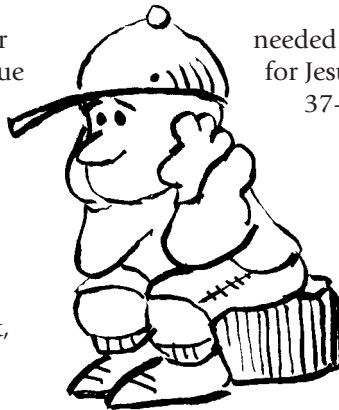
learn Catholic doctrine so they can make an informed renunciation of sin and Satan, and continue to grow in holiness and mature faith.

At the Easter Vigil, the catechumens are Baptized and Confirmed, receive the Holy Eucharist, and become full members of the Catholic community.

## Our Father understands

Sometimes we make the same mistakes over again until we get it right. This is especially true of children who can take more time to learn new skills. The good news is that we have a loving Father who gives us credit for trying, even if we don't always succeed at first. The key is to keep trying. Remind children ...

**God knows we won't always get it right.** Jesus especially understands that we are human and that we will struggle. Don't forget, his best friends disappointed him when he



needed them most. Even Peter vowed to lay his life down for Jesus and then denied even knowing him (John 13: 37-38).

**Practice makes holy.** Avoiding sin requires a collection of skills and virtues that only come through practice and discipline. Even saints struggle.

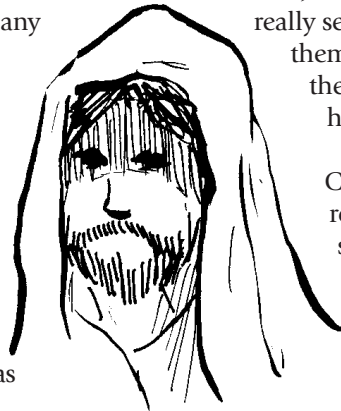
**Get help.** We aren't meant to do it on our own. Jesus wants to help. *"Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

### Scripture LESSON

## Luke 24:13-35, the real Jesus

Once his followers found out that Jesus was the Messiah, many formed opinions of how he should behave and what he should do with his power that had little to do with the man he was. When he died such an awful death, many of them were left shocked, disappointed, and wondering if he really was the Messiah.

Cleopas and his friend, two of Jesus' followers, talked about their shock and grief as they walked to Emmaus. They had such clear ideas of what they



wanted Jesus to be that they failed to really see him. When he joined them on the road that day, they didn't even recognize him.

**What can a parent do?** Children often want God to reveal himself in spectacular ways that have little to do with who he is. In fact, parents can teach children that the real way to find out who

God is requires taking the time to be alone with God, to read Scripture, and seek him in the people around us. That's when we will truly come to know Jesus as he is.

### Parent TALK

To celebrate his team making it to the championship, we decided to let our son, Riley, host a party on game day.

Riley immediately made a long guest list, but just days before the game only three names were left. When I asked why the others couldn't come, Riley admitted that he didn't invite them. He said that after he asked a neighbor, he became worried that the boy wouldn't get along with his other friends. The neighbor is a little odd but Riley didn't want to uninvite him.



I told Riley that if the neighbor is a true friend, he'll make efforts to get along with Riley's other friends. I assured him everyone would have a good time even if they were different from one another.

Riley agreed to invite more friends and the evening was a success. I even heard, "When's the next party?" before the boys left.

### Feasts & Celebrations

This month we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter, April 24th. It is the day we commemorate Jesus' victory over death when he rose from the dead.

**April 7 - St. John Baptist de la Salle (1719).** At a time when only the rich were educated, St. John devoted his life and fortune to educating the poor. He formed the Brothers of the Christian School, a successful community of educators. Pope Pius XII named him the patron of school teachers.

**April 11 - St. Stanislaus (1079).** As Bishop of Krakow in 1072, St. Stanislaus attempted to reform the

violent and depraved king of Poland, Boleslaus II. When his efforts failed, he excommunicated the king. In retaliation, Boleslaus murdered the saint.

**April 25 - St. Mark (1st century).** St. Mark wrote the second Gospel largely based on St. Peter's perspective. Mark accompanied Sts. Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin) on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus and is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.



### Our Mission

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