

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2019

Transfiguration Catholic Church
Religious Education

Thoughtful Moments

St. John Fisher

Born in Beverley, England, St. John Fisher became a renowned scholar and the Bishop of Rochester. Enrolling at Cambridge University when he was fourteen, he was ordained eight years later. He was named chancellor of Cambridge and greatly improved the standards of education there. He lived a simple life of prayer and penance. He was arrested twice for refusing to recognize King Henry VIII as Head of the Church of England. He was martyred for his faith.



Too busy?

We want our children's childhoods to be perfect so we coach the team, volunteer in school, lead the scout troop. Yet, if we spend more time around our children than with them, perhaps something must go. What they need more than anything is us.

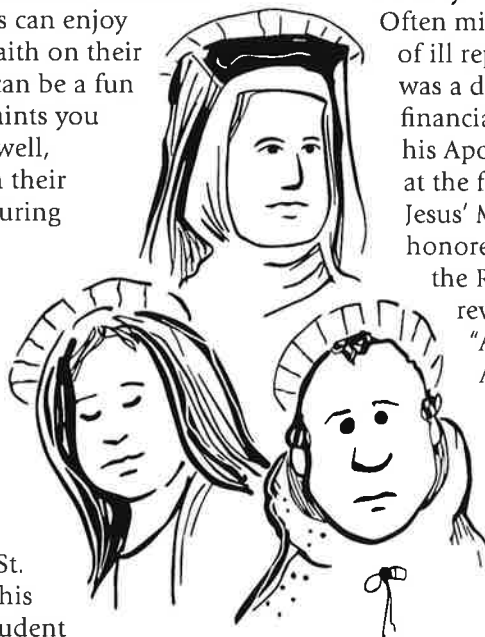
"One generation praises your deeds to the next and proclaims your mighty works. They speak of the splendor of your majestic glory, tell of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 145:4-5).



Celebrate the saints of Summer

Now that school and classes are ending, families can enjoy exploring the Faith on their own. Summer can be a fun time to study saints you may not know well, especially when their feast days fall during these months. Summer saints include:

St. Junipero Serra, July 1. "Always forward, never back," was the motto of this saint. Born in Spain in 1713, St. Junipero spent his early life as a student and then as a Franciscan professor. He left academics to become a missionary. Despite enduring brutal conditions, he founded missions throughout California and baptized more than 6,000 people and confirmed 5,000.



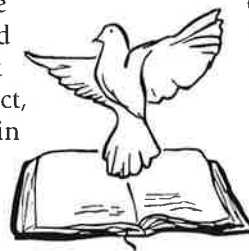
St. Mary Magdalene, July 22. Often misidentified as a woman of ill repute, Mary Magdalene was a devoted friend and financial backer of Jesus and his Apostles. She bravely stood at the foot of the Cross with Jesus' Mother. Mary was honored as the first to whom the Resurrection was revealed, making her the "Apostle to the Apostles."

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, August 9. Edith Stein, born Jewish, was a brilliant atheist intellectual in Germany in the early 1900s, but converted to Catholicism after studying St. Teresa of Avila and became a Carmelite. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, St. Teresa was eventually rounded up and executed at Auschwitz in 1942.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe things that aren't in the Bible?

Catholics believe the Bible communicates faithfully and without error the truths that God wants us to know. In fact, all of our beliefs are rooted in Scripture and we reject the beliefs that aren't. Some truths are more obvious than others, so the



Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, interprets them for us. The Church grows in knowledge of the Scriptures over the years, uncovering truths that were previously obscure (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #66*).

Fill your child's faith toolbox

It can be hard to raise children in God's friendship in a world that doesn't know him. Our best strategy is to give youngsters tools they can use to stay close to him and pray they use them as adults.

Tool #1 – love. Children first learn about God's love from their families. We must act out of love, teach love, and model love so that children learn to love.

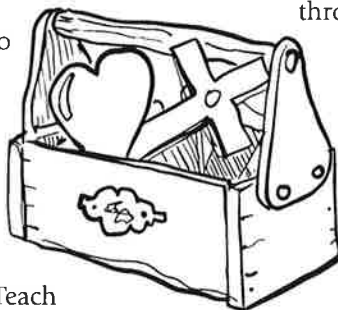
Tool #2 – prayer. In prayer, God counsels us, teaches us, comforts us, and helps us persevere. Teach

children to pray. Strong prayer habits will carry them through the tough times of their lives.

Tool #3 – service. No child is too young to do something helpful for the family, and each should do as much as he can.

Contributing to the family is the first step in contributing to the larger family of God.

Tool #4 – trust. With God, all things are possible. Let your children witness your trust in God. Show them that you love him with all your heart.



Scripture LESSON

Luke 9:51-62, Discipleship costs and rewards

In this Gospel reading, there were three men who wanted to be disciples of Jesus but weren't ready to follow him. The first man wanted to follow Jesus, but he wasn't prepared for the cost. Jesus pointed out that he had no home, no shelter, and no family. It may not always be comfortable to follow him.

For the second man, burying one's parent was considered a binding religious duty among the Jews, so he wanted to fulfill that duty before becoming a disciple. Jesus pointed out the importance of acting when he instructs



us. God's invitation takes top priority. And Jesus told the third man that his mind wasn't completely committed to following Jesus.

What can a parent do? Remind children that it won't always be easy to be a disciple of Jesus. Following our consciences and doing the right thing may mean making a few sacrifices and giving up some luxuries. Yet, the rewards will be beyond imagining. "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard...what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Feasts & Celebrations

June 9 – Pentecost (1st century). Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles, following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

June 10 – Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us his mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she continues to pray and care for us as our spiritual mother.

June 22 – St. Thomas More (1535). St. Thomas was a scholar, lawyer,

gentleman, father, and chancellor of England. King Henry VIII appointed him Lord Chancellor but Thomas resigned three years later when Henry defied the pope. In 1535, Thomas was martyred for refusing to recognize the King as the Head of the Church of England.

June 27 - St. Cyril of Alexandria (444). St. Cyril was a Bishop of Alexandria and a Doctor of the Church. He is best known for defending the belief of Christ's two natures against the heretic Nestorius at the Council of Ephesus in 431.



Parent TALK

Father's Day is a special day in our home. I love the opportunity to show my husband how much we



appreciate all he does for our family. Yet, we already have a fairly new grill (his

favorite gift), and he doesn't wear ties very often, so it is difficult to find just the right way to celebrate this wonderful man.

First, we decided to offer a novena to St. Joseph for the nine days leading to Father's Day for his intentions. Then we made a calendar for his desk with pictures of him with each of us – and all of us – and wrote captions describing what the photos meant, "Dad protected me from the waves at the beach," "Dad took Mom on a date and made her feel special," "Dad came to my concert and clapped the loudest."

Now he can have a daily reminder of how we value him.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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