

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

September 2025

St. Mary's School  
Office of Religious Education



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence longed for sainthood from an early age. A mystical encounter confirmed his calling to religious life. Though pressured to enter an advantageous marriage, he chose to follow his vocation. He escaped to the Canons Regular of St. George, where he eventually became the order's general. Known for his zeal, penitential life, and deep charity—especially toward the poor—he was later appointed Bishop of Venice by the pope.



### We are never alone

Our existence depends entirely on God. St. Thomas Aquinas taught that without God's will, we would cease to exist. Many saints taught that His love is constant, personal, and sustaining. At Baptism, He comes to dwell within us. Even in silence or struggle, we are never alone. An unseen Friend walks with us, always.

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you" (Jeremiah 31:3).*



## Five saints to help youngsters become holy

It can be discouraging helping children grow in holiness in our fallen world, but parents can turn to the saints to offer clear, practical models. Here are four powerful approaches:

**Persistent prayer:** All parents worry about their children. St. Monica prayed tirelessly for her son, Augustine, during his years of rebellion. Her perseverance bore fruit—he experienced a profound conversion and became one of the Church's great saints. We don't always see the full results of our prayers, but they are never wasted.

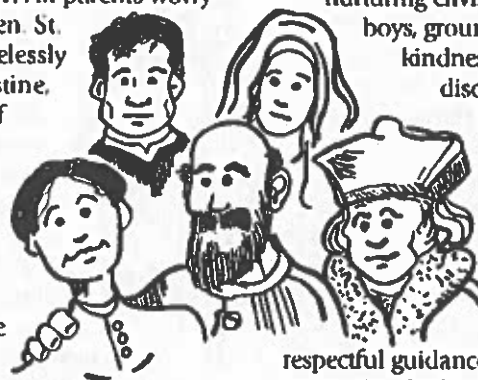
**Virtuous example:** Despite intense pressure, St. Thomas More refused to acknowledge King Henry VIII as head of the Church and was imprisoned for

treason. We want children to be good citizens, but God's laws come first. Children can learn from St. Thomas' example.

**Kindness:** St. John (Don) Bosco built a nurturing environment for struggling boys, grounded in the power of kindness. He believed discipline should be firm but compassionate, always rooted in trust and love. He rarely raised his voice, relying instead on consistent expectations and

respectful guidance. He expected the boys to practice the kindness he showed them.

**Surrender:** Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin dedicated every part of family life to God. They offered joys, sorrows, and struggles to Him. When we entrust our families to God, we invite His grace to shape and guide us.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

We honor Mary's name because she is the Mother of Jesus and the Queen of Heaven. Moreover, even though her name doesn't have the power that the Name of Jesus has, it still carries a significant influence.

## Why do Catholics honor Mary's name?



Pope Innocent XI extended the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary to the entire Church after the King of Poland defeated an advancing Ottoman army in Vienna in 1683, crediting this victory to Jesus and Mary, whose names he invoked while fighting.

## Holy homework hacks

Even the saints had to do homework. St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students, used practical strategies to tackle demanding workloads. Try these study habits inspired by his example:

**Take notes:** St. Thomas's surviving notes show his use of symbols and shorthand to capture ideas quickly. Students can adopt similar methods to stay engaged during class, study sessions, or group activities.

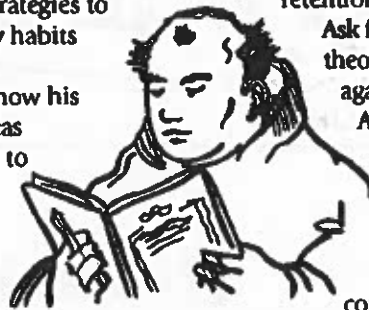
**Take breaks:** Known for his intense focus, St. Thomas also made time for short walks around the monastery courtyard. Encourage

students to take brief breaks after focused study to boost retention and motivation.

**Ask for help:** When struggling with a complex theological text, St. Thomas once leaned his head against the tabernacle and prayed for guidance.

Asking for help—whether through prayer, a teacher, or a classmate—is a wise and humble step.

**Pray:** Above all, St. Thomas dedicated his work to God. He began his studies with prayer, "Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion ... Amen."

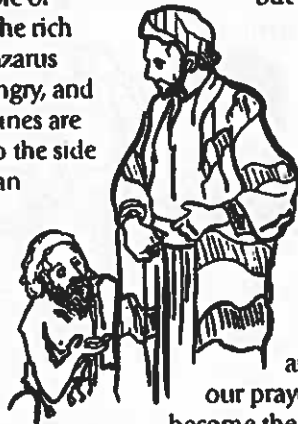


### Scripture LESSON

### Luke 16:19-31, Love in action

This passage tells the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. The rich man lives in luxury, while Lazarus suffers at his gate—poor, hungry, and alone. After death, their fortunes are reversed: Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, and the rich man finds himself in torment.

Notice that the rich man isn't condemned for outright cruelty or injustice, but for his failure to demonstrate charity. He knew Lazarus by name. He likely stepped over him daily, but ignored Lazarus' suffering. In the afterlife, the rich man begs for relief and for Lazarus to warn his brothers,



but his chance to do good has passed.

*What can a parent do?*  
Teach children that following Jesus isn't just about avoiding wrongdoing—it's about doing what is right. The Gospel makes it clear: love is active. When we live our faith through compassion, generosity, and awareness of others,

our prayers become action. We become the hands and feet of Jesus. And when we love as Jesus loves, we reflect His heart—and that's the path to true, lasting joy.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**September 10 – St. Nicholas of Tolentino (1305).** Born to pious parents, Nicholas was known for his holiness, purity, and penances. He became an Augustinian monk. After his ordination, he developed a reputation as a great preacher and confessor. He spent the rest of his life traveling and preaching inspiring sermons in Tolentino, Italy.

**September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows.** In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sorrows as "a sword piercing" her soul. Despite her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified while others ran away.

**September 20 – St. Andrew Kim Tae gon and Companions (1846).** The first Korean-born Catholic priest, Andrew was the son of Christian converts. Upon being ordained, he tried to introduce French missionaries, and was arrested, tortured, and martyred with several others.

**September 29 – Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.** Today we honor three archangels entrusted with important missions to mankind, such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother, announcing she was to be the Mother of God.



### Parent TALK

Tina has always been direct—sometimes to a fault. She doesn't hesitate to critique my outfits, and once made a classmate cry by telling him his shirt smelled bad. After her teacher expressed concern about her harsh comments, we agreed to help her use her honesty more constructively.

I told Tina I admired her courage to speak up when something's wrong. But I explained that bluntness should serve a purpose—to help, not hurt. If someone is in danger or something is truly wrong, she should tell a teacher privately. That's not tattling; it's responsibility.

A week later, Tina saw a student being bullied and immediately got help from an adult. Her quick thinking and honesty became a tool for good.

By guiding her to use her strengths rather than punishing her for them, we saw real growth—and so did her classmates. Sometimes, it's all about redirection, not correction.

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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