

## JESUS CHRIST >>>

Over the next few weeks your child will learn about the Person of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' example and teaching we become more aware of how we, as baptized Christians, are to live and witness with our lives. As your children grow in understanding, you will be invited to deepen your own faith and strengthen the Catholic identity of your family.

*How do we spend time with Jesus to strengthen and deepen our relationship with him?*

### Scripture



Add a reading from **Luke 8:40,43–48** to your family prayer at mealtime or in the evening. Share ideas on how you can spend time as a family strengthening and deepening your relationship with Jesus.



## LET'S TALK >>>

- Have your child share one way he/she shows love to God and one way he/she shows love to others.
- Ask your child how Jesus cared for sick people.
- Ask your child to talk about a time when someone helped him or her to feel better.
- Talk about a time you made a sacrifice for someone else. How did that sacrifice show love?
- Ask your child how he/she can help Jesus by helping someone else.
- Tell your child about one of your favorite parables.
- Ask your child what Jesus teaches about forgiveness.
- Talk about a time when you needed forgiveness and received it. Share how it impacted you in some way.
- Ask your child to tell you something about his or her best friend.
- Discuss with your child the things that make a relationship grow.
- Talk with your child about the different ways your family prays.

## Catholics Believe

- Jesus' healings showed God the Father's power and love.
- Faith is the gift of believing and trusting in God so much that we do what he asks us to do.
- Jesus taught the Great Commandment to love God above all else and to love others the way you love yourself.
- Prayer is talking to and listening to God.
- We need prayer to get close to God.
- When we make bad choices that hurt our relationship with God and others, God forgives us if we are truly sorry.

- The four Gospel books in the New Testament are about Christ's life, teaching, Death, and Resurrection.
- With the help of the Holy Spirit, members of the Church continue Jesus' work here on Earth.
- The Church is the Body of Christ, of which Christ is the head.
- Loving God leads to sharing his love with others, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us in the ways to do so.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1503, 1814, 2055, 2056, 2447, 2559-2465, 2759 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

## COMMITMENT CHART >>>

### The Hands and Feet of Christ

Saint Teresa of Ávila, said: "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. . . ."

At the end of the Family + Faith session, you wrote one way in which you might be Christ in the world; how you might bless others. Make a commitment chart for each member of your family that includes one small act of kindness or blessing for others each day (or each week). How might each of you be the hands, the feet, the eyes, the face, or the heart of Christ? Decide as a family how you are going to be more Christ-like every day.

Pray the prayer below as a family.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Lord Jesus Christ, please kindle a fire in our hearts so that we may follow you as true disciples of your Word. We pray together as a family that we may be your feet, hands, eyes, face, and heart to others. Amen.



## PEOPLE OF FAITH >>>

*Saint Catherine of Siena*

1347-1380

April 29



Saint Catherine of Siena was only six years old when Jesus appeared to her and blessed her. After that, Catherine wished only to become a nun. Catherine became a tertiary Dominican and considered herself espoused to Christ always. She knew Jesus was in her heart and never forgot that.

Saint Catherine is one of only four women who have been named Doctors of the Church. She was so named because of the many contributions she made to the Church in her writings and in her consultation to Pope Gregory XI during a time of great conflict.

Catherine wrote hundreds of letters. She also wrote a book titled *The Dialogue*, a conversation between the human soul and God, discussing the spiritual life.

**Discuss** How can you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Aa

**Name** What are some ways that you can be the feet, hands, eyes, face, and heart of Jesus to the world?

Aa



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

### IN THE HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY >>>

In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us the blueprints for a blessed life—a life of discipleship. If we follow Jesus, we can more fully realize our potential, and as Saint Catherine of Siena taught:

**“If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire.”**

We are all called to be Saints, to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. This happens in the ordinary things of life. In their letter, “Follow the Way of Love,” the United States Catholic Bishops tell us that our family lives are sacred and that the ordinary moments of our lives help us to establish a pattern of holiness within our families.

**“Family is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us, and acts in the world . . . Wherever a family exists and love still moves through its members, grace is present.”**

*—Follow the Way of Love, USCCB*

Be sure to visit the sacred prayer space you created in your home frequently to remind you and your children about God’s love and grace and the importance of being a “domestic Church.”



Use this customizable form to type in (or write) important parish information: Mass times, prayers, stewardship and service opportunities, and ministry events. This is a great tool for encouraging families to get involved in parish life.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH >>>

### LITURGY & SACRAMENTS >>>

### LIFE IN CHRIST >>>

### PRAYER >>>