

MORALITY >>>

Over the next few weeks, your children will be learning about and reflecting on the theme of Morality. God loves us and wants us to remain close to him. He gives us laws that help us do that. As they grow in their understanding, you, too, will be invited to deepen your own faith and strengthen the Catholic identity of your family.

God loves us unconditionally. When and where do you most recognize God's love?

How do you show God that you want to remain close to him/grow closer to him?

Scripture



Add a reading from **Luke 15:11–32** to your family prayer at mealtime or in the evening. Share ways you can love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.



Catholics Believe

- The Ten Commandments are God's laws that tell people how to love him and others.
- God created us with free will because he wants us to make good choices.
- Sin is the choice to disobey God on purpose and do what you know is wrong. It is not an accident or a mistake.
- The consequences of sin are hurting your friendship with God and others.
- God wants us to be close to him and will always forgive us when we say we are sorry.
- Jesus wants us to be sorry for our sins and turn

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain the Great Commandment.
- Ask your child to explain what Jesus taught about sin and forgiveness.
- Share a story of forgiveness in your own family.
- Together, name some ways to promote peace, fairness, and love in your family.
- Talk about a time when you've found it difficult to forgive. What did that experience teach you?
- Ask your child to name times when he or she has asked for forgiveness from someone else. How did it feel to receive that forgiveness?
- Ask your child to name some good habits he or she has.
- Ask your child to name one of the actions he or she can take to experience God's forgiveness.
- Name some people in your parish who spread Jesus' message to others.
- Talk with your child about what it means to treat people with dignity.
- With your child, name ways we show respect for others and protect others and ourselves, including our bodies.

Share Parents, share a story with your child about someone who taught you about God.

Expand Together, name others in your family, neighborhood, and/or parish who teach your family about God.

to God our forgiving Father.

- Virtues are good spiritual habits that make you stronger and help you do what is right and good.
- The Great Commandment reminds us to love God with our whole heart, mind, strength, and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves.
- The first part of the Great Commandment relates to the First through Third Commandments, and the second part relates to the Fourth through Tenth Commandments.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1427–1432, 1731–1743, 1849–1850, 1803, 1813, 1830, 1849–1850, 1877 at usccb.org.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT >>>

Family & Personal Reflection

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 13:30–31).

Write the Great Commandment on a poster board, then hang it in a prominent place in your home and reflect on it.

Use these questions for a family reflection:

- How do we show that we love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind?
- How do we love our neighbors as ourselves?
- Who are our neighbors?

Use these questions for a personal reflection:

- What can I commit to this week to show love to others in my family?
- What can I commit to this week to show love to others in my parish?
- What can I do to show love to others in my community and the world?

Make a commitment to each other to look for God everywhere this month, and to share your discoveries.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Heavenly Father, I love you with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind. Thank you for the blessing of your eternal love.



PEOPLE OF FAITH >>>

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

1922–1962

April 28



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

1901–1925

July 4

Our People of Faith this month are Saint Gianna Beretta Molla and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Both of these models of faith show us how to put the Beatitudes in action. They loved life, and believed whole-heartedly that Christ came to give us life. Both are ordinary people who teach us that we are all called to be Saints.

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla gives us this example though her vocation as a married person, a parent, and a working mom. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was called to the single life. He showed us how to follow the Beatitudes daily and to live out the Great Commandment.

Name How do you live a joyful life as a Christian?

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For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

IN THE HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY >>>

Throughout Scripture and Church documents we are reminded of the unique moral quality of the family in society. As we grow in our moral life, and raise our children according to God's laws, we are called upon to reach out to the greater community as well, following Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In your community and in society at large, how does your family give witness to your Christian values? The Good News of the Gospel? Your love of God and neighbor?

In 1981, Pope Saint John Paul II released his *Apostolic Exhortation on the Family*, to outline the Church's message on marriage and family life.

"Another task for the family is to form persons in love and also to practice love in all its relationships, so that it does not live closed in on itself, but remains open to the community, moved by a sense of justice and concern for others, as well as by a consciousness of its responsibility towards the whole of society."*

—Pope Saint John Paul II,
Familiaris Consortio, 64

* Cf. Synod of Bishops' Message to Christian Families (Oct. 24, 1980), 12.



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 >>>