

# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter describes prayer as talking and listening to God and the ways Jesus taught us to pray, including the Lord's Prayer. It identifies the various ways we pray.

### God's Word



Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, the Lord's Prayer. Pray with your family and talk about what the prayer means to you.

### Catholics Believe

- Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God.
- Prayer is an important part of a Catholic's daily life.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2559, 2659 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Gertrude the Great, patron of Latin scholars. Gertrude is a model of intercessory prayer for those who have died.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Prayer** Third-graders are capable of talking with Jesus as a friend. This is a good time to encourage your child to speak to God in his or her own words. The social nature of children this age also makes them especially amenable to praying with the family or in groups if they are given the structure and guidance necessary to do so. Take some time for family prayer, and encourage your child to take the lead.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

How necessary is it to be open to what someone has to say?

Real communication requires an openness of mind and heart. Opening our minds and hearts to hear what God has to say is the root of the sacred practice of prayer. "The *Catechism* reminds us that the Lord Jesus asks us to believe in order to pray and to pray in order to believe. There is a complementarity in which knowing and loving God support each other. Belief in the Father, Son, and Spirit should be essentially and immediately connected to a prayerful and loving communion with the Trinity" (*USCCA*, p. 491).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to talk about the things that he or she prays about most often.
- Talk about the different places you pray throughout the day.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, please bless everyone in my family, especially (mention family members here). Amen.



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).