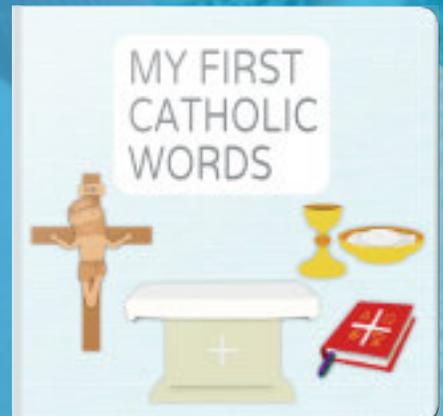


Joyful Little Catholics

A Parent's Guide For



About...

WHAT IS MY FIRST CATHOLIC WORDS?

My First Catholic Words is meant to be a first step for a child in learning basics of their Catholic faith. We often have many books to help kids identify and name things in the world around them from animals to vehicles. It should be no different with the familiar aspects of our faith.

This book is meant to be used for little ones from as early as they can look at a book. Children don't need to be able to talk or read to begin recognizing objects and connect that they are associated with Church and are important. As a child gradually grows they will go from recognizing the objects, to being able to point them out in church, to naming them, and even having an understanding of their purpose. My First Catholic Words is the first step on that journey you will take with your child. At Joyful Little Catholics, we are also committed to creating more books to build upon this first step.



Joyful Little Catholics LLC

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WHY A PARENT'S GUIDE?

You may be asking yourself why we would make a parent's guide to go with a board book. Isn't the point of a board book that it is simple and easy for a child to understand? Why would something like that need a guide for parents?

If you are asking yourself that, you are right, our children's books are simple and could be used as is, but we have a feeling you desire more. You don't just want a book to occupy your children each Sunday for part of Mass, but more importantly, you want your children to be saints in Heaven one day! Helping form children into saints is hard work, and it takes all we have got. Our books are just a launching point, a tool in the hands of a loving parent. The real work comes in when we as parents help our children connect what they see in these books with life and an authentic relationship with Christ and His Church.

Now you may be feeling like you aren't up for the task, like you don't know enough, like someone else would be better. But let me tell you now, you are the best and primary teacher for your child. You don't need to know it all. We will help support you in this guide. When it comes down to it though, what you need more than knowledge is a love for your child and God. Since you're picking up this guide we know you already have that. You don't need to know it all. It's okay to tell your child you don't know and to find out the answer together. So trust in the Holy Spirit, say a prayer, and dive in. Remember what Jesus told his disciples, "When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." – Matthew 10:19-20

USING THIS GUIDE

Aside from the introduction you have just read, this guide has two primary elements. First, there are a few practical ideas for how you may more effectively use the My First Catholic Words book. Then, this guide walks you through each section of the book and gives a background for parents on each topic as well as each object or term. Interspersed throughout the section are some ideas to try with your children for the page and questions they might ask. In this part, each section includes an applicable quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) as well as additional relevant citations in the Catechism and Scripture. We hope you find this beneficial for your own formation. If you do not own a Catechism or the Bible, both can be found digitally on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website (usccb.org).

Section Summary

Kid's Questions

CCC Quote

Explanation of Terms

Try This

Scripture Quote

Further Learning

Building

This section highlights the exterior of the church building. Church buildings are central to our worship life of our faith. It is where we come together in the body of Christ and receive the sacraments.

Terms

Cross The cross is a reminder of both deep unconditional love for us, as well as that our salvation comes through the cross and Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Stained Glass Window is a window in a building that allows light to pass through. It is often used to tell a story or to honor a saint. The light that passes through the window is often colorful and beautiful. It is a symbol of the light of Christ that shines through the world.

Ipsos is a word that means "the same" or "self-same." It is often used in the Bible to refer to God's unchanging nature. For example, "I am the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." (Hebrews 13:8)

Why do churches usually have stained glass?

Churches have stained glass windows to honor saints and to tell stories of the Bible. The light that passes through the windows is often colorful and beautiful. It is a symbol of the light of Christ that shines through the world.

The parish is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life; it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and in brotherly love. - CCC 2179

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES AND TO THE COMMUNAL LIFE, TO THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND TO PRAYERS." - ACTS 2:42

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- CCC 2179
- 2179
- 2179
- 2179

Bible References

- 1st Cor 12:13
- Eph 4:11-13
- 1st Cor 12:13

Get Practical

1) Just get the book in your child's hands. Like any other book, let your child read it and play with it. The more it is treated like a normal book, the more they will realize that their Catholic faith is a normal part of their life. It is a great book to bring to Mass with you for your little ones as well.

2) Read the book to your child at home. Take time and read the words and point to the pictures with your child at home. Work it into whatever book routine you might have.

3) Walk around your church with the book. This has been one of our favorite things to do with our children. Come to Mass early or stay after. We have also done this while waiting in line for Confession. Walk through the church and have your children point out the things from each page where they see them in your church. It becomes like a fun scavenger hunt. As the children get a little older you can begin letting them name the objects and you can begin asking them questions about it (E.g. - When have you seen that used? What is that used for?)

4) Virtual Mass. If your parish has recorded masses, or you can find one online, watch it with your child while using the book. Pause the video and point out items in the book. This provides an opportunity for you to help your child connect to things in Mass that you can't do as easily during a Mass.

** The more you can connect what your child sees to their lived experience with your parish the better. Read through the parent's guide to learn more about the different objects and terms and don't be afraid to tell them more about each thing. Your words don't need to be perfect. Tell them it's okay to ask questions and if you don't know the answer ask your priest and find out together.

Building

Why do churches usually have saint names?

Churches are named after saints to ask them to pray for us and to follow their example of loving Jesus.

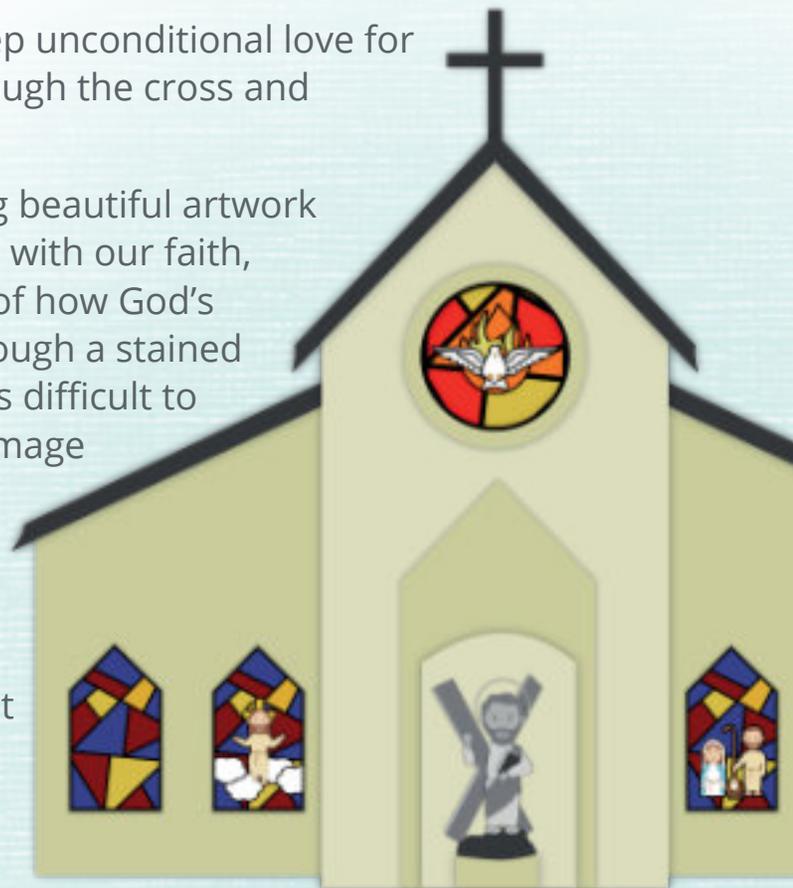
This section highlights the exterior of the church building. Church buildings are central to our experience of our faith. It is where we come together as the Body of Christ and receive the Sacraments.

Terms

Cross The cross is a reminder of God's deep unconditional love for us, as well as that our salvation comes through the cross and Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Stained Glass Window In addition to being beautiful artwork that depicts persons and events connected with our faith, stained glass also is a great visual analogy of how God's light shines in us. When no light shines through a stained glass window, it looks dark and the image is difficult to see. As light shines through the glass, the image becomes bright and vibrant. Similarly, when we let the light of Christ shine through us we become more alive and more fully who we are created to be.

Statue Statues remind us of the reality that we are still united with those who have gone before us and are in heaven. As the Body of Christ, we are not separated through death, but rather experience union in a different way. We do not worship the saints when we "pray" to them, but instead are asking for their intercession, that they might pray for us before God with whom they are in a more perfect union than we are here on earth.



Try this:

Take a walk around the outside of your local church with your child. Find the statues and other things unique to your parish. Bring your book along and point out similar things in the book.

"It [*the parish*] is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and in brotherly love"

– CCC 2179



"THEY DEVOTED
THEMSELVES TO THE
TEACHING OF THE
APOSTLES AND TO
THE COMMUNAL
LIFE, TO THE
BREAKING OF THE
BREAD AND TO
PRAYERS."
– ACTS 2:42

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §832-835
- §1180
- §2179
- §2226

Bible References

- Mt. 18:20
- Eph. 2:19-22
- Eph. 4:14-16

Church

This section highlights the interior of the church. The interior of each church is unique in its own way, just like each of us. Decorations and even the architecture of a church are made in such a way as to draw our minds and hearts towards God and spiritual realities. We similarly are called to do this for others using our unique gifts and personalities.

Terms

Altar The altar is the central place of our worship in Mass. Upon the altar, the priest brings our offerings of bread and wine along with our prayers to God. Through the Eucharistic prayer and repeating the words of Jesus at the Last Supper the altar becomes the place upon which Jesus becomes present. Traditionally we bow towards the altar as a way to remember this special role.

Ambo The ambo is the place from which the Scriptures are read. In the Mass we encounter Jesus, the Word of God, both through the written Word at the ambo, as well as through the Word made flesh present in the Eucharist.

Crucifix A crucifix is distinguished from a cross through its inclusion of the body of Jesus (or corpus) upon the cross. We as Catholics use this symbol as a reminder of the reality of what Jesus sacrificed as well as its connection to the Eucharist in which that sacrifice is mysteriously made present to us. We are called to similarly lay down our life for others and take up our own crosses daily.

Sanctuary Lamp The sanctuary lamp is commonly a red lamp (typically a candle) that is located near the tabernacle. It is kept lit to let us know that Jesus is present nearby in the Blessed Sacrament (the Eucharist) within the Tabernacle.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §1181-1186, 1198

"It is in these churches that the Church celebrates public worship to the glory of the Holy Trinity, hears the word of God and sings his praise, lifts up her prayer, and offers the sacrifice of Christ sacramentally present in the midst of the assembly. These churches are also places of recollection and personal prayer."

- CCC 1199

Stained Glass Window (see page 5)

Station of the Cross Stations of the Cross are used to reflect upon Christ's journey and sacrifice on the cross. There are 14 stations. These are traditionally prayed communally by many churches during Fridays in Lent, but can be used any time.

Statue (see page 5)

Tabernacle The tabernacle is a fixed vessel made of precious material that is used exclusively to reserve the consecrated Eucharistic hosts. The tabernacle allows us a way to take communion to those who are sick and unable to attend Mass, as well as come spend time with Jesus present in a special way.

Why is the candle red?

Try this:

Walk through your church and point out the statues, stations, stained glass window, sanctuary, and any other artwork. Be sure to genuflect in front of the Tabernacle and say "hi" to Jesus. Take the book with you and point out how these same things are in the book.

It is usually red so that it stands out from other candles and we know something is special there.

Baptism

This section highlights Baptism. Baptism is one of the 7 Sacraments and the first of the 3 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). Through Baptism, we are freed from the stain of Original Sin and brought into the Body of Christ, the Church, as adopted children of the Father. This sacrament opens up the other sacraments to us.

Terms

Baptismal Font The Baptismal font is typically located near the entrance to the church. It is used both for baptisms and for individuals to bless themselves. It signifies our entry into the Church through the waters of baptism and reminds us of this reality every time we enter the church and bless ourselves.

Holy Water Holy water is a sacramental used not only to baptize, but as a means of blessing and a reminder of our own baptisms. Water itself symbolizes both life and death as we die to sin and rise in Christ.

Oils The three holy oils located in a special place, often near the baptismal font, are used at different times during Sacraments. The oils are 1) the oil of the sick 2) the oil of catechumens 3) sacred chrism oil. The oil of the sick is used during the Anointing of the Sick. The oil of catechumens is used before baptism for both children and adults. The chrism oil is used during Confirmation, Baptism, and Ordinations. The oils symbolize strengthening and being set aside for God. The letters on the bottles are the initials of each oil's name in Latin.

Paschal Candle This candle is blessed each year at the Easter Vigil and is regularly kept near the baptismal font. It is used to light the baptismal candles during the Rite of Baptism. The name "paschal" refers to Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. The word itself comes from the word for Passover, which prefigured Christ freeing us from sin through his death as the Lamb of God.

Try this:

Have your child bless themselves in the holy water font, then go on a search for the holy oils. Compare what is the same and different from the book.

Show your child pictures from their baptism and put their baptism date on the calendar to celebrate each year in some way.

**"GO, THEREFORE, AND
MAKE DISCIPLES OF
ALL NATIONS,
BAPTIZING THEM IN
THE NAME OF THE
FATHER, AND OF THE
SON, AND OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT"
-MT. 28:19**

What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a special gift given by Jesus to the Church to give us grace. It is a sign that brings about what it symbolizes ...like how baptism is a sign of being clean, and also brings about washing away our sins.

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: 'Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.'"
- CCC 1213

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §1212-1284

Bible References

- Acts 2:38
- Jn. 3:1-5

Eucharist

This section highlights the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the third of three Sacraments of Initiation. It is not only a symbol of Jesus's presence, but is actually Jesus present in a mysterious way. The Eucharist is Christ truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Through our worthy reception, Christ unites himself with us in this Sacrament. It is both the source and summit within our faith as all our efforts should lead towards union with Jesus Christ and upon union with him should be the source of our Christian living.

Terms

Altar (see page 7)

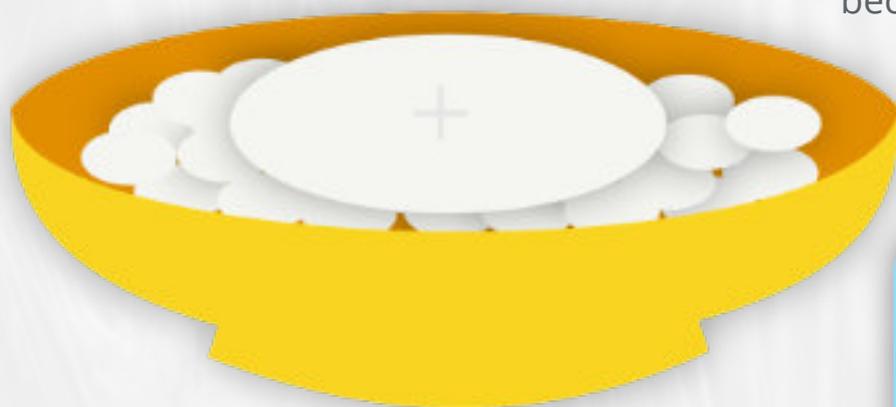
Chalice The chalice is a special vessel set aside only for the use during Mass for the Precious Blood.

Hosts The hosts are unleavened bread that becomes the Body of Christ after being consecrated. The bread is unleavened just like the bread that was used by Jesus during the Passover meal of the Last Supper.

Missal The Missal is a book that contains all the prayers and parts of the Mass. The name comes from the same word that the word "Mass" comes from which refers to the call to "go forth" and be sent on mission at the end of the Mass.

Water The water on the altar is mixed with the wine during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It symbolizes the water that flowed with the blood from Christ's side as well Christ's human and divine natures.

Wine The wine is mixed with the water (as stated above) and after being consecrated becomes the Precious Blood of Jesus.



Why doesn't it look like bread?

The hosts are flat because the Jewish people used bread that didn't rise during the Passover, which was the meal Jesus was celebrating when he gave us the Eucharist.

"The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his Father; by this sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his Body which is the Church."
- CCC 1407



**"FOR MY FLESH IS
TRUE FOOD, AND
MY BLOOD IS TRUE
DRINK. WHOEVER
EATS MY FLESH
AND DRINKS MY
BLOOD REMAINS IN
ME AND I IN HIM."
- JN. 6:55-56**

Try this:

Sit near the front of the church during Mass so your child can see the things on the altar, in particular the celebration of the Eucharist, up close.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §1322-1344, 1356-1377, 1381-1419

Bible References

- Mt. 26:17-30
- Mk. 14:22-24
- Lk. 22:19-20
- Jn. 6:22-59
- 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Eucharistic Exposition

This section highlights Eucharistic Exposition. Eucharistic Exposition is a particular devotion of prayer in front of the Eucharist exposed in a Monstrance. Since we believe Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, this prayer holds a special place as we sit in front of Jesus present in a very tangible way.

Terms

Altar (see page 7)

Incense Incense is used in many liturgical settings, including Exposition. The fragrant smoke that rises up symbolizes the way our prayers rise to God in heaven.

Monstrance The monstrance is made of precious material and holds a consecrated host prominently to expose for prayer. It draws one's attention to the hidden reality of the wonder of Jesus' presence and the host's importance.

Sanctuary Lamp (see page 7)

Try this:

Find a time when your parish or a nearby church has Exposition. Take your child for a few minutes of prayer. Have them genuflect and say a few prayers to Jesus. Before they leave have them blow a kiss to Jesus and tell Him they love Him. Remind them Jesus is present in the Eucharist and that the monstrance is special to remind us that it isn't just bread.





“Worship of the Eucharist. In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. “The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession.”

- CCC 1378

What is the smoke for?

The smoke is called incense. It is a reminder of how our prayers move up to God.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

• §1379-1380

Prayer

This section highlights prayer. In prayer we enter into conversation with God, both expressing our hearts and listening for what God speaks to us. Prayer can take many forms, including recited prayers like the rosary, meditating and reading the Scriptures, and prayers of intercession, as well as many others. We often will incorporate physical signs and symbols to focus our prayers such as candles or images.

Terms

Bible The Bible is the inspired Word of God. As Catholics, the Scriptures hold a special place, as the written Word. God speaks to us through the Bible. It can be read both to come to know God and his story of salvation, as well as a way for God to speak personally to your heart.

Kneeler Kneelers are often used within a church for places of prayer. By kneeling we are brought into a physical posture that should represent our interior disposition. When we approach God we humble ourselves recognizing that we are a creation before the Creator.

Rosary The rosary is a special devotional prayer that incorporates reflecting on important aspects of Christ's saving work combined with recited prayers such as the Hail Mary, Our Father, Apostles Creed, and Glory Be. In praying the rosary, one continues to ask for Mary's intercession both now and at the hour of our death.

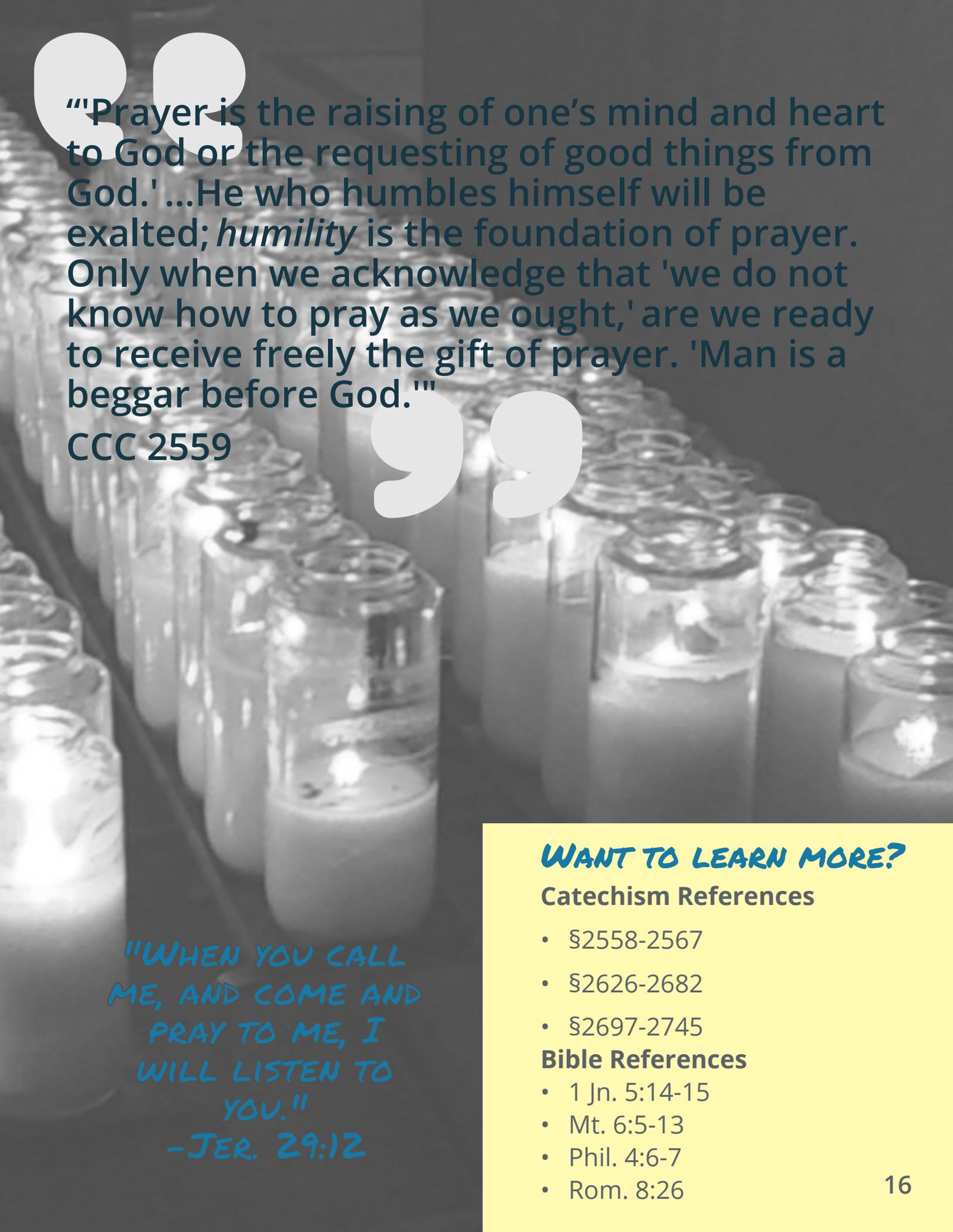
Votive Candles Votive candles are used as a physical sign to represent our prayers for others. Typically individuals will light a candle in memory of those they are praying for.

Try this:

Make a prayer space in your house. Possibly include some of the items from the book and let your child add something.

Why do we kneel?

Our physical actions reflect what we feel on the inside. When we kneel, we show that our hearts recognize God as Creator and king.



“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.’ ...He who humbles himself will be exalted; *humility* is the foundation of prayer. Only when we acknowledge that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought,’ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. ‘Man is a beggar before God.’”

CCC 2559

“WHEN YOU CALL
ME, AND COME AND
PRAY TO ME, I
WILL LISTEN TO
YOU.”
-JER. 29:12

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §2558-2567
- §2626-2682
- §2697-2745

Bible References

- 1 Jn. 5:14-15
- Mt. 6:5-13
- Phil. 4:6-7
- Rom. 8:26

Clergy and Religious

This section highlights Clergy and Religious. There are 3 degrees of Holy Orders. Deacon, Priest and Bishop. In addition to Holy Orders, there are other vocations in which individuals give their lives to Christ. Through these vocations, an individual serves God in a special way taking vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Terms

Bishop Bishops are ordained to the fullness of Holy Orders. They oversee a particular church, often called a Diocese. They are the spiritual head for that area and help guide the priests in fulfilling their mission.

Brother Brothers refer to men who are part of a community and have taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. There are many orders within the Church and each have their own focuses and charisms. Brothers can both be ordained or laity.

Deacon Deacons are the first stage of the sacrament of Holy Orders. There are both permanent deacons and transitional deacons (who will be later ordained as priests). Their role is to assist the priests at the altar as well as with the faithful. Deacons will assist with various aspects of the liturgy, including reading the Gospel, and can be given permission to preach. Deacons also may baptize and will often preside at the sacrament of Matrimony if it is outside of a Mass.

Pope The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the head of the Church on Earth in Christ's place. The Pope, in union with the Bishops, guides the faithful and when necessary makes declarations regarding teaching of the faith and doctrine.

Priest Priests are ordained through the sacrament of Holy Orders and give their life to Christ by being His presence to his people. Priests are able to make most of the sacraments present to the people, most particularly Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Sister Sisters refer to women who are part of a community and have taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. There are many orders within the Church and each have their own focuses and charisms.

Try this:

17

Find an opportunity to invite a clergy or religious to your house on occasion for dinner so your child can ask them about their vocation.

"The very differences which the Lord has willed to put between the members of his body serve its unity and mission. For 'in the Church there is diversity of ministry but unity of mission. To the apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying, and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole People of God.' Finally, 'from both groups [hierarchy and laity] there exist Christian faithful who are consecrated to God in their own special manner and serve the salvific mission of the Church through the profession of evangelical counsels.'"

- CCC 873

Is the deacon's outfit different than a priest's?

Deacon's stoles are worn diagonally and are joined together while a priest's go over both shoulders.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §861-862, 874-896
- §914-945
- §1536-1538, 1548-1571

Bible References

- Jn. 20:21-23
- 2 Tim. 1:5-14
- Acts 6:1-6

Trinity

This section highlights the Trinity. As Christians, we recognize that there is one God, but he has revealed himself to be a Trinity. This mystery is beyond our full comprehension, but we know it has been revealed that there are 3 persons in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To begin to understand this mystery we can turn to God's revelation as Love. In love there is necessarily a communion, therefore to be Love, God must also be a communion of giving love, receiving love, and the life that comes out of that dynamic of giving and receiving. This is partially expressed in our Creed as we state that the Son is "begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father" and that the Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son."

Why is the Holy Spirit a dove?

The Holy Spirit isn't actually a dove, but is often depicted that way. When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit came down and was symbolized as a dove.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §237-248, 253-267

Bible References

- 2 Cor. 13:13
- Heb. 9:14
- Jn. 1:1-3
- Mt. 28:19



“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them...”

– CCC 234

Terms

Father The Father is the first person of the Trinity. We recognize the Father as Creator and understand Him as Father in relation to the second person of the Trinity, the Son.

Son The Son is the second person of the Trinity. We recognize the Son as the "only begotten Son of God." He is consubstantial with the Father, therefore one God with the Father, though a distinct person. The Son is also called the Word and is incarnate as Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, the Father is revealed to us and we come to know God's love and the mystery of the Trinity. Through Jesus' sacrifice we can be reconciled with God and the gates of Heaven are open to us.

Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. We recognize the Holy Spirit as "proceeding" from the Father and Son as a result of their eternal exchange of love. The Holy Spirit is one God with the Father and Son, though a distinct person. The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and we receive grace through Him.

Try this:

Teach your child the Sign of the Cross. Explain to them that there are three persons in one God. If possible show them an image representing each in your church or home.

Important People

This section highlights Mary, St Joseph and the angels. As Catholics, we recognize that we are not alone, we are part of a community, all joined in Christ. This community is alive, including those who have died before us and are alive with Christ in Heaven. These individuals can help us in our spiritual journey by praying for us and bringing our needs to God. The angels, spiritual creatures created by God, also help us along this journey. It is important to realize that we are not in it alone and have an army of help just waiting for us to ask.

Terms

Angel Angels are spiritual beings created by God. Each baptized individual has a guardian angel that intercedes for them and helps them along their spiritual journey. Angels have also played an important role in salvation history including announcing the birth of Jesus and Resurrection.

Mary Mary is the mother of Jesus, and therefore given the title of Mother of God. This title does not claim that she gave Jesus his divinity, but it rather reminds us that Jesus is truly God and man, and that Mary was given a special role in bringing Christ to us. She is also recognized as the Mother of the Church and is the perfect example of being a follower of Christ.

St. Joseph St. Joseph is the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. He is a patron to fathers and is a great example of humility and trusting in God's will.

Try this:

Find the saint images/statues in your church and tell your child about each saint.

If your child has a saint name, learn about the saint and tell them the story. Then help them to learn a short prayer to that saint, it can simply be "Saint ___, pray for us". If not, pick a saint for them.



“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayer”
(Paul VI, CPG § 30)
– CCC 962

Why do we pray to Mary and the saints?

When we pray to the saints we are really asking for them to pray for us since they are close to God in Heaven.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §328
- §946-975

Bible References

- Heb. 12:1
- Lk. 1:26-56
- Mt. 1:18-24
- Mt. 18:10

Devotions

This next section highlights devotions to Jesus and Mary. Images of Christ and the saints draw our minds to the individuals depicted to whom we pray or ask for intercession. These images of Jesus and Mary highlight certain aspects of who they are including their love, mercy, and presence to all people.

Terms

Divine Mercy This devotion is associated primarily with St. Faustina. It expresses the mercy that pours forth from the pierced heart of Jesus depicted in red and pale colors representing blood and water.

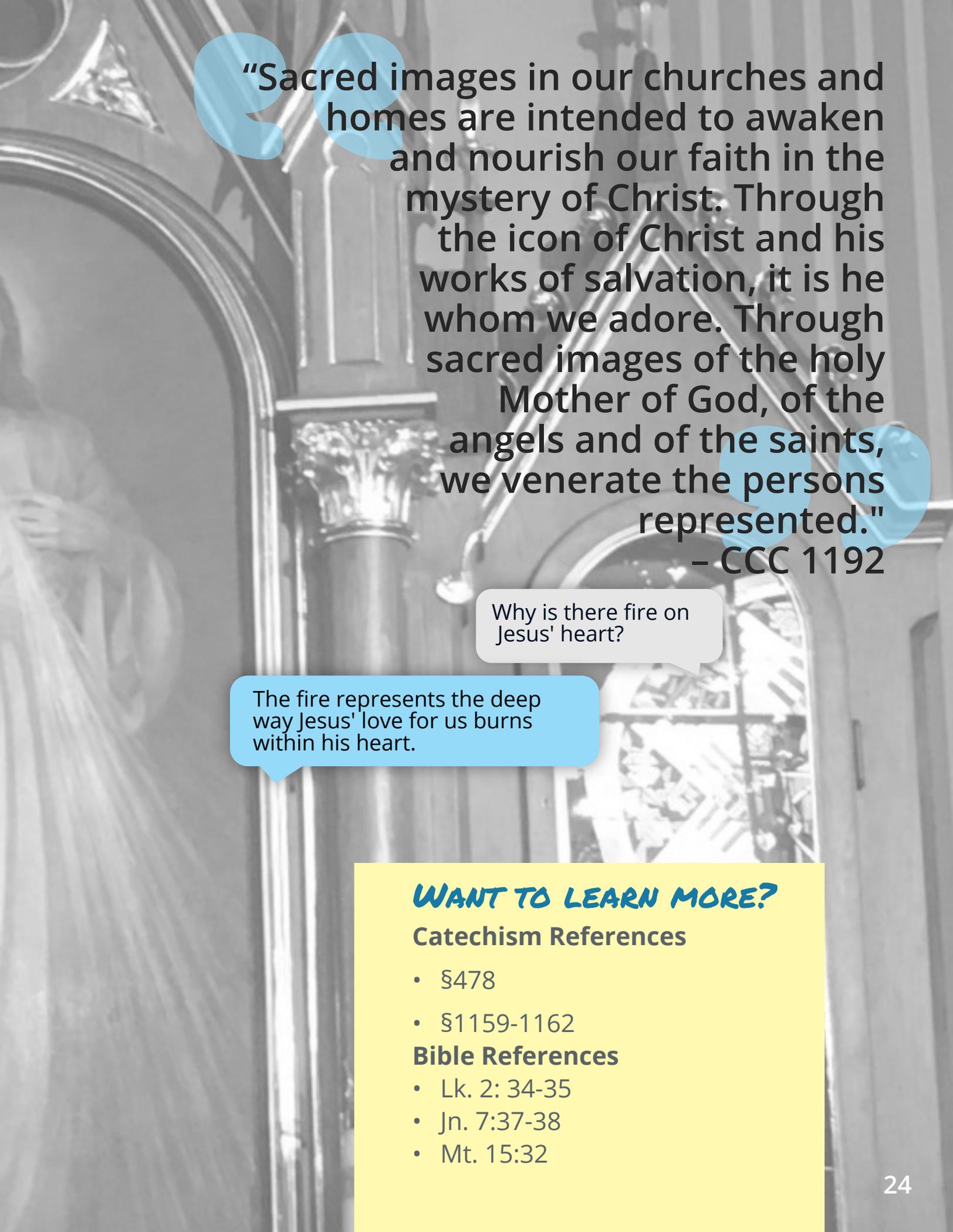
Immaculate Heart This devotion reflects on Mary and her heart. It represents her deep love for God and us. We see how closely her heart is connected to Jesus' as it is pierced in this image as prophesied in Lk. 2:34-35.

Our Lady of Guadalupe This is the image of Mary that miraculously appeared on the tilma of St. Juan Diego after Mary appeared to him as proof of the apparition. It is attributed to the conversion of much of Mexico.

Sacred Heart This devotion reflects in a special way upon the love of Jesus as seen through his heart. The heart is a symbol of love, and none is more powerful than the symbol of Jesus' heart, poured out for us, most visibly on the cross. This devotion is most commonly associated with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Try this:

Look through your church with your child and see if you can find any of these popular devotions. Also see if you have additional devotions.



"Sacred images in our churches and homes are intended to awaken and nourish our faith in the mystery of Christ. Through the icon of Christ and his works of salvation, it is he whom we adore. Through sacred images of the holy Mother of God, of the angels and of the saints, we venerate the persons represented."
- CCC 1192

Why is there fire on Jesus' heart?

The fire represents the deep way Jesus' love for us burns within his heart.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Catechism References

- §478
- §1159-1162

Bible References

- Lk. 2: 34-35
- Jn. 7:37-38
- Mt. 15:32

Keep it up...

We pray that this resource has been helpful to you both in using *My First Catholic Words* with your child as well as giving you some deeper context on each term within the book. This guide is in no way an exhaustive resource on all these aspects of our Catholic faith. We encourage you to continue not only your child's formation in these areas, but your own. One of the greatest aspects of the study of God and our faith is that there is always deeper treasure to mine. Because God is infinite and far beyond ourselves, the truths about Him and His Church are inexhaustible. Never forget this truth as you journey not just towards greater knowledge, but ultimately towards a deeper and more intimate relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God Bless,

Joyful Little Catholics