

FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL

APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2025

Daily Walk + Talk

Simple, Easy Ways to Share and Live Scripture with Children

Get even more out of *Living Faith Kids*. The *Daily Walk and Talk* provides suggestions and tips for class discussions, prayers and activities based on the daily reflections on the Mass readings. Scroll down to find the date for the devotion you're reading with your class, then use the question, prompt or idea to extend your lesson.

April 1

Everybody has trouble with their Lenten promises sometimes.

Repeat the line above. Emphasize that when we "mess up" or forget a Lenten promise, it's not a reason to give up on Lent altogether, but to turn to Jesus. Turn to page 110, and make the prayer part of your daily class prayers for Lent.

EASTER COUNTDOWN

Encourage students to place a bookmark in this page and return to it frequently over the next few weeks to color in the crosses.

April 2

Francis of Paola wanted to offer his whole life to God in prayer.

Read the brief biography, and study the image together. **Ask:** Even though Francis' life didn't turn out the way he expected, do you think he was happy? Why or why not? What in the picture supports your answer?

April 3

These things aren't bad themselves, but we need to remember God and make sure we spend time with him too.

Invite students to set aside a specific time each day to devote five minutes to God. It could be right after dinner or before starting homework, for example. They may have to try a few

different times until they settle on one that works. Suggest setting a reminder—like setting a phone alarm—to encourage the habit.

April 4

Put your trust in God when your heart is breaking, and he will help you find hope in all the good that will come again to you.

You may wish to share about a time when you have been brokenhearted and how God saw you through the experience. Use words or images to describe how you felt, even if they may be beyond your students' understanding—devastated, miserable, dejected, confused, etc. Explain that even if we don't understand our feelings, it doesn't mean they aren't important—to us and to God.

April 5

But listening to others' opinions and respecting differences doesn't mean we'll end up being just like everyone else.

Try a simple exercise to encourage listening and respect for different opinions. Pair students off, and make a statement such as, "The best food in the world is—." Have the students take turns finishing the sentence and explaining why. Encourage students to listen without interrupting and repeat what their partners say in their own words. Have students identify any

differing opinions. Repeat the process with various topics to practice respecting and expressing different opinions peacefully.

April 6

Jesus asks us to pay attention to him and what he does and then work on being more like him.

Explain that in today's Gospel, people publicly and loudly accuse a person of sinning. **Ask:** Has anything like this happened to you? How did you feel about it? Why do you think people sometimes accuse others so loudly? Explain that Jesus waits until he is alone with the person and talks with her. **Ask:** Why is that better? What can we learn from Jesus here?

April 7

Now they can rest. Good thing God never gets tired. He always follows us with his love.

Invite students to share about times they have cared for someone or something, like a younger relative, pet, garden, etc. **Ask:** How did it feel to have that responsibility? How might it help to share that responsibility with others? How does it feel to know that we can ask God to help us care for others? Say a prayer together asking God's help with all of your responsibilities.

April 8

He wants us to say “thank you” for the good things in our lives.

Here’s one good thing. Did you know that *Living Faith Kids* has a special birthday celebration booklet that’s full of fun activities for kids? It’s free. Download it at LivingFaith.com/birthday-celebration. Finish with a prayer inviting volunteers to mention one good thing in your classroom and respond together after each: “Thank you God for all good things!”

April 9

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew he was going to have them killed, but they weren’t afraid.

Ask: Why weren’t these young men afraid? (They believed that no matter what happened, God would be with them.) Can you remember a time when you were afraid? What does it mean to know that God is with you in times like these?

April 10

The next time you start wanting more, try making a list of the good things you already have.

Invite students to start “good things” lists. Begin with some of the things students mentioned in the “thank you” prayer on April 8. Have them keep their lists close so they can add to it throughout the Lent and Easter seasons.

April 11

God is always there to strengthen us when we find it hard to be wise, faithful, confident and courageous.

Turn the reflection into a prayer by reading aloud each sentence. After each one, have students respond together: “Help me rely on you, God.” Talk about times you have relied on God’s strength.

April 12

We can all do little things to share Jesus’ love.

Invite students to think about the week ahead—Holy Week—and how they might do things to share Jesus’ love. Use the list in the reflection as a starting point. For example, perhaps at Mass tomorrow, students might smile at someone who is alone. Find additional ideas on page 18.

April 13

It’s even hard to listen to the story of how Jesus forgave the people who hurt him.

Choose one small section from today’s Gospel to focus on with students. It might be Peter’s denial (Luke 22:31-34, 54-62), the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43) or any passage that moves you particularly. Read it with students, reflect on it silently and discuss any questions students might have about it.

HOLY WEEK “TO DO” LIST

Go over the items on the list with your students. If your parish posts photos of the people who will be welcomed into the Church on the Easter Vigil, take time to visit the church and point out the pictures. Share with families the times of Holy Week services, and encourage everyone to attend at least one.

April 14

When we do our best to please God, God is pleased.

If you don’t already, incorporate the Our Father into your class prayers all through Holy Week.

We can all do little things to share Jesus’ love.

April 15

Jesus forgave Peter and gave him another chance.

Have a conversation about second chances. **Ask:** Has anyone ever given you a second chance? Have you ever given someone else a second chance? How does that feel? Talk about how Jesus gave Peter a surprising second chance: He made Peter the leader of the whole Church! **Ask:** How do you think Peter felt?

April 16

That’s when God helps us accept the things that can’t be changed.

Look at the image with students. Point out that Pope Francis is washing the feet of men who are prisoners. This is a beautiful example of the reflection message. Pope Francis may or may not be praying that the men be released from jail. But more importantly, he is showing how he is there for them, just as Jesus is there for us in times of trouble. **Ask:** Who is someone who might simply need your presence right now? Have students think about it and how they might take action.

April 17

Jesus tells us, “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet” (v. 14).

Look again at the photo with students. Notice how it has been positioned on the page. The main part of the image is inside a clear border—a circle. But it is not confined within the circle; it goes out beyond it. Discuss how this reflects Jesus’ call. Acts of service are not meant to be done just by a few people or for a few people. Jesus calls all of us to do good for others—all over the world. Talk about times you may have had to step out of a comfort zone to help others, and encourage students to do the same.

April 18

What happens today—and on Easter Sunday—shows us Jesus' love for us—real and true and infinitely deep.

Whether or not your class participates in Good Friday services at your parish today, remember that for young children the Cross can be a difficult concept. Keep emphasizing the love Jesus has for us on the Cross.

April 19

On this holy day, we are in between the sadness of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

Look at the three images together. Ask students to identify what each one means. Talk about how Jesus' friends might have felt on this "in-between" day, after he had died on the Cross. Remind students that Jesus' disciples didn't yet understand that Jesus would rise from the dead.

April 20

Imagine you're with the disciples on Easter morning.

Invite students to picture what it might have been like for the disciples at the empty tomb. **Ask:** What does it mean that the disciple "saw and believed"? (Don't forget to say the Easter prayer on page 110 frequently over the next 50 days of Easter.)

HAPPY EASTER!

As students colors the picture, read aloud the quote from Colossians, emphasizing the words "you too."

April 21

Jesus shows us that if we love God and others as Jesus taught, our death leads to life.

Make sure students understand that Jesus is not a ghost. He was truly dead and has risen to new life. To help make the message tangible, consider

planting a tabletop resurrection garden in your classroom. There are many examples online to inspire you.

April 22

Still, Peter said there was hope.

Say this prayer of hope together with students: Heavenly Father, hope has a name: Jesus. May I keep his name on my lips today.

(This prayer is from the 30 Days of Hope Calendar. You can find a month's worth of prayers of hope to celebrate the Jubilee Year at Catholic.CreativeCommunications.com/products/APDP/30-days-of-hope-calendar-set-of-50.aspx.)

April 23

In St. Peter's time, people who were unable to walk had no way to earn a living.

Have students complete the prayer by adding the name of anyone they know who is sick. You can also add names from your parish website or bulletin to your prayer.

April 24

There is a whole section in the Bible filled with psalms.

Distribute Bibles, and help students find Psalms. Invite them to look through the pages. Find a few simple Psalm verses, and direct students to them. Read them aloud together.

April 25

Ask Jesus to help you see with his eyes today. What do you see?

Invite students to look at the picture and guess who it might be. (Jesus).

Ask: What clues tell you who he is? (Wounds on hands and feet, halo, beard, golden robes, fish.) Ask students where we can see Jesus today. (Note that we can see Jesus in everyone.)

April 26

Jesus gave the disciples his own strength and grace to do what they couldn't do on their own.

Recall and share about a time you didn't think you could do something, but eventually you were able to get it done. Help students recall similar experiences. Talk about how God helped you accomplish this.

April 27

You can experience God's presence at your fingertips (although not exactly the same way Thomas did!) when you touch something God has created—a smooth rock, a tree's rough bark...

Stand in a circle with your class and join hands. Affirm how you are all experiencing God's presence right now in each person gathered in the circle.

OCEANS OF MERCY

After students complete the activity, you can extend the idea with similar metaphors that students can finish. For example you might say, God's mercy is deeper than the deepest__ and higher than the highest__ God's love is stronger than the strongest__, etc.

April 28

Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to wind.

Have students trace the swirling wind with a finger while repeating the prayer, Come Holy Spirit, silently. This is a form of meditation. Some children respond well to this kind of prayer, but it's not for everyone. Give it a try with your class.

April 29

Name two things you must have to live (like air).

Discuss students' responses. Offer your own responses as well. **Ask:** Why do you think we like to have so many things?

April 30

John used light and dark as a symbol in the Gospel he wrote.

Read aloud the choices for what John was describing, and give students time to choose the correct one. Invite students to give examples of good and bad in the world. You may wish to extend the prayer like this: Jesus, there is a great deal of good and a great deal of bad in our world. Help us always make choices for the good!

May 1

I'm sure Joseph felt great joy almost every day, as his work was clearly done for God.

Celebrate today's feast day with an online visit to the Shrine of St. Joseph the Worker in Lowell, MA, at St.JosephShrine.org. Find prayers for workers and those seeking employment, or tune in to Mass at the shrine.

May 2

Today, we state this belief that Athanasius taught whenever we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass.

Help students memorize the Creed with this "puzzle" activity. First, print out copies of the Creed using large type. You can find the shorter Apostles Creed at USCCB.org/prayers/apostles-creed. Cut the printout horizontally about every two lines, and place the strips in bags. Form small groups, and distribute the Creed puzzle. Say the words aloud together as students work to put the printed strips together in order. Repeat the activity as necessary.

May 3

Sure, it's what you want. But it might not be what's best for you right now.

This is a difficult lesson for both children and adults. Share about a time

you wanted something but received something unexpected and possibly better. Remind students that God always knows what is best for us.

May 4

Maybe that is why the Risen Jesus asked Peter this question three times: "Do you love me?"

Invite students to listen at Mass for times when we repeat words of prayers three times. (In the Penitential Act: "Through my fault..." or "Lord, have mercy...;" and in the Eucharistic Prayer: "Holy, Holy, Holy..." and "Lamb of God...") Have them report back to you next week with their findings.

May 5

No matter what jobs we have, we all share the same work of God—to love and believe in Jesus.

Invite students to share about the jobs people in their families do to keep their homes running smoothly. (You might ask questions such as, who makes lunches? Who does laundry? Who cooks? Who cleans, etc.) Then have students sit quietly with the following questions: Does anyone in your family need help with anything? What might you do? Remind students that sharing work as a family is one way to show love for each other and for Jesus.

ASK FATHER JOE

So, the next time you are in line for Communion, I invite you to imagine Jesus telling you that he is excited that you are coming forward. Because he is. He truly is.

Be sure to remind students to do this next time they go to Mass.

...we all share the same work of God—to love and believe in Jesus.

May 6

There are so many kinds of bread: from bagels and biscuits to pitas and tortillas.

Invite everyone to share their favorite kind of bread. Explain that bread gives us nutrition that we need, but that the Eucharist gives us the food we need to live forever in love and joy with Jesus.

May 7

Suddenly, Daniel's game felt less exciting and fun to play.

Ask: Why was the game less fun? What changed for Daniel when he gave the game away? Has anything like this ever happened to you?

May 8

When we eat this bread, we do more than believe; we live!

Another way to experience Jesus' message here is to listen to and learn the familiar song, "I Am the Bread of Life," by Suzanne Toolan, RSM. Find a recording on a streaming service or YouTube, and play it often throughout the week.

May 9

Small acts of kindness can make every day better.

Brainstorm acts of kindness students can do at school, and encourage everyone to do them.

May 10

On his feast day today, we honor St. Damien for caring and giving his life for those who suffered.

Talk about heroes students know about—people who stand up for others, accomplish feats of strength, etc. Explain that St. Damien cared for people who had been rejected, which makes him a true hero. **Ask:** How can anyone be a hero?

MAY 11

In second grade, she learned how Americans are made up of many nationalities.

Have students select a flag that's not your own country (they are from left: Bolivia, Vietnam, Nigeria, United States, Australia, Paraguay, Spain) and learn something about that country: Where is it? What language(s) are spoken? Major cities? Foods?

MAY 12

When you meet Jesus at Mass, you probably feel great peace.

Use this statement to begin a conversation about how it feels to be with Jesus at Mass. You might start by sharing how you felt when you arrived at Mass this past Sunday and how your feelings changed throughout the Mass. Encourage students to share as well.

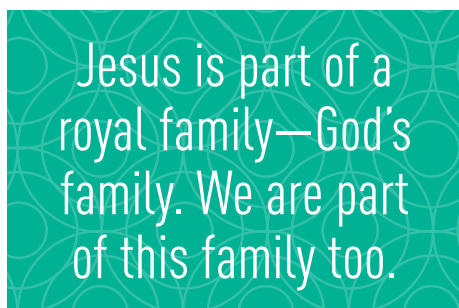
MAY 13

In 1916, an angel appeared to three children and asked them to pray.

Explain that Our Lady of Fatima did not give her important message to adults, but to children. A central part of her message was to pray the Rosary for peace. Try saying a decade of the Rosary with students today.

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Catechist magazine has lots of useful free tips for teaching about Fatima. Catechist.com/five-lessons-fatima.



MAY 14

We just have to believe that God already loves us and then accept his invitation to stay there with him.

Repeat the word "remain," and have students say it too. **Ask:** What does it mean to you that Jesus wants you to remain in his love?

MAY 15

Jesus is part of a royal family—God's family. We are part of this family too.

Pair students up or form small groups. Have each student share one thing they love about their family with the group. Then read the reflection aloud to the class. **Ask:** Who is part of Jesus' family? (Everyone.)

MAY 16

Ask God for his help. Then give it your best effort, knowing you are doing it for God.

Make the Sign of the Cross, and pray this prayer aloud together: "Dear God, help me today with..." Have the students finish the prayer silently to themselves, asking God for whatever help they need today. Note that this is a private prayer between each student and God, and it will be different for everyone. Remind students of the words from today's reflection: "Give it your best effort, knowing you are doing it for God." Repeat this simple prayer every day this week.

MAY 17

Now Natalie can't wait to serve again!

If they are comfortable, invite any students who are altar servers to share about what they do. Remind students to say a short prayer each Sunday for all those who will serve at the Mass they attend.

MAY 18

It doesn't mean we can't protect ourselves, but it does mean that we try to make peace whenever we can.

Talk about what it means to be a peacemaker at home and at school. Note that being a peacemaker means keeping ourselves and others safe.

MAY 19

Whenever you need wisdom or courage, whenever you start something new or have to make a tough choice, pray to the Holy Spirit.

Try this. Google "Catholic Holy Spirit songs," or check your parish song book. Teach some Holy Spirit songs to students. Some classics are "Come Holy Ghost" and "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid."

MAY 20

Peace is many things.

Encourage students to complete the fill-in. Then read and reflect on Pope Francis' words about peace for the Jubilee Year: "May 2025 be a year in which peace flourishes! A true and lasting peace that goes beyond quibbling over the details of agreements and human compromises. May we seek the true peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed: hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others; hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others; hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world. (From World Day of Peace Message, January 1, 2025)

MAY 21

When we are connected to him, we can thrive and bloom, but apart from him, we start to wither and die.

Ask: What are some ways we can connect to Jesus every day? (Prayer, reading Scripture, acts of love, talking about Jesus with others, going to Mass and receiving the sacraments, etc.)

MAY 22

Pure, clean rain nourishes the earth and helps plants, animals and people grow.

Talk about students' memories of rainy days. (It may be raining today!)

Ask: What did you do when it rained? Can you see some of the ways the rain helped the earth, plants, animals and people? How did it feel when the sun came out? Say a short, spontaneous prayer thanking God for today's weather, whatever it is.

MAY 23

What is love, really?

Say these lines from the reflection, and pause after each to allow students to offer examples of how these can be done: "Love is caring and sharing. It's friendship and forgiveness. It's patience and kindness. Love means including everyone. It means thinking of how our words and actions affect others. It's seeing how we can help. Above all, it means treating others as Jesus would treat them." Encourage students to put Jesus' words into action this week.

MAY 24

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will do anything to rescue us if we call on him.

Did you know that shepherding is one of the oldest jobs but that there are still working shepherds today? Help students form a basis for

understanding the Good Shepherd by researching what shepherds do. You might do an Internet search on your own and share your results with the students.

MAY 25

Listen to God's voice in your heart.

Explain that it is not always easy to hear God's voice. We can be distracted. Help students think of activities or times of the day that can offer quiet time for this. Perhaps students make time to practice an instrument or a sport. Other times might be just before bed or early in the morning.

MAY 26

Jesus asked the disciples to tell everyone what they had seen and learned from him.

Lead a discussion about the pope and his role. As the leader of the Church, he is the pastoral leader of more than a billion people. **Ask:** Do you think the pope has a hard job? Why or why not? How do you think the pope prepares for his job each day? Pope Francis often encourages kids to share the Good News. **Ask:** How can kids spread the Good News?

MAY 27

What will you do with the gifts of the Holy Spirit helping you?

To help students answer this, look at the definitions of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on page 70.

GREAT GIFTS!

Help students with the crossword as needed. Then **Ask:** Have you used any of these gifts today? In what way?

MAY 28

Sophia immediately started praying: "Come Jesus, come!"

Ask: Have you ever been in a situation like this? Have there been other times

you can think of when praying this prayer would help? Help students get in the habit of praying in this way by talking about situations in which students might need to say this prayer.

MAY 29

On the feast of the Ascension, we celebrate the moment that the Risen Jesus was raised up to heaven to be with his Father.

Living Faith Kids and *Living Faith* follow the USCCB liturgical calendar practice of celebrating the feast of the Ascension today, a holy day of obligation. In your diocese, this solemnity might be celebrated on Sunday. Whether you go to Mass today or Sunday, give students the opportunity to do a visual hunt for artwork or symbols depicting the Ascension of Jesus at church or in your classroom: in stained glass windows, on the cover of the parish bulletin, etc.

MAY 30

Jesus knew his disciples were going to miss him when he returned to the Father.

Most children don't know the names of all twelve Apostles, but you can help students get familiar with some of them. Ask what students know about some of the Apostles, such as Peter (also known as Simon Peter), John (the beloved disciple), Thomas (sometimes known as doubting Thomas) or Matthew (the former tax collector). Then look at the illustration at the top, and let students decide which of these might be Peter, John, Thomas and Matthew. (There are no wrong answers.)

MAY 31

When Mary visited Elizabeth, the baby inside of Elizabeth leaped with joy.

Invite students to look at the picture of Mary and Elizabeth. **Ask:** Why do you think they are both smiling?

June 1

Jesus is praying to his Father for you! What does Jesus want for you?

Note that the Bible is full of stories about Jesus healing people, but this is one of those times where Jesus prays for us. Repeat the sentence: *Jesus is praying to his Father for you.* Share what it means to you to know that Jesus prays for you, and invite students to do the same.

YOUR PAGE

Look at the pictures kids have created, and encourage students to draw a picture. If you wish, send it to the address at the bottom for possible publication. (We're sorry but we cannot return pictures.)

June 2

But there is one language all people can understand: love.

Learn and teach students how to say love in some other languages. Here are a few: Spanish: amor (*ah-MOR*), Swedish: kärlek (*shar-LYEHK*), Filipino: Pag-ibig" (*pah-GEE-big*). Search the Internet for more ways to say "love" in other languages—perhaps even in the language of your ancestors.

June 3

One of the greatest things you can do for others is pray for them.

Invite students to think of someone who needs prayers and write the name on the line. Encourage students to pray throughout the day for this person: at meals, before bed, etc.

June 4

When you give someone a gift that you chose or made especially for them, you're telling them that they are worth thinking about and remembering.

Today's reflection (and the one on page 11) are the inspiration for the

cover image for this issue. Learn more about the artist and what inspires her on page 10, the last page of this Daily Walk + Talk.

June 5

The psalmist reminds us that the safest and most precious "place" is being with God.

Name some situations (on the way to school, with friends, at a party, etc.), and ask how we can be with God in each one.

June 6

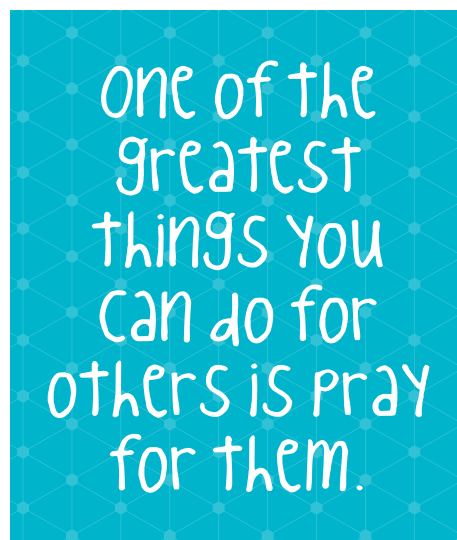
Jesus uses the example of sheep because he is our Good Shepherd.

Review what students have learned about shepherds, and ask how Jesus does all of these things—and more—for us.

June 7

In fact, the Church dedicates the whole month of June to Jesus' Sacred Heart, which is so full of love for us!

Watch a video to learn more about devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the *Living Faith* website. Visit this particular *Living Faith* Prayer Prompt at LivingFaith.com/devotion-to-sacred-heart.



June 8

And then...fire on top of their heads! This is the power of the Holy Spirit!

Talk about fire and how it can be both a danger and a blessing. **Ask:** How do you think the disciples felt when they noticed fire on top of their heads? Why do you think the Holy Spirit used fire to show his presence? (Be sure to point out that the fire of the Holy Spirit did not harm the disciples who were present. But they faced dangers as they spread the Gospel, and most of them gave their lives in the service of spreading Jesus' message.)

June 9

Just before he gave up his body on the Cross, Jesus gave us his mother so that she could care for us just as she had cared for Jesus all his life.

Honor Mary today by saying a Hail Mary together with students. Simple, but powerful.

June 10

Through God's light, we can see our beautiful patterns, and then we can shine those to the rest of the world.

Have students create mosaics using whatever spare supplies you have on hand. They can reflect any patterns students see or experience around them: in the classroom, church, at home or outside. They may choose to create patterns they see in nature during the summer: in the sky, in plants and trees, or in the changing of the seasons. Invite them to reflect on how God creates beautiful patterns in our lives.

June 11

Like St. Barnabas, we, too, can be cheerleaders for our faith, spreading hope and rejoicing in the good.

Throughout this Jubilee Year, special events are planned throughout the city of Rome. This Saturday and Sunday is

the Jubilee of Sport, which will gather great names in the sports world with Catholic pilgrims and will culminate with a Mass in St. Peter's Square celebrated by the Holy Father. The theme is "Sports Generates Hope." Talk with students today about how sports (or other interests students have) can give us hope. Learn more about Jubilee Year events at USCCB.org/jubilee2025.

June 12

She was glad she had a second chance to handle the situation.

Read aloud this brief story about Lily and her dad, and talk about any similar experiences you may have had in which someone makes a mistake. Invite students to share their experiences. **Ask:** How was the mistake handled? Was there anything anyone did well that you can praise? Anything someone could do better?

June 13

Think of something or someone you are thankful for, and say a prayer of thanks.

Invite everyone to share the name of someone for whom they are thankful. Then brainstorm things that can show gratitude. Encourage students to come up with small, doable action items rather than grand gestures that take a lot of time and energy (and thus, might not get done).

June 14

All he really needed to do was tell the truth—not some of the time, or even most of the time, but all the time.

Ask: How does it feel when you find out you've been lied to? How about the feeling you get when you know someone is telling you the truth? Is the truth ever hard to accept? Do you think that might be why some people lie? Or is there another reason? What do you think?

June 15

God's wonders are everywhere—even in big cities—if we just look for them.

Invite students to go outside with their families tonight and then fill in the blank at the bottom of the page. For more ideas on caring for God's creation, try this resource: *An Attitude of the Heart: Practical Tips and Service Ideas for Teens on Caring for Creation*. Find it at BayardFaithResources.com/products/attitude-of-the-heart.

June 16

God, give me strength to go the extra mile for someone in need.

Pay attention to the prayer in today's reflection. You may want to acknowledge that it's difficult to be generous as Jesus asks, but that we can always pray to him for the strength we need.

June 17

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you... Matthew 5:44

You may have noticed that the Gospel citations for the past few days are from Matthew's Gospel. Over the next several days, the Gospels we hear are from the chapters of Matthew's Gospel (5-7) dedicated to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Take time this summer to read these chapters—they are filled with Jesus' teachings. Note anything you find that's particularly applicable in today's world, and do some planning for how you can incorporate them into your lessons in the coming year.

June 18

When we do good things quietly because we love God, our reward will come in heaven, from God himself!

Look at the picture together, and invite students to imitate the action of the child after you say the following: *When I want to tell someone that I helped*

them...When I brag about something I've done...When I share a post about something great I've done...When I... (Come up with some of your own if you wish or have students think of other statements.) Encourage students to think of this action whenever they feel the temptation to brag.

June 19

When we ask for what we need, what we're really saying is this: "God, I know that everything belongs to you, and all you give me is a gift. Thank you!"

Encourage students to ask God for whatever they need, but remind them to begin with a prayer like this.

June 20

We sometimes find it hard to give our things away, even when we are finished using them.

Encourage students to share things they no longer need. You may wish to keep a box in your learning space that is dedicated to donations of school supplies, clothing or toys.

June 21

Do you remember how things turned out?

Invite students to spend some time thinking about the questions in the reflection. **Ask:** What did you learn from the experience?

June 22

But through his miracle, Jesus made sure that everyone had plenty to eat.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 9:11b-17, or John's version, John 6:1-13, aloud to students. Talk about the actions Jesus takes, noting especially how he gives thanks and says a blessing. This is a good introduction to the activity on the next page. Point out how the priest is repeating Jesus' actions as he says a blessing over the bread and wine.

LET'S SET THE ALTAR TABLE!

Bring your copy of *Living Faith Kids* to Mass and have students find these items on the altar.

June 23

Is there someone who needs your kindness today? Think and pray about it.

Ask students to think and pray about this question as you pray the Our Father together.

June 24

Do you know who he was and what he did?

Students can look at the top of the page for the answer to the first part of the question. For the second part, if you need a review, read one of the following: Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:2-11, Luke 3:1-22 or John 1:15-37.

June 25

If someone asks you to do something, look at how they treat others. Do they treat people with kindness?

Have students repeat the questions about how people treat others. Emphasize that these are good things to consider when anyone asks us to do something we are unsure about.

June 26

Where I live, we worry about wildfires that can destroy homes.

This is a good time to review school safety plans or other safety actions anyone can take in these situations. Remind students of these important word from the reflection: "...even if we lose everything, we will always have

Jesus. He is our eternal rock who never leaves us."

June 27

Jesus' heart is so great, and his love is so limitless, that he rescues anyone who repents—that means turning away from sin and turning to God.

Dilexit nos (He Loved Us) is Pope Francis' encyclical about the unconditional and never-failing love of Christ for all of us. When we open ourselves to this love, he says, we can become the ambassadors of Christ that we are called to be by our Baptism, and we can help change our own hearts as well as the hearts of others. You can find 30 beautiful quotes and reflections on this encyclical to deepen your appreciation for Christ's love in *Walking with Pope Francis in the Sacred Heart*, TwentyThirdPublications.com/products/walking-with-pope-francis-in-the-sacred-heart.

June 28

Two villagers waited for rain.

This is a fun story students can act out or mime. Then reflect on the question,

what is filling your heart? Invite students to think about ways we can empty ourselves of what is not needed so that Jesus can fill our hearts.

June 29

God wanted Peter to know that nothing would stop the plan he had for him.

Explain you're going to read another event in Peter's life that tells a little more about God's plan for him. Then read aloud Luke 5:1-11. **Ask:** What is something God had planned for Peter? (He would leave everything behind and follow Jesus.)

June 30

We are God's children, so it is also our nature to be kind.

Brainstorm acts of kindness students can do at home, and encourage students to do them. Be sure to pray the prayer, "For Any Time" (page 110) to close the month.



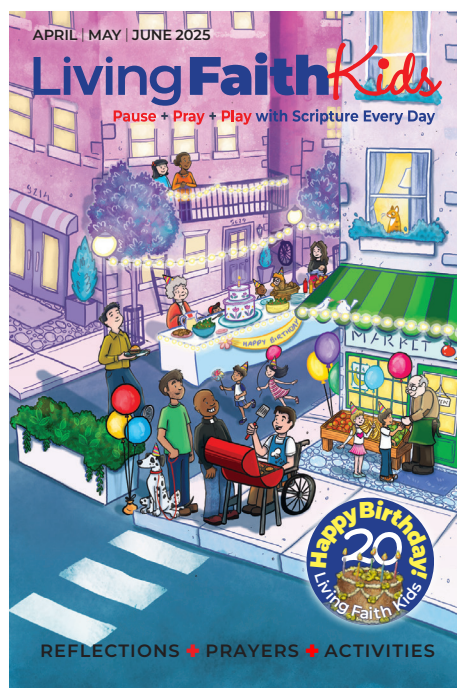
Living Faith Kids is celebrating its birthday—and our young readers are invited to join in the fun for the entire year!

We're celebrating this 20-year milestone with downloadable activities for children: LivingFaith.com/birthday-celebration.

Check back each quarter for updates! Right now, there's a free downloadable booklet for children's activities!

Chat With Celeste Gagnon

The artist *behind* this issue's cover!



LFK: Tell us a little about the cover illustration with a birthday party celebration. What do you like about it?

CG: I liked drawing the city setting. I think it shows a community that we don't often think about. All cities are made up of so many different families, cultures, businesses and neighbours. They live closely to each other and become strong, caring, important communities.

LFK: Tell us a little about your love for art and drawing? Have you always been

someone who likes art? Do you have favorite things you like to draw?

CG: I have always enjoyed drawing and exploring all different kinds of art. It's freeing. I love telling stories through my illustrations so there are often many little things going on in one larger picture. I feel a strong connection to our environment, so I love drawing animals and nature.

LFK: How do you like Living Faith Kids? Or, what message would you like to share with LFK readers?

CG: All the covers I've done for *Living*

Faith Kids have had something in common. Kids enjoying life, with their friends, family, in nature or the city. We are surrounded by wonders. Life is a gift, an adventure. Enjoy it and share that love and joy with everyone around you.

LFK: Give us a link to for more of your art to share for our readers and their families.

CG: My website: CelesteGagnon.wordpress.com

Instagram: [@celeste_illustrations](https://www.instagram.com/celeste_illustrations)

You've reached the end of this issue of Living Faith Kids. Don't miss the next issue for more ways to "Pause, pray and play with Scripture every day!"

And for helpful faith formation resources, visit BayardFaithResources.com

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