

FOR FAMILIES

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* gives you simple ways to talk with kids about faith using our daily reflections on the Mass readings. Scroll down to find the date for the devotion you're reading together, then use the question, prompt or activity idea to keep the conversation rolling. Who knows? Maybe you'll learn something new yourself!

April 1

Everybody has trouble with their Lenten promises sometimes.

Repeat the line above—for your benefit as well as your child's. 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 Lent prayer a part of your daily prayers until Easter Sunday.

EASTER COUNTDOWN

Encourage your child to put 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 your child 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. Even if you already devote part of your day to God, set an example by doing the same. You may have to try a few different times before you settle on one that works. Give yourselves 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 you think they may be beyond your child's understanding—devastated, miserable, dejected, confused, etc.—and 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. Make a statement such as, "The best food in the world is—" and have your child add his or her favorite and explain why. Model good listening by repeating what your child says

in your own words. Then make your own statement, inviting your child to listen without interrupting. Have your child identify the differing opinions. Repeat the process with various topics to practice respecting and expressing different opinions.

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.

Talk about times your child has cared for someone or something, like a younger relative or a pet. **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. Take turns mentioning a good thing in your life and respond together, “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 your child to start a “good things” list. Begin with some of the things your child mentioned in the “thank you” prayer on April 8. Keep the list in a central place such as your family table, and invite your child to add to the list 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 taking turns reading aloud each sentence. After each one, 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 your child to think about the week ahead—Holy Week—and how your child might do things to share Jesus’ love in ways specific to what’s happening in his or her world. Use the list in the reflection as a starting point. For example, perhaps at Mass tomorrow, your child 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 your child. It might be Peter’s denial (Luke 22:31-34, 54-62), the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43) or another passage that moves you particularly. Read it with your child, reflect on it silently and discuss any questions your child might have about it.

HOLY WEEK “TO DO” LIST

Go over the items on the list with your child. If your parish posts photos of the people who will be welcomed into the Church on the Easter Vigil, point out the pictures to your child. Learn the times of Holy Week services, and make plans to attend at least one.

April 14

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

Make plans with your family to gather at some time each day during Holy Week to pray the Our Father together.

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 your child. 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 them that he is there for them, just as Jesus is there for us when we are troubled. **Ask:** Who is someone who might simply need our presence right now?

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 your child. 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, all over the world, to do good for others—all over the world. Talk about how you and your family might step out of a comfort zone to help others.

April 18

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

Whether or not you go to Good Friday services 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 your child to identify what each one means. Talk about how Jesus' friends might have felt on this "in-between" day, after Jesus had died on the Cross. Remind your child 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 your child 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 your child 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 your child understands 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. There are many examples online to inspire you.

April 22

Still, Peter said there was hope.

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

(This prayer comes from the 30 Days of Hope Calendar, available 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 your child complete the prayer by adding the name of someone you know who is sick. Check your parish website or bulletin and find the names of all who are sick, and pray for them too.

April 24

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

Look through the Bible book of Psalms with your child. If you don't have a Bible, visit the Bible.USCCB.org/bible to access. Find some simple ones to read together.

April 25

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

Invite your child 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 your child where you 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 your child 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...

Take your child's hand, and affirm how you are experiencing God's presence right now. Invite your child to do the same.

OCEANS OF MERCY

After your child completes the activity, you can extend the idea with similar metaphors that your child 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 your child 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 child.

April 29

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

Discuss your child's 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 your child time to choose the correct one. Invite your child to give examples of good and bad in the world. You may wish to extend the prayer with 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 StJosephShrine.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 your child memorize the Creed with this "puzzle" activity. First, print out a copy of the Creed. 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 a bag. Say the words aloud together as you help your child put the printed strips together in order. Repeat often until your child knows the prayer.

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 your child 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 your child 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...")

May 5

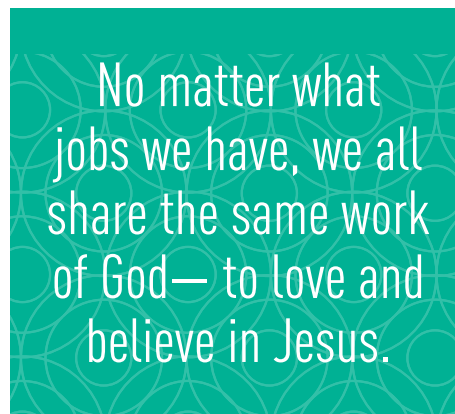
No matter what jobs we have, we all share the same work of God—to love and believe in Jesus.

Talk about the jobs everyone in your family does to keep your home running smoothly. Does anyone need help with anything? Could anyone do a little more? Remind your child 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 your child to do this next time you go to Mass.



May 6

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

Ask: What is your 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 your child can do. Write them on slips of paper, and place them in a jar. Have your child choose one to do each day.

May 10

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

Talk about heroes your child knows about—people who stand up for others, people who 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 you be a hero?

MAY 11

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

Have your child select a flag on the page—preferably not your country’s flag—and learn something about that country: Where is it? What language(s) are spoken? Major cities? Foods? Flags are from left: Bolivia, Vietnam, Nigeria, United States, Australia, Paraguay and Spain.

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 your child 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 gave an important message, not to adults, but to three children. A central part of her message was to pray the Rosary for peace. Try saying a decade of the Rosary with your child today.

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Catechist magazine has lots of

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

useful free tips for teaching your children 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 your child say it. **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.

“Recall how your family came to live in your current home. How has your family changed since then? How has your home changed over time? Talk about heaven! What do you picture that home will be like?” (These questions come from Our Journey of Hope: Family Conversation Starters. Learn more about this resource at BayardFaithResources.com/collections/jubilee-year-of-hope-2025/products/our-journey-of-hope-family-conversation-starters.)

MAY 16

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

Invite your child to make a reminder to serve God at school next week. On an index card or sheet of paper, have your child write “Dear God, help me today with...” Keep the reminder card somewhere your child will see it each day before school—in the car, at the family table, etc. Encourage your child to pray and add to the prayer each day. Remind your child of the words from today’s reflection: “Give it your best effort, knowing you are doing it for God.”

MAY 17

Now Natalie can’t wait to serve again!

Invite your child to notice the things altar servers do at Mass and talk about what it might be like to serve in this way. If your child is currently an altar server, invite him or her to say a short prayer before Mass for today’s servers.

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 to your child 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,” and learn or teach one song to your child. Some classics you’ve probably heard at Mass are “Come, Holy Ghost” and “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid.”

MAY 20

Peace is many things.

Encourage your child 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 family, 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 your child's 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?

Jot down these lines from the reflection, and add a line after each: "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." Have your child fill in examples of how these can be done in your own lives. Encourage your child to put Jesus' words into action this week.

LivingFaith.com/kids

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 your child form a basis for understanding the Good Shepherd by learning more about shepherds. You might do a search: "What do shepherds do" together.

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 your child think of activities or times of the day that can offer quiet time for this. Perhaps your child makes 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.

Talk together about people you know of who tell others about the Good News: teachers, catechists, your parish priest or pastor, the Pope. **Ask:** Do you think this is a hard job? Why or why not? Invite your child to pray for these people.

MAY 27

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

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

GREAT GIFTS!

Help your child 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 your child get in the habit of praying in this way by talking about situations in which your child might need a prayer like this.

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. You may live in a diocese where this solemnity is celebrated on Sunday. Whether you go to Mass today or Sunday, give your child the opportunity to do a visual hunt for artwork or symbols depicting the Ascension of Jesus at church: in stained glass windows, on the cover of the 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 your child get familiar with some of them. Ask what your child knows 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 your child decide which of these might be Peter, John, Thomas and Matthew. (There are no right or wrong answers, but listen to the reasons your child gives for choosing them.)

MAY 31

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

Invite your child 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 your child to do the same.

YOUR PAGE

Look at the pictures kids have created, and encourage your child 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 your child 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 your child to think of someone who needs prayers and write the name on the line. Encourage your child to pray throughout the day for this person: at family 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 your child has 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 saw 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 your child. 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 your child create a mosaic with whatever supplies you have on hand. You might go through your recyclables bin and cut out pieces of colorful paper or pictures from junk mail. Or you could collect rocks, pebbles and twigs outside. Whatever supplies you choose, make patterns together, and reflect on the patterns God has made in your life.

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 your child about how sports (or other interests your child has) can give us hope. Learn

more about Jubilee Year events at the USCCB's Jubilee 2025 pages 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 your family may have had in which someone makes a mistake. **Ask:** How was it handled? Was there anything anyone did well that you can praise? Anything anyone would like to do better?

June 13

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

Take some time to do this together. Then brainstorm things you can do to show gratitude. Encourage your child 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.

Make plans to go outside tonight with your family and 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 to your own family, and share it with them as you see fit.

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 your child 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 text or share a post about something great I've done... When I...* (Come up with some of your own if you wish.) Encourage your child to think of this action whenever the temptation to brag comes up.

LivingFaith.com/kids

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 your child to ask God for whatever your child needs, but 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.

Take time this weekend to fill up a box or two of items your family no longer needs (but that still have usefulness), and donate to a charity of your choice.

June 21

Do you remember how things turned out?

Invite your child to think back on the school year and answer 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 6:1-13 aloud to your child (or have your child read it to you). Talk about the actions Jesus takes, noting that 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 your child find these items on the altar.

June 23

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

Ask your child 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?

Your child 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 your child read aloud 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.

If your child has worries about natural disasters or other dangers, it may help to review your family safety plans or other specific actions your family can take to be safe in these situations. You may wish to research other precautions as well. Remind your child of these important words from the reflection too: "...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 to act out or mime with your child. Then reflect on the question, what is filling your heart?

Think about ways you can empty yourself of what is not needed so that Jesus can fill your heart.

June 29

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

Tell your child you're going to read about 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.

Together, brainstorm some things you can do to be kind to others over the next month. Be sure to pray the prayer "For Any Time" (page 110) as you plan the next month.



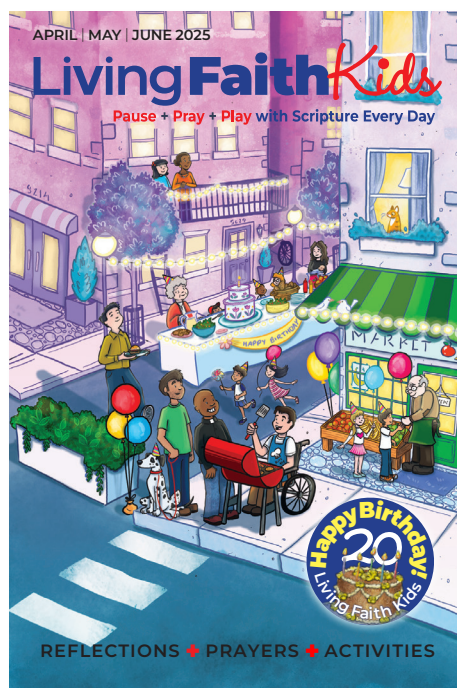
Living Faith Kids is celebrating its birthday—and our young readers are invited to join in the fun for the entire year!

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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