

Passing It On!

FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER TO **Faith-fully** RAISE OUR CHILDREN
St. Raphael's Religious Education Program Community Newsletter

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November 2019

A Message from Mary

Dear parents,

What are some of your favorite family traditions during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany? Do you light an Advent wreath, set up a nativity scene, send Christmas cards, give gifts, sing carols? What are some of the special foods you prepare? Do you visit extended family, neighbors, or friends? Family traditions are important because they nurture our family spirit, give us a sense of belonging, and create positive memories for our children. Think of how these holiday traditions have shaped you. Think of the efforts you make to pass them on to your children.

In our faith life we speak about Tradition with a capital T. This Tradition, also called Apostolic Tradition, is "the living transmission of the Gospel through beliefs and practices of the Church handed on from the apostles that they themselves had received under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."¹ Many of the holiday traditions we practice have secular roots, but when these traditions are linked to Sacred Tradition, they can ground us in eternal truth and lead us to ultimate meaning.

- When lighting an Advent wreath, remember that God is eternal, that Christ is the light of the world and that we are called to be light for others.
- When setting up the nativity scene, talk about who Jesus is -- the Son of God, our Savior -- and how he continues to be with us today even in very humble and unexpected places.
- When sending Christmas cards, pray for each recipient.
- When visiting, make a point to visit those who are sick, to comfort those who mourn, to release those who are in prison, and to be reconcilers.
- Let each gift you give be a reminder to love one another as God has loved us.
- Sing Christmas carols and reflect on how Jesus came to bring peace to the world.

Family traditions may bring us happiness for now, but it is our faith Tradition which will hold us and our children throughout their lives. How well do your traditions support and reinforce your beliefs? Do your traditions lead to a deeper understanding of Sacred Tradition?

May you be renewed in faith this Advent and Christmastime!

Mary

p.s. I came across an interesting article entitled "Why Children Get Gifts on Christmas: A History" (Paul Ringel, *The Atlantic*, December 25, 2015). Despite the secular roots of gift-giving, Catholic families can make it a reflection of God's gift to us in Jesus, the Savior of the world.

¹ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*, Grade 8 glossary, Archdiocese of Washington.

*God of hope and love,
we praise you for sending
Jesus, your Son,
to save us from our sins
and to be the light in
our darkness.*

*Blessings and Prayers for
Home and Family*



School Cancellation Procedures



SRRE follows Montgomery County Schools for **weather-related closings**. When Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are closed because of inclement weather, SRRE classes do not meet. When MCPS cancel after school, evening, and/or weekend activities because of weather, SRRE after school, evening, and/or weekend classes are also canceled. See www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or call [301-279-3673](tel:301-279-3673) or listen to WTOP radio (103.5 FM). If MCPS “school activities” are called off, but “community events” in MCPS buildings are taking place, we may or may not have SRRE. This is a relatively rare occurrence and the DRE will make a decision based on the time of the class and the expected weather event. **In all cases, parents and volunteers should make their most prudent decision regarding personal safety.**

Children’s Choir for Christmas

We are now recruiting for Children’s Choir for Christmas! All 3-8 graders are welcome (as well as High School alumni or siblings and interested others). Those in grades 1-2 can contact us for readiness assessment as we will learn fast.

We will rehearse from 1:00PM - 2:00PM on Sunday, December 8, 15, and 22. We will meet at 2:45PM on Christmas Eve to sing the 8:00PM Mass in the Trumpet Room. Contact Catherine Benskin for more information: cbensk@gmail.com



Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

-- Drop Off --

Parents must park and accompany younger children into the school building and to their classroom. Older children may be dropped off using the drop off lane nearest the school building or by parking and having the children cross at the crosswalk. There are crosswalks directly in front of the main door (across to the island) and at the end of the sidewalk near the church (across to the island).

On Monday afternoon, Monday night, and on Tuesday afternoon, the lane of parking nearest the school building is blocked off and used as a drop-off lane. There is no drop off lane on Sunday nights because RE classes begin immediately after Mass when the parking lot is full.

Drivers must be especially careful to stop for pedestrians at each of these crosswalks.

No one may ever park or stop in the fire lane – where the curb is painted yellow.

-- Pick Up --

Parents must collect their children in the school building and, for younger children, in the RE classroom. Students will be released only to their parents or an adult explicitly authorized by the parents. Please inform the DRE of any custody situations or if someone other than the child’s parent has permission to collect the child.

We expect parents to walk with their child to the car, crossing only at the crosswalks as outlined above. All drivers must move slowly and carefully, stopping at the crosswalks to allow pedestrians to cross.

If a parent needs to pick up a child before the dismissal bell, the parent must go to the SRRE office. A staff member will go to the classroom and bring the child to the office to meet the parent. This is to ensure minimum disruption of class and safety for the child.

No one may ever park or stop in the fire lane – where the curb is painted yellow.

Important Dates: To help you track the seasons along with your children in class, we will list important dates in the newsletter as they occur throughout the 2019-2020 school year. See the calendar below for some important St. Raphael's dates.

Important Dates at St. Raphael's	
Nov. 24	Confirmation I Enrollment Rite, 6:00 PM, Church
Dec. 1	Advent Fair for Families, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Trumpet Room
Dec. 1	NO MORNING CLASS; night classes will meet as usual
Dec. 3	Penance during classes (Tuesday)
Dec. 5	Confirmation II sponsor, saint, service project due
Dec. 15-16	Penance during classes (Sunday-Monday)
Dec. 18	Christmas Nativity Practice, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Dec. 22-31	NO CLASS
Jan. 19-21	NO CLASS
Jan. 22	First Penance, 7:00 PM, Church
Jan. 29, 30	First Eucharist Parent Meeting, 7:00 PM, Duffy Center
Feb. 1	First Penance, 10:15 AM, Church
Feb. 1-2	Confirmation Retreat
Feb. 2	EVENING CLASSES will be held at 4:45 PM , Super Bowl
Feb. 8	First Eucharist Caring Rite & Reception, 10:00 AM, Church
Feb. 12	Confirmation II Parent & Student Meeting, 7:00 PM, Trumpet Room
Feb. 16-18	NO CLASS
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday
Mar. 1	Confirmation II Election Rite, 6:00 PM, Church
Mar. 7	First Eucharist Family Retreat Day, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM



Children Needed for Christmas Eve Nativity

Children's Liturgy of the Word is casting the annual enactment of the Christmas nativity during the Children's Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We are seeking children between the ages of 5 to 9 to play the roles of angels and shepherds. Children must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 18, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Costumes are provided. If your child is interested, please email Mary Beaudoin at mbeaudoin@straphaels.org and provide your child's name and age.

St. Raphael's Advent Giving Tree Project

Another tradition at St. Raphael's is our annual Advent Giving Tree Project. Approximately 1300 gift tags are hung on the two Christmas trees in the back of the church for parishioners to choose from. There are gift tags for toys for our Twin Parish, St. Martin of Tours in DC, and other agencies that serve children, clothing and needed items for shelter residents, and gift cards for families with hospitalized children and at St. Ann's Center. In all, St. Raphael's collects gifts for 11 organizations! We also provide an opportunity for monetary donations via "Angel Gifts" — look for the envelope packets on the trees.

St. Raphael's spirit of generosity makes this project a success year after year. Whether you are new to the parish or a long-time parishioner, take a look at the trees and select a card (or two), and follow the instructions on the tag.

All gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 15th at 1:00PM and all **items must be NEW AND UNWRAPPED** along with a gift bag (but please do not place your donation **in** the gift bag; lay it flat).

Many thanks to our wonderful St. Raphael's parishioners!

St. Raphael's Advent Giving Tree Project seeks donations of
NEW, UNOPENED WRAPPING PAPER and TAPE.

Wrapping paper and tape may be:

*Left in the school lobby during Religious Education classes

*Placed in the gift boxes at the back of the church during Advent

*We also need help **MOVING GIFTS** after Masses - Dec. 7/8 & 14/15
(From collection boxes to storage area, 5-10 minutes after each Mass)

*Opportunity for **Confirmation Service Hours** (7th & 8th graders):
Move gifts from church basement to Trumpet Room on Sunday, December 15

Advent is Family Time

The distractions are endless, the sales pitches and commercials are inescapable and everyone is exhausted trying to meet the wants of everyone on Santa's list.

But what if ...we do something totally random and take time to be a family in preparation for Christ's birthday? What if ...we all took a deep breath and a field trip (or two) to help us step away from the craziness of the season to ponder the momentous event of Our Savior's birth? What if ...we stepped away from the cash registers and savored the joys of the season instead?

Here are some "outside of the box" ideas to consider that may help us make Advent a more meaningful time as we prepare ourselves for the Greatest Miracle of all.

- 1) Start an Advent Calendar that has a good deed or a task that needs to be completed each day in service to someone else (like make a new friend or help an elderly neighbor) and then share how it went at dinner.
- 2) Take a family field trip to places that remind us of the true meaning of Christmas like the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, DC that has scaled replicas of the Holy Land and a collection of Nativities Scenes from around the world.
(<https://myfranciscan.org>)
- 3) Put some hay in a bowl near your manger set and have children (and adults) can add a single piece of straw for each good deed that they do during the day so that the Baby Jesus will have a warm place to be born on Christmas.
- 4) Watch a video together as a family. Our parish has a subscription to FORMED (an adult religious education platform on the Internet), which has video about Mary of Nazareth and the birth of Christ. Discuss what it must have been like back then. To create a free account - https://formed.org/signup?group_id=f55a73b2-305e-47d9-ac8c-f2f0e5361d7c
- 5) Have the children pick tags from the Advent Tree and then pick out the gift themselves (maybe even with their own money!). They can include a personal message to the recipient to give them a sense of ownership.

Here are some additional resources to explore this holiday season as a family to help "Keep Christ in Christmas":

- 1) Chris Stepanik's: Real Life Catholic (<http://reallifecatholic.com/video/>) with short videos on specific topics for families (including teens!)
- 2) Printable Advent Activity Calendar for Catholic Families:
<https://www.reallifeathome.com/10-activities-for-catholic-families-in-december-printable/>



Advent Prep for Digital Disciples

November 12, 2019



Resources to enhance the Advent journey

SR. CAROLINE CERVENY

Prepare for the Nativity of Jesus using resources from the digital world that surrounds us. Enhance the Advent journey by using your computer, smartphone, or tablet as a “digital disciple” and share these activities with your school or parish children.

■ View a two-minute video about Advent here: CATmag.us/2LQgNWI.

■ Find a blessing for your Advent wreath at CATmag.us/2LPRrbc. Discover how to make one here: CATmag.us/2LDXnEj.

■ Junior High-High School Student Advent Prayer: Lectio Divina provides an opportunity to meditate, contemplate, and pray as a spiritual preparation during Advent. The USCCB provides weekly Lectio Divina Prayer experiences in both English and Spanish at CATmag.us/2v6URwl.

■ On December 3, Feast of St. Francis Xavier, pray for missionaries on the feast of one of the Church’s greatest Jesuit missionaries. Learn more about missionaries by watching a short video about how the Family Missions Company preaches the Gospel and serves the poor. Go to CATmag.us/2AuxG4m.

■ A family activity: December 6 is the feast of St. Nicholas, a bishop in 4th-century Greece. He was known to offer small gifts to others by leaving a gift in their shoes. Parents are encouraged to work with their child/children in creating a unique card for a member of your family (grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, cousin, mom, or dad) in which you share a special message with them. Your gift will be your specially made card. Use online programs to create cards:

FotoJet [CATmag.us/2vprjv](https://www.fotojet.com/)

Canva [CATmag.us/2KdFTcT](https://www.canva.com/)

Adobe Spark [CATmag.us/2LP1nN](https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/spark/)

■ December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Learn more about this feast with a short article and podcast at [CATmag.us/2LPpaBr](https://www.cattmag.com/2LPpaBr).



■ December 9 is the feast day of St. Juan Diego. In 1531, while on his way for Mass, he met Our Lady. Listen to the short podcast and read a short story about him at [CATmag.us/2Ar0fzw](https://www.cattmag.com/2Ar0fzw).

■ On December 12, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico and the Americas. Listen to the podcast and read more about Our Lady at [CATmag.us/2v4HAEz](https://www.cattmag.com/2v4HAEz).

■ Class activity for grades 5-8: Visit your church the week before Christmas. Bring a digital camera. Find the Nativity scene in your church. Before Christmas, the manger usually does not contain the Baby Jesus. Take a photo of the Nativity scene without the Baby Jesus. Then go back to your classroom and write a reflection in 140 characters or less, responding to this question: How will you welcome Jesus as a friend when he comes? Teachers can gather photos and reflections, and then work with Facebook administrator or the parish webmaster to post one of the photos from the class or create a webpage with a collage of the photos and reflections.

■ Blessing for your home Nativity or manger: see CATmag.us/200Sen4.

■ Don't forget to share the Christmas story. Read "The Birth of Jesus" in Luke 2:1-20. After hearing or reading the story, ask questions to spark conversations:

- ▶ What would it have been like to be Mary?
- ▶ What would it have been like to be Joseph?
- ▶ What would it have been like to see an angel?

■ Finally, invite high-school students to be "digital storytellers." After obtaining proper permission, invite them into classrooms to photograph younger groups participating in these or other activities. Ask families participating at home to send a photo or two of their family preparing during Advent to share with your community. Then ask your high-school students to prepare a short video sharing the story of your parish preparations during Advent for Christmas.

Sr. Caroline Cerveny, SSJ-TOSF, D. Min., is a faith-based educational technology specialist, founder and president of Digital Disciple Network, and co-founder of Digital Discipleship Boot Camp at DDBCformation.org.

PHOTOS (T-B): CSTAR55/ISTOCK, LAWRENCE OP/CC

St. Raphael 9th Annual Advent Fair



Come make a fresh Advent wreath to light at your dinner table, during coffee and donuts after morning masses. Kits available for \$15. Greens are for free. Start a family tradition that your great grandchildren will love. Christmas arts and crafts and childcare will be provided for little ones too young to make a wreath. Please email catherineolohankelly@gmail.com so she can make enough wreaths for all that are interested.

Sunday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Mother Teresa Event Coming Soon!

St. Raphael's annual Mother Teresa Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019. St. Raphael transports the clients of the Missionaries of Charity Houses in Northeast and Southwest, D.C. to our location in time to celebrate Mass and then partake in Christmas party. SRS students help to serve our guests with a tray filled with roasted turkey, ham, whipped potatoes, dressing and veggies, which is always a time for our guests to have a hot meal. Donations and volunteers are needed to make the event a success. If you would like to participate or you would like to donate roasted turkeys, baked hams or soda, you can sign-up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4baaaa28a75-mother3>



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Advent

Exposition

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 9:30 AM
following 9 AM daily Mass

Benediction

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:15 PM



For each hour, we need *one Captain* who will open with brief announcements and an Advent prayer. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity, and **sign-up** for the hour of your choice clicking on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4dafaf2aaafc1-24hour2>

Be assured that all are invited at any time, and sign-ups are not required to come to Adoration. This sign-up is to ensure that the Lord's company is kept for each hour of Adoration and that a Captain is present to open each hour.

Please, come spend an hour with the Lord, and share this invitation with family, friends, and members of your ministries. Thank you for your service and prayer!

May God bless you and yours this Advent season!

HO! HO! HO!

Santa is coming to St. Raphael's!

Saturday, December 7, in the Trumpet Room

Breakfast with Santa from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

(pancakes & sausage)



The donation per family is \$25.00.

There will be food, crafts, Santa's Secret Shop, and of course a visit from Santa himself. This activity is for registered parishioners only (if you are not registered, you can contact the parish office to do so).

ADULT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. We rely on volunteers to make this event a success every year! If you can help with the preparation before the event, assistance during, or cleanup after the event, please contact Peggy Weldon at peggyweldon2@aol.com. Adult volunteers and their families will automatically be registered for the event, so if you've had difficulty getting a reservation in the past, this is a great way to guarantee your spot and serve the parish at the same time! Teen volunteers are also needed to help during the event.

Reservations will be taken **by phone only** on **Monday, November 25**, starting at 10:00 AM for breakfast with Santa. Calls received prior to 10:00 AM will be considered invalid. If your call ends up in voicemail after 10:00 AM, you must call back. Calls are answered and transferred to a volunteer as quickly as possible. There is a limited amount of seating and the event fills quickly, so please call early.

Please make a reservation for your family only – multiple reservations will not be accepted on one call. Each family will be limited to two adults.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS on Monday, November 25:

CALL (301) 762-2143 – **do not leave a voicemail message!**

Please be ready to provide your name, email address, number of children and adults (max. of 2 adults per reservation)

Helpful Websites



St. Raphael website	www.straphaels.org
Archdiocese of Washington	www.adw.org
US Conference of Catholic Bishops	www.usccb.org
The Vatican	www.vatican.va
Online Bible	www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index
Textbook	www.loyolapress.com www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/finding-god/finding-god-2013 www.avemariapress.com/resources
Catholic News	www.cathstan.org www.franciscanmedia.org www.osvdailytake.com www.ewtn.com
Marriage	www.foryourmarriage.org
Adult Faith Formation	www.straphaels.org/adult-faith-formation www.formed.org/custom-register?url=straphaels
Saints	www.franciscanmedia.org/saints
Child Protection	www.virtusonline.org/virtus
Human Sexuality	www.parentsandkidstalking.com
Publishers	www.ltp.org www.litpress.org www.pastoral.center www.magnificat.com
Movie Reviews	www.catholicnews.com/movies.cfm
Sunday Mass wherever you are	www.discovermass.com



Doing Good, Acting Justly

Exploring social doctrine

DAVID O'BRIEN



This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Check answers against the answer key on page 3 of this pdf.

1 When you help someone, Jesus said you should _____.

- a) tell no one
- b) tell everyone so people are impressed
- c) make sure to get service hours
- d) tell the person they owe you

2 "Faith without works is _____" (James 2:26).

- a) invisible
- b) boring
- c) difficult
- d) dead

3 The prophets of the Old Testament reminded the Israelites to especially take care of the _____.

- a) teenagers
- b) rich
- c) poor
- d) leaders

4 Because of the separation of church and state, the government cannot promote an official _____ for all US citizens.

- a) mascot
- b) religion
- c) fan club for Notre Dame
- d) type of church music

5 Jesus said: "All who take the sword will perish by _____" (Matthew 26:52).

- a) accident
- b) a Samurai warrior
- c) Roman soldiers
- d) the sword

6 Pope Francis said: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

True | False

7 The first _____ shared all their money and property to make sure everyone had enough.

- a) millionaires
- b) country music singers
- c) English kings
- d) Christians

8 _____ means that we are part of one human family so we need to help one another.

- a) Armageddon
- b) School spirit
- c) Solidarity
- d) Peer pressure

9 After Pope John XXIII died, Pope _____ was elected by the cardinals to lead the Church.

- a) Paul VI
- b) Francis
- c) Benedict
- d) John Paul

10 By serving those in need, we are serving _____.

- a) Pope Francis
- b) Jesus
- c) the Church
- d) the American dream

11 According to Catholic social teaching, people are more important than things.

True | False

12 St. Thomas Aquinas defined _____ as "willing the good for another."

- a) love
- b) sportsmanship
- c) wishful thinking
- d) social justice

13 Pope Paul VI famously wrote the encyclical entitled _____ explaining the Catholic teaching on artificial birth control.

- a) *Be Fruitful and Multiply*
- b) *The Song of Songs*
- c) *Rerum Novarum*
- d) *Humanae Vitae*

14 By _____, we contribute to God's creation of the universe.

- a) singing
- b) eating
- c) dreaming
- d) working

15 Ignoring Catholic social doctrine is a mortal sin.

True | False



PHOTOS (L-R, T-B): VATICAN MEDIA, LISA JULIA/BAYARD, CC MISS, MONICA, ELIZABETH

16 Catholicism teaches that _____ are the central social institutions of our society.

- a) marriage and family
- b) the presidency and Congress
- c) Facebook and Snapchat
- d) the Army and the Navy

17 “If [one] part [of the body] suffers, all the parts _____” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

- a) pray
- b) suffer with it
- c) avoid it
- d) call for help

18 It is _____ to pick on someone if they are different.

- a) never okay
- b) sometimes allowed
- c) fun
- d) American

19 “If you want peace, work for _____.” – Pope Paul VI

- a) the United Nations
- b) the military
- c) justice
- d) Google

20 Like the Ten Commandments, you can find a list of the principles of Catholic social teaching in the Bible.

True | False

Kids' quiz

Doing Good for Others Find the answer key on the next page of this pdf.

1 Mother Teresa took care of _____ in the slums of Calcutta.

- a) priests
- b) the poor
- c) rich children
- d) animals

2 Jesus told the story about the Good _____ who helped the injured man on the side of the road to Jericho.

- a) Samaritan
- b) Amigo
- c) Catholic
- d) Doctor

3 At the Last Supper, Jesus served his disciples by washing their _____.

- a) dishes
- b) clothes
- c) hands
- d) feet

4 The pope sometimes is called “The servant of the servants of God.” True | False

5 St. Francis of Assisi helped _____ when everyone else avoided them due to their disease.

- a) Franciscans
- b) his parents
- c) lepers
- d) the kings of Italy

6 Children can serve at Mass as _____

- a) teachers
 - b) deacons
 - c) altar servers
 - d) priests
- 7** Beginning in the Middle Ages, vocations of service included teachers, lawyers, clergy, and _____.

- a) farmers
- b) doctors
- c) inn keepers
- d) butchers

8 Pope _____ recently said that “politics is one of the highest forms of charity.”

- a) Francis
- b) Leo XIII
- c) Julius I
- d) Gregory the Great

9 In the 1960s, _____ served his community by fighting for civil rights and equal treatment for African Americans.

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) Gandhi
- c) Jesus
- d) Martin Luther King Jr.

10 Marching in a protest against a bad law such as legal abortion is a form of service to society. True | False



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ANSWERS TO Catholic I.Q.

1. **a)** "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing . . . and your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:3-4).
2. **d)** Faith should lead us to act like Jesus, who served others, sacrificed for others, and helped everyone he could.
3. **c)** Catholic social teaching follows the prophetic insight that those who need the most help should be taken care of first.
4. **b)** The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ."
5. **d)** Jesus practiced nonviolence and called his disciples to do the same. St. Paul echoes this teaching in Romans 12:21: "Conquer evil with good."
6. **False.** Pope Paul VI, who is to be canonized a saint, offered this wisdom in his encyclical *On Evangelization in the Modern World*.
7. **d)** "There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need" (Acts 4:34-35).
8. **c)** "Whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world." – *U.S. Bishops*. See CATmag.us/2nih19x.
9. **a)** Pope Paul VI guided the Church through the final years of Vatican II.
10. **b)** "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).
11. **True.** "Every person is precious, people are more important than things, and the measure of

every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person" (U.S. Bishops).

12. **a)** Aquinas said that true love wants what is best for the other, even when it requires sacrifice from us. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).
13. **d)** *Of Human Life (Humanae Vitae)* taught that nothing should artificially impede the conception of a new baby.
14. **d)** "Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation" (U.S. Bishops).
15. **True.** However, a sin isn't mortal unless it is a serious offense, and that you know it is a sin and you do it anyway. To selfishly ignore the needs of the poor and vulnerable when you can help is a mortal sin (see CCC, 1855).
16. **a)** Marriage is a reflection of God's love, and the family is where faith and virtues are learned.
17. **b)** We are all interconnected spiritually as the body of Christ and as a part of God's human family. If anyone suffers, it should affect us all and cause us to try to help.
18. **a)** Discrimination and attacking those who are weak is always a sin and violates God's will (see CCC, 1935).
19. **c)** "The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict" (U.S. Bishops). Peace requires justice to avoid wars started by people who have legitimate grievances.
20. **False.** Neither is the Creed or the word *Trinity* in the Bible. However, all these teachings and many others are based on the Bible. Guided by the Holy Spirit, it is the job of the magisterium (pope and bishops) is to interpret and apply the Bible's wisdom to every generation.

Kids' Quiz

1. **b)** Mother Teresa said she was taking care of Jesus who came to her in the "distressing disguise of the poor" (see Matthew 25:31ff).
2. **a)** Jesus' story was surprising because the Samaritans and Jews hated each other. No one expected the Samaritan to help the hurt Jewish man, but he did (see Luke 10:25-37).
3. **d)** By washing their feet, Jesus gave his disciples a powerful example of humble service (see John 13:1-17).
4. **True.** The pope has various titles to describe his different roles. This title emphasizes how his job is to help the other clergy do their ministry of serving the people of God.
5. **c)** The first time St. Francis embraced a leper, it changed his life because he realized that all people were his brothers and sisters in the family of God.
6. **c)** Young people are welcome to serve as lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist once they are 21 years old according to the U.S. bishops.
7. **b)** Only recently did doctors and lawyers become high-paying jobs. Previously people chose those careers only to serve humanity.
8. **a)** By passing good laws, politicians serve the common good and help a lot of people.
9. **d)** Martin Luther King Jr. recognized racism to be a sin and an offense against God's will. He dedicated his life to the fight for justice, equality, and fair treatment for African Americans.
10. **True.** Love requires action, which can be through charity (responding to immediate needs) or justice (seeking to address the cause of the problems). Changing bad laws is a work of justice.



Our Lady of Guadalupe



What do you need? Tell Our Lady of Guadalupe!

CONNIE CLARK

What if someone told you to go to city hall and tell the mayor to put up a new building in the center of town? Sounds crazy, right? But that's a little like what happened to Juan Diego.

On a December morning in 1531, Juan Diego was walking to Mass when a beautiful lady appeared to him. She said she was Mary, the Mother of God! Mary asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop she wanted a church built on the spot.

What could Juan Diego do? He was a humble peasant — he'd never even met the bishop. He did as Mary asked, but the bishop didn't believe him and wanted proof that it was really Mary. Things got worse for Juan Diego when his uncle became sick. The man was dying. As Juan Diego hurried to find a priest, Mary appeared again. "My dearest son," she said gently, "what do you need?" Juan Diego told her everything. Mary explained that his uncle would be cured. (And he was, at that very moment!) She told Juan Diego to gather some flowers blooming nearby and bring them to the bishop as a sign. Again Juan Diego did as Mary asked. At the bishop's house, when Juan Diego opened his cloak, or *tilma*, the flowers spilled out, and an image of Mary appeared on the *tilma*.

You've probably seen this image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her picture is still on Juan Diego's

tilma, centuries later! And it is on display — in the church she asked to be built in Mexico.

Many people celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe by getting up early in the morning for a procession (that's like a parade) into Mass. They bring flowers, sing songs, and after Mass, share delicious food. This celebration reminds us that sometimes it might seem like doing God's will is impossible. But Jesus and his mother Mary are always with us, loving us and giving us strength.



CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.

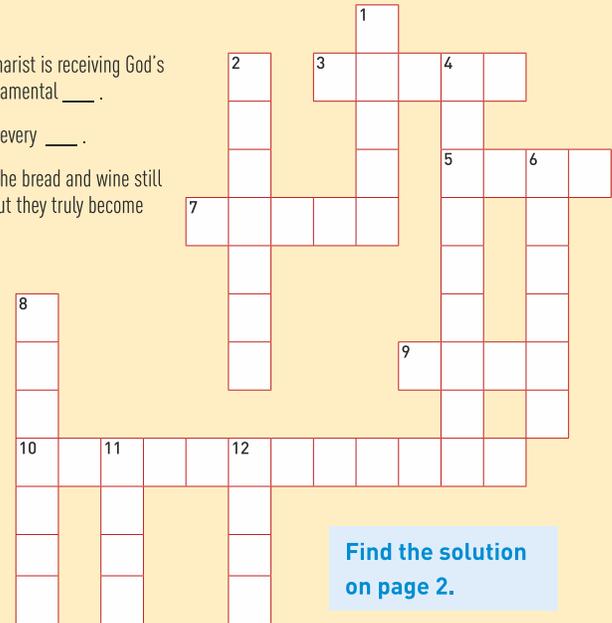
CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS! As Juan Diego found out, doing God's will isn't always easy. But Jesus has given us many gifts—like his mother Mary—to help us. Jesus also gives us the gift of his body and blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Here we receive God's special strength, wisdom, and courage to help us do his will. Finish the puzzle to see how much you know about this most amazing gift!

ACROSS

- 3. One of the blessings of the Eucharist is receiving God's own life within us, also called sacramental ____.
- 5. We can receive the Eucharist at every ____.
- 7. Transubstantiation means that the bread and wine still look, smell, and taste the same, but they truly become Christ's Body and ____.
- 9. Jesus says, "I am the bread of ____." (John 6:35)
- 10. The word *eucharist* means _____. (Hint: It's another word for being grateful.)

DOWN

- 1. In the Eucharist, Jesus himself is truly present in the ____ and wine we receive.
- 2. Another name for the cup in which Jesus' Precious Blood is served to us.
- 4. Another name for this sacrament is Holy ____.



- 6. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at a special meal called the Last ____.
- 8. Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist can't be completely explained in words; it is a great ____ of our faith.
- 11. We say this word prayerfully when we receive the Body of Christ.
- 12. Besides receiving the risen Jesus' Body and Blood, we also receive his ____ and his Divinity.

***Celebrate
God's Gifts!***
solution



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