



Home Study Parent Meeting

October 27, 2025

St. Laurence Catholic Church

Parents & Families at the Center of Faith Formation

National Community of Catechetical Leaders

- Community
- Significance
- Day-to-Day Practices
- Modeling
- Warmth & Love
- Flexibility
- Listening
- Living into Faith



Listening as a Faith Practice

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:9)

- Why listen? (Dignity of the Human Person)
- Listening as a holy act
(Hearing with the Heart of Christ)
- God models patient, loving attention



Why Listening Matters



- Builds trust and connection*
- Reflects how God listens to
us
- Opens space for faith to grow

Four Core Practices

- Listen to understand, not to fix
- Stay faithful to communication
- Mix it up – walk, talk, pray, play
- Balance correction with affirmation



Qualified Yes — The Art of ‘No’

(Gregory Popcak)



- Whenever possible, replace reflexive “no” with “qualified yes”
- Example: 1: Yes, you can go to your friend’s house, but first finish homework.
- Example 2: You absolutely can get your drivers’ license, but first you need to show me that you are responsible. Let’s work out a plan for that.

Preschool (3–5)

- Simple truths and routines
- Short, gentle talks
- Model prayer and gratitude



Lower Elementary (Grades 1–3)

- Wonder and curiosity
- Explain meaning of stories and rituals
- Ask open questions



Upper Elementary (Grades 4–5)

- Growing logic and empathy
- Encourage deeper faith questions
- Share how you live your faith



Middle School (Grades 6–8)



- Identity and belonging
- Doubt and curiosity emerge
- Conversations over lectures

High School (Grades 9–12)

- Seeking authenticity
- Respect autonomy
- Be a companion, not a critic



Barriers to Real Listening



- Busyness and multitasking
- Fear of silence
- Trying to fix too quickly
- Generational language gaps

Faith Anchors

- Form your children into disciples through specific examples
- Samuel: Listening to God's call
- Mary: Pondering in her heart
- Jesus: Asking questions and hearing others



Practical Tools for Parents



- Reflective phrases: 'What I hear you saying is...'
- Daily 5-minute check-in
- One specific affirmation each day

Weekly Listening Challenge

- Choose one practice to try this week
- Pray for ears that hear with love
- Notice when your child feels most open



Discussion

A hand with dark red nail polish holds a white rectangular card. The card has the words "Thank you" written in a black, cursive script. The background is a solid dark blue-grey color.

Thank you

- What stood out to you tonight?
- Which idea will you try first?
- Questions or reflections?

Reference

Faith Matters: Conversations by Age Group (CatholicMom) <https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/faith-matters-conversations-by-age-group>

How to Have Better Conversations with Your Kids (U.S. Catholic) <https://uscatholic.org/articles/201902/how-to-have-better-conversations-with-your-kids/>

My Kid Won't Listen to Me! The Art of "No" (Gregory Popcak, Catholic Counselors) <https://catholiccounselors.com/my-kid-wont-listen-to-me-the-art-of-no/>

Are You Even Listening? (CatholicMom) <https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/are-you-even-listening>

Are 'Good Kids' the Goal of Catholic Parenting? (CatholicMom) <https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/are-good-kids-the-goal-of-catholic-parenting>

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Talking to Your Middle Schooler About the Faith (Catholic-Link) <https://catholic-link.org/talking-to-your-middle-schooler-about-the-faith/>

Should Catholics Implement Gentle Parenting? (Catholic-Link) <https://catholic-link.org/gentle-parenting-catholics/>

Kids Behaving Badly? Turn That Problem into an Opportunity (Catholic Counselors) <https://catholiccounselors.com/kids-behaving-badly-follow-these-3-steps-to-turn-that-problem-into-an-opportunity/>

When Your Children Reject the Faith (Catholic Exchange) <https://catholicexchange.com/when-your-children-reject-the-faith/>

Kids Don't Listen? How to Stop Lecturing (Connected Families) <https://connectedfamilies.org/kids-dont-listen/>