

***Opening Prayer – A Parents’ Prayer***

Loving God,  
You are the giver of all we possess,  
the source of all of our blessings.  
We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them,  
and yet encourage them to explore.

Give us the strength and courage to treat  
each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow  
in faith, hope, and love,  
so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.  
May their ears hear your voice.

May their eyes see your presence in all things.  
May their lips proclaim your word.

May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity.  
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,  
your Son and our Lord.  
Amen.

***Parents & Families at the Center of Faith Formation***

* *PARENTS are the FIRST and BEST teachers of their children! See what the Church teaches, CCC 2223*
* Parish staff are here to *encourage*, *support* and *equip* parents and other loving adults to *teach,* *pray* and *celebrate the sacraments* with your children whom God entrusted to your care.
* As faith formation and practicing the Catholic faith becomes deeply integrated into your family life, you will experience the *graces* and *blessings* of *strengthening* your family at home.
* Faith formation is a *lifelong process* from ‘cradle to grave’, childhood through adulthood. This is a process of *shared growth* for both you and your child as you continue to *intentionally form* your family at home.

***Home Study Program Overview***

**Expectations for Successful Completion of Home Study:**

* Attend Parent Kick-off Meeting on September 22, 2025
* Complete Weekly Lessons at Home
* **Attend ALL 4 Parent Enrichment & Checkpoint Sessions**
  + 1. Monday, October 27th, 2025, 7-8pm, Marian Hall
    2. Monday, December 1st, 2025, 7-8pm, Marian Hall
    3. Monday, February 23, 2026, 7-8pm, Marian Hall
    4. Monday, April 13th 2026, 7-8pm, Marian Hall

**Receiving Credit**

* Bring your child’s textbook and other completed work to the Parent Enrichment & Checkpoint Session to show progress.
* Communicate with grade-level coordinator if you cannot attend a session: instructions for making up the session will be provided after completion of the meeting.
* ***Special Note:*** Only two (2) parent absences from the four (4) scheduled Parent Enrichments & Checkpoint meetings per year are eligible for makeup. Makeup work, which includes an audio recording and handout (for the parents) and demonstration of completed work (for the parent and child), should be turned in by the *next* meeting to receive credit. **Note that the final meeting (April 13th) cannot be made up and no makeup work will be accepted after that point.**

**Home Study Grade-Level Contacts & Resources**

***PreK-5th Grade:*** <https://www.stlaurence.org/home-study-prek-elementary>

**Joan Hastreiter (K-5th)** [jhastreiter@stlaurence.org](mailto:jhastreiter@stlaurence.org)

**Susan Mulé (PreK3/PreK4)** [smule@stlaurence.org](mailto:smule@stlaurence.org)

***Middle School (6th-8th):*** <https://www.stlaurence.org/home-study-middle-school>

**Caitlyn White** [cwhite@stlaurence.org](mailto:cwhite@stlaurence.org)

***High School (9th-12th):*** <https://www.stlaurence.org/home-study-high-school>

**Mike Cleary** [mcleary@slaurence.org](mailto:mcleary@slaurence.org)

***Reflection Activity: Carlo Saved Me! The Mother of the First Millennial Saint***

***Interesting* Facts:**

* Born, 5/3/91 and died 10/12/06 @ 15 years of age after a brief, yet fatal illness
* Lived an ordinary childhood – loved his pets, played soccer, enjoyed gaming, cared for the less fortunate and forgotten, taught himself about computer coding and the internet, made funny videos of his pets
* Devoted to the Eucharist, Blessed Mother Mary and the Rosary
* Declared Venerable: July 5, 2018, Beatified: Oct 10, 2020 and Canonized Sept 7, 2025
* God’s “influencer”/Patron Saint of the Internet, First Millennial Saint – catalogued the Eucharistic Miracles of the World

**Watch Video:** *Who is Carlo Acutis? An Interview with His Mom* (by Chris Stefanick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8E5vTpL_Ew> (Long version, 27:45)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNiDf1CwmMY> (Short version, 4:22)

**Quotes from St. Carol Acutis:**

“The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.”

*“All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies.”*

“We have always been expected in Heaven.”

*“To always be united with Jesus…that is my life’s plan.”*

“Carlo, for me, was a savior.” Antonia Acutis, Carlo’s mother.

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“Blessed Carlo showed me that *our kids are God’s more than ours*. He wants them to be close to Him even more than we want that for them.”

Excerpt from: *How Blessed Carlo Acutis Surprised Me Most.”*

*By:* Theresa Civantos Barber, 07/01/24

[*https://aleteia.org/2024/07/01/how-blessed-carlo-acutis-surprised-me-most/*](https://aleteia.org/2024/07/01/how-blessed-carlo-acutis-surprised-me-most/)

***Questions to Consider***

* What are the ways that we can introduce our children to God and let them form their own loving friendship with Him, instead of thinking of their faith as something that has to be mediated by us, something we can control?
* How do we raise our kids to be ready and able to listen for the voice of God in their hearts?
* How do we listen to and make space to hear His voice ourselves?

**Turn to a neighbor or partner and share your reflections, time permitting.**

##### **Reflection Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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***Closing Prayer: A Parent-Catechist Prayer***

Loving Father,

pour forth your Holy Spirit upon me that I may be a good catechist for my children of

your Word, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Render my heart and mind so open, receptive and responsive to your Holy Spirit that,

like Mary, I might become a living instrument of your Word to my children.

Help me to be a faithful witness to Gospel life.

Let the fire of your love so enkindle my heart that I may be an instrument

of drawing my children to love you.

I ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

***Resources:***

* **Insights from Research - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2020/partnering-parents-nurture-family-faith-insights-research>

* **Saint Carlo Acutis Resources:**
* The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, by Carlo Acutis

<https://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>

* Fifteen Fun Facts about Saint Carlo Acutis

<https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/15-fun-facts-about-saint-carlo-acutis>

* My Catholic Family: Blessed Carlo Acutis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaNFkxkfLdY>

* Carlo Acutis Official Website (English)

<https://carloacutis-en.org/>

* Look to Him and be Radiant – Saint Carlo Acutis Activities for Kids

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2025/04/new-resource-for-new-saint-carlo-acutis.html>