

Build Something

Great

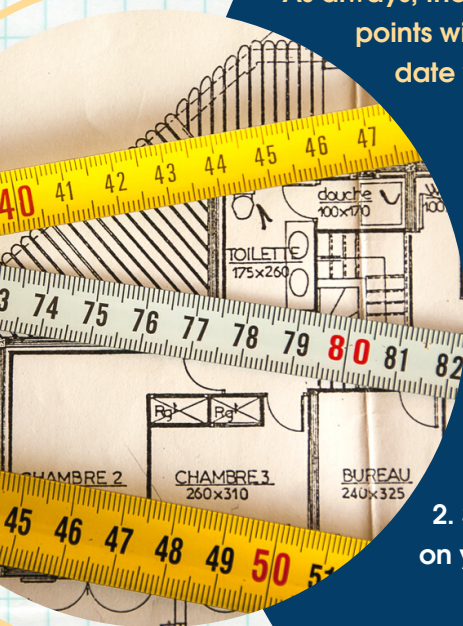
Prayer and family are two beautiful things that you are already building. Do you ever feel like you are lacking a blue print to guide your prayer or family life? If so, you are not alone. For this date, you will first have some fun literally competing to construct something great. Then you will find some resources to guide you in creating or revising a blue print for your prayer and family life in 2022! As always, there is a drink recommendation included. Style points will be awarded to anyone who arrives to their date with safety goggles, tool belt or graph paper and pencil! .



Construction Competition



1. Gather your building materials. You should both have an identical set. Suggestions: toothpicks & marshmallows, Legos, scrap wood & nails, gingerbread kit, etc. Use what you have or purchase some basic items.
2. Set a timer for 30-40 minutes or so depending on your materials...Legos will be quicker to build with than wood and nails.
3. Compete to build the greatest house! Be sure to stop as soon as the timer goes off. Determine your winner! You can rope in the kids or shoot pics to friends to serve as judges.



Send in a picture of your date for a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

Family Life

In the book **The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family**, Patrick Lencioni – a management consultant for Fortune 500 companies, applies his insights to family life. He recognized that most families, including his own, are a bit frantic. One mom from his book puts it this way, “We just do what needs to be done until everyone’s in bed and we can rest. Then we get up the next day to do it again.” Sound familiar? Lencioni proposes 3 Big Questions to help families run smoothly and meet their goals! The 3 Questions and a sample are listed below. Take some time to answer these questions for your own family. Check out his book for so much more on this great tool! It is available for purchase and in many libraries.

Answer the 3 Big Questions for Your Family

Question 1: What makes our family unique?

Question 2: What is our family’s most important priority - rallying cry - right now?
(Come up with your family’s TOP priority for the next 2-6 months. To help identify this ask, “If we accomplish just one thing as a family before Easter, what would that be?”)

- Defining Objectives – To do that we will: *(List 3-5 basic categories of things you will need to do to accomplish your rallying cry.)*
- Standard Objectives – We will also have to stay on top of our regular responsibilities: *(List your regular, ongoing responsibilities that you must pay attention to in order to keep your head above water.)*

Question 3: How will we use these answers to keep them alive? *(Come up with an actionable and regularly occurring thing you can do to keep these things alive.)*



Sample



The Royal Family – This sample from the book (page 206) is provided to give an idea of what this *could* look like. Yours will certainly be unique to you! Chris and Stacy Royal have two boys, age nine and six. Stacy works full-time outside of the home and Chris stays home with the kids.

Question 1: What makes our family unique?

We are a family that values loyalty, respect, and hard work. The “Family” unit is at the center of our lives. We spend much of our time together at home and at our family cabin. Dad stays at home until kids are school age and mom works full-time.

Question 2: What is our family’s most important priority-rallying cry-right now?

In the next two months, we will work to create a more stable, supportive, and healthy environment for dad.

- Defining Objectives – To do that we will:
 - Get control over (sick) grandfather’s ongoing care.
 - Work on youngest son’s discipline.
 - Establish a consistent exercise and workout schedule.
 - Consider counseling or therapy.
 - Begin thinking about next steps in his career.
 - Mom and dad will spend more quality time together-thinking and talking.
- Standard Objectives – We will also have to stay on top of our regular responsibilities:
 - Finances
 - Family health
 - Fun
 - Marriage
 - Education

Question 3: How will we use these answers to keep them alive?

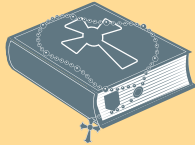
During our “date night” we will dedicate the first fifteen minutes to discussing our rallying cry.

Prayer

Watch [this excellent video](#) from Fr. Mike Schmitz! It's under 10 minutes. Then work through the exercise below.

Answer the following questions. Be as specific as possible! When you are done, make a to-do list based on your reflections (ex. put bible in prayer space, set timer on coffee pot to be ready for 6am prayer, or google how to pray the rosary).

- When will I pray?
- Where will I pray?
- What will I pray?
- Why will I pray?



Raise A Glass

Feast of the Holy Family - December 26th

We realize that we have included a December feast in January's date night. We just couldn't skip this one! So even if it's the end of January when you read this, raise a glass in honor of the Holy Family anyhow.

From Drinking with the Saints

This lovely feast pays tribute to the domestic life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. There are two legends about the Holy Family that provide inspiration for tonight's cocktail menu. According to a Sicilian superstition, a juniper bush courageously hid Jesus, Mary, and Joseph from Herod's soldiers, an act that God rewarded by bestowing on the plant the power of putting evil spirits to flight. Similarly, Mary washed the tiny garments of Jesus during their flight and spread them over the branches of a rosemary bush to dry them. In reward for this service to His Son, God conferred upon the rosemary, or "Mary's rose," a fragrant aroma.

These charming tales give us an idea for a Rosemary Martini. Gin is traditionally made from juniper berries.



Rosemary Martini

2 oz. gin

1 dash vermouth

1 small sprig of rosemary

Pour all ingredients except rosemary into a shaker filled with ice and shake forty times. Strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with rosemary. And if you don't have any rosemary on hand, use an olive, which will remind you of the olive orchards of Bethlehem.

