

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2016

## St. Kilian Parish

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### Healthy communication builds healthy families

Experts say that children learn about love from their families. In fact, good family communication can build a healthy family life and “creat[e] a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2223). Try these tips to boost family communication.

**Apply the 25% rule.** Parents often think we have to talk to teach. In fact, much of our message is non-verbal.

Instead, try listening four times longer than you talk or lecture. While listening, focus on your child to observe his or her non-verbal clues.

**Join them.** If youngsters are on social media, be sure to monitor activity closely and try using it to your

advantage. If your child appreciates hearing from you through such media, text or post frequent private messages of love and support.

**Communicate with Love.** Wise people have said, “People will forget what you said but will never forget how you made them feel.” Some children appreciate notes, some like hugs, others revel in kind words. Learn how each member of your family receives love and customize communication just for him or her.

**Be there.** Children see our presence as a sign of connection and caring. When together, put down the cell phone, tablet, laptop, or newspaper. Full attention lets them know they are important.



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

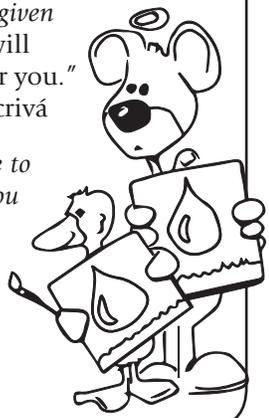
St. Madeleine Sophie was born in Burgundy, France, just before the French Revolution. Unusual for the time, she received a rigorous education from her older brother Louis. She wanted to improve the education of women in France. With the help of Father Varin, she founded the Society of the Sacred Heart, which was dedicated to educating young girls. She joined the Society in 1802 and spent the rest of her life founding schools to teach children.



### God's Providence

“Serve your God straightforwardly; be faithful to him, and don't worry about anything else... It's a great truth that if you 'seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, all other things'—material things, the means—'will be given you besides.' He will provide them for you.”  
St. Josemaría Escrivá

“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed”  
(John 20:29).



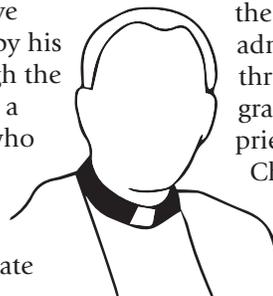
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

A priest manifests the love Christ has for the Church by his life of self-sacrifice. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a priest is a spiritual father who is responsible for all the souls in his parish.

Priests are needed to celebrate Mass and consecrate

## Why do Catholics need priests?

the Eucharist. They also administer other Sacraments through which we receive many graces. Therefore, “the ministerial priesthood is a means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1547).



## Good manners are always in fashion

Manners are more than using the correct silverware or placing a napkin on the lap. In fact, knowing how to behave in social situations makes everyone more comfortable. Here are basic manners every child can master:

**Wait your turn.** Teach children to wait their turn to speak and not to interrupt when you or others are talking. When you are finished, offer your full attention to reward the wait.

**"Please," "Thank you," and "You're welcome."** These small phrases communicate that a child is respectful, appreciative, and

polite. If you use them, so will your youngsters.

**Look but don't touch.** Children of all ages can respect others' belongings by not touching what isn't theirs. (Handling and replacing counts as touching.)

**Accept compliments.** Mannerly children will want to get accustomed to accepting compliments by simply saying "thank you" when receiving one.

**Sunday Best.** Wearing special clothing to Mass on Sunday, and using our best behavior at Church, teaches children that there are times we work harder to put forward our best selves.

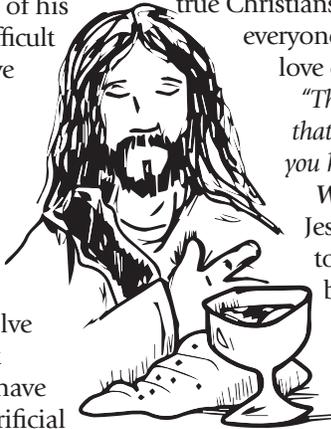


### Scripture LESSON

## John 13:31-33a, 34-35, Love others as Jesus loved

Jesus' command for us to love one another as he loves us is one of his most important and most difficult commands to follow. He gave this command at the Last Supper, but the Apostles were so confused by what was happening they didn't understand its importance.

Jesus talked of love and glory, yet the Apostles didn't realize that both would involve great suffering. Jesus made it clear that the love we are to have for each other is to be as sacrificial as the love he demonstrated throughout his life, especially on the



Cross when he gave his life for us. As true Christians, we are to love everyone with the self-giving love of Christ. Jesus said, *"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**What can a parent do?**

Jesus meant for Christians to stand out in the world by behaving differently than non-believers.

Remind children that because Jesus is no longer visible on

Earth with us, we are his hands and his heart to those around us.

### Parent TALK

When younger, Kara and Tessa were cranky on car rides. About an hour into the trip, the bickering, poking and complaining began. Scolding, bribing, and even threatening didn't help. Long trips were especially miserable.

Our annual vacation came around and I was determined to have a nice trip to the beach. We gave each child five tickets, and said playing on the beach or swimming in the pool would require a ticket. Bickering and fighting were forbidden and



would cost tickets. If one child broke the rules, both lost a ticket. That got the girls' attention.

Tessa started poking Kara, and Kara yelled and both girls lost a ticket each. An argument over which movie to watch cost another ticket. That was all it took. The girls were pleasant for the rest of the way. It was a very enjoyable car ride, and the beginning of a wonderful vacation.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 25 - St. Mark (1st century).** St. Mark wrote the second Gospel largely based on St. Peter's perspective. Mark accompanied SS. Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin) on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus and is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.

**April 29 - St. Catherine of Siena (1380).** A Doctor of the Church and a mystic from a young age, St. Catherine had regular conversations with Jesus. At sixteen years old, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and served the poor. Although uneducated, she

dictated many books on the Catholic faith. She is credited with coaxing Pope Gregory XI back to Rome from France.

**April 28 - Saint Peter Chanel (1841).** After helping a wayward parish, Peter Chanel entered the Society of Mary and was sent to evangelize the Marshall Islands.

Despite adversities, he baptized a few natives, including the chieftain's son. He was martyred by a band of hostile warriors. The entire island converted two years after his death.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
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