

For Parents

Listen The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of Sacred Scripture, the inerrant Word of God, throughout the centuries. We are reminded in the New Testament, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:8-9). Growing in holiness is a lifelong journey of conversion, of becoming more like Christ by living each day with love and shining his light into all the corners of the world.

Know God lovingly created human beings in his image and likeness; this means you and your child have inherent dignity, value, and a purpose in life. A Spirit-filled life is the purpose, or vocation, to which baptized Christians are called. A vocation is the way someone freely chooses to respond to God’s call to build up the Body of Christ through their life as a layperson, ordained clergy, or professed religious.

Your vocation as a spouse and/or parent includes nurturing a family in and for faith. This can be challenging in a contemporary world that values material things over spiritual goods, fails to respect the dignity of human life and God’s design for the family, and places a priority on individualism rather than the good of everyone (or “common good”). Natural ways of inviting children into discerning the vocations to which God might be calling them include living with and for one another in the home, especially through prayer and reflection about following Christ in a society that doesn’t always support the same values.

To know more about the ordinary call to holiness and facing today’s issues read the Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis, “On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World (*Gaudete et exultate*)”. Ask a trusted catechist or priest about additional recommended resources for learning more about the ordinary call to holiness.

Wonder Take stock of your current relationship with Jesus and the Church. What do you believe about Christ and the Church? When do you take time to listen to and speak with God in prayer? How do you seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you respond to the call to holiness?

Choose Certain ideologies and worldviews such as relativism and individualism are contrary to the faith. We must turn to God alone to know what is true, good, and beautiful. The authenticity of your Christian witness is your most valuable and important tool for teaching others. Choose how you will share Christ’s light with your family, friends, and the world.

For Families

Pause Prepare to come together as a family with the Confirmation candidate by gathering a Bible, a candle, a family picture, and images of Saints.

Pray Light the candle and read aloud Galatians 5:13-22.

Practice Each baptized person is given a candle as a sign that the light of Christ is in him or her. Saints provide us with examples to follow in living as sons and daughters of God. Their lives show us what it might look like to cooperate with Holy Spirit by using our gifts to shine the light of faith wherever we are.

One important place to share our gifts is in our parish. How might we give of our God-given time and talent to serve in the liturgy or in parish ministries? Your family is blessed to be part of the Communion of Saints. Choose a patron Saint for your household as a model for how you want to honor the dignity of every person and to use your gifts for the good of others.