

Grade 3-5

Dear Parents,

In your child's folder, you will find a prayer booklet. Last month we used the Our Father at the beginning and end of most of the lessons. I know most of the kids do already know this prayer by heart, but it might not be a bad idea to have a refresher on what each part of the prayer means and what we are really thanking God for as well as asking Him for. Since we are talking a lot about trust quite a bit this month, Thy will be done, fits right in with the lesson. This is the same with all the prayers. Although I do think there might be a few new ones.

All of the prayers in the book are good to learn by heart and understand. But the most important part is praying as a family as well as teaching your child to pray on his/her own as well. Remind him/her that they can talk to Jesus anytime and He will hear them. They can ask for blessings for themselves or for others just like an adult can, maybe even better.

Our posture of prayer is a good thing to discuss too. From making the sign of the cross with intention, receiving communion in a reverent way and clearly saying "amen" when presented with the Body and Blood of Christ, and knowing when to genuflect and why.

Learning these prayers and being able to say spontaneous prayers, like when we talk to Jesus as a friend, is so important. One other big prayer is the rosary. It is so important that our kids learn how to say a proper rosary, not just reciting prayer after prayer while running the beads through their fingers. There is so much more to it than that. To pray the rosary is to honor the Mother of God and reflect on the life of Christ. We will be adding this prayer focus throughout the year to help this process along. I am here for you if you need any help with this, but in my experience, no one teaches the rosary better than a grandparent. Personally, I had little luck with my own kids and the rosary, but when Grandma pulled out those beads, my kids ran for theirs to sit beside her. So take advantage of those resources if you have them available.

This will begin your child on a prayer life which will hopefully become a loving conversation between your child and the God who loves him/ her more than we can ever imagine. Just remember that the best lesson in prayer, as in anything for your child, is your example.

God Bless!