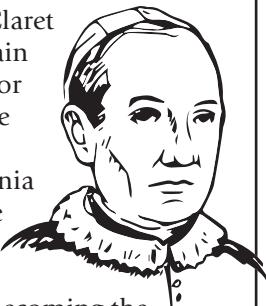


Thoughtful Moments

St. Anthony Mary Claret

St. Anthony Claret was born in Spain in 1807 to a poor cloth weaver. He was ordained a priest in Catalonia and in 1849, he founded the Claretian order shortly before becoming the archbishop of Cuba. He served as confessor to Queen Isabella II and was exiled with her. He defended the doctrine of infallibility at the First Vatican Council. He also had the gifts of prophecy and healing. He is the patron of textile weavers.



Prayer Bursts

Prayer is how we connect with God, and a lifeline for much-needed graces. We all know we should "pray more", but it can be hard to find the time in today's busy world. Offering up brief prayers throughout the day makes it easier to stay focused on God having despite having a hectic schedule.

"I praise you [LORD], because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know"
(Psalm 139:14).

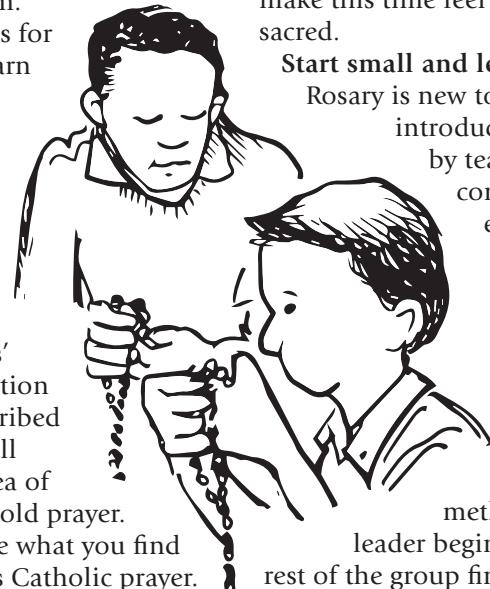


Give children a love for the Rosary

Teaching children how to pray the Rosary can be one of the most influential and long-lasting prayer habits you give them. Consider these ideas for helping children learn to love the Rosary:

Share what you value about the Rosary. Some people love the calming rhythm of the Rosary prayers. Others enjoy meditating on Jesus' life, death, Resurrection and Ascension described in the mysteries. Still others enjoy the idea of praying a centuries old prayer. Help children to see what you find beautiful about this Catholic prayer.

Make Rosary time family time. Give each child his or her own set of Rosary beads that work best for small hands (or make your own). Gather



together in a favorite spot in your home, light a candle, play calming music, or do whatever you like to make this time feel special and sacred.

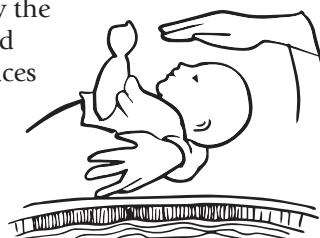
Start small and let it grow. If the Rosary is new to your family, introduce the full prayer by teaching the components. For example, practice making the Sign of the Cross and rehearse the individual prayers.

Consider using the "call and response" method, in which a leader begins a prayer and the rest of the group finishes it. Take turns being the leader. When children have mastered the prayers, pray a decade together. Then graduate to a full family Rosary.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Baptism washes away the stain of original sin and conveys sanctifying graces – a share in God's life. Baptism is also the gateway to life in the Spirit, the Church, and the other sacraments, including the Eucharist and Confession. It starts one on

Why do Catholics baptize infants?



the surest path to salvation: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Catholic parents, desiring the best for their children, baptize them as infants to give them the best start in life.

Have a holy Halloween

Halloween can be more than a chance to dress up and collect candy. It is a chance to get in touch with our Catholic roots.

All Saints Day-Eve. In 835 Pope Gregory IV moved the Commemoration of Martyrs from May 13 to November 1 – now All Saints Day. The night before became known as "All Hallow's Even" or "holy evening," and eventually Halloween.

"Trick or Treat." Years ago, Irish farmers prepared for All Saints Day and All Souls Day (November 2),



honoring deceased loved ones, by going door-to-door the night before collecting food for a village celebration. Those who gave were promised prosperity; those who didn't received threats of bad luck. Irish Catholic immigrants brought this practice of "trick-or-treating" here.

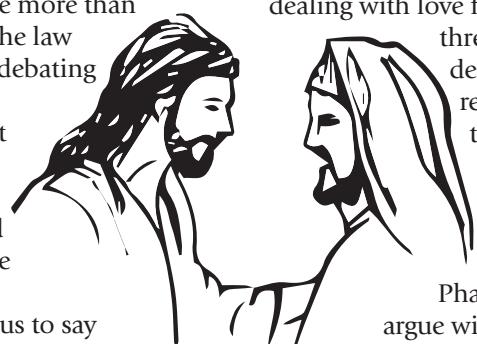
Holy holidays. Halloween is a chance to focus on three holidays. Learn about a saint you didn't know, visit the grave of a loved one, collect food for the poor. It's a time to remember the believers who have gone to Heaven before us and the hope we have of following.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40. Can't argue with love.

A lawyer went to debate Jesus and toyed with him by asking for Jesus' opinion about which law was the most important. There are more than 613 commands in the law and Jews had been debating that question for generations without coming to agreement on the answer. Encouraged by the Pharisees, the lawyer asked in the hopes of getting Jesus to say something against Jewish law so he could be discredited and perhaps arrested.

Jesus silenced them all by saying that everything starts and ends with love –



love of God and love of each other. In fact, the Ten Commandments can be divided into two categories: those dealing with love for God (the first three) and those dealing with responsibilities toward others (the last seven). In the end, it comes down to love. Even the Pharisees couldn't argue with that.

What can a parent do? Talk with your children about how it is easy to love people who are nice to us, but that loving everyone, even if they're not nice, is what God really wants us to do.

Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels

Angels. On this feast day, remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they have done in helping us.

Oct. 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Pius V created this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks. Since it was believed that they won after praying the Rosary, the feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII.

Oct. 18 – St. Luke the Evangelist (1st

Century). St. Luke was a Christian physician from Antioch. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.

Oct. 21 – St. Hilarion (371). An abbot from Palestine, St. Hilarion was born near Gaza. He converted to Christianity while studying at Alexandria. He tried to live as a hermit, but his reputation for working miracles drew crowds wherever he went. At last he retired to Cyprus, where he died at the age of eighty.



Parent TALK

My daughter, Terry, came home one day from school in tears. She said a classmate, Virginia, promised to beat her up on the bus, and Terry was unnerved. The driver confirmed the story and reported it to the school. I assured Terry that the school would keep her safe and, sure enough, we found out the next day that Virginia was suspended from the bus for three days.

Terry was happy to hear that Virginia was being punished. "I'm glad she got in trouble," she said. "Now she knows how it feels to be miserable. I hope she gets expelled from school."

I explained that Jesus' followers can never be happy when something bad happens to others. Even our enemies are God's children. We want justice, but not suffering. I asked Terry to work harder at being a friend to Virginia, or at least not to rejoice at her pain.

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