



November

Family Faith

...*Family is the heart of our faith lives...*

"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first Heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2223 and 2225).

What is Family-focused Faith?

Family-focused faith is valuable time spent in sharing the faith with your children, learning together, renewing interest in the sacraments and passing along important relational priorities. We have pared back our calendar to free up time for Mass and a family activity, along with the family participating in Supplemental Learning to augment the learning that takes place on PREP Sundays.



Everywhere you look, people are talking about being *thankful*. Being truly thank-full requires looking beyond **our blessings**, to the needs of **others**. This month's Family Faith focuses on doing just that...helping those less fortunate than us.

You may have seen or heard information about our Parish Mission trips to the Catholic Diocese of Lexington in Kentucky. This **mission** diocese is on the front lines with its outreach programs that provide food, shelter and clothing, along with direct assistance with developing the tools to help people help themselves.

The students in AM PREP (K-4) were able to learn first-hand about the lives of the children in this and surrounding areas. Through a presentation by Mrs. Sheryl Lanciano, Director of Parish Life here at St. Ignatius, who was on our last trip, the students got a first-hand look into just how little the children in this area of Kentucky have, but just how grateful and blessed they feel!

On **Sunday, December 10**, the students in K-4 will be doing a service project for the children of this Diocese. We will be putting together shoe boxes filled with small items and having the students create cards sending their prayers and love. But...to help the students better understand what service really means, we are asking them to earn the money to buy items by doing chores either at home or for family, friends and neighbors.

The following is a list of some suggested items. As a reminder, the items must be able to fit into a shoe box.

SMALL TOYS

- Doll / Plastic toys and toy figures
- Toy cars/trucks/boats
- Playing cards
- Building blocks
- Kaleidoscope
- Marbles
- Hacky sack
- Foam or plastic balls (soccer, kick, football, tennis) If uninflated, include a manual air pump
- Small musical instrument (harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- Jump Rope / Small Frisbee
- Slinky / Yo-Yo / Etch A Sketch
- Interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Comb / Hairbrush
- Toothbrush / Travel toothpaste
- Washcloth / Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container)
- Socks
- Hair accessories / Children's Jewelry
- Non-liquid lip balm
- Flashlight (if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed)
- Compact mirror
- Nail polish / Nail clippers or file

CRAFT AND ACTIVITIES

- Pencils / Colored pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pens
- Coloring pads / Coloring books
- Picture book
- Notebooks
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Finger paints / Watercolor paints / Paint brushes
- Play dough / Non-sharp plastic cookie cutters
- Stickers
- Small puzzles
- Solar-powered calculator
- Safety (blunt tip) scissors
- Ruler / Protractor
- Glue stick (do not include liquid glue)
- Small adhesive tape
- Chalkboard and chalk

We are also in need of empty shoe boxes and plain wrapping paper (non-holiday).

 **Do Not Include:** War-related items (toy guns, knives, or military figures) or breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers.

You can purchase items inexpensively at any dollar store, Wal-Mart, etc. If you shop the birthday aisle, you would be able to get several small toys as a pack.

We ask that your child(ren) bring in items on Sunday, December 10.

We will be also be serving hot chocolate and cookies to the students before we begin the service project on that day. If your child has allergies, please bring in a snack along with them that day.