

# St. Ignatius Catholic School

# Faith for Families

November 2022

An outreach of the School Board's Catholic Identity Committee



## We Belong Together...

A few weeks ago, Fr. Vitalis shared a homily that was very striking. In telling the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), Father pointed out that Jesus makes it very clear that there is life after this one, and that our life here determines our life after. As Catholics, our goal is to spend eternity with God in heaven. That means that we must be intentional about how we live our lives. At the end of that homily, Father encouraged us to pray for the grace to see what ought to be done as well as the courage to do it. He pointed out that THIS is how we will become saints. Oftentimes, we don't think about our end goal of sainthood. Sometimes, it's hard to remember that WE are called to be saints! We are called to help our children to become saints as well. However, as with any goal in our lives, those worth achieving usually require a great sacrifice. No one "accidentally" wins an Olympic medal or saves millions for retirement or wins a Nobel prize. Daily discipline and sacrifice are required for all great things. The life of faith that leads to sainthood is no different. If we really take the time (which we should) to study the lives of the saints, we will see that their lives were full of both deep suffering as well as unspeakable joy. So often, they go hand-in-hand when we allow God to transform one into the other. No one's life is without suffering, so let us have the courage to suffer well. For the month of November, our school's monthly theme is "We Belong Together." It is very fitting that we begin this month with the feast of All Saints, as they are the ultimate example of togetherness. As Catholics, we know that there is life after death. The Saints, who lived lives of heroic virtue, continue to pray and intercede for us from heaven. It is their example of how we should live that can encourage us daily to carry our own crosses.

It is difficult to embrace the crosses of our lives, however, Jesus embraced His cross and gives us the courage to do the same. It can be easy to observe the crosses others carry and imagine that our lives would be easier or better if we had their struggles instead of our own. However, God knows and loves us so intimately that we can trust that our daily struggles, when surrendered to His grace, will help us to achieve sainthood. We are called to help each other, and the Saints help us as well. We can commit each other to prayer, so that as we struggle daily, we can keep our eyes on Christ and our friends and family. Let us encourage one another and allow our sufferings to be transformed into joy as we journey together toward Heaven.

This month's prayer is the Anima Christi, which is Latin for "[Soul of Christ](#)."

### Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.

From the wicked foe, defend me.

At the hour of my death, call me  
and bid me come to you

That with your saints I may praise you  
For ever and ever. Amen.

## Family Events & Resources

Our next Parent Ed Night will be Nov 16 from 6-7pm at SI. This month's topic is Faith Formation. We will be providing 2 sections for parents to choose from:

- Catholic 101 with Fr. Vitalis and Mary Wax
- Faith for Families with Melea Ulery

We will all be meeting in the Commons to begin the evening with a quick introduction and prayer and then parents will move into one of the two sections being offered. Join us after the session for refreshments in the Commons and to spend some time getting to know other parents.

[CCW Fun Night](#) is Nov 18th from 6-9pm

### \*Extra Resources\*

- [Magnificat Meditation by Dorothy Day](#)
- [Suffering Within the Domestic Church](#)

# Making Friends with Saints

## Who are saints?

As Catholics we believe that even when people die, they are still part of the body of Christ and are concerned with those of us still on earth because we are “family.” We believe that those who have died still live, and therefore are capable of offering prayers as we do.

## Why do we make friends with saints?

Because of this “familial” connection those who are in heaven, who we call saints, intercede for us before God. Having lived their lives and faced the same trials and tribulations that we do, they know how to face those challenges and can be our most trusted advocates and mentors as we strive to live as Christ did.

## How do we make friends with saints?

Asking our friends in heaven to intercede for us is not a new practice. Seeking the intercession of a patron saint does not mean that one cannot approach God directly in prayer; rather, it's like asking a friend to pray for you to God, while you also pray — except, in this case, the friend is already in Heaven, and can pray to God for us without ceasing.

One can never have too many friends and especially friends in heaven who are in God's presence. We should never fear to ask a saint who has faced the same challenge that we may be facing in our lives to intercede in prayer for us or to show us how to live by the example of their lives. They are our greatest friends and take pleasure in our victories. We can imagine them in heaven cheering for us as we run our races here on earth and praying that we will finish strong and as dedicated to God as they were when they were on earth.

## Accounts to check out

As we focus on the Saints this month, please check out the [Saints Alive Podcast](#).

This engaging podcast is great to listen to in the car or even at home! Imagine "old timey" radio shows that focused on immersive and engaging storytelling — they bring the lives of the saints alive for young and older children! They have also teamed with several other organizations to coordinate things like free coloring sheets to work on while listening. Check them out!

# Introducing Louis and Zélie Martin

Married in 1858, Louis and Zélie had nine children, although four died in infancy. The other five went on to become nuns, including their youngest daughter, St. Therese of Lisieux.

In life, Louis and Zélie knew great joy and excruciating sorrow. They firmly believed that God was with them throughout every challenge that married life, parenting, and their occupations presented.

Louis and Zélie were the first married couple to be canonized together; their feast day is July 12. They are excellent friends for married couples and parents, as they most certainly experienced all the ups and downs of married life and parenthood.



## Books to read:

- [A Call to a Deeper Love](#): The Family Correspondence of the Parents of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, by Louis and Zélie Martin
- [A Family of Saints](#): The Martins of Lisieux-Saints Thérèse, Louis, and Zélie by Stephane-Joseph Piat
- [Rooted in Love](#): Louis and Zélie Martin Models of Married Love, Family Life, and Everyday Holiness, by Annette Goulden

## Podcasts about the Martins:

- [The Heavenly Social, episode 22](#) — Sts. Louis & Zélie Martin