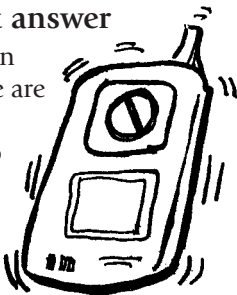




## Thoughtful Moments

### Don't answer

Cell phones can ring wherever we are but that doesn't mean we have to answer. Stay off the phone when picking up or dropping off



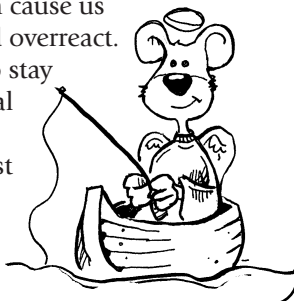
youngsters, or any time you are saying "hello" or "goodbye." Giving them full attention during such transitions helps children safely launch or reconnect.

### Why Mass?

Take time to share your reasons for attending Mass with your children. Your own appreciation for this precious gift will be an effective model for your children.

### Stay cool

Do you ever find that when your child does something wrong, you fast-forward to how that behavior will affect him as an adult? Getting a poor grade means he won't be able to keep a good job. Arguing with playmates means she will never have friends. Such future thinking can cause us to panic and overreact. The key is to stay cool and deal with the present. Trust God to handle the rest.



## When talking isn't enough

No parent wants to make a child unhappy. When a child breaks a rule or disobeys, we remind her of the rule, explain why her behavior was wrong, and warn of the consequences if it happens again. But what do you do when talking isn't enough?

Sometimes the best deterrent is a somewhat uncomfortable but memorable consequence. For example, a child who plays ball in the house and breaks something cleans it up and pays to fix or replace it with his own money. Hopefully he will think twice before playing ball in the house again.

**Talk is a good start.** Many of us hope that we can reason our children into

obeying. Yet even the best-behaved children will break the rules if all they get is a discussion.

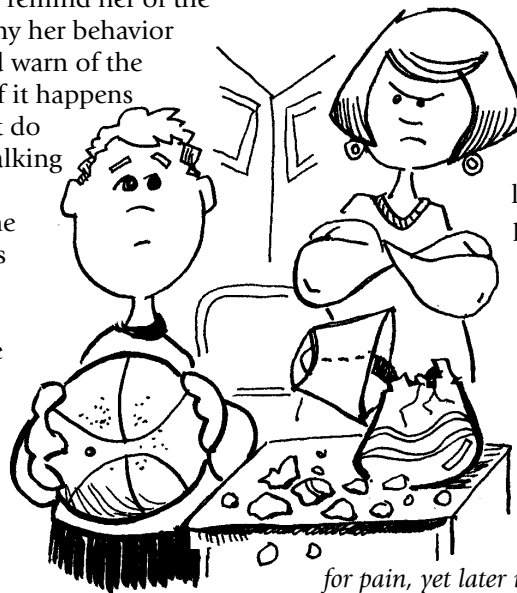
**One chance.** God gave Adam and Eve one important rule. When they disobeyed it, God listened while they pleaded and dodged responsibility.

Instead of a warning and giving "one more chance," he punished them (Genesis 3).

**Worth the pain.** "At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but

for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11).

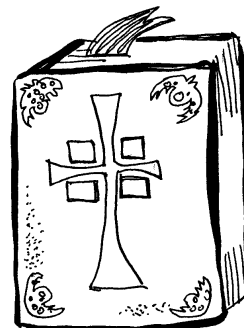
Consequences that are appropriate, specific to the offense and delivered with love can teach a child to respect the rules and the rule makers.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The scriptural readings and responsorial psalms for Mass (Sundays, weekdays, and special occasions) are arranged in a liturgical book called the *Lectionary*. The readings are arranged by the day or the theme (baptism, marriage, etc.) and

## What is the Lectionary?



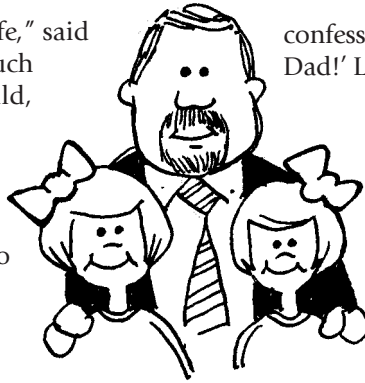
introductions and conclusions have been added to each reading.

If a Catholic attended only Sunday Mass over a three-year period, he would hear readings from nearly the entire New Testament and significant portions of the Old Testament.

## Children can bring us to greater faith

"I was a 'Sunday Catholic' most of my life," said Lisa. "My family didn't talk about God much except on Sunday. When I had my first child, I wanted her to know she was surrounded by God's love all the time. So now I do my best to be Catholic seven days a week."

"My twins were making their first Confession," related Ken. "I hadn't been to Confession in years but I didn't realize they noticed. After they left the



confessional, Linda said, 'I feel clean like I took a shower, Dad!' Lori said, 'Me, too, Dad. You should try it.' So I did."

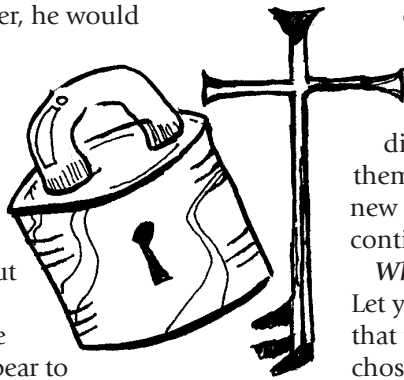
Sherry said, "I found saying the Rosary tedious, but my son loves it. Kevin keeps a Rosary in his pocket and begs me to say it with him at bedtime. His favorite book is The Daughters of St. Paul Rosary comic book and we read it over and over. He helped me connect to this prayer in a new way. Now I'm as devoted as Kevin is."

### Scripture LESSON

#### John 20:19-23, Jesus opens doors.

In the panic after his death, Jesus' followers forgot his promise that although he would suffer, he would rise on the third day (Matthew 16:21) and "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice" (John 16:22). God always keeps his promises and a locked door can't keep Jesus out of our hearts.

Still, the disciples were shocked to see Jesus appear to them in a locked room. Jesus wanted them to be witnesses to his resurrection. But he also came to commission them to carry on the work he started.



Jesus knew they couldn't do it alone; they needed strength. So he breathed on them just as God breathed life into Adam. By doing so, Jesus renewed his disciples, strengthened them, and gave them a new outlook so they could continue his mission.

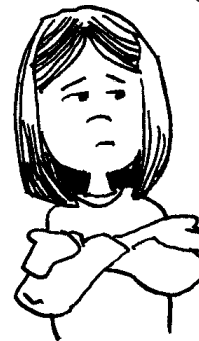
**What can a parent do?**  
Let your children know that they, too, have been chosen to do God's work.

When we are baptized, Jesus commissions each us to spread the word of God's love and the hope of salvation.

### Parent TALK

#### Bystanders can't stand by.

Most of my daughter's eighth-grade class has been together since kindergarten and a new student who just joined had trouble fitting in. Plus, he has a disability and rather than help him out, the other children excluded him and poked fun at him.



Kara didn't join in, but she didn't help, either. So I explained that excluding Matt and making him feel unwelcome is a form of bullying. When others sit by and do nothing it will continue.

Ashamed, Kara promised to make more of an effort to be kind. She invited Matt to sit with her and her friends at lunch. Kara's friends were surprised, but included him in their conversations.

It's still early but Kara said some of the boys invited Matt to play football at recess recently. I don't know who was happier about that – Kara or Matt.

### Feasts & Celebrations

In May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Three ways to grow closer to her include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

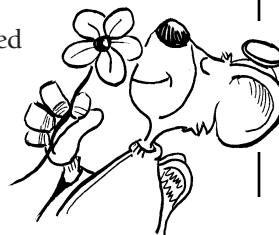
**May 2 - St. Athanasius (373).** Born a Christian in Egypt, St. Athanasius became a priest and defender of the Catholic faith. The victim of terrible persecution of the Church, he was exiled six times.

**May 10 - Blessed Damien of Molokai (1889).** Born in Belgium, Joseph de Veuster became Father Damien at the age of 19. He ministered

to lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai for whom he built roads, water systems, and churches. He died of the disease after serving there for sixteen years.

**May 25 - Pope St. Gregory, VII (1085).** He battled three evils that plagued the Church: simony (buying and selling sacred offices and services), unlawful marriage of the clergy and kings and nobles virtually appointing Church officials.

For this he suffered and died in exile. His efforts were deemed successful after his death.



#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

© Copyright 2007 Success Publishing & Media, LLC