

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

God's Story and Ours

We all love stories. Telling stories about our personal and family lives is the foundation for teaching fundamental values to our children. Popular entertainment also tells stories and teaches values. During the hours in which our children play video games, watch television, and listen to popular music, they are being shaped by stories. Our Catholic tradition is filled with stories, beginning with those from the Bible. This year your child will be introduced to a number of these stories from the Old Testament and New Testament. They are stories about shepherds and kings, prophets and sinners, and heroic men and women. These stories shape the larger story of who God is as our Creator and Redeemer. Reading them along with your child gives you the opportunity to expand your imagination and recognize the presence of God in your lives.

Dinnertime Conversation Starters

Dinnertime conversation provides a good opportunity to listen to the stories that your child is hearing in the popular culture. It is important that in listening there be no immediate corrections of what is being said, as this will discourage further sharing. Tell a story that helped to shape your life.

Hints for at Home

If your family has not displayed your family Bible in a special place in your home, you may want to do so. Choose a small table or shelf that is accessible to everyone. Cover the table or shelf with a cloth and place the Bible on it. Place a votive light beside the book. You may wish to use different colored cloths for different times of the liturgical year—violet for Advent and Lent; white for Christmas, Easter, and feasts of the Blessed Virgin; and green for Ordinary Time.



Our Catholic Heritage



Johannes Gutenberg was born into a noble family in Germany about 1400. After early training as a goldsmith, he began experimenting with printing. His Bible, the oldest surviving printed book in the Western world, was published

about 1455. Before the invention of the printing press, it took a copyist about 10 months to produce one copy of the Bible, so the price was high. After the invention of the printing press, thousands of copies could be produced swiftly and cheaply, giving many people access to the Word of God. You can view digital versions of the Gutenberg Bible on the World Wide Web.

Focus on Prayer

Your child is reviewing the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. To help with memorization, pray the prayer together as a family. You can find this prayer at www.FindingGod.org.

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