

Children learn what they live!

Living your faith openly and including your child is the most natural way to pass on the gift of faith. No teacher in a classroom can do it as well! In fact, our Church tells us that “the role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.”

On The Family, John Paul II

Helpful websites:

www.mhschool.com/benziger/
www.homefaith.com
www.faithfirst.com/html/family
www.rclweb.com
www.CatholicExchange.com
www.catholicparenting.com
www.catholicparents.org

Did you know that
what you are doing is
evangelization?



“Through the grace of the
sacrament of marriage,
parents receive the
responsibility and privilege of
evangelizing their children.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Dear God,

*It is my joy and privilege to help
connect my children to you. This
is the most important work I can
do in the Church right now. Give
me whatever I need to do this.
I trust in your help.*



Additional brochures available through:

Follow Parent Involvement link on home page
of diocesan website: www.ajdiocese.org or
contact:

Family Life: Mrs. Susan Stith;
[sstith@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ssstith@dioceseaj.org); 814-886-5551

Stewardship: Mr. Chris Ringkamp;
ringkamp@dioceseaj.org; 814-693-9605 x153

Sacramental Preparation: Mrs. Mary Frances
Shedlock; mshedlock@dioceseaj.org;
814-693-9605 x160

Education: Mrs. Francine Swope;
fswope@dioceseaj.org; 814-693-1401 x135

Christian Initiation: Mrs. Jeanne Thompson;
jtchrin@dioceseaj.org; 814-693-9605 x144

Evangelization: Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW;
lindalccw@cs.com; 814-944-3922



*This brochure made possible through **Annual
Catholic Appeal** funding.*

Got Kids? Give Faith... Tips for Parents

Ages 6-12



*Children Learn
What They Live*

*A resource from the
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
2 of 3 brochures*



Prayer

- Pray at meals, even when away from home.
- Pray with your child at bedtime. Ask about their day.
- Recognize God in daily events:
“Dear God, please help Grandma get better.”
“Isn’t it amazing how the butterfly comes out of a cocoon? God is so amazing!”
- Let your children know they are a gift from God: “Thank you, God, for (child’s name).”

Talking about God

- Point out that we’re all God’s children with unique gifts. “God gave you such a loud voice!”
- Use the family page from your child’s religion text. Ask for it if you don’t have it.
- Do the “Children’s Bulletin” with your child.

- Celebrate your child’s Baptismal anniversary. Display Baptismal candle, tell the story, make up a thank you prayer. Emphasize the enormous religious significance of this day.
- Tell the story of your own Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.
- Make connections between your family’s story and Scripture: “A long time ago Abraham, our father in faith, moved to a new place, just like we’re moving.”
- Thank God for what you have (house, food, clothes) without wanting more.
- Teach right from wrong. Never use God as a threat.
- Both parents talk about God.

Being Examples of Faith:

- Let your children see you pray at home.
- Pray and sing at Mass. Talk about the homily and readings on the way home. Follow the 10 commandments.
- Encourage praise; explain why you don’t gossip.
- Demonstrate respect for other’s property, faith, feelings.
- Let your children hear “I’m sorry.”
- Talk respectfully about God and the church.
- Shield children from faith threatening influences.



Involvement in the Larger Faith Community

- Attend Mass as a family.
- Interfaith families: The example of both parents attending their own worship services demonstrates the importance of faith in the family.
- Go together as a family regularly for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Involve your child in stewardship of time, talent and treasure: Include your child in service you do; encourage your child to give a portion of his allowance to charity.
- Share your gifts. Help kids distinguish between needs and wants.
- Together with your child, learn about and donate to the missions. See diocesan website: www.ajdiocese.org.
- Celebrate the liturgical year at home: Advent wreath, Epiphany home blessing, etc.