

Partners *in* FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2025

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School

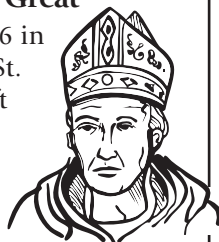
Mrs. Mary Jane Dorn, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Albert the Great

Born around 1206 in Swabia, Germany, St. Albert the Great left behind wealth and status to join the Dominican Order. A brilliant scholar, he made lasting contributions in science, philosophy, and theology. He skillfully integrated Aristotle's ideas with Catholic teaching, a method his student St. Thomas Aquinas would later expand. In recognition of his extraordinary legacy in both faith and reason, Pope Pius XI canonized him in 1931 and declared him a Doctor of the Church.



A renewed call to trust

Even when we don't feel it, we can be certain of God's steadfast love. He answers prayer, provides for our every need, and withholds nothing good from us (Romans 8:32). In November, a month of remembrance and reflection, make it a point to renew your trust in God's abundant care.

"Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude." St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Teach children the sacred gift of hospitality

Hospitality is more than politeness—it's an act of love, humility, and service that reflects God's welcome and Christ's example. Jesus embraced the outsider, shared meals, and served with compassion. As Catholics, we're called to do the same. The holidays offer opportunities to teach children this virtue in simple, meaningful ways—helping them practice generosity, empathy, and grace as a practice of faith and community.

Establish clear hosting principles. Simple rules—like offering first choice to guests, avoiding disagreements, and showing generosity—help children understand the heart of hospitality. For younger ones, outline boundaries and introduce consequences if needed.

Prepare for common challenges.

Talk through real-life scenarios. For example, if a guest wants to continue a game in which the host has lost interest, suggest a five-minute compromise before switching activities.

Put away off-limits toys. Avoid unnecessary conflict by removing favorite toys or games that can't easily be shared.

Creating a play environment that's fair and accessible sets everyone up for success.

Create a "Hospitality Mission." Frame it as a fun challenge: "Let's see how many smiles we can give out today!" or "How can we make our guests feel extra welcome?"

True hospitality requires sacrifice: time, attention, comfort. But, when practiced well, it also transforms us, teaching us to put others first and to see Christ in every person

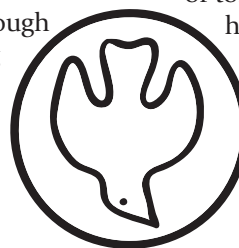


Why Do Catholics Do That?

The belief in Purgatory is rooted in Scripture and developed through Church Tradition. According to Catholic teaching, those who die in God's grace but still carry the effects of sin undergo purification in Purgatory. It is not a place

Why do Catholics believe in Purgatory?

of torment like Hell, but a state of healing and preparation for full union with God. Purgatory is seen as an expression of God's love and mercy, not punishment. Ultimately, Purgatory allows souls to be made truly ready for Heaven.



Make faith an everyday part of life

Teaching children that faith is part of everyday life starts not with instruction, but with example. For Catholic families, it means weaving faith into our daily routines so it becomes part of who we are—not just what we do. Then, faith will become part of a child's foundation.

Children absorb what they see. Let them witness prayer, forgiveness, kindness, and faith-driven choices. Normalize short prayers throughout the day—before meals, during drives, or when someone is hurting. Speak of God naturally and often, like someone close and ever-present.



Celebrate the Church's liturgical seasons at home. Traditions like candles, saint stories, or daily sacrifices help mark the seasons. Engage children in acts of service to help them connect loving others with loving God.

Use struggles as spiritual lessons. Point to God's love, mercy, and the example of the saints.

Surround your home with reminders of faith: crucifixes, sacred images, uplifting music, and children's Bibles.

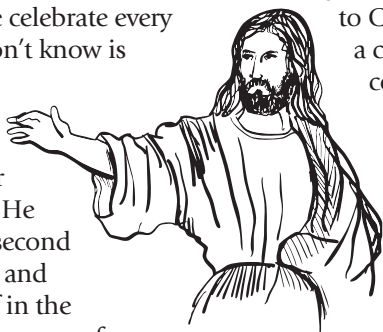
A consistent, joy-filled witness teaches children that faith isn't reserved for Sundays—it's part of everything.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 24:37-44, When Christ comes again

We know Jesus came more than 2,000 years ago—an event we celebrate every Christmas. What we don't know is exactly when He will return. In this reading, Jesus urged all His followers to prepare for when He comes again. He warned them that His second coming will be sudden and unexpected, like a thief in the night. That is what the season of Advent is all about: anticipating our Lord, wondering at the mystery of His coming, and marveling at the light of His glory when He arrives.

What can a parent do? Help your family prepare for Jesus. Start by



resolving as a family to avoid sin. Go to Confession together. Make a concerted effort to be considerate of each other, do assigned chores, show extra patience. Then, light the candles in the Advent wreath and pray together each night during the season.

Finally, savor the Bible story of Jesus' coming. Marvel over the Annunciation. Exclaim over the Visitation. Celebrate His Birth. When Christmas finally arrives, the whole family will share in its wonder, joy, and excitement together.

Parent TALK

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, my daughter handed me a Christmas list so long it could have doubled as a catalog.



It wasn't just the strain on our budget that concerned me—it was the creeping sense that my girls were

becoming unappreciative.

So we started a simple practice: every few nights at dinner, we each name something we're grateful for. The answers have ranged from beloved toys and favorite snacks to toothpaste and indoor plumbing (a surprisingly thoughtful entry from my eldest). The goal wasn't to be profound—it was to appreciate what's already present.

Gratitude has a quiet power. It breaks the cycle of entitlement and constant wanting. Since we began, the girls have stopped fixating on what they don't have. The Christmas "asks" have shrunk. More importantly, they seem more joyful, more content. They're learning that real happiness doesn't come from getting more—it comes from appreciating what's already yours.

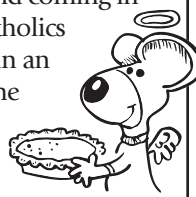
Feasts & Celebrations

November 1 – All Saints Day. In the early Church, there was a great desire to celebrate each of the martyrs. Because there were more martyrs than days of the year, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints Day. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

November 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1231). The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and service. Married at the age of 14, her beloved husband died after only six years of marriage. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order and spent the last years of her life caring for the poor.

November 21 – Presentation of Mary (1st century). The date of this feast day is connected to the dedication of a basilica in Mary's honor in Jerusalem in the sixth century. According to tradition, Saints Joachim and Anne brought the child Mary to the Temple and dedicated her to God's service. We pray for the same humility, dedication, and surrender to God's work in our life.

November 30 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth in Bethlehem, and His second coming in glory on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of Christ, who said, *"I am the light of the world"* (John 8:12).



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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