

The Domestic Church

Jesus, the Lord of Your Family

The question we should ask ourselves is if our family was in a court of law, would there be enough evidence to convict us of being a Christian family. It is not enough for us to say that our family views Jesus as it's Lord, our actions must also demonstrate it. We must "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). We must have Jesus as the Lord of our lives, the Lord of our Marriages and the Lord of our Families and it must be obvious to everyone we meet. We are not to hide our light under a bushel basket, we are to let it shine. This process takes time, we must immerse ourselves in prayer, study of the sacred scriptures, and begin the difficult process of evaluating our activities and surrender them to the Lord.

Weekly Schedule

Making Jesus the Lord of our family can be a daunting task, and one that should be approached with a considerable amount of reflection. We should also not delay in making Jesus the Lord of our Family either due to not having everything perfect yet. A great way to begin this process is to make Jesus the Lord of our calendar. We have provided you with a weekly calendar that you and your family can use to map out the next two weeks and discuss how to make Jesus the Lord of your family time. There are many activities that we undertake during the week:

- Work
- School
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Church
- Prayer
- Sacraments

However, we must make sure that Jesus is the Lord of our family. St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel always, use words when necessary." When raising children we must remember this wise advice. Our children learn far more from watching us than listening to what we say. If we say that Jesus is the Lord of our family, but our schedule is centered around work, sports or school, they won't believe us.

"BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM [OF GOD] AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN YOU BESIDES." - MATT. 6:33

Thus they will fulfil their task with human and Christian responsibility, and, with docile reverence toward God, will make decisions by common counsel and effort. Let them thoughtfully take into account both their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and those which



the future may bring. For this accounting they need to reckon with both the material and the spiritual conditions of the times as well as of their state in life. Finally, they should consult the interests of the family group, of temporal society, and of the Church herself.
- *Guadium Et Spes* #50

Family Activity Instructions

- Use the list below and fill in your weekly calendar.
- Use the construction paper to identify which types of activities you will fit into each day of the week
- Younger children may like to cut out the strips of construction paper and glue them onto the calendar
- Discuss with your whole family what your priorities should be during the week
 - What we like to say is that the children get 1 vote and the parents each get 10
- There are some activities that should take priority over all others (Sunday Mass, monthly confession)

Here is a list of typical activities during the week to help you get started, this is not the list you must use, but a way to get the creative juices flowing. This is **Your** Family calendar and it will be unique to your family.

- Sunday Mass, Daily mass
- Family Prayer Time
(The family rosary, night prayers, a family that prays together, stays together)
- Monthly Confession (consider this a family event, your kids will love it and not feel like it is being imposed on them)
- Family meals
- Church Activities
- Work/School
- Special Feast Days
- Visiting extended family (sick, elderly, cousins, etc)
- Chores
- Sports (organized sports, practices, games, etc)
- Entertainment (TV, movies)
- Recreation (swimming, running, non-organized sports, attending sporting events)

