

# The Domestic Church

## Pray! Play! and Engage!

*The Mission of the Family is to Guard, Reveal, and Communicate Love* JPII

### Keeping Your Kids Catholic

There are few concerns more important to Catholic parents than ensuring that you do everything you can to pass on the great gift of faith to your children. Faith is a gift we receive from God (Eph 2:8) and while this gift is freely given, each of us must be open to receiving it and nurturing it so we don't lose it to worldly temptations. With so many different world views in our culture, we need to help our children to stay strong in their Catholic faith and stand firm in the teaching of the Church in the areas of faith and morals. Here are a few helpful tips that may assist you in this most important task.

“How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!”  
Psalms 133:1

“The virtuous bond between generations is the guarantee of the future” Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* #189

- Learn, practice and live your faith in heroic fashion, you can't give what you don't have!

- Always keep your eye on the objective - if heaven is the ultimate good, then many things may need to be sacrificed to achieve that goal (bad friends, bad media, being too busy)!

- Pray without ceasing - Think St. Monica. Pray as a family daily.

- Make your home Catholic (artwork, rosaries, prayer spaces, crucifixes in every room).

- Hang out with lots of good Catholic Families so your kids will have good Catholic friends.

- Talk, Talk and Talk more to your kids about everything especially your Catholic Faith.

- Family Game Nights, Family Meals, Family Vacations - you must have a relationship with your children in order for them to talk to you about the faith and to want to have the faith you have.

### Discussion Questions

1. How often did your family attend mass/ church growing up? What did prayer look like in your childhood home?
2. How often did you eat family meals growing up? How often do you eat family meals now?
3. How often did you see extended family growing up? How often are you seeing extended family now?
4. What activities do you remember doing together in your family of origin? What activities do you make time to do in your family now?
5. Did you take family vacations growing up and how often? Do you take family vacations now and how often?
6. What traditions and memories are you creating for your Domestic Church?

### FAMILY PRIORITIES

“Which of the following, measured when a child is 11 years of age, is the best predictor of happiness and overall life satisfaction roughly 20 years later, when that child has become a 31- or 32-year-old adult?”

The Collapse of Parenting by Leonard Sax, MD, PhD



- A. IQ
- B. Grade point average
- C. Self-Control
- D. Openness to new ideas
- E. Friendliness

Answer: C