

FROM FR. JOHN

What Do Children Need?

Knowing what a child needs is one thing, giving them what they need is something entirely different. There are no comprehensive guaranteed checklists. I would like to give you a short list all the same. Just five things to run through mentally from time to time and give yourself a score. The order I present them in is for ease of explanation and not priority.

Your child needs you to be a parent, not a friend. I hope you will have an amazing friendship that lasts a lifetime and grows deeper and richer with every year, but when it comes down to it, they need a parent much more than they need a friend... Parents need to deliver messages from time to time that are unpopular. If you are more concerned about being liked by your children than you are about being a good parent, your ability to successfully challenge and correct them in ways that they need to be challenged and corrected is likely to be seriously compromised.

Children need heroes and mentors. The best way to encourage them in this direction of great heroes and mentors is to have great ones yourself. Be careful who you look up to and champion, your children are paying attention. Who are yours? Do you want your children to grow up to be like them? If not, it might be time to find some new heroes. Celebrate who and what you want your children to grow to be and become. We become what we celebrate.

More than anything else, your children need your time. It is just easier to parent a child when you are there. Parenting requires time, enormous amounts of time... Your child can tell you about her day in three minutes, but she won't tell you the most important stuff. Most of us don't spill our guts when someone asks how we are. We need to be convinced that the other person really wants to know how we are before we reveal ourselves - and that takes time. Children hunger for their parent's time. When they are young they want to be with you, be around you, be near you. Encourage that. Make time for that, because soon enough they will be asserting their independence in so many ways. Form the habit of spending time together before that happens, so that when they are going through those difficult times of adolescence, it doesn't seem so forced and unnatural when you spend time with them... It is so important to know what matters most and what we are really about. The only way to say no to something is to have a deeper yes. We have to constantly assert that spending time with our children is a deeper yes.

Children need to develop a strong sense of self. By this I mean children need to know who they are and what they are here for. Teach and encourage them to develop and nurture their spiritual side. Most people are very uncomfortable in silence and solitude. Teach your child to be comfortable in her own company, to enjoy his own company. Once we are comfortable in our own company we learn to walk away from many people and situations in our lives. Until we are comfortable in our own company we are at the mercy of our peer group and wherever they may lead us. The other way to nurture a child's spiritual side is to encourage them to listen to the voice of God in her life. Ask your child, "What is God saying to you today?" The first time they may look at you a little strange, but the second time they will have an answer. Simply asking the question will lead them to start listening.

Your children need your love. Parenting is about a love of self-donation - the giving of our self for the life of another. Our children need to know that they are loved. Not because they are cute or because they did well in school, not because they did what we asked them, and not even because they are our children. They need to know that they are loved independent of anything we say or do. They need to know that no matter what happens, they will always be loved. It is this detached love, which seeks to liberate rather than control, that sets children free to be and become all they were created to be.

~excerpt from *Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children*

Next Class for Infant Baptisms will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Carolyn at the Parish Center to register. Baptisms will take place on Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:30 AM Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 6, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

+Bill Little

(Judy & Henry Kramer)

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

John Huffman

(Ketty Gattman)

Thursday, April 9, 2009

+Dominic & Antonia Fanalle

(Their Daughter)

Friday, April 10, 2009

Good Friday-No Mass

Saturday, April 11, 2009

8:00 PM-RCIA Candidates

Sunday, April 12, 2009

8:00 AM-+Mr. & Mrs. Don Webber

(Julian Paluck)

10:00 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

11:30 AM-JH Yth. Grp. mtg.-PC

7:00 PM-HS Yth. Grp. Mtg.-SR

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

6:30 PM-Family Rosary Nite

7:00 PM-Choir Practice

7:30 PM-LOOP mtg.-SR

Holy Week Schedule and

Easter Mass Schedule

April 9th-Holy Thursday - Mass

6:00 PM

April 10th-Good Friday Service

6:00 PM

April 11th-Easter Vigil Mass

8:00 PM

April 12th-Easter Sunday Masses

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

April 7th Family Rosary Night Time Change

We will start Family Rosary Night at 6:30 pm on April 7th. We will recite the Via Matris, the Way of Our Sorrowful Mother. All are welcome.

Attention Crafters & Scrapbookers!

LOOP Scrapbooking/Craft night is back. Friday, April 17th at 6:00 PM in the Social Room. Go to the events page on our web site for more information.

Palm Sunday Prayer Walk: On Palm Sunday April 5th at 2:00 PM we are joining with other churches in the 97233 area zip code for a prayer walk around our zip code boundary. This rally is for praying for peace instead of violence, for wholeness instead of fragmentation, for the life of heaven beginning now. Some interesting statistics on a website called zipskinny.com. Relative to our part of Portland, 97233 shows up as the least educated, as having the smallest median income, along with the highest poverty and unemployment rates. We have a lot to pray about! The walk will begin with prayer at Freedom Foursquare Church, 660 SE 160th. Our area to walk is from 148th and Division to 122nd and Division. Flyers are in the back of the church.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

April 5 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Mtg & Lunch (JrH)
7:00 PM-HS Mtg-S.R.

April 11 2:00 PM
Easter Egg Hunt (JrH)

April 19 11:30AM-1:00 PM
Mtg & Lunch (JrH)
7:00-8:30 PM Mtg (HS)

EASTER EGG HUNT: Jr High Youth Group invites all children up through 4th grade to an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 PM.

Web Game: Congratulations to our winners so far. There are 2 more weeks to get your chance to play. Go on the church web site, look for the You Are Loved button with the moving heart and email me the location. If you're 1 of the first five, you'll get in the drawing for the beautiful rosary! Good Luck!!

Coffee and Donuts needs your help for the month of May and first week in June. Without your help we would not be able to have Coffee and Donuts on Sunday mornings. Please sign up during the Coffee and Donut hour. You can select the date and time that you would be able to serve.

Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 7,470.95

Over/Under: + 438.95

Seminary Dinner: The benefit dinner for seminarians is April 18th after the 5:00 PM Mass. It is a great cause and the seminarians are in need of resources all the time. You can help. Either buy tickets (\$40 each) for your family or for someone else who cannot afford to buy a ticket or you can donate items for our silent auction. Please contact Deacon Mike at 503-761-8710 x106.

2009 Annual Family Camp Out

Reservations are now being taken for our 2009 camp out that will be at **Metzler Park August 14th thru August 16th.** Reserve early if you would like your favorite site! For your convenience you may place your reservations via the website: www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org/map.html or by phone or email.

Questions? Contact:

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dianne@comcast.net
Duane: 503-998-5688
duanec@comcast.net

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19th

We will have a Divine Mercy Prayer Service from 2:00-3:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday afternoon. The prayer service will consist of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers related to this devotion, information and history of St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy Devotion and Benediction. Confession will be available during the service. To help ensure that the faithful, of more parishes, would observe this day with intense devotion, Pope John Paul II, in 2002, established that a Plenary Indulgence may be obtained on Divine Mercy Sunday. Questions, call Ed at 503-761-3852.