

Resources for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist

The resources suggested below have been reviewed by our office and are found to be useful for implementing the diocesan guidelines for **First Penance**, **Confirmation** and **First Holy Communion**. Notes have been made to help pastors and parish leaders determine which resource may be best for them. Parishes may consider other options that are found on the approved list of the USCCB.

Sacrament Preparation Programs for Parishes

First Penance, Confirmation, First Communion

Published by Sadlier

A keepsake book that teaches children of the Sacraments while engaging parents and the community in the process. Colorful and interactive with review activities in back. Now available in hard and soft cover. Includes option to purchase a parent's guide, a program director's guide and a music CD. The Director's Guide includes reproducible, supplemental lessons on **Confirmation**.

Notes: The strengths are the scrapbook style, supplemental resources available online; and the parish director's guide that can be used for family and parent retreat days.

*All materials are available **in Spanish**.*



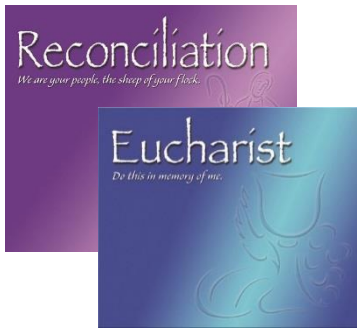
Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation and Holy Communion

Published by Our Sunday Visitor

A comprehensive, family and community centered preparation program for both Sacraments. Colorful and inviting children's text of six lessons, a Catholic Sourcebook in the back with prayers, teachings and overviews of the Rites. Other items include videos for parent and children sessions, director's guide and music CD.

*Notes: The strengths of this program are the illustrations with the Scripture stories, the prayer experiences in the children's book, and the activities to re-enforce learning. The Parent Guide contains three reflections at the beginning that could be used at an opening meeting or parent retreat. It all seems very "do-able." Eucharist is 8 sessions instead of usual 6 from other programs. Also available for intermediate grades. Definitely purchase the Sacrament Sourcebook which is a leader guide. All materials are available in **Spanish**.*





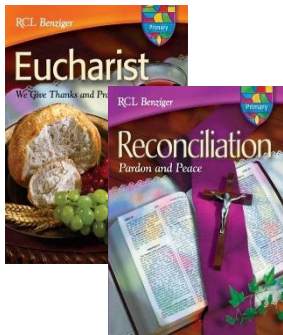
Reconciliation: We are your people, the sheep of your flock
Eucharist: Do this in memory of me

Published by RCL Benziger

This program contains lessons that provide ritual, Catholic doctrine and liturgy, Scripture, and activities for family involvement. Program includes Parent Guides, Program Director’s Manual and bilingual music CD. Eucharist Program Director’s Manual, there is a **whole section on Restored Order**, which includes a chapter for the child (both one for a younger and one for an older child), for the catechist and one for the parents.

Notes: The program uses classic Scripture stories to share about the Sacraments, and the family guide includes meaningful prayer services for families to do at home.

*All materials are also available in **Spanish**.*



Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace
Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise

Published by RCL Benziger

This program explores the meaning of rituals, symbols, gestures and prayers to promote active participation. It engages children using story, Scripture, doctrine and prayer. Available for both Primary and Intermediate levels, in English and Bilingual.

Notes: The colorful pages and large font make these books easy to read and engaging for parents and students. They each include a session for after the sacramental celebration. Each includes 8 lessons, but they are not as dense as some texts. No separate parent guide, but easy to teach from.



Be My Disciples

Complements and supports catechesis for the Restored Order. Throughout the grade levels, the sacraments are presented according to the **Restored Order**, providing a foundation from which the child will follow into immediate preparation, no matter their age or the time at which they present themselves to receive the sacraments.

*All materials available in **Spanish**.*



Student lessons

Published by Pflaum

Lessons focus on biblical stories about Christian living — including the Good Samaritan, the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Prodigal Son – to help children appreciate that God loves them and is always ready to forgive them. Activity stickers help children relate the stories to their lives. Also included are a “Questions Parents Ask” handout and a “Family Time” poster with at-home activities. *Teaching Guide*

available. Also available in Spanish.



Confirmation and First Eucharist

Published by Pflaum

Use this comprehensive resource to develop a fuller awareness of the sacraments of initiation, or for restored order programs. Help children understand the relationship of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — and the connection of these sacraments of initiation to their own lives. Eight lively lessons with family participation activities inform children and parents on the how's and why's of restored order.

Teaching Guide is available.



First Eucharist and First Reconciliation Activities Bundle

Published by Pflaum

First Eucharist Activities

Primary Grades - Reproducibles are in four sections: We Belong, We Listen and Believe, We Pray and Remember, We Share and Follow Jesus. **Intermediate Grades** - Reproducibles are in four sections: We Celebrate, We Prepare, We Listen, We Break Bread, We Make a Difference.

First Reconciliation Activities - Primary Grades - Reproducibles are in four sectors; We Are Family, Sometime We Fail, We Confess and Are Forgiven, We Try Harder. **Intermediate Grades** - Reproducible are in five sections: Recognizing Sin Who Says? (teachings of Jesus and the Church), Seeking Forgiveness, How to Go to Confession, Following Up.

Books are available separately. ***Reproducible/activity books are not returnable.**



Opening Gifts

Most Confirmation teaching materials are written for older children. Now here's a confirmation workbook that won't go over the heads of elementary-age kids. But it's not "dumbed" down – children will really learn what the Catechism teaches, and they'll learn it in a clear and interesting way. Every child likes to open presents, and that's the theme of this program. The workbook explains the idea of a sacrament and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in a way even young children will enjoy and understand. Complete, orthodox, and geared to young minds, this is the workbook many a parish has been waiting for.

To order: Call 1-406-633-2775

E-mail giesergal@yahoo.com

Fill in information below and send to Sherry Gieser, 8 Aspen Way, Park City, MT 59063

Opening Gifts – Confirmation

Number of books _____ X \$5.95 per book = \$_____ + Shipping/handling

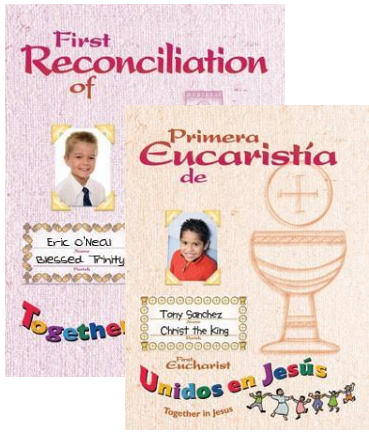
(Bulk discounts available, invoice sent with books)

Name/Parish Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____



Together in Jesus:

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation/First Eucharist Preparation Programs

Published by Pflaum

This program comes in English and Bilingual. It includes 6, 4-page, colored leaflets for use by the child. Also included is a poster of activities for use by the family, info for parents about preparing their child, a CD of computer games based on the sacrament, and stickers. The Teaching Guide gives direction for expanding on the leaflets and includes a blackline of additional prayers for each unit. There is also a program for the **Restored Order which includes lessons on Confirmation**

Notes: This program is designed for classroom instruction with a parent follow-up. The activities and prayers written are meaningful, and with some additional guidance by the program director, families should be able to "teach" the lessons at home. It is recommended that the prayers in the Teaching Guide be copied and provided to the families along with the other program materials.

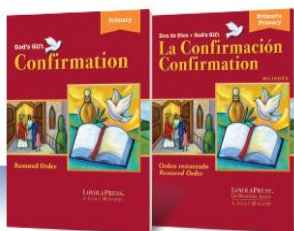


God's Gift Primary: Reconciliation and Eucharist

Published by Loyola Press.

This program was developed to prepare young learners' hearts and minds for the graces received in the sacraments. Children study Scripture and doctrine through story, music, video, art, hands-on activities, and interactive stickers. The easy-to-use Catechist Guide and rich video series support catechists by providing meaningful instruction and a variety of opportunities to engage children at these milestones. Parents are fully guided in their role as primary catechists and invited to grow and nurture their own faith as they help lead their child toward the celebration of the sacraments. Also available: Intermediate edition for use with teens.

Also available in Spanish



God's Gift: Confirmation in the Restored Order

Published by Loyola Press.

helps children grow deeper in their relationship with God and in their love for the Church as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Restored Order. Specifically created to support dioceses that celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Restored Order, this edition provides directors, catechists, and parents with all the tools and guidance needed for success. Employing the same structure and pedagogy as the primary

edition allows children and catechists to make a seamless transition.

We suggest using this text with the **God's Gift Primary:**

Reconciliation

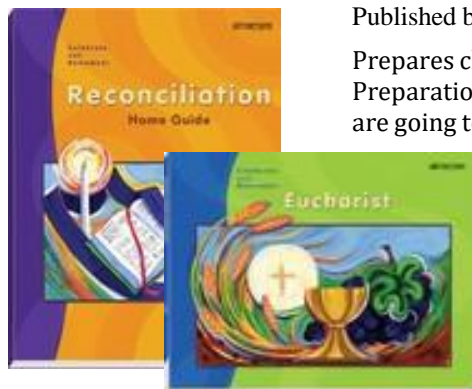
& Eucharist mentioned above. *Also available in Spanish.*

*Notes: This program comes as a classroom-model structure. We suggest you use the Children's Book and the **Together-Parent Guide for Preparing your Child at Home**. This is an excellent and practical resource, although may be a bit ambitious for some of our parish families. We suggest purchasing the Program Director's Guide.*

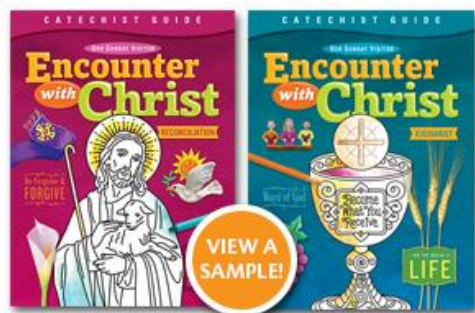
Celebrate and Remember

Published by Saint Mary's Press

Prepares children for the celebration of the Sacraments through liturgical catechesis. Preparation takes place not only by learning about the rites but also through the rites that are going to be celebrated.



Notes: This is a well-done program. Our concern is that it is too extensive for the curriculum that we recommend. The Penance prep is 8 lessons and Holy Communion is 10. The Family Guides are easy to read, but a lot to do! This may be the perfect option for families who want to home school their child as the primary formation preceding reception of the sacraments. However, the Program Director's Guide is excellent and contains retreat outlines and a gathered session for reflecting back on the reception of the sacraments.

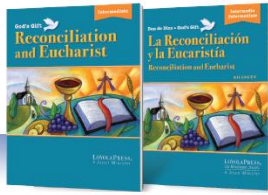


Encounter With Christ

Published by Our Sunday Visitor

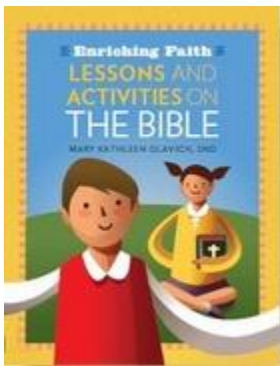
The [Catechist Guide](#) was developed for sessions held in the parish. Each session has catechist-specific content provided in the background and planning pages. The guide addresses how children process and understand the primary signs and symbols of our faith explored within the session. Special attention is paid to meet various learning needs by providing an option for adapting the activities in each session. **A [Parent Guide](#) is also available.**

*A **connection to Confirmation for Restored Order** is offered in every session. Before the children begin immediate preparation for Confirmation, they are aware of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit working in their daily and sacramental life.*



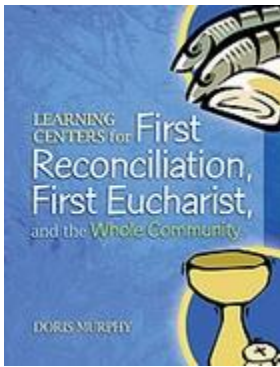
God's Gift Intermediate: Reconciliation and Eucharist was developed to pass on the truth and beauty of the sacraments to teens or other young people preparing to celebrate the sacraments out of typical sequence. This edition offers a comprehensive presentation of the key teachings of our Catholic faith—all leading to hearts and minds that are ready for the celebration of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and the Eucharist. *Also available in Spanish.*

Because every faith community is unique in organization, culture, and tradition, God's Gift is built with flexibility in mind. The components are adaptable to a variety of program models in order to meet your specific needs.



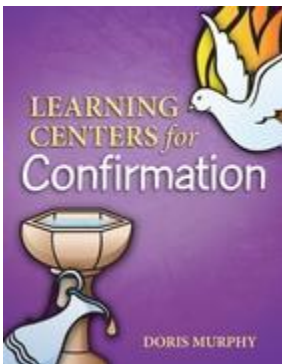
Develop students' biblical literacy with these 30 fun and engaging lessons that help you teach everything from salvation history to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Here are creative ways to introduce biblical lands and cultures, versions of the Bible, biblical reference tools, and techniques for using Scripture as a basis for prayer. Essential topical background, additional teaching ideas, and fun reproducible activity sheets make this a must-have resource, perfect for helping students in grades four and up develop a lifelong understanding and love for sacred Scripture.

Published by Twenty-third Publications



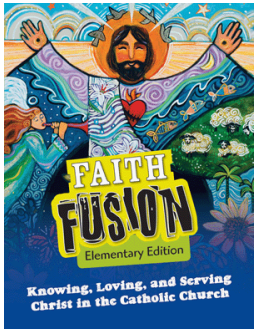
From Twenty-third Publications. Doris Murphy offers thirty-seven creative and formative centers for children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. At each center, children and their families share church teaching, Scripture, prayers, conversation, and a fun activity that reinforces the teaching.

The author also offers eight "gatherings" for the whole community, four for First Reconciliation and four for First Eucharist. These offer children the opportunity to experience the Learning Centers in the company of the wider parish family.



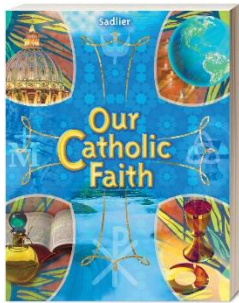
Doris Murphy offers 15 creative and formative centers. At each, young people and their families share church teaching, Scripture, prayers, conversation, and fun activities that reinforces the teaching. These learning centers have been successfully used in many parishes, with excellent results, because they accommodate a variety of learning styles and offer a unique opportunity for adults and young people to learn about confirmation—together

Published by Twenty-third Publications



Faith Fusion, Elementary Edition brings the Catholic Faith to life in words and images, and provides a complete review of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for students in grades 3 through 5. At the heart of every lesson is a clear and consistent focus on Scripture and Tradition, connected to the students' lives through prayer, reflections, activities, and stories of faith lived in the example of saints and other holy people. The students' learning in every lesson is further enriched through special features that deepen their knowledge of the faith and their familiarity with Scripture, and strengthen their relationship with Christ and their Catholic identity.

Faith Fusion, Elementary Edition is the perfect resource for students in **grades 3 through 5** who have **had no prior catechesis**, have a gap in their faith formation, or are a part of a parish's RCIA adapted for children. Faith Fusion is available in Spanish. For more information go to **faithfusion.com**



Our Catholic Faith by Sadlier (ages 9-11) An effective tool for students in Grades 4-6 with limited religious education, this single-volume text provides an excellent summary of essential Catholic belief through easy to understand lessons. Your students will learn their Catholic faith through:

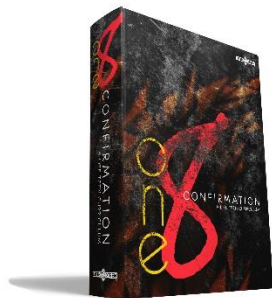
- Stories and activities that connect their lives to content
- Teachings from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* with assessments to monitor progress
- Enrichment materials on Scripture, the sacraments, the liturgical year, prayers and practices, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and more

This text also can be used as remote preparation for the sacraments

Confirmation & Sacrament Preparation for Teens

One Eight Confirmation Curriculum

Published by Life Teen



A relevant, engaging, and relational approach to catechesis and preparation for the sacrament. Includes materials for comprehensive catechetical sessions, small group workshops, home-study, a retreat, and prayer services modeled after RCIA rites.

Notes: This program will be familiar for those parishes already using Life Teen materials and comes with the same modern and relevant relational approach to ministry that Life Teen is known for. <http://store.lifeteen.com/one-eight-confirmation-program.aspx>.

Chosen

Published by Ascension Press



Heavily reliant on superbly produced video presentations, Chosen was developed by twelve of the most popular Catholic Youth presenters in the country. This comprehensive program starts with video lessons and then involve students, teachers, parents, and sponsors, to explore the Church's teachings.

Notes: Chosen is a well-organized, informative and inspirational Confirmation program. The materials are comprehensive, engaging and very practical. Furthermore, the catechesis on the DVDs is presented an interesting and relatable fashion. The materials for parents and sponsors are engaging as well. <http://confirmationstudy.com/>

Decision Point

Published by Dynamic Catholic



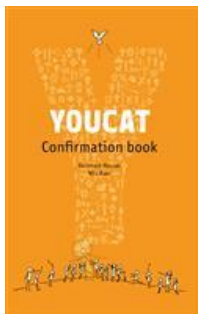
A teen confirmation program from the Dynamic Catholic organization founded by Matthew Kelley. This intentional program uses video presentations that build upon a catechism-like student and teacher workbooks as a young person journey's to reception of the sacrament of confirmation.

Notes: This program is free, but don't let the price fool you, it is of very high quality and comprehensive. The unique approach that Decision Point offers is the constant emphasis on how learning truths of your faith challenges you to respond to God in a way that changes your life.

<http://cart.dynamiccatholic.com/decision-point-catholic-confirmations/1855.htm>

YOUCAT Confirmation student & teacher guides

Published by Ignatius Press

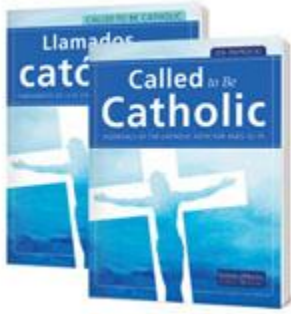


The YOUCAT itself is an excellent resource for any teen to use to explore the Catholic Faith. In and of itself it is not a confirmation program, but when used along with the Ignatius press student and teacher Confirmation guides, the YOUCAT can become the curriculum for a confirmation program.

Notes: Following the same question-answer format of the YOUCAT and filled with many engaging question to spark reflection and conversation, this program could be especially effective when used together with the YOUCAT and the excellent online resources found at <http://www.youcat.org>

Called to be Catholic for youth ages 11-15

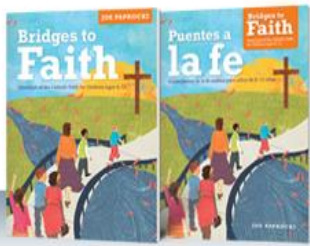
By Loyola Press



Written by Joe Paprocki, this program is centered on the **Creed**, the **Sacraments**, the **Moral Life**, and **Prayer**—the four pillars of the Catechism—the *Called to Be Catholic* Young People’s Book provides a solid introduction to the key teachings of the Catholic faith while taking into account the different learning styles of students.

Through the Young People’s Book, adolescents acquire the knowledge needed to **understand** their faith, participate in activities to **live** their faith, and ultimately **love** their faith as they grow in their relationship with God.

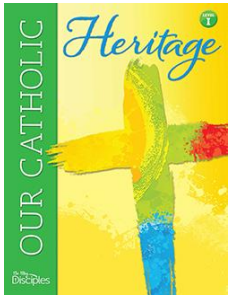
Catechist guide and Director’s guide are available. Also available in Spanish



Bridges to Faith (Loyola Press) is based on Joe Paprocki’s best-selling book *A Well-Built Faith, Bridges to Faith*. It provides directors, catechists, and parents with the tools they need to help children know what it means to be Catholic, spark a desire to further investigate their faith, and grow in their relationship with God.

Centered on the four pillars of the Catechism—the Creed, the sacraments, the moral life, and prayer—*Bridges to Faith* gives children a comprehensive introduction to the key teachings of the Catholic faith.

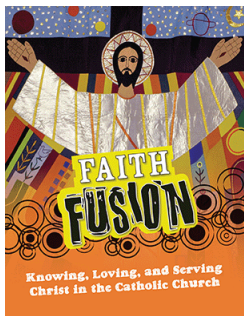
Bridges to Faith is a supplemental resource for children **ages 8 to 11**.
Also available in Spanish



Our Catholic Heritage, by RCL Benziger This revision of the popular Heritage program serves as an entry-level text for children being initiated into the life of the Church. Following the directives of the General Directory for Catechesis, it uses the RCIA model prescribed by the bishops to evangelize and catechize new learners. It is available in two levels. Level I is for ages 9-11. Level II is for ages 11-14.

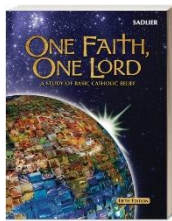
This program is also available in Spanish.

Faith Fusion by Our Sunday Visitor brings the Catholic Faith to life in words and images, and provides a complete review of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for middle school students. At the heart of every lesson is a clear and consistent focus on Scripture and Tradition, connected to the students' lives through prayer, reflections, activities, and stories of faith lived in the example of saints and other holy people.



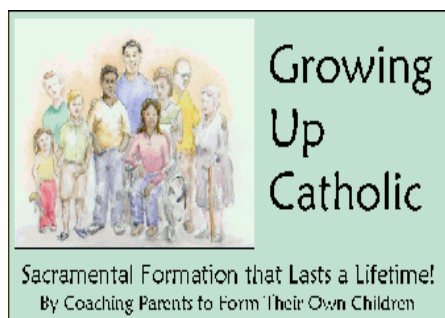
Throughout each lesson in **Faith Fusion**, the focus is on providing a direct connection between the student's life and the teachings of the Church for a lifelong foundation of faith and relationship with Christ. **Faith Fusion** provides a complete immersion into the Faith by also presenting the Church's Social Teachings, beliefs and practices, traditional prayers, Church history highlights, and much more. **Perfect for Confirmation prep, RCIA, and junior high or high school review program.** Go to faithfusion.com for more information. Also available in Spanish.

One Faith, One Lord by Sadlier (ages 12-adult) This catch-up program is a single volume text that presents fundamental beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. An ideal introduction for those who have minimal religious education, you'll find:



- Support for developing and assessing readiness for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist
- A review for Confirmation candidates, adults in RCIA, and catechist training programs
- Chapters that each present the three key doctrinal points and incorporate the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Lessons that foster faith through a relationship with the Blessed Trinity and the Church community

Resources for Parent Formation



Growing Up Catholic

From PastoralPlanning.com, by Leisa Anslinger

This down-loadable resource will help you coach the young parents of your parish to engage them in the formation of their own children as well as in the life of the parish itself. You use handouts for the teaching. These resources are available in English and **Spanish**.

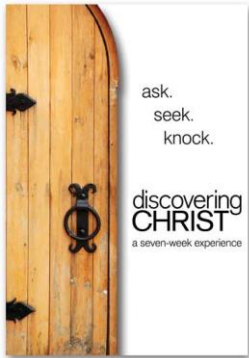
*Notes: A great program for **working with the parents**. It assists the parish in meeting the goal of supporting ("coaching") parents in their role in sharing the faith.*

The Christ Life Series

The following evangelization model is the fruit of 15 years of evangelization work with dioceses, parishes, and small faith communities. Each step in the process is vital for the life of the Church and complements each other. Click on this link to find out more: <http://www.christlife.org/evangelization/index.html>

revised January 24, 2019

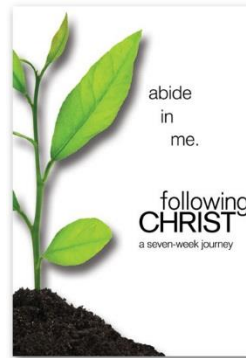
Discovering Christ



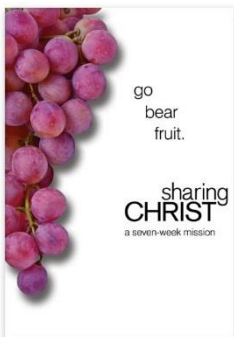
A 7-week series inviting people of all backgrounds to encounter Jesus and be part of the Church.

Following Christ

A 7-week series on Catholic discipleship with topics on prayer, scripture, sacraments, spiritual warfare, and more .

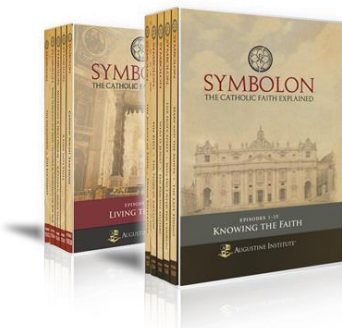


Sharing Christ



A 7-week series training Catholics how to share Jesus with others and invite them to be part of the Church.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained



We may be familiar with different aspects of our Catholic faith... but how does it all fit together? And what difference does it make for our lives? *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained* is a stunning new video series that systematically presents the **BIG** picture of the Catholic Faith. Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta, and in the Augustine Institute studios in Denver, dozens of nationally-known teachers clearly present the beauty and brilliance of Catholicism. You can get more information about the program at <http://symboloncatholic.org/>



Catholicism: The Catholic Faith as you've never seen it before.

For

the first time, in breathtaking and high-definition cinematography, the truth, goodness, and beauty of Catholicism are illustrated in a multimedia experience. Journey with Fr. Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For more information or to purchase go to: <http://www.wordonfire.org/resources/dvd/catholicism-series-dvdbluray-set/1036/>

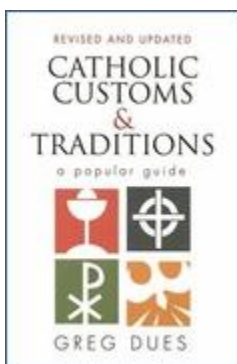


Mystery of God: Atheism is on the rise. Skeptical thinkers like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris vigorously attack belief in God as irrational or, even worse, dangerous. The so-called New Atheism has attracted millions of young people thanks to bestselling books such as *The God Delusion* and *God Is Not Great*.

How should Christians respond? How can we turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God?

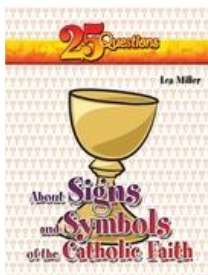
You'll discover how in "[The Mystery of God.](#)" a new six-part film series and study program by Fr. Robert Barron. The lessons reach into our rich intellectual tradition. Using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI, you'll uncover a clear yet sophisticated understanding of what we mean by "God".

Who is God? And why does he matter? Watch this series and you'll not only learn the answers yourself, but you'll discover how to share them with others - especially those who no longer believe.

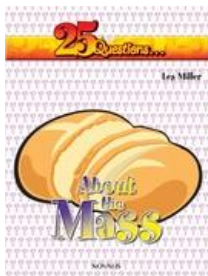


From Twenty Third Publications here is a book that belongs in every Catholic home, parish, and school library. From Candlemas to the Easter candle, through relics, Mary, the saints, indulgences, the rosary, mystagogia, feast days, laying on of hands, and much more, Greg Dues presents the richness of Roman Catholic heritage. The author also covers sacraments and sacramentals, ordinary time and the Sunday assembly. Presented in a clear and engaging manner with well-researched historical and theological grounding, this is a timely and useful resource for anyone with interest in the history and traditions of the Church.

You can also find *Catholic Customs & Traditions* books on sacramentals, Mary, Advent, Lent & Easter. For these and many other selections visit www.twentythirdpublications.com.



25 Questions About Signs and Symbols of the Catholic Faith asks and answers such questions as: Why is the cross the most recognized sign of Christianity? What is a Rosary?



25 Questions About The Mass look at rites, rituals and traditions of the Catholic Church. This book asks and answers such questions as: Why do Catholics go to church? What is a priest? Where does the Mass come from? What is the altar and how is it used?

Published by Twentythird Publications, the series is an excellent aid for building Catholic literacy and identity. Parents, grandparents, teachers, priests and catechists will want all the children they know to have their own copies. To view more books in this series and to view many others books and prayer aids, visit the resources section at www.twentythirdpublications.com

Resources Children with Disabilities

Adaptive First Eucharist Kit



Adaptive Sacrament Preparation Kits

Published by Loyola Press

These kits enable children with autism and other special needs to participate fully in the faith; helping them prepare for and receive the sacraments and participate fully in their faith.

Separate kits have been created for First Eucharist, First Penance and Confirmation.

The Loyola website contains other helpful information for parents and catechists sharing the faith with persons with disabilities.

Video Resources for Children

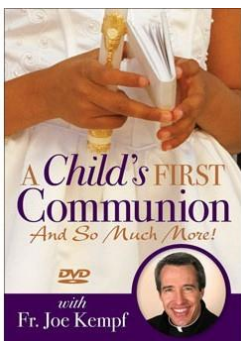
If you purchase a complete program from a publisher, your Director's Manual may contain video or media clips that you can use. Check with the publisher first. If you choose to show a video as part of a parent meeting, children's session or family retreat, you may want to consider the following.



Brother Francis videos

Come along with Brother Francis as he shows us what it means to be a true follower of Jesus in action and deed, and how our obedience can bring light to those around us!

Notes: These DVDs are aimed at children 8 years old or younger. There are 9 Brother Francis videos on various topics including The Bread of Life (Eucharist), Forgiven and The Mass. The site also has a series on virtues (Carlos the Caterpillar) and DVDs for older children on the Saints. Also available on this site are coloring books and posters. To view all items go to: <http://brotherfrancisonline.com/>



A Child's First Communion: And So Much More!

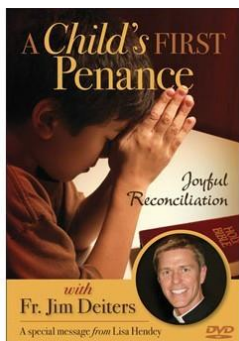
By Fr. Joe Kempf

This new DVD featuring Fr. Joe Kempf contains two programs. Also in Spanish. For Children: A 4-part, 23-minute segment. Learning the fundamentals of our Catholic faith will inspire them to love the Mass, God, and each other more than ever.

For Adults: A 3-part, 57-minute segment will recharge your presence at Mass

*Notes: Adult segments include a good discussion of why we come to Eucharist weekly and our **need** to be present. This material is very reflective on theological concepts—may be best suited for a family's "repeat" experience of preparing for First Holy Communion. Prayer experience for adults was well done and useful beyond First Communion preparation. Could be used for AFF and RCIA as well.*

Children segment was good. Included Big Al, the puppet, and an experience of meditative prayer.



A Child's First Penance

With Fr. Jim Deiters

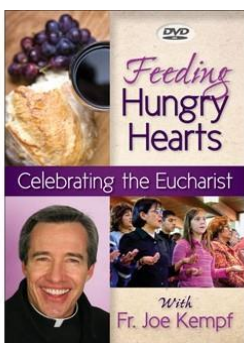
First penitents will learn about sin, true repentance, and God's unconditional love and forgiveness. They'll discover how their sin affects others and changes their relationship with God. They'll explore the prayers, rituals, and gestures of the rite. Parents will learn how the rite has changed over the years and recognize their essential role in teaching and modeling the faith for their children.

This DVD also includes a message from Lisa Hendey, founder of CatholicMom.com, and a tour of the Reconciliation Chapel.

DVD: 34 minutes

Spanish: **Tu primera confesión: La alegría del perdón**

Notes: Good, basic program. Nice tour of Reconciliation Room and having Lisa Hendey talk with parents about their role is more effective than a priest. Comes with a discussion guide online.

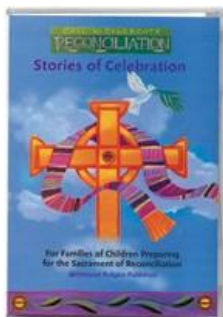


Feeding Hungry Hearts: Celebrating the Eucharist

From Liguori, with Fr. Joe Kempf

In this 45 minute four-part video, Father Joe invites us to look at the Eucharist--and how, together when we celebrate as a community of faith at Mass, we are receiving this phenomenal gift of the meal called Eucharist. This DVD walks us through the celebration of the Mass--and explains why we do what we do.

Notes: This would be useful in a parent session, especially if second time through, or perhaps a family event with children and adults together, or used by adult groups in the parish.



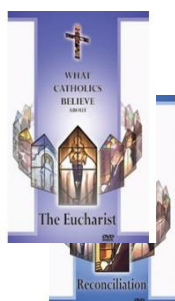
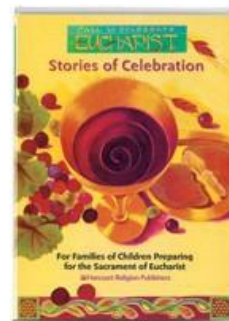
Stories of Celebration

Published by Our Sunday Visitor

Featuring Father Joe Kempf, Maureen Kelly, and Father Paul Tur

These are perfect for parent orientations and at-home implementation of immediate sacrament preparation. A facilitator booklet is included.

Notes: Especially like the Eucharist CD and Fr. Paul's explanation of liturgy. Nice interviews with children that show the joy of the sacraments.

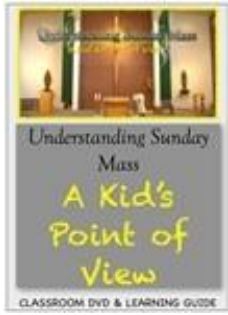


What Catholics Believe about Reconciliation and Eucharist

From Liguori Publications, by DARA Publishing

Fr. Mitch Doyen gives insights into each sacrament. Basic introductory questions have been chosen and are presented in multiple choice, true or false, or yes and no format. Fr. Matthew Bonk, C.Ss.R., provides a concise and understandable catechesis around each sacrament.

Notes: Some may not like the Q & A format, but video content is appropriate for all Adult Faith Formation in the parish, so has multiple uses.

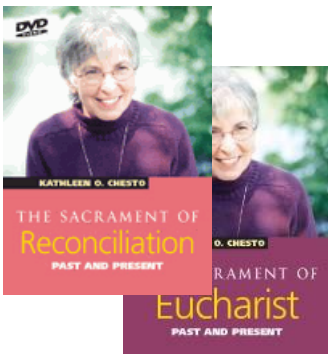


Understanding the Mass: A Kid's Point of View

Available at www.sundaymass4kids.com

Father Jerry leads two young people through a tour of the mass. Contains visual effects and storytelling that helps convey the meaning of Sunday Mass in two- 20 minute sections. Also contains mass text and prayers.

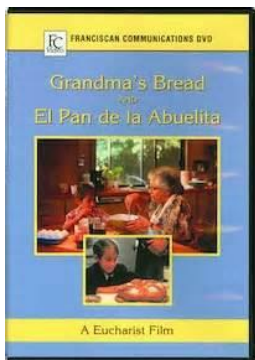
Notes: While a "low-budget" film, the information is excellent and the video has been used with children (and adults) in our diocese and was well received! Great for a family event and as a supplemental resource for all religious formation programs.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist

From Twenty-Third Publications, with Kathleen Chesto

This is a wonderful way to learn about the history and development of the sacrament of Eucharist--from Hebrew times to post Vatican II. This presentation offers Catholic adults a better understanding of the valuable place of sacramental celebrations in today's world. Excellent for RCIA, sacrament preparation for parents, catechist formation, and adult study groups.



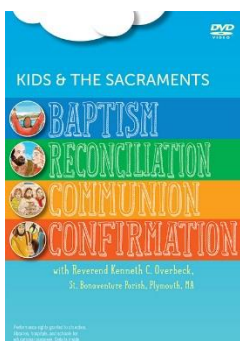
Grandma's Bread

A classic story designed to teach important truths about Eucharist, intergenerational relationships, death, and the importance of tradition in our lives. Young Mario, saddened by his grandmother's unexpected death, is delighted when his mother bakes Nonna's special Pane de Pasqua (Easter Bread) as a way of bringing her memory to his First Communion celebration. **This DVD includes both the English-language and the Spanish-language versions of this story.**

Note: Although it's an older video, the story is timeless and the message is very clear. You can order the DVD from:

<https://www.christianmultimedia.org.au/store/product/100000822/>

The leaders guide is also available for download from this site.

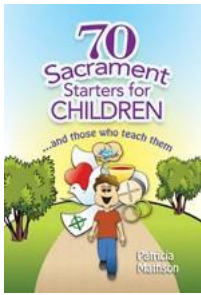


Kids and the Sacraments

Introduce children to four of the sacraments with this lively new video presentation. Each segment includes explanations from Father Ken, interviews with kids, on-screen storyboard Bible teaching, images from around the world, and "on the road" field trips to explore in depth where certain things come from, like Baptism's water, the altar bread for Communion, and Confirmation's oil. Your class will enjoy paying attention to this way of instruction!

<http://www.paracletepress.com/kids-and-the-sacraments-set-of-four.html>

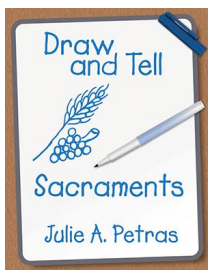
Supplemental Resources for Families



70 Sacrament Starters for Children

From Twenty-Third Publications, by Patricia Mathson

These simple, beautiful, and indispensable activities from an experienced DRE offer ten creative ways to celebrate and learn about each of the seven sacraments. The activities include visits to the church, prayers, crafts, Scripture readings, stories about the saints, sacrament discussions, and outreach suggestions.



Draw and Tell Sacraments

From Our Sunday Visitor

With only a large sheet of paper (or a dry-erase board, chalkboard, or overhead projector), and marker, you can easily share with your students what the Catholic Church teaches about the seven sacraments. As you read a story about someone who is receiving a sacrament, you draw a line, put in a squiggle, add a swirl. (The book tells you when!) By the end of the tale, your final picture shows a symbol of that sacrament.



First Sacrament Family Posters

From Our Sunday Visitor

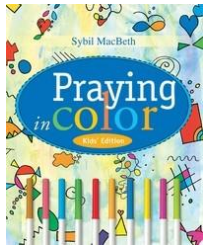
Reinforce classroom study by bringing the "textbook" home in the form of this colorful, engaging poster that a family can refer to often as it hangs proudly on the fridge or bedroom wall. In addition to the personalized color front, the back side is filled with helpful summaries of classroom teaching, family prayer, and how-to for the entire family! Comes in packages of 10. Also in Spanish.



Creative Teaching

www.creativeteaching.net

An online resource for hands-on teaching tools that can be used in classroom or home formation for sacrament preparation. Shown here are Sacrament image cards and Sacrament Bingo cards.



Praying in Color

By Sybil MacBeth, at Paraclete Press

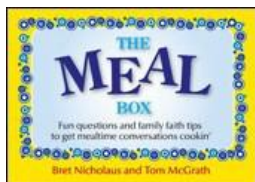
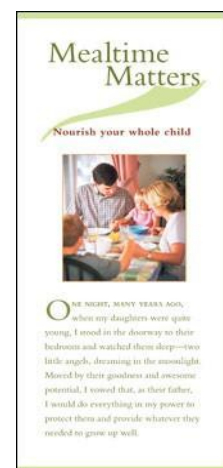
Wonderful book that provides an alternative way to pray through drawing/doodling and coloring. A good tool for helping children and adults alike reflect on Scripture, pray the Psalms, or simply pray to God.

Mealtime Matters

Published by Loyola Press

An attractive, full-color handout from Loyola Press, informs parents of the benefits of eating together and offers parents positive suggestions on how to make it a positive experience.

Loyola Press has many other resources for families to purchase, as well as articles and activities available online.



The Meal Box

Published by Loyola Press

Fun questions and family tips to get mealtime conversations going. 54 cards each containing a fun question to discuss on one side and a meaningful “Food for Family Thought” on the other. Also available in Spanish.



Keep Talking: Daily Conversation Starters for the Family Meal

Published by Liguori

Here are 288 discussion points for mealtime with your family. This book is best with older elementary and middle school.



Faith Moves: Family Faith Formation Where You Are

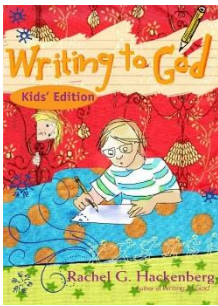
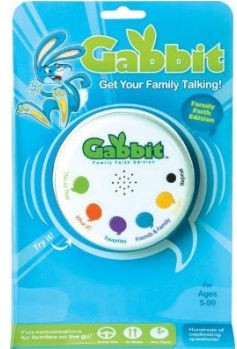
Published by Loyola Press

A practical and fun, spiral-bound booklet that provides opportunities for parents to have faith conversations with their children, followed by a game or an activity to drive the message home. Keep this in your purse or glove-compartment for use anywhere.

Gabbit—Family Faith Edition

At Saint Mary's Press

An electronic device with hundreds of family-friendly questions. There are no rules, no instructions—just pick.



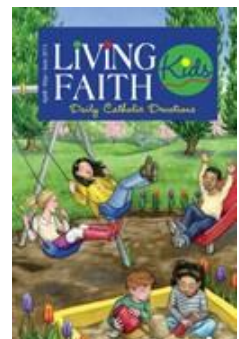
Writing to God—Kids' Edition

Published by Paraclete Press

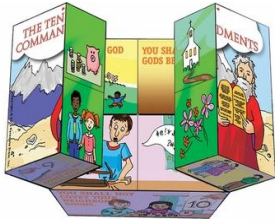
Offers guidance to kids that parents can also appreciate: It teaches them how to pray to God creatively through their pens (or pencils, or crayons). In 35 days, kids learn how to pray to God using their senses, reflecting on their feelings, in light of Bible verses, looking at nature, to understanding the ordinary events of life, using new words and pictures for God, and writing to God as a way to say "thanks".

Living Faith Kids

Features daily devotions based on the daily Scripture readings from the Catholic Mass. Each quarterly issue helps children 8-12 develop the habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus and the Church. *Living Faith Kids* is the daily Scripture-based prayer companion for Catholic children and an invaluable resource for parishes, families and schools.

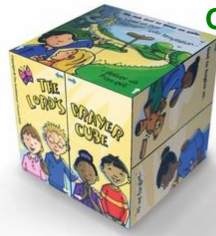


Ten Commandments Cube

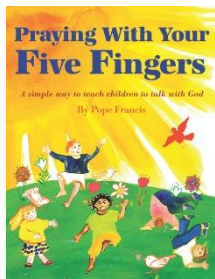


Learning Cube

A new, full color "magic cube" from Paraclete Press to help ages 4-8 learn the Ten Commandments and the Our Father. Easy to use and tactile, it has the ability to continuously unfold to reveal each commandment or each part of the prayer with illustrations that are relevant for kids. <http://www.paracletepress.com>



Our Father Cube



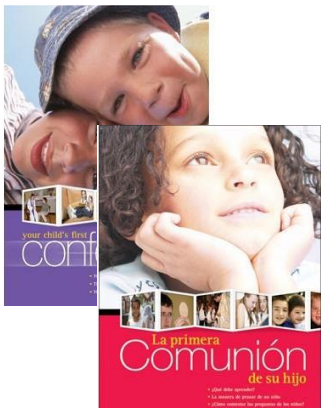
Praying with Your Five Fingers

Introducing a new 8 1/2 x 11, laminated prayer card, designed for pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade children, to help them learn the prayer method taught by Pope Francis. Each finger on their hand represents a people to pray for - from family and friends, to world leaders and those who are ill.

This creative form of prayer has been around for a long time, and is often credited, especially today, to Pope Francis when he was the Archbishop of Argentina. Perhaps it even existed prior to Pope Francis. Either way, it is a powerful way to pray—and to teach our children to pray—that the Holy Father has often utilized in his ministry.

This prayer card makes a perfect end of vacation bible school send off gift, a start of year gift, or a gift for First Reconciliation or First Communion.

<http://www.paracletepress.com>



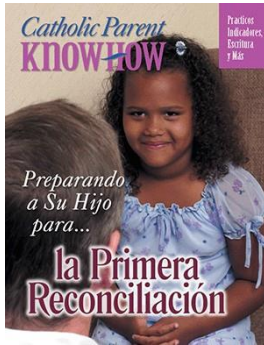
Your Child's First Confession and First Communion

From Liguori, written by the Redemptorists

This easy-to-read magazine-style guide is designed to help the priest or catechist work with children by involving parents. Illustrated with color photographs throughout, it helps parents clarify their own approach to the sacrament and provide support for their child during the preparation period. It features a question-and-answer section that deals with issues such as children's fears, parents who cannot receive the sacrament, a non-Catholic parent, changes in the sacrament, and more.

Notes: A very pastoral and informative resource for parents, especially those with their first child in the program, mixed faith marriages, or those who have been away from the Sacraments and /or church for a while. Also available in

Spanish.



Catholic Parent Know-How

From Our Sunday Visitor

Parents can be empowered with the faith-building activities and ideas in this affordable 8-page tool. Parents can gain involvement in their children's growth and even give them some spiritual nourishment of their own. These series include an edition for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and the Catholic Sacraments. All are in Spanish, as well.

Notes: Colorful, concise and insightful resources to share with parents as a supplement to the Family or Home Guide of a chosen preparation program.



Take Out: Family Faith on the Go

From Our Sunday Visitor

Simplify family life with the help of your Catholic Faith. Part magazine, part newsletter, this is a brand new, one-of-a-kind combination activity guide and support tool designed and written for busy families. The 8-page, monthly mini-magazine offers insightful, creative solutions to real life issues and interesting, fun ideas for living your faith. Start making new family connections with a positive approach today!

Notes: A monthly subscription with bulk order discounts. A resource for all families in your parish, not just those in sacramental prep.



At Home with our Faith

From Claretian Publications

Your source for everyday wisdom from real Catholic parents, the newsletter offers down-to-earth, creative ideas and tested strategies for parents to hand on a living faith to their children, while deepening their own faith in the process. Published 9 times per year (monthly September through May).

Notes: Available in single and bulk subscriptions. Check out the website for other topic specific newsletters.

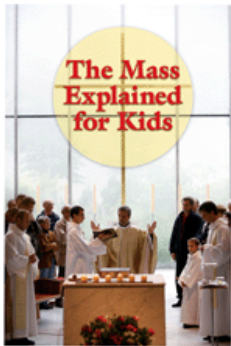
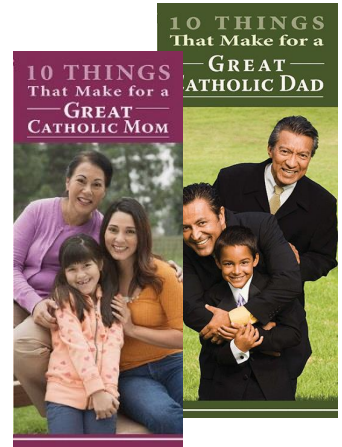


10 Things That Make for a Great Catholic Family

From Our Sunday Visitor

Today's families come in all shapes and sizes. Amid all those differences, one thing is certain: maintaining a strong family takes a lot of time, energy, and work -- oh, and a good dose of prayer! Looking at who we are through the eyes of our faith, we see that, although we may not be the image of the perfect family every day, we are holier, indeed "greater," than we think.

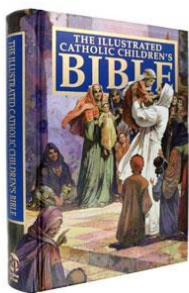
Notes: Very affordable and a great addition to any parish literature rack or an intergenerational parish event. Also in Spanish and for Moms and Dads.



The Mass Explained for Kids

Adults aren't the only ones who want to know what happens at Mass and why. The Mass Explained enables children to understand what we do and say at Mass and why. Liturgical texts are linked with corresponding explanations. This colorful booklet helps kids become fully active and enthusiastic participants at Mass. Features the official texts of the new translation. Includes accurate, kid-friendly, engaging explanations of the Liturgy. Ideal for ages 7-11.

<http://store.pauline.org/english/books/catpageindex/2/free1/dateno/productid/3658.aspx#gs.c.tab=0>



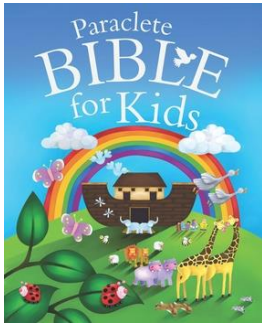
Illustrated Catholic Children's Bible

Hardcover children's Bible with full color illustrations throughout its 432 pages. The Bible Stories are based on the NAB version of the Holy Bible. A perfect gift for a special child or a great resource for family story time.

The Bible Stories are based on the NAB version of the Holy Bible and retold by Anne deGraaf, an award winning author of over 80 children's books.

This impressive children's story Bible contains over 250 traditional stories from the Old and New Testament. A full color presentation page for the owner's name, who gave the gift and the date of the occasion.

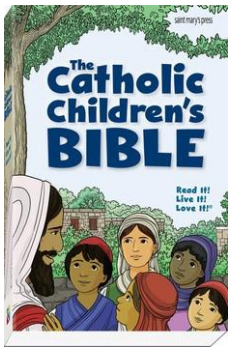
For more information or to order go to [Illustrated Catholic Children's Bible](#)



The Paraclete Bible for Kids

Perfect for any child ages 1-6. Here are the most essential stories from the Old and New Testaments, from Creation and Noah's Flood through Abraham, Moses, David, and Daniel, to the Nativity of Jesus and the very first Easter. Bright, simple maps, and rich illustrations combine with simple language to become a child's first, treasured introduction to the Word of God.

<http://www.paracletepress.com/paraclete-bible-for-kids.html>

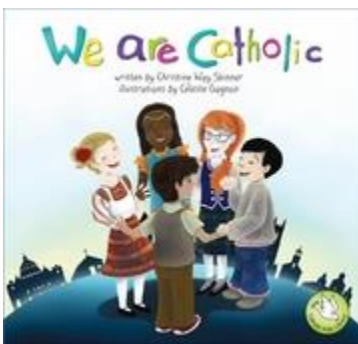


The Catholic Children's Bible

Published by Saint Mary's Press

- Children will know and understand God's saving plan revealed through 125 featured story spreads highlighting key Bible passages.
- Vibrant illustrations and borders immediately engage children and allow them to dive in to Scripture and become immersed in the stories.
- Understand It! Live It! and Tell It! sections help bring God's Word to life for the youngest of readers.

"Apps" for iPhone and iPads are available for purchase, as well.



We Are Catholic

Published by Twenty-third Publications

Vibrant and colorful, *We are Catholic* introduces children ages 3-5 to the Catholic faith and its traditions. Simple words and original illustrations introduce Sacraments, the Mass, and other beloved rites, prayers, traditions and symbols to very young Catholics. *We are Catholic* reinforces the joy of belonging to the wider Catholic Church community in an easy-to-use format and can be enjoyed over and over again by children and adults too!

Suggested Books



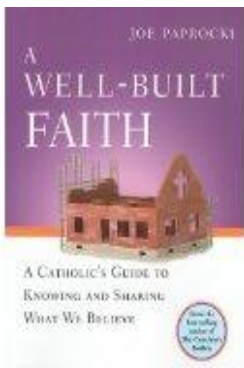
Sacraments Series.

Published by USCCB

A deeper understanding of the sacraments of the Church means a deeper spiritual life, and this series is the perfect place to start. Written from a pastoral perspective, each small volume provides the reader with a jumping-off point for reflection and prayerful study. Aimed toward families and those interested in increasing their knowledge of the faith, these booklets will bring you and those you love into deeper understanding and relationship with Christ and his Church.

Notes: This series is written for lay people and is very understandable. It is available as a series or each book can be purchased separately.

<http://store.usccb.org/Sacrament-Series-Bundle-p/7-505.htm>.

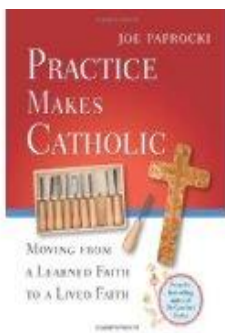


Well-Built Faith

by Joe Paprocki

Cleverly developed around a construction theme—makes it easy and flat-out fun for any Catholic to know what they believe and to feel confident in sharing those beliefs with others.

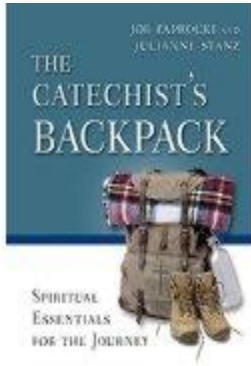
The eighteen-chapter book—at times profound, at times humorous, always practical—follows the structure of the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer). Taking otherwise difficult topics about the Catholic faith and making them accessible and relevant to the lives of average Catholics, acclaimed author and teacher Joe Paprocki does so in a way that never compromises the rich depth of Catholic teaching and tradition. From the Trinity to the seven sacraments, from the Ten Commandments to the Lord's Prayer, *A Well-Built Faith* will help Catholics nail down the facts of the faith and tear down the barriers keeping them from sharing their beliefs with others.



Practice Makes Catholic

by Joe Paprocki

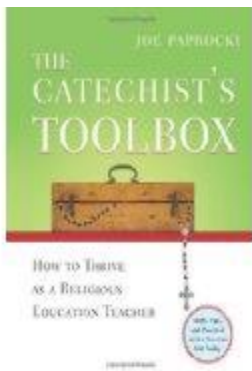
It is said that practice makes perfect, but what else does practice make? If you ask Joe Paprocki, he'll say that practice makes Catholic—that is, there are certain distinct practices that make us essentially Catholic. The problem is that many Catholics don't understand—or at least misunderstand—why we engage in the many practices we do. In *Practice Makes Catholic*, Paprocki addresses the all-important “why” of many Catholic practices by articulating five key characteristics that form our Catholic identity: a sense of sacramentality, a commitment to community, a respect for the dignity of human life and commitment to justice, a reverence for Tradition, and a disposition to faith and hope rather than despair. Under each of these categories, he explores and explains multiple Catholic practices, then describes how following each one can make a profound difference in our faith and in our lives. Informative and inviting, *Practice Makes Catholic* is the perfect resource for RCIA candidates and their sponsors, for Catholics returning to the faith, and for all Catholics who want to get to the heart of what their faith is really about.



The Catechists Backpack

by Joe Paprocki

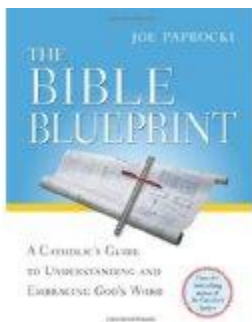
Catechists spend their time guiding children and adults in deepening their Catholic faith. But who's guiding the catechists on their spiritual journey? While there are many books about what catechists should know and what they should do, there is very little on the spirituality of being a catechist. Written by two nationally known, expert lay catechists, *The Catechist's Backpack* gives catechists the resources that speak to the spiritual dimension of their call to share the Catholic faith. Warm and conversational, Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz foster, explore, and celebrate the spirituality of the catechist, encouraging catechists to embrace their spirituality so that they can pass on a living faith to the children they teach.



The Catechist's Toolbox

by Joe Paprocki

Written specifically for any catechist who is new to the job or has never had any formal training, *The Catechist's Toolbox* features an invaluable collection of catechetical tips, techniques, methodologies, and advice. Throughout the book, master teacher Joe Paprocki shares the wisdom he has gleaned in two decades as a catechist, high school teacher, and religious educator. Employing the metaphor of a homeowner's toolbox, Paprocki explains how a new catechist is like a do-it-yourself builder who needs the right collection of tools to do the job; he then explains what the tools are, what they can do, and how to use them skillfully and effectively.



The Bible Blueprint

by Joe Paprocki

In *The Bible Blueprint*, best-selling author Joe Paprocki makes understanding the Bible not only easy for the person in the pew, but downright fun! Using witty cartoons, thought-provoking sidebars, and short quizzes to supplement his easy-to-grasp teachings on the Bible, Paprocki guides lay Catholics to a solid understanding of the structure, organization, and purpose of God's Word. Among numerous other topics, Paprocki covers the different genres of biblical writing, key figures in biblical history, and the methods Catholics rely on to interpret the Bible. As readers increase their understanding of the Bible, they will also increase their ability to find their way in Scripture: eight perforated Bible bookmarks are included.