



LIFE 2.0: All Saints' Day

This month marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation--how could we not celebrate such a momentous time in our church's history? The reforming movement started by Martin Luther brought us ideas like hearing and reading the Word of God in our own language (not Latin), and that through faith in God alone we are saved. Inspired by these revolutionary changes in Germany, religious leaders in England joined Henry VIII in deciding to break away from the Roman Catholic Church as well, starting the Church of England, or the Anglican Church, from which our own Episcopal Church emerged following the Revolutionary War.



Key of Faith #1: Caring Conversations

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

One of the first steps to effective faith formation in the home is a simple willingness to talk about it! The different stories of our many saints give us an opportunity to talk about the different ways we can let God's light shine through us!

Here are some ideas for home:

- Look up and talk about the meaning of each of the names in your family. Some are named after saints, but all names can be used for God's purpose!
- What are the characteristics of a saint? How can we be saints, too?
- What are some of the negative stereotypes of saints? Why might we think that?
- How can we let God's light shine through us? Being saintly isn't about being perfect, but about serving God.



Key of Faith # 2: Rituals & Traditions

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God--"
Ephesians 2:8

Family rituals and traditions speak to what the family values and believes. Some rituals are daily, and some are infrequent. Some are part of the church calendar, and some are in our home lives. All of the events we celebrate are from God!

This month, we celebrate one of our greatest national traditions: Thanksgiving Day! On this day, and the days leading up to it, we think about and talk about the blessings in our lives for which we are grateful, and we give thanks to God. Be sure when you are celebrating this year that you and your family thank God as the benefactor of all good things:

Almighty & gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Key of Faith #3: Worship & Devotions

"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken." Psalm 62:1-2

Last week, our second graders all received Bibles of their own. This is a great month to spend some time thinking about your family's favorite Bible stories. Check out our Bible resources webpage:

stpetersfreehold.org/bible-101

Also, just pick out some favorite Bible stories and read them! You can use the lectionary (this week and next week's readings are available in the bulletin), or let your children pick a few stories out to read to you! Also, it is great when you model reading the Bible to your children. Finally, in each week's Children's Bulletin (available at the back of the church and in the Children's Resource Corner) there are a few activities for each week's Bible readings. Start there!

The Bible is a great gift for God's people--show your children how excited you are that they have one of their own!



Key of Faith #4: Serving Others

"He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
Matthew 22:37-40

November is always Stewardship month at church. The lessons in worship tend to talk about generosity and charity, and at the end of the month we spend an entire day giving thanks for all the blessings of our life! As we give thanks, it is appropriate to think about and plan for how we can pass along the blessings we have received.

Stewardship means taking care of the church and the world on behalf of God. We are called to do this as God's people. Children also learn this generosity best when it is modeled for them at home. This month, and when appropriate, let your children see you being generous with your time and with your treasure as you share it with other people. Explain why you do this.

As you make decisions to financially or otherwise support certain people or organizations, explain to them why giving and sharing is important. As you review your stewardship commitment to St. Peter's this month, share (as appropriate) with your children why it is important to support the church and its many ministries.

Finally, celebrate with us on November 19 at the 9:30 am service and potluck brunch! It is a wonderful time to see the generosity of God's people in community with each other, especially for children. Again, when children see a culture of generosity and sharing in action, it becomes second nature as they grow older.