



Catholic Family Resources

Editor's note: We know from talking with readers that Catholic parents are working to build their own knowledge of our faith so they can pass it on to their children accurately. To help, we have compiled a list of books, magazines, and websites that our staff has found helpful in answering questions, strengthening faith formation, and overall enriching a Catholic's spiritual journey. This list is a place to start in compiling a helpful Catholic household library. All sources carry the appropriate approval of the Catholic Church.

Books

New American Bible

The first step for any Catholic family library, Catholic Bibles include helpful notes and explanations to assist readers in understanding Scripture. While all the Catholic versions are helpful, the New American Bible is the version from which the Scripture selections are read during Mass. Available from Catholic bookstores, and most retail outlets.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "a sure norm for teaching the faith" and an "authentic reference text." This edition has been organized for quick reference. It includes an analytical index and a very helpful glossary of terms with references back to text. Available in full-text or compact versions. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, www.usccb.org.

Butler's Lives of the Saints

One of the oldest and most relied upon reference works about the lives of Catholic saints. This reference includes biographies of hundreds of saints of the Church and how they lived. Available in print or CD-ROM. Liturgical Press, (800)858-5450, sales@litpress.org, www.litpress.org.

Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth

"An understandable and down-to-earth guide to all things Catholic," according to the publisher. This resource is designed as a family's companion to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Color coded call-outs in the body of the chapters refer back to the *Catechism*, and also offer advice for prayer, living the faith concepts, provide historical perspective, and offer snapshots of saint biographies. A helpful resource for parents brushing up on their faith or who want a more structured way to pass on the faith to their children. Saint Mary's Press, (800)533-8095, www.smp.org.

The Essential Catholic Handbook of the Sacraments

This is a very clear and practical presentation of Catholic sacramental tradition and belief. Especially helpful is a dictionary of words, expressions, and key concepts organized for quick reference. Includes a selection of prayers to help focus on sacramental observance. At the end of each chapter

is a statement of the essentials for easy reference. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: Liguori@liguori.org, website: www.catholicbooksonline.com.

The Essential Catholic Prayer Book

An easy-to-use, all-in-one resource for parents looking to help children develop a satisfying and varied prayer life. In one volume, this book collects prayers for holy days, holidays, or special occasions; prayers of blessing and contrition; prayers of rejoicing and thanksgiving; novenas and litanies; prayers from the saints; familiar daily prayers; and a wide variety of other texts for private and communal use. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: Liguori@liguori.org, website: www.catholicbooksonline.com.

Catholic Household Prayers and Blessings

Published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, this is a great prayer reference for any home. It contains prayers that have marked the joys, sorrows, and daily routines of countless generations, including: prayers and blessings for daily use, days and seasons, times in life, various occasions, and common prayers for any time. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, www.usccb.org.

Family Guide for Using Media

Ten actions or attitudes that affirm Christian values when using electronic media are provided in this pamphlet published by the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops. Parents and others are encouraged to evaluate the use of the Internet, computer networks, and related media and the tools they provide in a Christian context. *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, www.usccb.org.*

The Handbook for Today's Catholic Family

This reference offers families advice on centering life around the Catholic faith and practices. Updated with topical reference citations to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *The Handbook* also contains material for blended and single-parent families. It stresses the significance of prayer, sacraments, and traditions that can build a stronger Catholic family. *Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, email: Liguori@liguori.org, website: www.catholicbooksonline.com.*

Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen

Our young Catholics are the future of the Church and this book is a Catholic primer written just for them. Section One covers Catholic Doctrine while Section Two details basics of Catholic practices. Section Three offers a large selection of prayers. And Section Four deals with Catholic moral issues ("Life in the real world"). *Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: Liguori@liguori.org, website: www.catholicbooksonline.com.*

The Holy Mass in My Pocket

Compiled by the Daughters of St. Paul, this handy, pocket-sized book is an excellent Mass companion for elementary school-aged children. Easy to follow during Mass, this guide contains background on the elements of the Mass, as well as the prayers we pray during the celebration. *Daughters of St. Paul Books and Media, 800-876-4463, webstore@paulinemedial.com, website: www.pauline.org.*

Why do Catholics genuflect?

Quick and orthodox answers to basic questions about our faith and practices. An excellent resource for busy parents interested in giving authoritative answers to children's questions. *Servant Publications, c/o St. Anthony Messenger Press, (800)488-0488, website: www.AmericanCatholic.org.*

Magazines

St. Anthony Messenger

An excellent source of reliable information on the Catholic and Christian faith, *St. Anthony Messenger* has been published by Franciscan friars since 1893. Now published monthly with the ecclesiastical approval of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cincinnati, *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine features colorful, inspirational and educational information to inform and entertain. *St. Anthony Messenger Press, (800)488-0488, website: www.AmericanCatholic.org.*

Faith & Family Magazine

Produced by the publishing arm of Legionaries of Christ. Written specifically for Catholic wives and mothers and especially helpful to families with young children, *Faith & Family Magazine* focuses on ways to raise responsible children, enhance marriages, and improve home life. Typical topics covered include traditions, feasts, spirituality, marriage, Catholic parenting, personality profiles and more. Also has an active blog. *Circle Media, (800)421-3230, website: www.faithandfamilylive.com.*

The Catholic Answer

This bimonthly magazine is an enjoyable way to learn more about the teachings of the Catholic faith. The question and answer format provides orthodox, accurate pastoral responses to Catholics' questions and is packed with inspirational and helpful features that will satisfy any family's curiosity. *Our Sunday Visitor, (800)348-2440, e-mail: osvsales@osv.com, website: www.osv.com.*

Our Sunday Visitor

Our Sunday Visitor is an informative and entertaining Catholic weekly newspaper that was founded by parish priest, Father John Francis Noll, in 1912. Dedicated to helping strengthen the bonds between Catholics and their Church, *Our Sunday Visitor* helps readers view life around them from a Catholic perspective. *Our Sunday Visitor, (800)348-2440, e-mail: osvsales@osv.com, website: www.osv.com.*

Websites

USCCB.org

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of bishops of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The USCCB exercises pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States. Its purpose is "To unify, coordinate, encourage, promote and carry on Catholic activities in the United States; to organize and conduct religious, charitable and social welfare work at home and abroad; to aid in education; to care for immigrants; and generally to enter into and promote by education, publication and direction the objects of its being." The website includes searchable Catholic editions of the *Bible* and the *Catechism*, as well as the schedule of daily Mass readings.

AmericanCatholic.org

AmericanCatholic.org is the Web site of *St. Anthony Messenger Press*, a ministry of the Franciscan friars (O.F.M.), *St. John the Baptist Province*, Cincinnati Ohio. The website was launched in 1996 as an outgrowth of the firm's publishing activities and features reliable information on the Catholic and Christian faith garnered from online editions of *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine, among other *St. Anthony Messenger Press* publications.

EWTN.com

Started by Mother M. Angelica, a Poor Clare nun in Alabama, *Eternal Word Television Network* is now the largest religious media network in the world. *EWTN.com* hosts summaries and transcripts from much of its original multi-media programming. The website also houses a large library of official Church documents, a roundup of Catholic news, an interactive question-and-answer forum on all aspects of Catholic faith and practice.

ParishesOnline.com

Find a Mass time and location anywhere in the United States. *ParishesOnline* is an online directory of Catholic churches in the United States. Listings include Mass times, pastors, bulletins, maps, dioceses, schools and more.