

# The **COLLECTION** Basket

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### IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

#### **Grandparents Day—First Sunday after Labor Day**

Phone, write or visit your grandparents today. Grandkids can make this an opportunity to spoil their grandparents with attention! Handmade gifts and cards are always appreciated. Consider an outing with only grandparents and grandkids!

#### **Birth of Mary—September 8**

Have a birthday party for Mary. Have a cake with candles and a Happy Birthday song. Share why Mary is special to you. Pray a Mary prayer today. If you have made a Mary candle, use it as a table centerpiece this week.

#### **Triumph of the Cross—September 14**

The cross is THE symbol of Christians. Wear a cross today.

Make crosses out of twigs or other materials and display them in your home. Search your home for crosses on walls, jewelry, pictures, etc. Discuss why the cross is such a powerful symbol for Christians.

Pray for all those who carry crosses—the poor, oppressed, all of us who are hunting in any way—and remember the hope of victory that we have as Christians.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul—September 27**

Vincent lived in France in the 1600's. His great love of God led him to care for the hungry, poor, and homeless. He is the patron of charitable societies.

Look at the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy today. We can perform most of these right in our own homes and workplaces.

Find a St. Vincent de Paul Society in your area. Invite a volunteer to eat with your family and explain the work they do. Donate to the Society with time, money, or goods.

**Excerpted from** "Ordinary Times: Pentecost to Thanksgiving: Rituals and Traditions for Families" Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



**NEVER**  
WILL I LEAVE YOU;  
**NEVER**  
WILL I FORSAKE YOU.



#### **What Children Need Before They Enter Catholic School or Religious Education**

- ◆ A knowledge of God from hearing family members talk to and about God.
- ◆ Meeting a kind, loving, friendly God.
- ◆ An understanding that God created them, and calls them by name.
- ◆ Hearing from parents that God loves them.
- ◆ Seeing and hearing parents pray at home.
- ◆ Learning to pray in their own words.
- ◆ Begin learning the Our Father and Hail Mary.
- ◆ Hearing parents talk respectfully about the Church.
- ◆ Experiences of church every week. (This is where their family finds its strength.)
- ◆ A sense that church is a special place of reverence where good behavior is needed.

Without these, your child will be terribly behind.

*"The role of parents...is of such importance that it is almost impossible to find an adequate substitute."*

On the Family, John Paul II

Reprinted from: **Got Kids? Give Faith...Tips for Parents (Birth to 5)**  
A resource from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

# A Family Perspective

**September 1st 22nd Sunday (Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23)**

In today's gospel Jesus warns "what comes from within can defile" a person. Families need to worry about "outside influences" but also about "inside influences." The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That's the good news! That can also be the bad news!

**September 8th 23rd Sunday (Mark 7:31-37)**

Because the deaf man in today's gospel recognized his disability, he could seek help from Jesus. Deafness abounds in families: in our children (Oh dad, not that again") in parents ("It is just a stage") and in spouses ("Are you listening?"). Before Jesus can enter your home and heal, you must first recognize your deafness.

**September 15th 24th Sunday (Mark 8: 27-35)**

If we want to be happy at home we must commit ("lose ourselves") to our family. If we try to be independent from others ("save ourselves") we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

**September 22nd 25th Sunday (Mark 9:30-37)**

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another. Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

**September 29th 26th Sunday (Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48)**

The words in today's gospel, "Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their reward" hits us at home. As parents we gain our "reward" when we bring water to a frightened child in the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five-year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes we give until it hurts "in the name of Christ."

Reprinted with permission from:  
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

## A FEW PARENTING POINTERS\*

If your kids are of school age, September can be a hectic time. Some folk are naturally organized. Others need the help of a daily/weekly calendar, a check list, a bedtime review, etc. Ask your child what might help them even if it's you getting out of the way.

**Are you tired of repeating yourself over and over to your kids?**

**Step 1 - Get at eye-level with your child, then start to speak.**

**Step 2 – Ask for an "Echo" Let your child repeat what you've said. (*Family Minute*)**

If your child is old enough to read, writing them a special letter can sometimes be more powerful than speech. Include 2 things – that you love them for who they are; then praise them for a couple of their unique abilities.

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## ***Labor Day—First Monday***

### ***In September***

This holiday has been celebrated in our country since 1882. It's a day to take pride in the work we do. Our work helps to create our world.

Have each member of the family describe their work and their feelings about it.

- When are you proudest of your work?

- Where the difficult parts of your work?

Respect the unemployed and listen carefully as they tell about their task of adjusting to the lack of a job and searching for a new one.

Theirs might be the hardest work of all!

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