

October 4, 2020

Dear parents,

God bless you and your family with health, happiness, and prosperity in Faith. Happy Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Included with this letter are items, so that you can bring the celebration of our patron feast into your home as a family. Choose a few or all the activities to do at home. Items include:

1. **Two prayer cards of Padre Pio** (one in English and one in Spanish). Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, known as Padre Pio (1887-1968) was an Italian friar of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, an order of the Franciscans, founded by Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226).
2. **A pendant of the San Damiano cross.** In the small church of Italy in 1205, here before the San Damiano cross, Francis heard his call to renew the Church.
3. **A packet of clay.** Make your own cross from the clay. “The cross of Christ reveals the power of God to bridge every division, to heal every wound, and to reestablish the original bonds of brotherly (sisterly) love.”-Pope Francis. Read the bible verses below from your child’s bible:
John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...
1 Peter 2:24 Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross...It is by his wounds that you have been healed.
Pray the prayer on the back of the enclosed prayer cards.
4. **A pamphlet on Jesus Christ for parents.** Parents, please read the pamphlet on Jesus Christ and discuss the role of Faith in your life with your children.
5. **12 story squares for the life of Saint Clare and Saint Francis of Assisi.** An outline of the life of Clare and Francis is enclosed.
Listen to the story of Clare and Francis at: <https://www.stfrancisa2.com/kids/>
For older students, watch the video at: <https://watch.formed.org/clare-and-francis>
(If you haven't already signed up for a FORMED account, use our parish code: KMCVW8)

Put the 12 squares in order and have your child tell in their own words the story of Clare and Francis.

St. Francis prayed for guidance to know his mission in life. Three times, St. Francis opened the breviary and here are the scriptures he read:

Luke 9:3...Take nothing with you...

Matthew 16:24...If any of you want to come with me...carry your cross, and follow me...

Mark 10:21...Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor...



Based on the reading of the bible verses, What did St. Francis believe that God was calling him to do?

Encourage your child to pray every day for God's guidance in your life.

Saint Francis enjoyed almond pastries. You might enjoy making almond cookies to celebrate. A good recipe follows:

St. Francis Almond Cookie Recipe

1 3/4 Cups whole almonds
1 cup sugar
2 Tablespoons Flour
1/8 teaspoon salt
4 large egg whites
1 teaspoon almond extract
1/4 Cup sliced almonds

Toast whole almonds in 300° oven 5 minutes. Cool. Place in food processor with sugar, flour, and salt. Process until finely ground. Add and process egg whites and extract. Drop by teaspoonfuls on parchment covered baking sheet 1" apart. Sprinkle with sliced almonds. Bake at 300° for 25 minutes. Yield: 4 dozen cookies

Let your child's catechist (RE teacher) or myself know what your child did. Send us a picture, have your child write what they learned, or tell us what your child thought was inspiring, interesting, or what they liked best. Send to: stfreled@stfrancisa2.org

God bless you,
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