



St. Nicholas Family Connection

April 2024



Family Thank-You Notes to God and Others

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Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home

Pass out a piece of blank white or colored paper to the members of your family. Encourage each child to use his or her imagination in folding it and designing a THANK YOU note from it. This can be repeated for several family sessions.

For one session, encourage your children to write a THANK YOU note to the Lord Jesus listing the blessings for which each one is thankful. After this is complete, let each child share with the other family members what he/she has written. In fact, the sharing may easily be turned into a prayer of praise by preceding it with the words: "Lord Jesus, I am thankful to You for ..." Such a thank-you note-writing session can take advantage of the Orthodox Church calendar. Children can be encouraged to write: "Lord Jesus, I thank You for what You did for me at Christmas by ... ; on Good Friday by ... ; on Easter by ... ; on Ascension Day by ... ; on Pentecost by ... ," etc.

Parents can read to the children the story of the healing of the ten lepers by Jesus. This story shows how much Jesus appreciated the one leper who returned to thank Him for the healing. (Luke 17:12- 18)

In another family session we can encourage our children to write thank-you notes to friends and relatives. These can later be mailed. Usually the

last persons we remember to send thank-you notes to are the members of our own family. Use other family sessions for the writing of thank-you notes to mom and dad, to brothers and sisters, to your priest or bishop.

Such writing sessions will encourage our children to express their feelings of gratitude to God and people. Few things build up love in life more than the expression of praise and appreciation.

Upcoming Events:

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| April 13 | 2 pm Fanari Lenten Retreat at FLC |
| April 14 | Youth Leadership Sunday |
| April 14 | St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival at Church |
| April 28 | Palm Sunday Brunch at Church |
| May 19 | Last Day of Church School |





Family Connections

3rd Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6 & Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

What is perfection in love? Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... For so did He love, Who hanging on the Cross, said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). —St. Augustine of Hippo (5th century)

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Decorated Cross—On this Sunday, the priest places a cross standing upright on a tray surrounded by flowers. Do the same in your home so that it can be a source of strength to all as you

complete the fast. If you don't have a large cross, make one out of play-dough, cardboard, or whatever you like and decorate it. You can also decorate the tray with flowers from church and your yard or make your own flowers with tissue paper. Place it in a prominent place in your home. As a family learn to chant the hymn to the Holy Cross. Visit www.lent.goarch.org for more resources on this Sunday and to guide your Lenten journey.

Cross Word Find—Take a Bible with a concordance and look up the word "cross." Have each family member find a passage about the cross. If your children are very young, pair them up with an older child or adult. After they find a passage, have them write it on a piece of paper and draw a picture to represent it. Display these in your home during the rest of the fast.

Lenten Review—Take some time to review your Lenten progress as a family. Look to the remaining weeks and decide if there are other things that you need to do to prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord. Your parish priest can help your family continue on this journey, so do not hesitate to consult with him.

You might also enjoy other activities and information at the Center for Family Care section of the Greek Orthodox of America website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:



Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org