



# the Parent LINK

Religious Education  
Newsletter

October 2011



*St. Alphonsus  
Parish*



## POWERSOURCE

### ASK GOD:

1. To help you keep the "end goal" of eternity always in mind.
2. To guide your important work of raising children who love and serve God.
3. To grow and nurture your children's faith—and your own.

## Maintain an Eternal Perspective

Many parents live in survival mode, being pulled from all directions and juggling ever-increasing responsibilities. In the rush of school, work, and household activities, it's easy to lose our focus on what really matters: the eternal future of our children and ourselves.

How can you be more tuned in to this "end goal" of spending eternity in heaven? Talk with our DRE, pastor, pastoral associate, deacons, catechists, or a valued friend to brainstorm what your kids need to know about God and when. Plan ways to incorporate Jesus into everyday life. Going to Mass each week can help in making Jesus part of our lives on an everyday basis. Make sure everyone's on the same page. Talk to your spouse, family members, and caregivers about your spiritual priorities, even if you think they already know them.

Then be intentional about your choices. Arrange your plans around the big-picture goal. If activities start to interfere with what's really important, reevaluate and rework your family's schedule. When faith becomes the top priority for your family, it'll also become the top priority for your children.

**INSIGHTS** - 85% of parents of children under age 13 say they believe they have the primary responsibility for teaching kids about religious matters. (Just 11% said their church is primarily responsible.) Yet a majority of those parents "do not spend any time during a typical week discussing religious matters or studying religious materials with their children." (*Barna Research Group*)



**2011-12  
THEME**  
**The Mass:  
The  
Social Media  
For The Soul**

**TEACHABLE  
MOMENTS**

**1. Before and After**—Prepare for worship by playing the soft sounds of Christian music in your house. After church or Sunday school, ask children not only what they learned but how they can put the lessons into practice. Display and refer to take-home papers.

**2. Pray Without Ceasing**—Move prayer beyond the dinner table and bedroom. Pray for and with children as they head to school, when you're driving and see an ambulance, or when a family member is discouraged or facing a challenge.



**3. What's Our Mission?**—Together, craft a family mission statement. Decide what your worthy purpose, visions, and values are. Then have everyone commit to living that way, both privately and publicly. God will be placed at the center of your home not by chance but because you've purposed it to be that way.

**On Our Theme For This Year...**

We've seen the difference social media like Facebook has made in our lives. While there are negative uses for almost anything, we can see how Facebook has helped families to stay connected, to reach out to others they might not have otherwise, to garner immediate support for a cause, to ask for help, to give advice, to give thanks, or to just vent, etc.

As Catholics, we believe that by being actively engaged in the celebration of the Mass on a regular basis, we are staying connected with our Creator, Our Savior, our Advocate, our faith community, and our family ... those who are with us and those who have gone before us. While taking part in the Mass, we get the sense that we are not alone in asking for help, asking for forgiveness, and giving thanks. We listen to divine advice, and become aware of opportunities to reach out to people in prayer and in aid. Addressing these needs in our lives in a supportive community setting can give us a sense of peace.

We decided to go with a theme related to the Mass because of the changes in the Roman Missal that will affect the wording of prayers we join in at Mass. These changes will take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. We will help you with teaching your children about the changes. We will have presentations and lesson plans that relate to the Mass. We encourage all parents to make attendance and participation in weekly Mass a priority this year. As we focus on the words, let us also focus on the meaning of the liturgy for ourselves individually, for our parish, and for the world.

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE**

**Keep your family focused on Jesus with these activities.**

• **Cleansed Hearts**—Together, carve a happy face into a pumpkin. Remove the seeds and place them in a bowl inside the pumpkin. Say: "This pumpkin represents our hearts before we accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness." Have family members take turns reaching inside the pumpkin. Say: "The cold, wet seeds are just as yucky as our cold hearts are before we join God's family. Once you invite Jesus into your life, though, he cleans out your sin, just like cutting open a pumpkin and scooping out the yucky seeds." Throw away the seeds. Say: "Jesus makes our hearts happy so God's love can shine out from us to a dark world." Place a candle inside the pumpkin and light it. Close by reading Matthew 5:16.



• **Goal Tenders**—You'll need some bowls and buttons. Try tossing the buttons into the bowls from 3 feet away. Then discuss your success with this goal. Say: "Sometimes we have to try several times to achieve our goals. But God gives us each a special goal to strive for. Listen to what it is." Read aloud Philippians 3:12-14. Say: "Our goal is to become what God wants us to be. We can't achieve that in one year, but we keep striving toward the goal." Move a bowl closer to you. Say: "Let's take turns tossing a button into this bowl and saying one way we'll try to become what God wants us to be; for example, reading your Bible, praying, singing songs to God, or showing love and kindness to others. Remember to strive for that goal every day, week, month, and year."

**the Parent LINK**

**MEDIA MADNESS**

**COURAGEOUS**

**Honor Begins at Home**

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they're quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Filled with action-packed police drama, **COURAGEOUS** is the fourth film from Sherwood Pictures, the moviemaking ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Riveted moviegoers will once again find themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children.

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.

**In Theaters Now**

**CHANGES IN THE MASS**

Even if you weren't at the parent orientation meetings last week, you most likely have heard that there will be changes in the prayers and responses in the Mass effective on the First Sunday of Advent.

You may be asking the question... **Why?**

One of the changes that came out of Vatican II was changing from Latin to the vernacular (English). The Roman Missal was translated into English rather hastily guided by a document Pope Paul VI. In 2001, Pope John Paul II directed the Church to celebrate the new millennium of Christianity in a variety of ways, including a new edition of the Roman Missal. Pope Paul VI's guidance focused on a translation that conveyed the thought expressed in the Latin text (*dynamic equivalence*), and Pope John Paul II focused on a word-for-word translation (*formal equivalence*). Basically, one focuses on readability and the other on fidelity to the original text. Pope John Paul II wanted to be faithful to the Latin text.

It is said that we were not receiving authentic Latin text, but simply pieces of it. There was some freedom taken with the structure and content of the sentences at the sacrifice of some of the nuances of the original. While the current translation was produced relatively quickly out of necessity, this 3<sup>rd</sup>

edition of the Roman Missal will have had twice as many years of preparation, and adheres more accurately to the Latin official form. It recovers specific Bible imagery imbedded in so many prayers of the Latin Official form. It has an elevated style and more reverential tone, and it brings us in line with the rest of the world. The translation we currently use served us well as we jumped from Latin to English. The attempt now is to make the translation better by evoking more closely what the Latin says.

We will assist parents in teaching their children the wording changes. We will have assemblies combining classes in the Church Hall where I will give a presentation that introduces the changes within the context of the entire Mass. In the classroom, the Mass will be broken down into five parts and examined over the course of five sessions in an age-appropriate manner. If you did not receive a summary of the changes at the parent meetings, you can pick it up at the RE Office

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

For information on the changes in the Mass go to  
<http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com>  
<http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>

**USCCB MEDIA BLOG**



**RADIO INTERVIEW**

I will be a guest with Monsignor Rich Hynes on his program *Called & Sent*: Relevant Radio 950 AM. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 10:00 am. Our discussion will be about being called, formation, and Lay Ministry....  
*Kevin Cody*



Chicago's  
**wttw**  presents



In October 2011, **wttw11** will premiere **CATHOLICISM**, a groundbreaking new documentary series for public television.

Join **Father Robert Barron**, theologian, author, and sought-after speaker, as he illuminates *what* Catholics believe and *why...* on your local public television affiliate.

### **wttw11** Dates & Times:

Thursday, **October 13** at **8 pm** & Sunday, **October 16** at **4 pm**:

**Episode 1-- Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man**

Thursday, **October 20** at **8 pm** & Sunday, **October 23** at **4 pm**:

**Episode 3-- That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought: The Mystery of God**

Thursday, **October 27** at **8 pm** & Sunday, **October 30** at **4 pm**:

**Episode 4-- Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God**

Thursday, **November 3** at **8 pm** & Sunday, **November 6** at **4 pm**:

**Episode 5-- The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure**

*"Simply the most vivid catechism ever created; a high-def, illustrated manuscript for the 21st century and the best-ever film about the Catholic faith."*

-- Brad Miner, Senior Editor of *The Catholic Thing* blog



*For more information, go to* **CATHOLICISM**[SERIES.COM](http://CATHOLICISM SERIES.COM)

To preview the series, go to [wttw.com/catholicism](http://wttw.com/catholicism) and [catholicismseries.com](http://catholicismseries.com)  
For a review, go to <http://www.archden.org/index.cfm/ID/6857?CFID=31498784&CFTOKEN=15313840>

# October

St. Alphonsus  
RE



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 RE Sessions 8:45-10:15 CLOW 11:00 RE for Deaf 3:15-4:45	3 RE Sessions 4:30 - 6:00	4	5 RE Sessions 6:00 - 7:30  7:00 pm - 1st Gr. Catechist mtg	6	7	8
9 No Classes	10 No Classes 	11	12 No Classes	13	14	15 5:00 - Young People's Mass - 7th Grade
16 RE Sessions 8:45-10:15 CLOW 11:00 RE for Deaf 3:15-4:45	17 RE Sessions 4:30 - 6:00	18	19 RE Sessions 6:00 - 7:30	20	21 Chicago Catechetical Conf. At the Drury Lane	22
23 RE Sessions 8:45-10:15  RE for Deaf 3:15-4:45	24 RE Sessions 4:30 - 6:00	25	26 RE Sessions 6:00 - 7:30	27 7:00 - RE Advisory Board Mtg	28	29
30 Confirmation Rite of Enrollment 9:00 - Tr. B&C 11:00 Tr. A&SAP  No Classes	31   No Classes					