

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2026

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

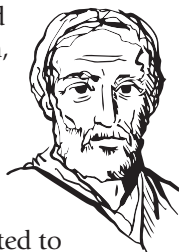
Abigail Dyer Director of Religious Education



Thoughtful Moments

St. Paulinus of Nola

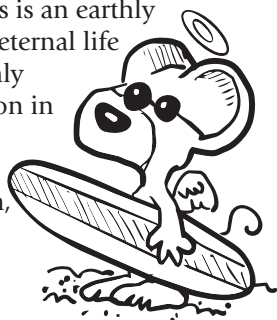
St. Paulinus seemed to have it all – wealth, status, education, a happy marriage, and friendships with many saints. When his son died shortly after birth, he converted to Christianity, sold his property, and he and his wife moved to Nola, Italy. There, they lived with simplicity and generosity to the poor. Eventually, he was ordained and made Bishop of Nola. By all accounts, he served with wisdom and generosity. He died in 431.



One heart, one love

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is connected with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. In the Sacred Heart, we see Jesus' Heart burning with love for us, desiring our salvation. In the Eucharist – Corpus Christi – that Heart is given to us to transform our own. Both reveal God's crazy, extravagant love for us.

"The Mass is an earthly sharing in eternal life — an earthly participation in heaven's worship." Scott Hahn, *Reasons to Believe*



When life changes, love leads

June is a month of transitions — from spring to summer, from classroom to vacation, from one stage of life to the next. Whether your child is graduating, moving to a new grade, or simply entering a new season, help guide him to the next adventure.

Coach: Offer guidance, model a skill, or suggest a solution — then give her the space to try, struggle, and grow on her own. Stay nearby for support.

Turn mistakes into teachable moments: Great coaches do not panic after a fumble; they teach players how to recover. When children hear a calm, patient response like, "Let's try a different approach," they begin to internalize that same grace toward themselves.

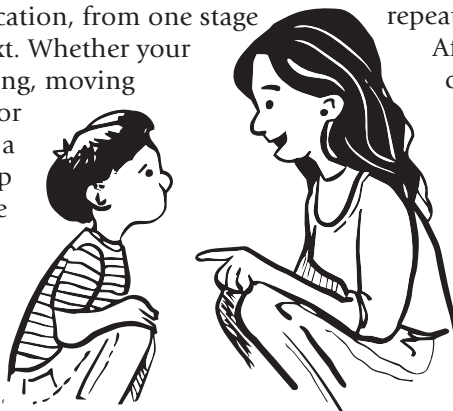
Tap the power of positive feedback: Children become what they hear repeatedly about themselves.

Affirm good choices, celebrate growth, and encourage him to use the unique gifts God has entrusted to him with confidence, courage, and generosity.

Connect without correction:

Sometimes children want to feel close without receiving advice, criticism, or a lesson. Spend time together — play cards, take a walk, or watch a movie. Moments that seem ordinary can become times when trust is built, hearts are opened, and meaningful lessons are quietly learned.

Love, always: Children may not always follow our advice or want our opinions, but they will always need our love and prayers.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics fast before Holy Communion?

In Scripture, fasting often prepared people for something important — an encounter with God or a sacred mission, as in Jesus' forty days in the desert. Because we are both body and soul, the Church asks us to prepare physically and spiritually



for Holy Communion, including through a one-hour Eucharistic fast. This practice deepens our awareness of our hunger for God and our dependence upon Him, while serving as a prayerful expression of reverence for Christ truly present in the Eucharist.

Good friends start as good playmates

A child who learns to share, cooperate, and include others is more likely both to become a good friend and to attract good friends throughout her life. To help form these important social habits, encourage:

Interactive activities: A key to making new friends is shared, interactive activities. Help children choose activities requiring at least two people to play, as opposed to solitary activities, like video games. Interactive activities hone a child's social and problem-solving skills.

Healthy limits on solitary play: Children can become overly attached to certain games, devices, or toys played alone



at the expense of experiences, relationships or even responsibilities. Set reasonable limits, encourage turn-taking, and teach youngsters to prioritize people over possessions. Allowing guests to help choose activities fosters generosity, flexibility, and hospitality.

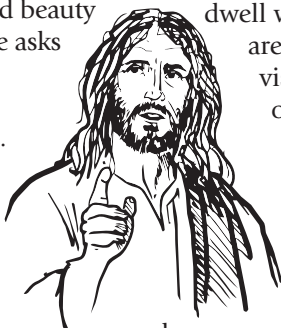
Mastery of simple games: Teach children a few easy, enjoyable games they can confidently share with others. Simple card or board games and group activities often serve as natural icebreakers and help children practice patience, teamwork, and good sportsmanship while building new friendships.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 10:37-42, Loving service is part of discipleship

In this Gospel passage, Jesus speaks honestly about the cost — and beauty — of discipleship. As God, He asks for our first and greatest love, even above family, comfort, success, or personal ambition. To follow Christ means taking up our crosses daily and learning to live not merely for ourselves, but for God and for others. Christian discipleship requires sacrifice, perseverance, and trust, yet we do not carry these burdens alone. God gives us the grace and strength we need each day.

Jesus also reminds us that He identifies Himself closely with His disciples and with those in need.



Through Baptism, God comes to dwell within our souls, and we are called to make His love visible in the world. Every act of kindness, mercy, generosity, or hospitality offered to another is received by Christ Himself. Even the smallest act — “a cup of cold water” given with love — matters in God's eyes and will not go unrewarded.

What can a parent do? Encourage your child to perform one unselfish act today and remind her that loving others faithfully is what truly matters most.

Parent TALK

When my girls were younger, they went through a phase where they constantly tattled on one another whenever a sister did something wrong. One afternoon, after hearing one complaint too many, I decided to try something different.



I gave each of them a sheet of paper with a flower stem already drawn on it, along with scissors, glue, markers, and colored paper. I asked them to cut out flower petals and write one good quality about their sister on each petal and glue the petal onto the flower stem. At first, they struggled, but soon the ideas started flowing: funny, creative, kind, brave, helpful, a good singer.

We hung the flowers on the refrigerator. The arguments did not magically disappear, but the project helped shift their focus. It reminded us each that relationships grow stronger when we learn to notice the good in each other instead of looking for faults.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 13 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary: In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942 and initiated this feast in 1944.

June 16 – St. John Francis Regis (1640): Born in France to a rich merchant, St. John Francis joined the Jesuits when he was eighteen. Once ordained a priest, he was sent to southern France to start missions. He convinced his listeners to follow Christ more faithfully.

June 23 – St. Joseph Cafasso (1860): Born in Castelnovo d'Asti, Italy, to peasant parents, St. Joseph was ordained in 1834. A gifted preacher, confessor, and retreat master, he combatted the strict Jansenist heresy and urged devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

June 29 – Saints Peter and Paul (1st Century): Peter, an ordinary fisherman made extraordinary by God's grace, was chosen by Jesus to lead the Church. An early persecutor of the Church, Saul became the Great Apostle Paul, also transformed by grace.



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To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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