

Mini Lesson #8 – 1ST ST. STEPHEN SPOTLIGHT!

Each lesson so far has been centered around positivity and how we can better handle each day. No matter what we are challenged with, a pandemic, a difficult relationship, a difficult class, an unreasonable teacher/coach/parent, I hope these mini lessons have been a mini guide to help you follow Christ's path for you.

So, THIS mini lesson is your chance to show HOW you have stayed positive and remained focused on what's most important. This is your chance to show SSM Youth Ministry how you and your family are doing!

Introducing the 1st ST. STEPHEN SPOTLIGHT!

1. Starting today through next Tuesday the 21st, please send me updates and pictures of you and your family!

Not sure what to send? Here are some examples:

- Daily family walks with the dog
- Home projects you completed
- Family game nights
- Easter Sunday Pictures (did you all still get dressed up and take pictures for Mass on the couch?)
- Sidewalk chalk masterpieces
- Have you tried to cut your own hair?
- Completing chores, you NEVER thought you would have to do.
- School projects you've completed

**there is nothing too small of an achievement to send, any update is welcomed! **

2. Catechist Corner

- The Spotlight will also include a Catechist Corner! Catechists, please send me pictures and updates of how you're doing too! What have you accomplished with all this extra time on your hands? Also, if you have any "shout outs" to your kiddos, please include them!

3. Prayer Intentions

- This Spotlight will also have a very important section, a prayer intention list. If there is anything or anyone that you would like to have included on the prayer intention list, please send it. If you would like to include a brief description as to why you would like us all to pray for that person please do so!

I'm really looking forward to seeing all the family updates! Please start sending as soon as you can so I can start compiling our first St. Stephen Spotlight, so that it's ready to share with everyone by next Wednesday!

As always, can't forget our Saint of the day! Please read the Reflection to follow from Franciscan Media, it's perfect!

Saint of the Day: Blessed Caesar de Bus

Saint of the Day for April 15

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/blessed-caesar-de-bus/>

Blessed Caesar de Bus' Story

Like so many of us, Caesar de Bus struggled with the decision about what to do with his life. After completing his Jesuit education he had difficulty settling between a military and a literary career. He wrote some plays but ultimately settled for life in the army and at court.

For a time, life was going rather smoothly for the engaging, well-to-do young Frenchman. He was confident he had made the right choice. That was until he saw firsthand the realities of battle, including the Saint Bartholomew's Day massacres of French Protestants in 1572.

He fell seriously ill and found himself reviewing his priorities, including his spiritual life. By the time he had recovered, Caesar had resolved to become a priest. Following his ordination in 1582, he undertook special pastoral work: teaching the catechism to ordinary people living in neglected, rural, out-of-the-way places. His efforts were badly needed and well received.

Working with his cousin, Caesar developed a program of family catechesis. The goal—to ward off heresy among the people—met the approval of local bishops. Out of these efforts grew a new religious congregation: the Fathers of Christian Doctrine.

One of Caesar's works, Instructions for the Family on the Four Parts of the Roman Catechism, was published 60 years after his death.

He was beatified in 1975.

Reflection

“Family catechesis” is a familiar term in parish life today. Grounded in the certainty that children learn their faith first from their parents, programs that deepen parental involvement in religious education multiply everywhere. There were no such programs in Caesar's day until he saw a need and created them. Other needs abound in our parishes, and it's up to us to respond by finding ways to fill them or by joining in already established efforts.