

The Domestic Church: Family

Teaching:

- For Grades 1-4, watch this video about one of the families in the Bible [Ohana: God Gave Me a Family](#)
- For Grades 5-8 & Adults, watch this video from Fr. Mike, [Family: Your Shortcut to Holiness](#)

In this final lesson, we explore the gift of family, what the Catholic Church calls the *domestic church*. Families come in all different forms, but they share one thing in common: they are the building blocks of society. How we treat one another in our family, the values we learn, the ways we show one another love, the patience and forgiveness that we practice are essential things to learn. Those behaviors, values, and skills our families teach us, we take into the world.

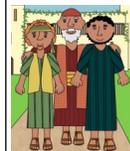
Make Your Own Patience Candy

One of the vital skills we learn from our family is the gift of patience. Especially throughout this COVID pandemic, we have had lots of opportunities to learn how to use the gift of patience. Click [here](#) to talk with your family about the gift of patience and to learn how to make candy at home with simple ingredients (sugar and water) that is a great way to demonstrate the gift of patience.



Videos on Forgiveness

Start by watching one of these videos then discuss the questions below.



Grades 1-4: [The Prodigal Son](#)

Grades 5-Adult: [Forgiveness after Tragedy](#)

- In the video you watched, do you think you could have forgiven the person who hurt you? Explain.
- How do you ask for forgiveness in your family?
- How do you forgive one another in your family?
- Why do you think it is hard to ask for forgiveness?

Egg-Celent Respect



Family is a great place to learn basic skills like respect. We have lots of opportunities to treat one another with respect or to be disrespectful in a variety of ways. Play this [messy outdoor game](#) to show how fragile people's feelings can be and how we can (and should) care for one another.

Make a Family Sign

Families change throughout the years. People are added, people are taken away, members grow and change. But family is always connected, like the branches of a tree. Use paint to make a sign (see the photo), then add your own family saying—something unique to your family values.



Parents' Prayer: Lord, thank you for each one of my precious children. Lord, you know their hearts. You know their strengths, their weaknesses and every tiny detail about them. God, I pray that You draw them closer to You. Show them who You are. Let them see their need for you, Lord. Capture their hearts and fill them with Your Spirit. Lord, I pray that they would seek You above all else. That everywhere they go and in everything they do, they would see You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Child's Prayer: Thank you Lord for my parents. They have cared for me my whole life, and sometimes I forget to thank them. I am so grateful for their love, guidance, help, and understanding. Help me to honor them, to be loving to them, and to try to understand when I don't agree with them. Please bless them and forgive them when they make mistakes, and I'll try to do the same. In Jesus' name, Amen.