

## Family Matters

MARRIED LIFE

## Teen Talk

**Read in your last column that we should be willing to calmly discuss the importance of Mass attendance with our teens who balk at going, but I'm not sure what to say. Help!**

We wanted to follow up with answers to some common objections kids raise. Here's a few:

**Teen:** *Why do I have to go? Jesus never celebrated Mass. He just hung out with people.*

It is true that Jesus spent time with anyone and everyone, especially sinners. He did this because of how much they needed his consolation and forgiveness. He had an awesome effect on people; they longed to be with him. Sometimes all they needed to do was get close enough to touch him, and they would be healed. So, you're right — he did hang out a lot. It was shocking to the authorities, but he did it anyway, because he wanted to give himself to the neediest of people, no matter what the cost, even death. That's the coolest thing of all. So, wouldn't it make sense, out of his

perfect love for us, that Jesus would desire to make himself present to us in a real, tangible way like

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he did with his disciples when he walked the earth? Wouldn't it be the most radical idea of all that God himself, already humbled as an itinerant preacher, and humbled by death on the cross, would continue to humble himself for us today by making his body, blood, soul and divinity avail-

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## BOOKS THAT LEAD TO BETHLEHEM

Good Reads for Children This Christmas

BY KERRY CRAWFORD AND PATRICIA A. CRAWFORD

**I**t is the season! Lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, counting down the days on the Advent calendar and hanging an ornament on the Jesse Tree remind children that Christmas is coming. As little ones await the birth of our Savior, make reading a part of your family's rich Advent traditions.

Books are a portal through which children can shorten the distance between them and Bethlehem.

**Countdown to Christmas**  
Written by **Dr. Mary Manz Simon**  
Illustrated by **Siobhan Harrison**  
Scholastic, 2009  
52 pages, \$9.99

Waiting for Christmas can be hard! This book will make it easier by helping children to count down the days in December to the celebration of Christ's birth. Each day's reading includes a short Advent reflection with a related Bible verse and prayer — and a fun activity to help children prepare for Christmas. Readers will enjoy making Advent crafts, singing Christmas songs and doing acts of love and kindness for others. The

chubby board-book format makes this just right for the youngest children, but older readers will also enjoy all the festive and clever ideas offered in these pages. Ages 4-10.

**My First Prayers for Christmas**  
Written and illustrated by **Maïte Roche**  
Ignatius, 2010  
14 pages, \$6.99

Written for parents to pray with their very young children, this collection of prayers will help both to draw closer to God. "Jesus, little baby lying in the manger, close to Mary and Joseph, you look at us, and you

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## Umbert The Unborn

BY GARY CANGEMI



The Register's clip out, photocopy and pass-on guides for Advent



### Talk to God

Pope John Paul II thought prayer was so important, he dedicated a year to the Rosary. Pope Benedict XVI directed these beautiful words to Americans during his recent visit:

"Time spent in prayer is never wasted, however urgent the duties that press upon us from every side. ... Contemplation of the mysteries of the Rosary releases all their saving power, and it conforms, unites and consecrates us to Jesus Christ."

This Advent, the Register challenges each reader to pray the Rosary every day. Then, when Advent ends, why stop?



## How (and Why) Of Daily Prayer



**1** If you had the chance to talk to Blessed Mother Teresa, wouldn't you? Christ is infinitely greater, and you have the chance every day.

**2** Don't you talk frequently, and for significant amounts of time, to those you love?

**Quick Tip**  
God likes to converse with you the way you like to converse with others: He doesn't want you to rattle on and hardly notice him.

**3** As a baptized person, you are the representative of Christ's love at home, at work and in social

**Quick Tip**  
Prayer is made of **ACTS**:  
**A**-Adoration,  
**C**-Contrition (sorrow for sins),  
**T**-Thanksgiving,  
**S**-Supplication (your requests of God).

situations. You will only represent him well if you've prayed.

**4** Prayer will transform your day and make it fruitful and fulfilling.

**5** Only God can make you truly happy. Your spouse won't, nor your body, nor your intellect. Know him.

**Quick Tip**  
Kneel or sit respectfully when you pray. You body and soul are one. The way you carry your body is important.



**6** Do you want to go to heaven? Then get ready with habitual prayer.

**Quick Tip**  
Start by remembering God is present and telling him in your own words why you believe in him, hope in him and love him.

**7** Read Luke 10:38-42: Jesus says there is "only one thing necessary."

**8** Mental prayer is the only thing that will soften your heart — besides suffering.

**Quick Tip**  
If you get "stuck," you can slowly repeat the words of a simple prayer like "My God, I adore your divine greatness from the depths of my littleness."

**9** Christ doesn't want you to pray because you have to. He wants you to pray because he loves you and likes talking to you.



**10** Faithful prayer can give you in a moment what otherwise takes years of experience to gain.

**Quick Tip**  
Read a brief passage from the Gospels, and picture it happening. You can even imagine Christ sitting with you.

## The Rosary

Pope Benedict XVI has asked Catholics to pray daily Rosaries.



### The Basic Rosary

1. Holding the crucifix, make the sign of the cross.
2. Holding the fifth bead up from the crucifix, announce the first mystery, then say the Our Father. Say 10 Hail Marys, one on each bead, while meditating on the mystery. End with: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
3. Continue with the second, third, fourth and fifth mysteries in the same way.
4. Say the Hail Holy Queen.
5. End with the sign of the cross.

### Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday)

1. The Annunciation (see Luke 1:26-38)
2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39-56)
3. The Nativity (Luke 2:1-20)
4. The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-38)
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 3:41-52)

### Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

1. Baptism of Christ in the Jordan (see Matthew 3:13-17)
2. Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-12)
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14-15, 2:3-13)
4. The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)
5. Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26-32)

### Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday)

1. Agony in the Garden (see Luke 22:39-46)
2. Scourging at the Pillar (Mark 15:6-15)
3. Crowning With Thorns (John 19:1-8)
4. Carrying of the Cross (John 19:16-22)
5. The Crucifixion (John 19:25-30)

### Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday)

1. The Resurrection (see Matthew 28:1-10)
2. The Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and Mary (Acts 2:1-13)
4. Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Revelation 12:1-3, 13-18)
5. Coronation of Mary (Revelation 12:1-5)

Order our full-color Guide to the Rosary: [CirclePress.org](http://CirclePress.org)