

CHILDREN'S PRAYER LEAFLET: *BE HOLY IN ALL YOU DO (1PI, 15)*
(November 2024)

« God wants you to be saints' (1Th 4:3). God calls all children to be saints. The Church is filled with children who are saints: Saint Dominic Savio, Saint Maria Goretti, Saint Kisito, Carlo Acutis and many others. You can't be satisfied with just praying, going to Mass and the Word of God group. Am I a child who is looking for what is essential, holiness? Holiness is not optional, it is a commandment from God: 'Be holy'.

Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus said: 'Holiness does not consist in practices, but in an interior disposition, because although we are weak, we trust in God's mercy and in his fatherly love'. This means that the first step towards holiness is the desire to be holy. Ask the Holy Spirit and say to him: 'Lord, give me the desire to be a saint'. If you have this desire, you are already on the path to holiness. A child who grows in friendship with Jesus will want to be a saint.

THE LITTLE STORY



SAINT CECILIA (Virgin and Martyr)

Once upon a time, under the Emperor Alexander Severus, there lived a young girl called Cecilia. She was the daughter of an illustrious patrician, the only Christian in her family, and although she had consecrated her virginity to Jesus Christ, she had to make up her mind to leave her father's house, where she lived in prayer, reading Holy Books and singing hymns, to marry a young man, Valerian, who was noble and good, but a pagan.

On the evening of the wedding, when the couple were alone, Cecilia spoke softly to Valerian: 'My dearest friend,' she said to him, 'I have a secret to confide in you: but can you promise to keep it?' Having received the young man's oath, she continued: 'Listen. An Angel of God watches over me, because I belong to God. If he sees that you love me with an evil love, he will defend me, and you will die; but if you respect my virginity, then he will love you as he loves me, and his grace will also extend to you.' Disturbed, Valerian replied: 'Cecilia, so that I may believe your word, let me see this Angel. - If you believe in the true God and receive Christian Baptism, you will be able to see the Angel who watches over me.' She said. Valerian accepted the condition, went to Bishop Urban, was instructed, received Baptism and returned to Cecilia. Near her, he saw an Angel with a luminous face and dazzling wings, who held in his hands two crowns of roses and lilies, and who placed one of these crowns on the head of Cécile, the other on the head of Valerian, and said to them, 'I bring you these flowers from the gardens of Heaven.' Valerian had a brother named Tiburce; when he heard of these wonders, he abjured the idols and became a Christian.

The two brothers were soon denounced, remained invincible in the confession of their faith and had their heads cut off. As for Cecilia, she herself appeared before the court of the Prefect of Rome:

'What is your name and what is your condition? - Before men, my name is Cecilia; but Christian is my most beautiful name. - Sacrifice yourself to the gods! - Your gods are nothing but stones, bronze or lead'.

The prefect had her taken home and ordered her to die in the steamy bathroom; God repeated for her the miracle of the Hebrews in the furnace: she did not die. The executioner came to cut off her head, but he did it so clumsily that she did not die for three days. Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians. Can you also hold on to your faith and your virginity or your chastity like that?



DAILY READINGS AND EXERCISES OF THE WORD TO BE LIVED FOR CHILDREN (November 2024)

1. **Friday:** Mt 5, 1-12a: **Pray the Pope's intention :** *That all parents who mourn the death of a son or daughter may find support in the community and obtain peace of heart from the consoling Spirit...* Pray to be holy and plan the **World Day of the Poor on 17 November.**
2. **Saturday :** Mt 25, 31-46: **The commemoration of all the faithful departed:** Pray for all those who have gone to heaven in your family.
3. **Sunday :** Mk 12,28-34: Repeat often in your heart: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength'.
4. **Monday :** Lk 14, 12-14: Help a member of your family to do a small job.
5. **Tuesday :** Lk 14, 15-24: Remind your parents or siblings to bring you to the Word of God meeting.
6. **Wednesday:** Phil 2, 12-18: Do your work cheerfully and without complaint.
7. **Thursday :** Lk 15, 1-10: Arrange or tidy someone's shoes or clothes in your home.
8. **Friday:** Phil 3, 17-4,1: Today give up games for a little while in order to love.
9. **Saturday :** Jn 2, 13-22: Help your parents with their work.
10. **Sunday :** Mk 12,38-44: Keep your room tidy and make your parents' bed too.
11. **Monday :** Titus 1, 1-9: Invite your friend to a retreat or share your testimony with him/her.
12. **Tuesday :** Lk 17, 7-10: Tell someone a short Bible story.
13. **Wednesday:** Titus 3, 1-7: Speak and act with gentleness to please the Lord Jesus.
14. **Thursday :** Phm 7-20: Carry out an act of love and study a lot.
15. **Friday:** 2Jn 1a.4-9 : Be joyful and make the people in your family laugh by telling them a joke.
16. **Saturday :** Lk 18, 1-8 : Pray for the poor.
17. **Sunday :** Mk 13,24-32: Make the sign of the cross three times a day.
18. **Monday :** Lk 18, 35-43: Pray that Jesus will help you to be a saint.
19. **Tuesday :** Lk 19, 1-10: Read another short Bible text or ask someone to read it to you.
20. **Wednesday:** Lk 19, 11-28: Pray for all the leaders of the Word of God children's groups.
21. **Thursday :** Lk 19,41- 44: Pray for your parents.
22. **Friday:** Rev 10, 8-11: Remind your parents to attend the retreats.
23. **Saturday :** Lk 20, 27-40: Pray for the Church.
24. **Sunday** Jn 18,33b-37: **Feast of Christ the King.** Sing a lot today on the feast of Christ the King of the Universe.
25. **Monday :** Lk 21, 1-4: Share some of your food with your brother, sister or parents.
26. **Tuesday :** Lk 21, 5-11: Pray the 'Hail Mary' or the 'Our Father' with a member of your family.
27. **Wednesday:** Rev 15, 1-4: Sing songs of praise a lot.
28. **Thursday :** Lk 21, 20-28: Don't sin today.
29. **Friday:** Lk 21,29-33 : Write in your prayer book (and for the little ones, make the sign of the cross several times today).
30. **Saturday :** Mt 4, 18-22: Encourage and help your brother, sister or friend in their spiritual life.

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Prayer leaflet of the Incarnation Movement (Movement of the Roman Catholic Church)

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Remind your parents to take part in the couple's retreat or the singles' retreat.

