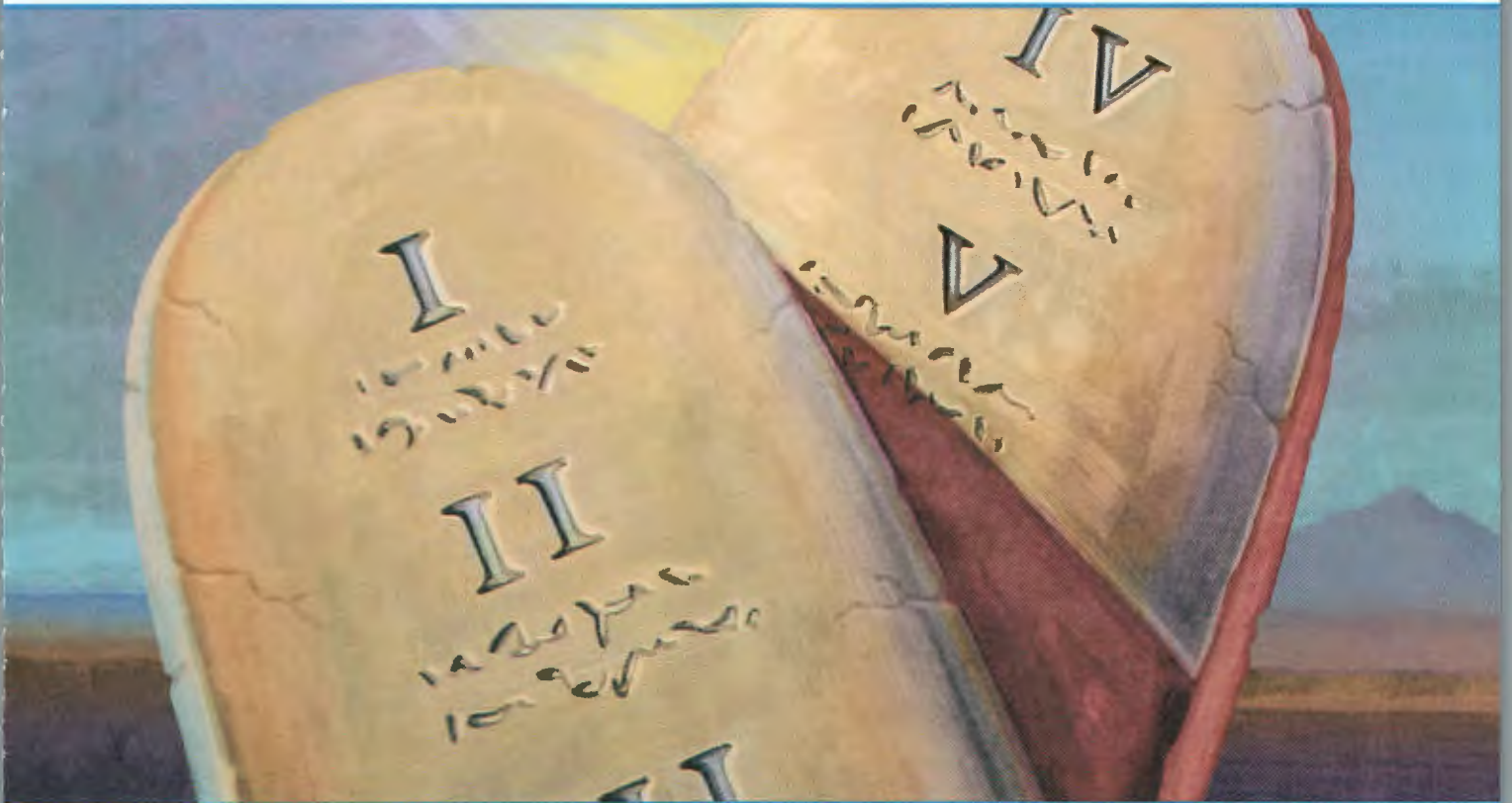


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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Morality



Our Catholic Tradition

- The virtues help us do what is good, follow God's Commandments, and give the best of ourselves. (CCC, 1803)
- God created humans to live in strong, loving families and communities. These communities are called to respect life and live in the truth. (CCC, 2207)
- All human life is sacred. (CCC, 2319)
- We learn ways of loving our neighbor and respecting others by practicing the Fourth through Tenth Commandments. (CCC, 2196)

Why is it important for families to respect the dignity of each person in their family and in the world?



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Family Love

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving Father, thank you for our parents and families who love us and teach us.

“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction,
and reject not your mother’s teaching.”

Proverbs 1:8

All: Loving God, help us grow with respect and blossom with love. Amen.

Scripture

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, support your children, so they may not be discouraged. **Based on Colossians 3:20–21**

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What Do You Wonder?

- What are ways family members help one another?
- Why is obeying your parents important to God?

Honor and Respect

What does the Fourth Commandment require?

It would be hard to imagine our lives without our families. The love of our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles helps us to feel cared for and valued. God created humans to live in families. God wants families to be strong, to protect one another, and to live in peace and love.

The Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments provide basic laws about family love and respect. The Fourth Commandment is this: Honor your father and mother. Jesus is the perfect example for living out this Commandment.

Scripture

The Boy Jesus and His Family

When Jesus was twelve, he went to Jerusalem with his family to celebrate Passover. As Mary and Joseph were returning home, they realized that Jesus was not with them. They finally found him talking with the teachers in the Temple. Mary told Jesus how worried they had been, and Jesus returned to Nazareth with his parents.

Jesus was obedient as he grew in wisdom and age. His actions were pleasing to God and to all who knew him.

Based on Luke 2:41-52

➔ How did Jesus live out the Fourth Commandment?



Living the Fourth Commandment

The Fourth Commandment teaches you to honor your parents and guardians. You honor them when you

- listen to and obey them in all that is good.
- show gratitude for all that they do for you.
- respect and care for them as they grow older.
- respect people in authority.

Parents and guardians are to provide for your needs, serve as good role models, love you, and share their faith with you. This sharing makes the family a domestic Church, where we first learn about loving others and following Christ. Parents and guardians also encourage you to grow in faith by sharing their own faith and teaching the **Cardinal Virtues**, good habits that help us live as children of God. They help you make good choices and figure out your vocation.

Catholic Faith Words

Cardinal Virtues the four principal moral virtues—prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude—that help us live as children of God and from which the other moral virtues flow. We strengthen these good habits through God’s grace and our own efforts.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Draw something your family enjoys doing together.

Share Talk with a partner about how this activity keeps your family strong and close.





Catholic Faith Words

temperance the Cardinal Virtue that helps us use moderation, be disciplined, and have self-control

fortitude the Cardinal Virtue that helps you show courage, have strength to get through difficult times, and not give up on doing good

modesty a moral virtue and one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that helps us dress, talk, and move in appropriate ways

chastity a moral virtue and one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that helps us to act and think in ways that are appropriate and pure

Faithful Love

What do the Commandments teach about love?

The Sixth Commandment is: You shall not commit adultery. The Ninth Commandment is: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. These Commandments are about the faithful love and commitment between husband and wife.

When a man and woman marry, they make solemn promises to or before God, called vows. They promise to love and honor each other always and to welcome the gift of children.

Part of being faithful is respecting your vows and those of other married couples. Married couples should not act in ways that would weaken their marriage. Adultery means being unfaithful to these vows. The grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony strengthens the couple to be faithful and true.

➔ Why is the Sacrament of Matrimony important?

Virtues and You

The Sixth and Ninth Commandments apply to everyone. You can live out these Commandments by keeping promises to family, friends, and God.

The four Cardinal Virtues—prudence, **temperance**, justice, and **fortitude**—help us to act wisely, use self-control, give others their due, stand strong, and be disciplined in our thoughts and actions.

Temperance helps us to practice **modesty** and **chastity**. You can dress, talk, and move in ways that honor your own dignity and that of others. You can respect that the differences between males and females are gifts from God.



1. Underline how the Cardinal Virtues help us.
2. Circle ways you practice modesty and chastity.

God's Love Strengthens

Sometimes it is hard for families to live as God intends. Arguments, hurts, and disappointments can keep families from being signs of God's love. Parents and children sometimes hurt one another. Some families are hurt through separation, divorce, or even death.

But God continues to love all families and to help them grow stronger. Every time families are signs of love, they reflect the love that exists within the Holy Trinity.

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Connect Your Faith

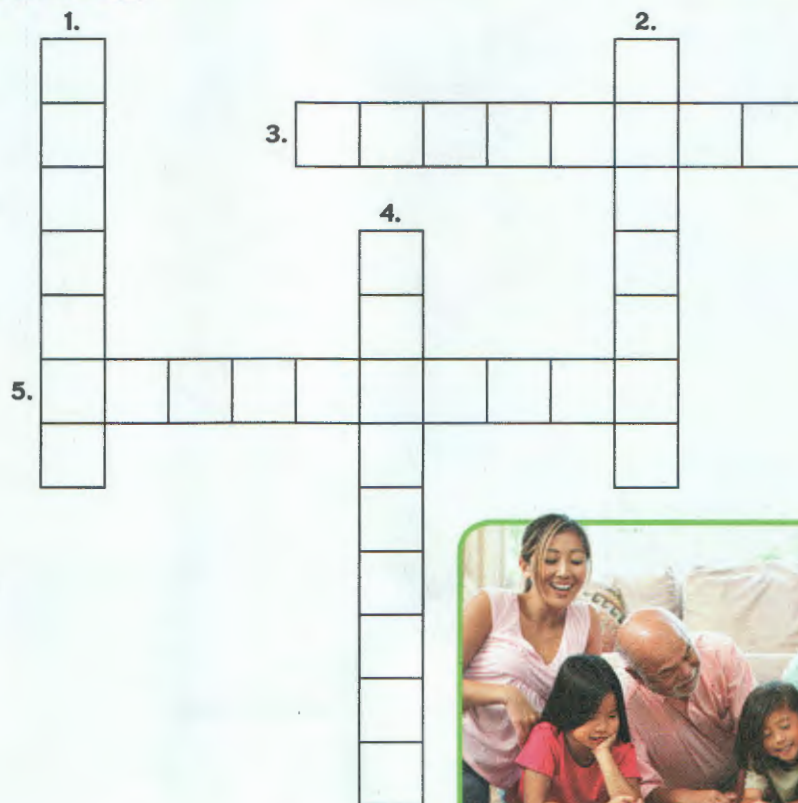
Crossword Fill in the crossword using the clues.

Across

3. helps us to act and think in ways that are pure
5. helps us use moderation and self-control

Down

1. helps us dress, talk, and move appropriately
2. Cardinal _____ help you live as children of God
4. showing courage and strength



Our Catholic Life

How can you follow God's Commandments in your family life?

God asks you to show his love to your family at all times. This is not always easy, but keeping the Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments will help you.



1. Draw a star next to the hearts that show ways you keep the Commandments now.
2. Discuss how following the Ten Commandments makes family life better.

Remember that being part of a family means forgiving one another as God forgives us when we sin.

Keep the promises you make to your family, friends, and God. Do what you have said you will do.

Practice modesty by dressing decently and by avoiding television programs, movies, books, and music that show disrespect for God's gift of sexuality.

Don't be jealous of other family members. Include others in your friendships.

Share your possessions, your time, and your gifts with family members.

Respect, honor, and obey your parents and other family members. Listen to them, and pay attention to their needs.



People of Faith

July 12

Saint Louis Martin, 1823–1894

Saint Marie-Azélie Martin, 1831–1877

God loves all families and wants them to be happy. Saints Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Martin fell in love and got married. Louis was a jeweler and watchmaker. Marie-Azélie made a special kind of lace. They promised to live as holy a life as possible and teach their children about Jesus. The Martins did many things with their family, like take walks and tell stories. All of their five daughters became nuns. One, Thérèse de Lisieux, became a Saint.



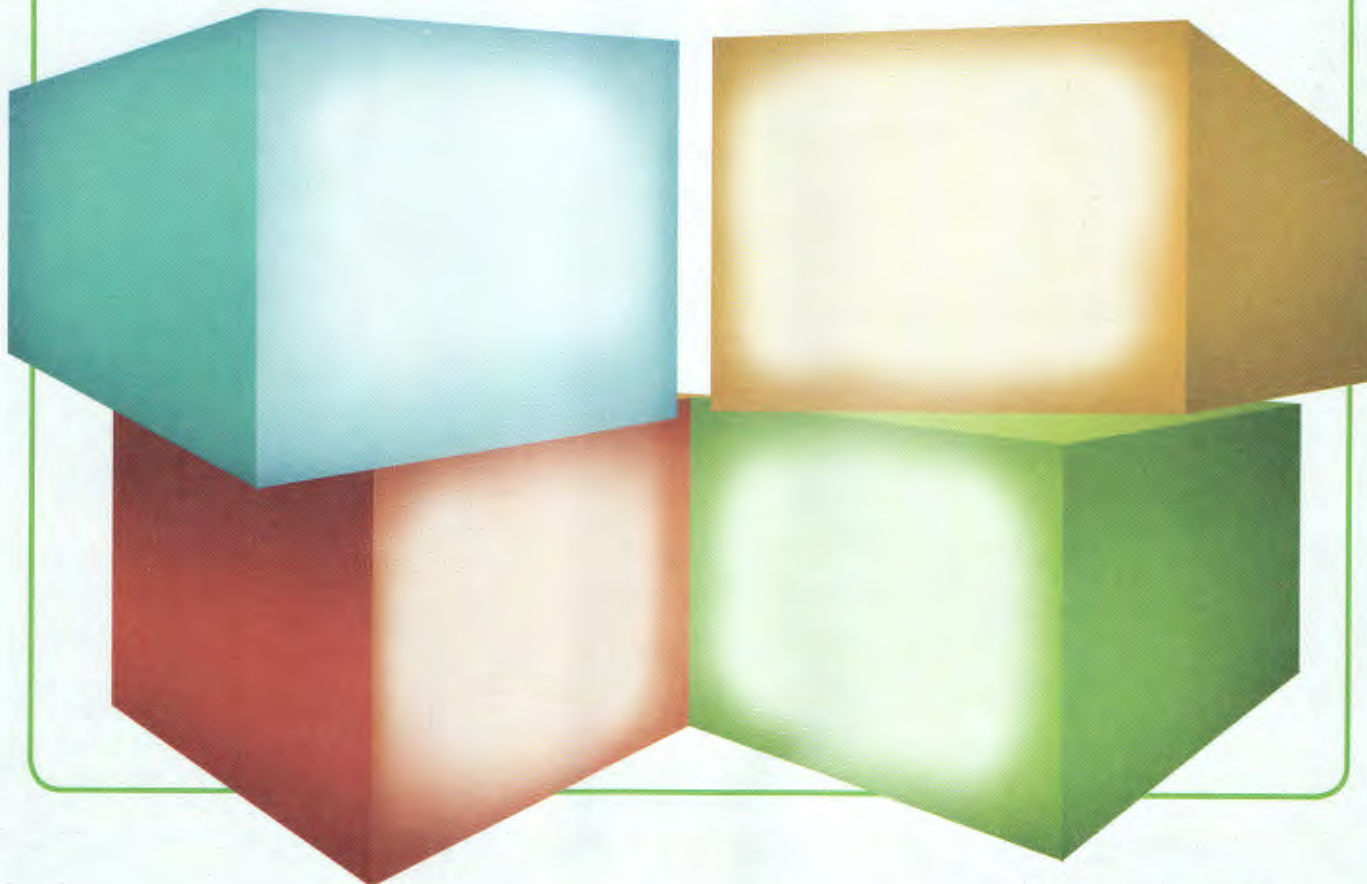
Discuss: What does your family like to do together?



Learn more about Saints Louis and Marie-Azélie at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Build with Solid Blocks The family is the building block of the Christian community and of society. In the blocks, write four qualities of good friendships and family love. Tell how your family shows one of these qualities to others.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

A prayer of petition is a prayer in which we ask God for something for another person or for the community.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: God, from you every family learns to love. We ask you to strengthen our families.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 1: May our parents and those who care for us be blessed in their commitment to love us and each other.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 2: May we and all children find support and security in their families.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 3: May all families discover your gift of faithful love.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing: "Right and Just"

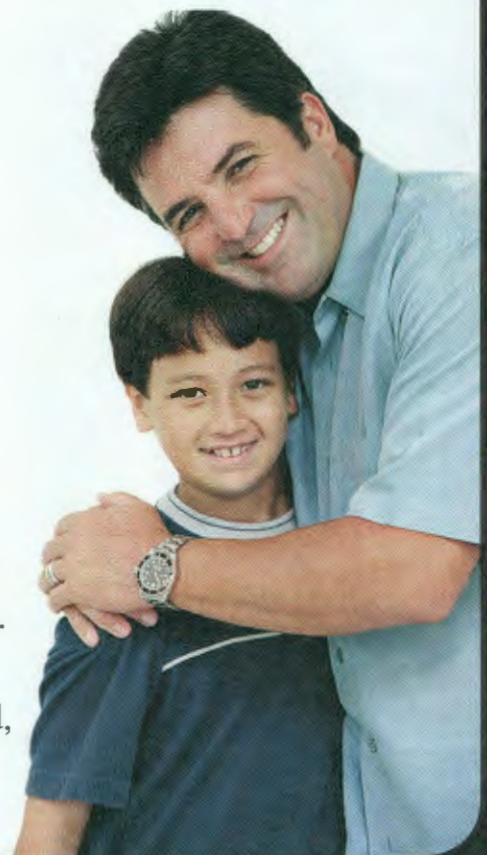
It is right—the proper thing to do.

It is just—giving God what's due.

When we come to praise our God,

It is right and just.

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter examines the importance of the Sacrament of Matrimony, the role of family in God's plan, and how the Cardinal Virtues help us to act appropriately and be disciplined.

Scripture



Read **Colossians 3:20** to find out what God's Word says about our parents.

Catholics Believe

- God created humans to live in strong, loving families.
- The Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments provide basic laws of family love and respect.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2197–2200, 2204–2206, 2380–2381, 2521–2524 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saints Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Martin, the parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Family Love Fourth-graders usually have a very strong love for their parents. If they live with both parents, they can often pick up on the quality of their mom and dad's relationship with one another. One area in which they often struggle is in their relationship with siblings. Developmental differences, as well as limited space and attention, can cause rivalries between brothers and sisters.

When children understand that the family is like a school where we learn to love each other, they can rise to meet these challenges with God's help.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How has your understanding of what it means to honor your parents changed?

As our parents age, we have an opportunity to show what they taught us about love. As Catholics, we know that "while adult children may sometimes experience a strain between raising their own children and caring for their parents, they must do what they can to help their parents. . . . While it is right for society to help care for the elderly, the family remains the rightful source of support" (*USCCA*, pp. 377–378).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name one thing about the Fourth, Sixth, or Ninth Commandments.
- Talk about ways your family honors one another.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, please help our family to be happy together, to love each other, and to pray for each other. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 13 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.

1–5. God made humans to live as _____ who love and respect one another. By following the _____ Commandment, children _____ and obey their parents and guardians. The _____ and Ninth Commandments are about being _____ in marriage, keeping promises, and acting appropriately.

Word Bank

faithful

Fourth

families

Sixth

honor

B Check Understanding Write a definition for each of the following terms.

6. Obey:

7. Vows:

8. Modesty:

9. Adultery:

10. Faithful:

