



GATHERING 5: TRADITIONS & FUN IDEAS PAGE

- Go for an outdoor walk and talk about (especially with children) what God has created for us as we see various dimensions of the beauty of nature.
- Take annual pictures, such as on the first day of school.
- Sing children's church songs around home.
- Pray a Hail Mary/Our Father when an emergency vehicle passes by or when driving past an accident scene.
- Engage in traditions related to Liturgical Year seasons (Advent wreath, Stations of Cross, etc.).
- Leave shoes out on St. Nicholas Day for gifts.
- On Palm Sunday bury a slip of paper with the word "alleluia" written on it and dig up/celebrate the resurrection of "Al" on Easter Sunday.
- One day a week is a special day for a particular child – leads the decade of rosary, picks a meal for that day, each member of the family says what they appreciate about that child, etc.
- Litany of the Saints in the car. Have each person name their favorite saint.
- Visit the graves of ancestors on Memorial Day and/or All Souls Day.
- Have a family game night weekly or monthly.
- Pass along family (history) stories... even perhaps language and food from culture.
- Play cards together (including via Zoom/FaceTime).
- Visit different Catholic churches over the summer for Mass to see that we are part of a larger and diverse church.
- Each person pick a patron saint at the start of each year and celebrate the saint on his/her feast day that year and learn more about the saint during the year.
- Mom/Dad has the meal off, and kids cook.
- Christmas ornaments – buy (or make) the same ornament for each child each year, and then give them the set of ornaments when they leave home.
- As your grand/God/children grow, give each one a piece of a Christmas nativity set per year.
- Send cards/gifts on baptismal anniversaries of each Godchild. Perhaps also pick a different saint each year as a theme for gifts to give to Godchild(ren).
- Cook or bake together across the generations preparing for holidays; color Easter Eggs together. Can even do so via FaceTime/Internet.
- Have food that relates to the feast day of the saint celebrated that day.
- Make the sign of the cross when passing a church, hospital or cemetery.
- Send children to Catholic vacation Bible school/*Totus Tuus*.
- Attend Catholic summer camp or family camp. Show the kids Jesus and faithful friends are fun.
- Family pilgrimage (Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, etc.). As a parent, ask for the family to do it together to be your birthday gift.
- Annual weekend retreat for adults.
- Go to the same place each year for vacation or intentionally go to a different place each year at the same time. Find the local Catholic church; go and support it while you are on vacation.