

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Educators of Our Children

As parents, we are our children's primary teachers in the ways of the faith. This is a huge responsibility, and we have the tendency to think that it requires an extensive knowledge of every aspect of the Catholic Church. Thankfully, the entire burden does not fall on our shoulders. The Church has the support system of parishes, pastors, catechists, and religious education classes. Our role is to focus on the decisions we make every day. Our decisions should exemplify how a Christian should live. Are we honest in our dealings with our children? Do we keep our word with them? Do they see us dealing honestly with others? All decisions we make in daily life shape the religious growth of our children. We cannot help but be their primary teachers in the ways of our faith.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss ways in which you as individuals can each be a source of blessing to one another and to others in the world.

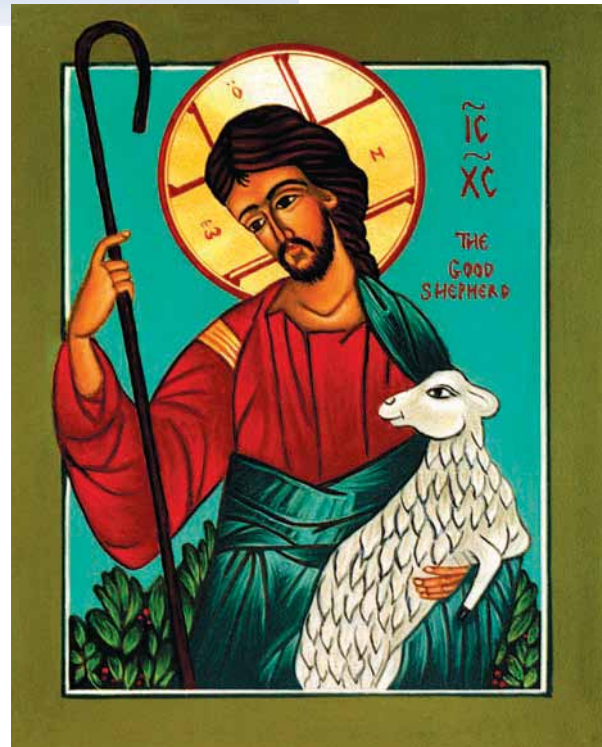
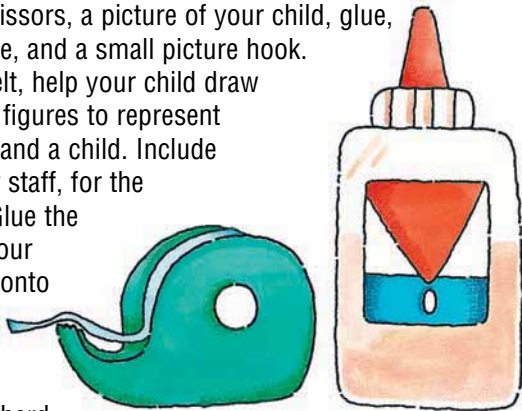
Hints for at Home

Make a The Lord Is My Shepherd picture. You'll need felt, markers, scissors, a picture of your child, glue, a paper plate, and a small picture hook.

Using the felt, help your child draw and cut out figures to represent a shepherd and a child. Include a crozier, or staff, for the shepherd. Glue the picture of your child's face onto the figure of the child.

Draw a face on the shepherd.

Glue both figures to the inside of the paper plate. With the marker write the words *The Lord Is My Shepherd* around the outside of the paper plate. Attach a small hook to the back of the plate and hang it.



The Good Shepherd, Elizabeth Lee Hudgins

Our Catholic Heritage



Saint Patrick (380–461) was the son of a Roman nobleman. He was kidnapped by Irish pirates at age 16 and was taken to Ireland. Suffering from cold, hunger, and the loss of his freedom, he worked as a shepherd in Ireland. He eventually escaped and became a priest. He returned to Ireland as a missionary, or shepherd of the people. He established monasteries, convents, and parishes. Saint Patrick is one of the primary reasons that Ireland became a Christian nation.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has read an adapted version of Psalm 23, commonly known as The Lord Is My Shepherd. Read Psalm 23 with your child and discuss the feelings of safety and security that it provides us.

