

Registration is still ongoing!

PS: If you have not registered yet please let me know if you will be returning to the program. If you know any new families in the neighborhood who

will be starting Religious Ed in in the Fall please encourage them to contact me soon!!

# Discipleship

**“Doing God’s will instead of my own”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHKdGi2rnd0>

My own memories of my father and my present day observations of my brother are that they don’t want much on Father’s Day - except some peace, quiet and a happy and joyful family!

Although my father moved onto eternity in 2008 I am still extremely grateful for his many years of guidance, wisdom and his example as a man of prayer that was backed up by action.

May God continue to bless all the Fathers of Sts Peter & Paul – St Ursula!!

Tony

<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/061916.cfm>

Please share with your children before you go to Mass this Sunday – It’s a link to the Sunday Mass readings.

Read together in order to help organize your thoughts/prayers before you attend Mass!!!!

Children’s Headstart Mini-Camp: August 8-12th

## *Areas of Interest and Upcoming Events*

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/04/12/religion-in-everyday-life/>

“highly religious people are more engaged with their extended families, more likely to volunteer, more involved in their communities and generally happier with the way things are going in their lives”

The Holy Spirit walked into a BAR and this is what he asked for: That each individual person: (BAR) Believe, Accept and Respond to his promptings.

1. First we need to believe that God exists by professing our faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Second we need to accept that this Spirit lives and acts inside of us at all times – not just at Church on Sunday or in the midst of a personal crisis.
3. Third we need to pay attention to the promptings of the Spirit that arise from within us and act upon them by loving our neighbor, living with internal joy, peace, compassion, moral clarity and by living with a sense of service – these things show us and the world that the Holy Spirit is proud to hang out inside of us and in our family!! See Galatians 5:22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A22-23&version=NASB>

The link to the full text of the Pope’s new document (The Joy of Love) is found here in English "[On Love in the Family](#)"

[Katrina Fernandez](#)

- See more at: <http://aleteia.org/2016/04/26/making-prayer-fun-for-kids-um-no/#sthash.k8N5yjQf.dpuf>

Article on making prayer fun for kids?

<http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/marriage-and-family/other-topics/bishop-barron-q-a-on-amoris-laetitia-the-joy-of-love.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/08/europe/vatican-pope-family/index.html>

2 minute video overview of Pope Francis brand new document – “Love in the Family”

<http://aleteia.org/2016/03/30/watch-pope-francis-if-you-fall-get-up-get-up/>

Pope Francis' 44 second video – If you fall get up, get up!!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liWjpDmpAgM&ebc=ANyPxKr8ouO7he22d83ZyvIRJoeKQDCzq9op63gs1oKO4cePdzySiC71n366lwgSKXhx-Zrn\\_DVSxTVckPHQZBG-PjkERXIFCg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liWjpDmpAgM&ebc=ANyPxKr8ouO7he22d83ZyvIRJoeKQDCzq9op63gs1oKO4cePdzySiC71n366lwgSKXhx-Zrn_DVSxTVckPHQZBG-PjkERXIFCg)

Divine Mercy is always celebrated the first Sunday after Easter. Here is a short explanation of this new devotion that has grown dramatically in the Church in recent times!

<http://petersboat.net/2016/03/17/march-madness-spiritual-and-religious-2/>

Short 3 minute video by a young New York priest on how spirituality and religion work together

- Here is a good Lenten reflection link from a friend of mine who is a seminarian in the Archdiocese of New York: Eric Wandrey: <http://godlights.me/2016/02/04/an-idea-for-lent-more-leisure/>

Video about Lent in two minutes <http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>

<http://godlights.me/2016/01/13/david-bowie-shakespeare-death-and-hope/>.

The Holy Doors associated with the Jubilee Year of Mercy officially opened in our Archdiocese on Sunday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick’s Cathedral and at Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Lower East Manhattan. <http://archny.org/mercy>

<https://youtu.be/ZcXX9A2W3jQ>

Two 3 minute videos on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/IYv4BUwytA0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtBsI3j0YRQ>

David Steindl-Rast: Want to be happy? Be grateful

Published on Nov 27, 2013

The one thing all humans have in common is that each of us wants to be happy, says Brother David Steindl-Rast, a monk and interfaith scholar. And happiness, he suggests, is born from gratitude.

An inspiring lesson in slowing down, looking where you're going, and above all, being grateful.

Catholic Underground in Manhattan, <http://catholicunderground.net/> (First Saturday of month)

Children's Choir sign up - please reach out to me if you have any questions ([amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org)) meets at 8:50 am in the choir loft.

Pflaum Publishing is the main program our teachers use for your child's Sunday lesson.

The two exceptions are the classes on the Sacraments: First Communion and Confirmation.

All parents, no matter the grade will find that the link below is a complimentary resource for

the work we do with all of the parish children.

[http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new\\_page/parent\\_guide.php](http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new_page/parent_guide.php)

[http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new\\_page/index.php](http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/new_page/index.php)

This part of the Pflaum website also gives you access to more resources

to reinforce the weekly lessons done by the Catechist.

<https://youtu.be/ZcXX9A2W3jQ>

Two 3 minute videos on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/IYv4BUwytA0>

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2015/11/05/kids-technology-addiction/>

Short Article: My kid, the Ipad Junkie

<http://whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/>

All of Pope Francis' US talks are found on this website with YouTube channel links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jx447QYpwF8>

(4 minute video about how to be aware of the reality that God is acting in your life... so that you can hear his voice)

Fr. Albert Haase's short video link will give you some insight about how we can become aware of God's presence in our daily life.

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/afraid-to-celebrate-halloween-dont-worry-its-very-christian-5862367938215936>

Short article on some Christian links with Halloween

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/video/video-jesuit-priest-talks-about-real-life-exorcism-5832751722790912>

A Jesuit priest reflects (3minutes & 45 seconds) on the actual person possessed in the movie the Exorcist

## **Reminder about a basic “God Plan” for the New Year:**

So what’s your plan for the New Year? It’s that time of year when we make new diet plans, exercise plans, spring vacation plans and maybe a new house budget. How about a God plan? I know you are intentional about all of the areas above, otherwise nothing new would ever happen in your family. I would like to invite you to consider putting some New Year’s energy into a God plan. God waits patiently for us to take steps towards Him in response to the many graces he presents to us in our daily lives. Grace is all around us; assuring us that one of the characteristics of God is his omnipresence(He is everywhere). In other words we are never not in the presence of God. The challenge to each of us is to recognize these ongoing daily encounters and their meaning for our lives and families!

Here are a few simple steps I personally use each day. They may help you and your children become

more aware of God’s presence in your daily life:

1. Morning: when you get up encourage yourself and your children to say hello to God and to be grateful for something or someone! Encourage yourself and children to say something complimentary to others before they go to school – build up a habit of thinking positively of others!
2. Gospel for the day: Usccb.org it takes a minute to read the daily Gospel. Here’s an online link. <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/011716.cfm>
3. At night thank God again for your day, food, good results at work, a moment of fellowship etc. Review your various encounters with others and any insights you had during the day. Take a look at the next day’s Gospel passage (will just take a minute). This could be done on your own and/or with your children.
4. Next day – Repeat.
5. Bonus points: consider reading a Catholic book (a little at a time) or joining or beginning a discussion group focused on some aspect of the faith or spirituality. I am happy to offer suggestions for resources. I am just an email away: [amacdonnell@arcol.org](mailto:amacdonnell@arcol.org)

The fruit of regular daily reflection is: “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness” **Galatians 5:22**