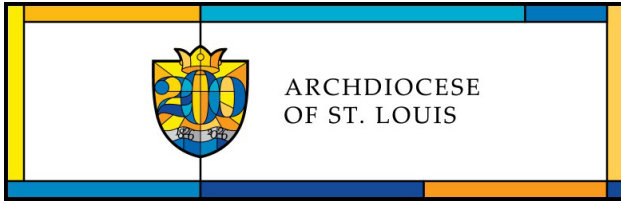


Archdiocesan Bicentennial At-Home Family Celebration



Rejoicing in God's Radiant Light.

Legacy of Faith. A Future of Hope

In 2026, the Archdiocese of St. Louis will joyfully commemorate the 200th anniversary of its founding as a diocese in 1826.

This St. Louis Archdiocese Jubilee theme reflects our deep gratitude for the past and our bold trust in what lies ahead.

This once-in-a-generation Jubilee is an invitation for every parish community and every family to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's enduring presence among us and to celebrate the vibrant, living history of Catholic faith in our region. This at-home celebration may be done in one day or more to celebrate your family's story as part of the Archdiocesan family of faith.

GATHER

Game: Minute to Win It Tournament (Optional) Play this game or another of your choosing

Engage all family members with this challenging and hilarious game, or another of your choosing. Have the necessary props ready for use. (Perhaps asking the older children to prepare this game would gain much excitement.) Be sure to choose options appropriate for all ages in your family.

- *Note: This can be played in teams or with individuals. If played in teams, one or more players from each team can be selected to compete in each challenge. Some challenges are listed here, but you can come up with your own or find many other "Minute to Win It" game challenges online.*

Directions: The goal of this tournament is to be the first person or team to reach a total of 200 points!

Set up 4-8, 60 second challenges with each challenge worth 50 points. Individuals or teams compete, and the first person or team to 200 points wins! If you have a limited amount of time or no one person or team is approaching 200 points, make the last challenge worth 200 points.

If you choose to give prizes, consider giving the winning person or team 200 tootsie rolls or 200 of an item of your choice.

- Cookie Face: Place a cookie on the forehead; players must use only facial muscles to move it into their mouth in 60 seconds or less. If it falls, they must start over.

- Rack on the Back: Tissue boxes filled with 8 ping-pong balls are strapped to players' backs (at the waist). They have 60 seconds to shake, dance, and jump to get all the ping-pong balls out without using their hands.
- Defy Gravity: Players must keep two or three balloons in the air for 60 seconds using only one hand.
- Bottle Flip: Standard water bottle flipping, players aim to land the most successful flips on a table in 60 seconds.
- Chopstick Pick-Up: Using only chopsticks, players transfer as many marshmallows as they can from one plate to another in 60 seconds.
- Penny Stack: Players stack as many pennies as possible in 60 seconds using only one hand.
- Balloon Blower: Players use the air from a balloon to blow plastic cups off the edge of a table in 60 seconds or less.
- Nose Dive: Players use petroleum jelly on their noses to transfer as many cotton balls as they can in 60 seconds from one plate to another.
- Stack Attack: Players must stack several plastic cups into a pyramid and then dismantle them into a single stack in 60 seconds or less.
- Mummy Wrap: Teams race to completely wrap a teammate in a roll of toilet paper in 60 seconds.

Alternative ideas;

- Parish Poster Collage: Have the children make a poster with as many items or pictures they can think or find to represent their parish church. If you have visited any of the Bicentennial worship sites, include that site as well.
- Parish Password Game : Play with teams, using the names of items used for liturgy or church décor and ritual for the mystery words.
- Check out other Word Games and Activities at this link:

<https://resources.archstl.org/article/544801/word-games---activities>

After the game ends, transition into an opening prayer and the Proclaim section



Opening Prayer:



ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski's Intention

February 2026

For Families and Young People

We pray for families in every stage of life, and especially for children and youth—the future of our Church. As we mark 200 years of Catholic faith in the **Archdiocese of St. Louis**, may our homes, schools, and parishes be places where the light of Christ is passed on with joy, courage, and authenticity, forming young hearts for a new century of witness.

Saint Louis, pray for us

Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, pray for us

PROCLAIM

Share how your family is part of a bigger Catholic Community that has been present since the beginning of St. Louis. You can find more about the history of the archdiocese by visiting this website and clicking on the different time periods listed.

<https://www.archstl.org/about/>

What details you choose to highlight might depend on where your parish is located and what significant events you think your family members will find important or inspiring. This will need to be adjusted to the ages and interests of your family members.

Parents or older siblings could prepare their summary of information beforehand. It may help to find pictures on-line to represent what the Archdiocese may have looked like at different periods of history.

Some Suggested Approaches for Further Family Engagement: *(Each family is encouraged to choose among these activities, and how many sessions together they would like to share.)*

Activity # 1

Share the life stories of our three patron saints. Pictures and summaries are found on the archdiocesan website given above. How did each influence the growth of our Archdiocese? How could /do we imitate their virtues in our own family or parish?

Activity #2

Tell Your Parish Story

Sharing the Bicentennial Legacy of Faith and Light can mean researching some history of your own parish church. Perhaps your family has been a part of building this church for many generations, or you may be new and can learn by seeking stories from other parishioners, or the parish leaders. Perhaps you would like to invite a pastor, or long-time parishioner, someone from your family who has participated in the parish life for many years/ decades to share.

What do you and your children find inspiring about these stories of faith?

How do you think the parish inspired or supported people in the past?

Have you seen anyone share the Light of Christ with others (family, parishioners, friends at church or school or youth group?)

How would you like others to think about and share about your family as part of this parish in the future?

- *Older children can take turns sharing their experiences of parish life; younger children could be invited to act out some Acts of Light that they like to offer to others.*
- Incorporate this sharing into a game of Charades; family teams guess what act of light is being represented. This could include acts of light they could do in their own family.

Activity #3

Study the Coat of Arms in the Archdiocese of St. Louis Shield / Create a Family Crest

Find the explanation of symbols and colors at <https://www.archstl.org/about/>

What does a Coat of Arms say about the community it represents?



Make it Personal to Your Family Faith

These pages may engage younger family members:

[Coloring Page -Archdiocese STL Crest.pdf](#) [coloring_page_thankyougodformyfamily_.pdf](#)

Create your own Family Crest:

One on-line format:

<https://yourhollyfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/d4d6e-family-crest-activity.pdf>

1, Ask your family to suggest symbols that represent your family faith.

- Include the history of your family's faith life
- Brainstorm what is important, loved, experienced in your family that makes you unique.
- What family traditions (including faith rituals) do you share?
- Does your parish fit into the crest?
- Choose symbols and colors
- Add a motto, for example:
 - “Kindness is our super power”
 - ” Sacred Heart of Jesus, we trust in You”

2. Create your crest on-line, with pasted or hand-drawn images that represent your family values.

3. Display it proudly and refer to your motto often to inspire one another.



SEND:

200 Acts of Light:

As a way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the archdiocese, encourage your family to complete a “200 Acts of Light” project. These are small, meaningful acts that reflect Christ’s love in everyday ways. The goal is simple: Do one thing that brings light to someone else – as an individual, a small group, the whole family or someone in your school or parish.

Have everyone decide on at least one act they will complete in the next day or week.

This project is a joyful way to live the theme “Rooted in Faith. Radiating Christ’s Light.” The acts of light should be joyful, personal, and easy to complete. One small act from each person becomes a shared celebration of who we are and what our faith inspires us to do.

Brainstorm ideas (some are below) to complete an act of light. Decide as a group how you will track these acts so you will know when the family group has collectively completed 200.

(Perhaps sticky notes on a wall or window) You are of course encouraged to continue completing acts and go beyond the 200, but you can also celebrate as a group when you know you have achieved this goal.

Act of Light examples:

- Offer an act of kindness at home set the table, clean the dishes, help a sibling, pray with a parent.
- Write a note of kindness (or draw a picture) -- a get well soon, or thank you note to a family member, friend, teacher, coach, priest, etc.
- Spend some time in Adoration praying for a loved one or pray a decade of a rosary or more for someone’s intentions.
- Volunteer at a parish event: lector at Mass, help out at the fish fry, or assist with a PSR class.
- Together, plan and carry out a service project in your community.
- Offer to tutor or babysit for free.
- Tell a family member you are sorry for something you have said or done to offend him or her.

Closing Prayer: (5-10 min.)

Say a closing prayer thanking God for 200 years of faith and mission in the archdiocese. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to inspire your family to share Christ’s light and love with others. If you have time, each family member can ask for a special prayer intention for the family, a family member, parish or parishioner. Together pray a Hail Mary to close your celebration.