

First Communion Connection #11

Soon we will be celebrating First Communion Together!

Until then... Keep connected, Keep preparing, Keep faith!

Happy Summer! And Happy Father's Day! To celebrate both, here's a special edition of First Communion Connection featuring a fun game all about the Lord's Prayer!

First Pray...

Gather your family. Settle in. Begin:

Leader: Let us begin by praying the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us of our Baptism. This special prayer reminds us that God loves us very much, that we are part of God's family, that we are followers of Jesus Christ, and that the Holy Spirit is always with us to help us live as friends of God and followers of Jesus.

All: *Making the Sign of the Cross, pray,* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Leader: To celebrate that Jesus is with us right now, here in our home, let us pray the prayer that Jesus gave us.

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us conclude the way we began, by praying the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father...



A **sacrament** is a special way to know and feel God's love. In the sacrament of **Eucharist**, we know and feel God's love in a special way when we receive the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion. Jesus is the Bread of Life. In the sacrament of Eucharist, Jesus strengthens us so we can go out and share God's love with everyone we meet. This is why we are so excited to celebrate First Communion with you!



...Then Play!

We go to Mass to know and feel God's love. Every time we go to Mass, we pray the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is special because Jesus taught us to pray this way. In this prayer, Jesus teaches us how much God loves us, and how to love each other. Play "Lord's Prayer Tic-Tac-Toe" to test your knowledge and have some fun!

Flip the page for directions, questions, and game boards!



Lord's Prayer Tic-Tac-Toe Directions:

- 🏆 You need three people for this game.
- 🏆 Choose a game host. The host's job is to read the game questions and determine the correct answers.
- 🏆 The two remaining people will play tic-tac-toe by correctly answering the questions.
- 🏆 Begin by having the host draw a tic-tac-toe grid, or print out the ones provided below.
- 🏆 The host reads the first question. The first player to give the correct answer places an X or O on the tic-tac-toe grid.
- 🏆 The host reads the next question for the other partner.
- 🏆 Play continues back and forth until all the questions have been asked or a participant gets three Xs or three Os in a row, thus winning the game.
- 🏆 If time allows, switch roles!



Lord's Prayer Tic-Tac-Toe Questions:

1. Who gave us the Lord's Prayer?
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Mary
 - c. Joseph

Answer: Jesus.

2. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to call God:
 - a. Our Lord
 - b. Our Father
 - c. Great One
 - d. The Creator

Answer: Our Father. We call God **Father**, just as Jesus did. When we call God "Our Father," whom do we mean? We mean **everyone**. God is the Father of all five billion people on earth. God made us all, and loves us all.

3. The first two words of the Lord's Prayer are:
 - a. Our Creator
 - b. Our Father
 - c. Loving Father
 - d. Loving God

Answer: Our Father

4. Fill in the blank: In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Our Father, who art in _____."

Answer: Heaven. What does "art" mean? It is an old way of saying "is," so we are saying, "Our Father, who is in heaven." Where is heaven? Some people think of heaven as up in the sky or up among the stars. That's one way to think of heaven; as a place. We can also think of heaven as being with God. We are with God when we love each other and do the kind things God wants us to do. Heaven is wherever God is.

5. True or False: In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Our Father, who art in heaven, Howard be thy name."

Answer: FALSE! "Hallowed be thy name." What does "hallowed" mean? Hallowed means holy or sacred or saintly. What does "thy" mean? This is an old way of saying "your." So we are saying, "God, your name is holy." We respect God's name and say it with reverence. We do not use God's name in anger.

6. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Give us this day:
 - a. Forgiveness."
 - b. All we desire."
 - c. Peace and love."
 - d. Our daily bread."

Answer: our daily bread. What does this mean? We are asking God to provide for us and make sure we are fed. God, in turn, wants us to care for each other and make sure all are fed. We are God's hands on earth. We pray not only for our needs but the needs of others. We pray that all people will have food to eat and whatever they need to get through the day. And we do our best to help God make this happen.

7. True or False: At Mass, we pray the Lord's Prayer after we receive Communion.

Answer: False. We pray the Lord's Prayer before we receive Communion. We pray the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of the Communion Rite, just before the Sign of Peace!

8. Fill in the blank: In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: "Thy _____ come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Answer: kingdom. We are talking about **God's** kingdom. What would be different about our world if it were truly God's kingdom? No one would be hungry. No one would be poor. Everyone would take care of each other. No one would be excluded. Everyone would be included. There would be no fighting and no wars. There would be peace, and everyone would love each other. The world would be a beautiful place. "Thy will be done," means we do what God wants; we live like God wants us to live. God gave us his son, Jesus, who came to show us how we should live. Jesus said to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. If we love as Jesus taught us to do, then God's will be done on earth as it always is in heaven. God's kingdom can be here and now because of the way we act. Together, we can work for a time when all people live in heaven on earth.

9. We pray, "Lead us not into:
- Tough times."
 - Darkness."
 - Temptation."

Answer: temptation. What is temptation? Temptation is wanting to do something that you know is wrong. When we ask God "to lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil," we are asking God to help us make good choices, to keep us safe, and to protect us from the things that hurt others and keep us away from God.

10. Finish this line of the Lord's Prayer: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who:
- Trespass against us."
 - Trespass against God."
 - Trespass against others."

Answer: Trespass against us. Have you ever seen a sign that says: "No Trespassing"? What does this mean? It means to stay off someone else's property, because you might harm or hurt it. Here God is not talking about property; God is talking about people. God doesn't want us to harm or hurt people. We can hurt people by saying mean things or by physically hurting them. We can also hurt people by not taking care of them, by not feeding them or giving them clothes or shelter. When we hurt someone, we ask God to forgive us. "As we forgive those who trespass against us." These are daring words. In **The Lord's Prayer**, we ask God to forgive us as much as we forgive others. We better forgive others a lot then!

11. Most of the time at the end of the Lord's Prayer we say this word:
- Thanks
 - Bye
 - Amen
 - Alleluia

Answer: Amen. The word **Amen** means: "so be it." This is another way of saying, "Yes! I agree! I believe that's true!"

12. At Mass, the priest and the people add on some extra lines at the end of the Lord's Prayer. The people's part is called the doxology. We pray:
- "Bless us, Oh Lord for these thy gifts, which we are about to receive."
 - "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever."
 - "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. Hosanna in the highest!"

Answer: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

13. The Bible tells us that Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to:
- His Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Zechariah
 - The disciples
 - The Pharisees
 - His cousin John

Answer: the disciples

14. True or False: You can find the story of Jesus teaching his disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer in two places in the Bible.

Answer: True! You can find the story in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 6:9-13) and the Gospel of Luke (Luke 11:1-4.) Try looking up these stories. Compare and contrast the versions of the Lord's Prayer in these stories with the version we pray today!



Lord's Prayer Tic-Tac-Toe



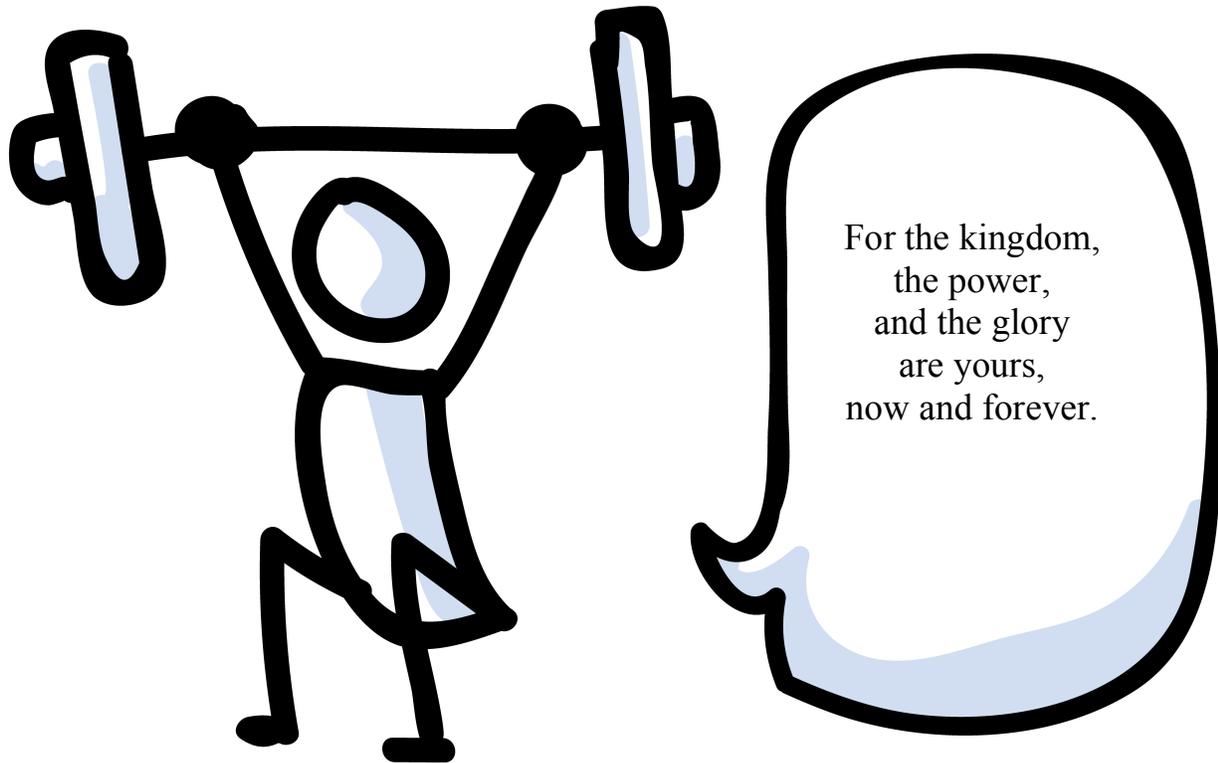
Lord's Prayer Tic-Tac-Toe

Keep your “Mass” muscles strong!

Review the Liturgy of the Eucharist in “The Order of the Mass Explained for Kids,” focusing on the Communion Rite. Prepare your child that when we return to Mass, we will notice some changes and that’s ok. We will all learn together. (You will find a PDF of this on the First Communion Connection website, under First Communion Connection #6.)

Mass Memory Verse of the Week:

At the beginning of the Communion Rite, we pray the Lord’s Prayer. We add on a “doxology” at the end of the prayer:



For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory
are yours,
now and forever.



Prayers to Know by Heart:

The Lord’s Prayer & The Sign of the Cross: *Keep practicing! You can do it!*

Don’t forget about your “**Eucharist is About...**” family activity pack. If you can’t find it, no worries! Joy uploaded another copy to the First Communion Connection webpage, under First Communion Connection #4. Try choosing one activity a week.

***** This week’s “First Communion Connection” was inspired by a Eucharist tic-tac-toe game created by Loyola Press. We loved the idea, so we created our own Lord’s Prayer version!**