

# Welcome Parents!

WORD  
*of* LIFE™

# Prayer

Jesus, you are the Word of Life.  
You proclaimed the Kingdom of  
Heaven to all who would listen.  
Help us to see the dignity of all and  
recognize You as the source of our  
humanity. May we always seek  
holiness and follow in the  
footsteps of the saints who came  
before us. Strengthen us through  
the sacraments of your Church as  
we strive to live as your disciples.

*Amen.*



# Catechesis in the Domestic Church

“{The children} will attend catechism classes, they will study the faith well; they will learn catechesis. However, before being studied, faith should be transmitted, and this is a task that is up to you.”

*(Pope Francis, Homily, January 13, 2019)*



# Primary Educators

**As parents, you are the primary educators of your children in the Catholic Faith**

When we have our children baptized, we accept the responsibility of raising them in the faith. God empowers us with his grace to raise children who will know God's mercy and plan for their lives.

Word of Life supports families with a wide-array of resources to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus together.



# The Four Golden Catechetical Threads of Word of Life

1. **Salvation History:** Proclaims God's presence in history, His plan for mankind, and our place in that plan.
2. **Christian Anthropology:** Reveals the dignity of every person and our identity in Christ.
3. **Heroic Virtue and Character Formation:** Presents an integrated approach to virtue and living as a person of character who is transformed by grace.
4. **Learning through Discipleship:** Inspires students to live as committed disciples of Christ.

# Family Faith Resources


Word of Life offers a variety of parent and family faith formation materials to support parents in your important role as the primary educators of your children.

## In the book:

- Family Faith Pages
- Enrichment Pages

**Enrichment: Virtue**

**Cardinal Virtues: Fortitude**



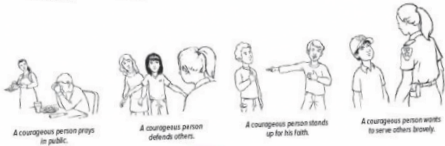
**FORTITUDE**

Fortitude is the cardinal virtue that strengthens us to overcome fear and to pursue what is good always, even if it is difficult.

It is vital that we follow God and pursue what is good at all times. But fear often stops us from pursuing the good. We may fear being laughed at, suffering, or facing risk, uncertainty, or even death. But those who are courageous will overcome the fear and continue to pursue the good despite it. Courageous people do not necessarily live without fear. They may be afraid, but they are not mastered or overwhelmed by it.

Courage is like a suit of armor. Those who go to battle are often afraid. But when they fight for a good and worthy cause, they overcome this fear. They do not act cowardly or rashly. Instead, they have built themselves up for battle and can endure great hardships.

The many saints and our servicemen and servicewomen serve as great examples of fortitude. Such bravery can seem impossible for us to achieve. However, the secret to becoming courageous is to perform everyday acts of fortitude. Maybe it is reaching out to an outsider, praying publicly, or sharing our faith with others. If we fail to be courageous in these small affairs, we certainly will struggle to be brave in great matters. But if we are courageous in these daily matters, God will grant us the fortitude to do truly heroic deeds.



**Journal Reflection**

What are things or situations you are afraid of? Ask God for the fortitude to overcome those fears. Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.

**Prayer to Grow in Virtue**

Mary, our Mother, we ask for your intercession as we seek to live with fortitude in our daily lives. Through your prayers and God's grace, may we follow your example and courageously pursue the good despite all hardships. Amen.

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**Family Faith**

**Chapter 14: The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation**  
*In Baptism, we receive new life. In Confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.*

**Chapter Summary**

The sacraments of initiation begin our life in communion with Jesus Christ and the Church. Baptism and Confirmation are two of these sacraments of initiation. The grace of Baptism washes away Original Sin and makes us new creations in Christ. The visible signs used in Baptism show us how grace is working in us. In Baptism, we receive an indelible mark that shows we belong to Jesus. Sanctifying grace that we receive in Baptism is deepened in us through the Sacrament of Confirmation. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit seals us with an indelible mark that shows that we receive power to be Jesus' witnesses. We are called to go forth as public witnesses strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit. The signs used in Confirmation help us know what God is doing in us.

**More for Parents**

It can be intimidating when we realize that Confirmation strengthens us to go witness to the faith we have received at our Baptism. What makes it seem more difficult to be a public witness is living in a culture where daily life and faith are separated. However, it is possible to be a witness to the Gospel. Strengthened by the sacraments, we can begin to be witnesses in our places of work, schools, and neighborhoods by forming virtuous friendships that cultivate opportunities for honest conversations about the faith we profess. Sharing the light of Christ with others doesn't necessarily mean standing on a street corner. It happens in your home around the dinner table with people you have invited into your life and the life of your family.

**Virtue in the Family**

God has given us all we need to spread the light of Christ and the Gospel to everyone around us. We can grow as public witnesses and prepare our children for Confirmation now by reflecting on the graces we have received and by putting them into action.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.

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**Virtuous Public Witnesses**

- After Mass, pray a brief prayer for fortitude as a family. Then, instead of leaving immediately, spend time in the vestibule or near the gathering space of your parish. Introduce yourself and your family to another family you have not met or seen before. This is an act of being witnesses to the faith—making others feel welcome in the Church.
- If you still have your children's baptismal garments or candles, show them to your children. Recount the day they were baptized. Discuss ways they can keep their souls clean like the garments and ways they can spread the light of Christ like the candles.
- Pray the third decade of the Glorious Mysteries, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, as a family. At each Hail Mary, pray for a different person who needs to be witnessed to by you. Go to [www.wordoflife.us.org/parent/instructions/howtopraytherosary](http://www.wordoflife.us.org/parent/instructions/howtopraytherosary).

**Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review**

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Indelible mark
- Sacred chrism

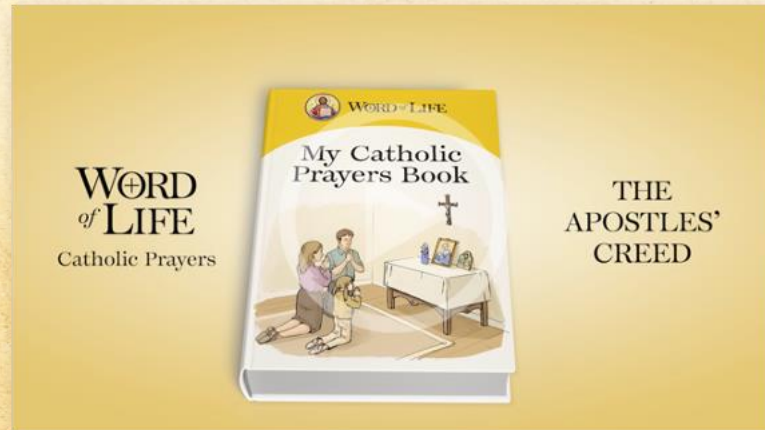
Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



# Family Faith Resources

## On the Student-Parent Portal:

- Lesson Enhancement videos
- Sacred Art videos
- Lectio Divina videos & audios
- 30+ Catholic Prayer videos
- Digital Flash Cards to help your child learn key words



# Access to the Student-Parent Portal

**A toolkit to help you and your family grow in the faith.**

The digital student textbooks include multiple online interactions and links to a wide variety of video resources.

Word of Life uses a diversity of approaches to reach visual and auditory learners, helping students more deeply engage in the content.





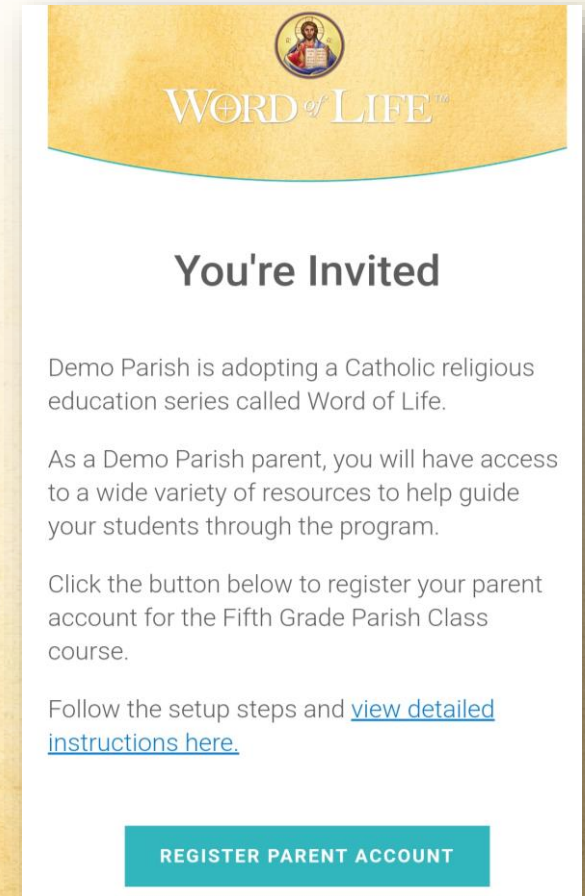
# Getting Started

## Check your email!

You will be receiving an invitation via email to access the Word of Life Portal.

The email will come from [support@wordoflifeseries.org](mailto:support@wordoflifeseries.org). Follow the prompt in the invitation to register your family's portal account.

Your account provides you access to course materials and your student's progress.



# Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation



**Forgiven:** explores the transforming power of Confession



**Presence:** delves into the mystery of the Eucharist



**The Search:** addresses fundamental questions of the human heart

# Thank You!

God bless you and your family as you seek to grow ever more closely united to Him.