

SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

St. Joan of Arc & Courage

This month, our saint is St. Joan of Arc, a young woman who courageously followed God's call, even in the face of danger and opposition. Our virtue is courage, which means being brave in doing the right thing and standing up for our faith, even when it's hard or scary.



IN DEPTH

Living with courage means trusting in God's strength and doing what is right, even when it's difficult or frightening. Jesus calls each of us to be brave in living out our faith, especially when we face challenges.

St. Joan of Arc showed incredible courage by following God's call. Even as a young woman, she fearlessly led the French army, trusting in God's guidance. When captured, she remained faithful, choosing to stand for the truth—even though it cost her life.

Being courageous, like St. Joan, means standing up for our faith and doing what is right, even when it's hard. By being brave, we grow stronger in virtue, inspire others, and become the saints God calls us to be!

OTHER RESOURCES

- Saints Alive Podcast: [St. Joan of Arc + Activity](#)
- Image of St. Joan of Arc ([Britannica](#))
- Biography of St. Joan of Arc ([Franciscan Media](#))

TIPS FOR GROWING AS A FAMILY

Encourage Conversations about Faith and Morality

- Create opportunities for kids or adults to ask questions, and seek truthful answers together through the Bible, the Catechism, or other trusted Catholic sources like Catholic Answers or Ascension Press. Our faith is countercultural and it is easy to abandon without understanding why we believe the things we do. Courageously defend the faith in your home by discovering it together!

Embrace Accountability for Mistakes

- Admitting when we've made a mistake can be daunting, but being accountable helps parents and children grow and fosters a culture of humility. Taking responsibility and asking for forgiveness when needed builds trust and reflects courage and grace. This is also an opportunity to remember that we all must rely on God's grace to become saints.

Model Generosity and Service to Others

- Practicing service as a family requires the courage to love those who others forget. What is one way you can better serve your family or someone outside your family? Serving others, even in small ways, reflects trust in God's call to love and help others.

Encourage Each Other in Tough Situations

- When one family member faces a hard time or choice, the family can gather to talk, pray, and offer support. Whether it's standing up for a friend, speaking out against wrongdoing, or making a personal sacrifice, the family can encourage each other to follow their conscience.

Encourage Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Forgiveness takes courage, especially when emotions run high. Family members can model courage by apologizing when wrong, forgiving one another, and praying for the strength to let go of resentment. This fosters peace and trust within the family.

Celebrate Acts of Courage

- Recognize moments when family members show courage, whether big or small. Celebrating these instances reinforces the importance of doing what is right and reminds everyone that God honors our bravery in following His will.