

Diocese of Hamilton
Family Ministries Office
Calendar of Family Tips

January



Parenting Tip

Quality and Quantity Both Count: Being there for the big events is, of course important, but never forget it counts to be there in the small moments too. These are times of teaching, modeling, sharing traditions, and learning about who they are as people. Take time, you will never regret it!

Scripture

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me,” (Matthew 25:40).

February



Marriage Tip

Marriage Teaches Love: Our relationship is teaching our children the most important lessons of their lives - how to love, how to disagree, how to forgive, how to grow together, how to live. God gives us the grace to be the best teachers we can be. Our children are watching; what do they see?

Scripture

Jesus said, "A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher," (Luke 6:40)

March



Parenting Tip

Vacations or 'Stay-cations' are a wonderful time to step away from the busy-ness of everyday family living and reconnect with each other. As you laugh and play, don't forget to stay connected to our faith. Be the family that plays and prays together.

Scripture

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

April



Marriage Tip

Children are a beautiful extension of our marriages. They are certainly a blessing, but meeting their needs naturally changes our couple relationship. During these important years never forget to take time for each other. One of the best gifts we can give our children is a strong, loving marriage .

Scripture

“Love is patient, love is kind ... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1 Cor. 13: 4,7-8).

May



Parenting Tip

Faith passed through the generations is strong and vibrant and necessary. Grandparents can be role models in the faith to both their children and their grandchildren. A faith passed on, lives on.

Scripture

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil. 4:9)

June



Marriage Tip

Leaving a Legacy: Marriages that have lasted over the long haul allow generations to look back and grow forward. They are living examples of what it means to have lasting love; they give hope. Marriage is at the heart of family, so celebrate your marriage milestones!

Scripture

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

July



Parenting Tip

Celebrating Family: In July we celebrate Canada, its history, values, cultures and traditions. It's a good time to remind ourselves to celebrate our own families. Teach your children what is important about your family's traditions, history, values and faith. Encourage them to honour and love who they are as family.

Scripture

“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

August



Parenting Tip

Families spending time with families creates bonds of friendship and cements communities. Tell your children they also belong to a family of faith. Spend time with extended family, family friends and your parish family; you'll benefit from all of them!

Scripture

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18: 20).

September



Parenting Tip

Brothers and Sisters: Living under the same roof can bring times of tension and disagreements. It also brings times of great joy, support, and caring. In the moments of laughter, a common history is created; bonds that last a lifetime. Help your children discover the joy of their siblings.

Scripture

“The commandment we have from him is this: Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”
(1 John 4:21)

October



Parenting Tip

Created to Be Someone: Who are they going to be when they grow up? Helping our children uncover their strengths happens when we provide a wide range of experience. Talk with them. Find out what they like. Encourage them to try new things. Pray with them. Our children are depending on us to help them discover their gifts and talents.

Scripture

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations,” (Jeremiah 1:5).

November



Family Tip

Our lives are shaped by the many seasons that come our way. Be thankful during the seasons of plenty and hopeful during the seasons of drought.

Scripture

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

December



Family Matters

Families provide a strong foundation on which future generations are built. Their strength today is the backbone of both present and future generations. God loves families and our Church stands behind us as we love, learn and live in families.

“Knowing that marriage and the family constitute one of the most precious of human values, the Church wishes to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives.”
(FC Paragraph 1)