

# Parenting with God's Compass Newsletter



A CENTURY OF WITNESS - A FUTURE OF COMMITMENT  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Founded through the generosity of St. Catherine Drexel

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies at the gate.*  
Psalms 127:3-5

## Ask Ms. PJ

*Q, PJ, I have 2 children. I have always felt the older one was my problem child and the younger was my sainted child. I love both my children equally but sometimes it feels like I have one "bad" and one "good" child. Well, recently my "bad" child has turned the corner and now, the younger one is giving me sass and attitude. What happened? - FRUSTRATED MOM*

A, Dear Frustrated Mom, welcome to the world of normal. When one child gets all the attention be it good or bad, parents tend to put themselves in the service of the other child. So, when that child's behavior changes and the parents attention changes from criticism to adoration and praise for the so called "bad" child, the other child who has been labeled the "good" child feels their place threatened and begins their quest for the "bad" slot since in their eyes that is where the parent's attention rest. Mom, since you now know that this child is seeking your attention GIVE IT. Share the PRAISE and CRITICISM for both children. Outline equal chores, age appropriate choices and family centered responsibilities for both children. "Children do not care how much we know until they know how much we care", Dr. Michael Popkin. Once you demonstrate an even display of approval and disapproval (when the situations call for it) you will see problems of "sass and attitude" slowly diminish and you will have two good children at the same time, at least, for a day or two.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, Parenting Classes offer methods for handling the everyday challenges presented in everyday family life. Join us. We meet Sunday's from 10:30 - 11:45 AM in the Katharine Drexel Building, 3rd floor in the Choir Room.

*The information is provided based on personal experiences and program curriculum. It does not constitute professional advice. Please send Ask Ms. PJ questions to parenting@lourdesatlanta.org.*



## Featured Parent



**Carla Prejean, Atlanta**

*Q, How many children are in your family?*

A, I have two daughters, Mariah 21 and Alayna 12.

*Q, We are pleased to have you as our longest standing member of Ministry. How long has it been in total?*

A, I have been a member of the Parenting Ministry for eighteen years, since 1994.

*Q, How do you keep your children interested in God and the Church?*

A, I was born into a longstanding Catholic faith tradition. Both my parents are Catholics from Southern Louisiana and so were their parents and fore-parents, as far back it can be traced. Therefore, early on in my life I was encouraged to become active in the life of my parish, in the children's religious education program, the Youth Group, and the Summer Bible Camp Program. I instilled the same legacy with my girls. Early on in their lives, I introduced them to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as His Good News teachings. They also learned early on the importance of prayer in one's life. Having supportive family members, who are active in the Church and concerned about their spiritual well-being, also helped.

*Q, In what area has the ministry*

*helped with your family?*

A, It is our responsibility as parents to instill in our Christian values that will frame their lives and guide their development; the ultimate practice as adult Christians. These values will build character and influence how the skills they develop will be used to survive and thrive in our fast-changing, diverse and democratic society.

The Ministry has taught me a great deal about the various styles of parenting and has allowed me to access to my own parenting practices. It has helped me to understand my weaknesses. The Ministry has shown me ways to correct them and how to strengthen my parenting practices. I really enjoy being able to share with other parents and to learn from their stories and experiences.

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### It Takes A Village:



- ~ 2012 Picnic at Grant Park
- ~ Nov. 11 -Ushers Meet & Greet/ Committee Meeting at Big Chow Grill.
- ~ Dec. 16 Holiday Brunch



### Accolades:

- Renae Lee, Age 17, has been accepted at Barry University in Miami Shores, FL State with a \$1,200 4year scholarship.
- Victoria Roberson, Age 11, has achieved a 30 lbs weight lost since summer camp.
- Child actor, Timothee Lopez, Age 13, recently completed shooting "Santa's Boot Camp". In movie theaters Nov. 2013.
- PJ Lemuel has retired from a state agency as of Dec. 31, 2012.