

## HOME PROJECTS FOR DECEMBER

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PATIENCE—waiting or enduring without complaint

### *Grades Pre-K-2—Saint Monica*

1. Don't complain whenever you have to wait for something this month. If you forget, say "Sorry, Lord. Please give me patience!"
2. Whenever you get a gift or treat this month, wait as least a few minutes before eating or opening it (unless your parents or teachers tell you to have it right away). How long can you wait? Make your waiting a sacrifice to God. Offer it up for someone who needs prayers.
3. During this month, when your family or classmates have to take turns for things, offer to go last.

### *Grades 3-5—Saint Isaac Jogues*

1. Make a list of things that are *fast* today compared to decades or centuries ago. This month, when you're annoyed at something taking too long, see how many things from your list you can name while you wait, and pray for patience.
2. Be patient with yourself. If you don't get something right the first time, stay calm and try again.
3. When you're stuck waiting, pray a decade of the rosary for someone you know needs prayers.
4. How long can you wait for something? Choose something you want (not something you need) and challenge yourself to wait a day or a week for it.

### *Grades 6-8—Saint Rita of Cascia*

1. List things in our culture that foster impatience—things that people expect to be *instant*. Come up with a revolutionary way to use one of those things to grow in patience rather than the opposite.
2. We get annoyed and complain when we think something is unreasonable or less than we deserve. How are these two viewpoints related to hope and humility? Think of something that frequently makes you complain, and discuss how hope or humility can help you to grow patient with it this month.
3. A good measure of our patience is how we respond to other people's faults or our own. How is patience related to the virtues of humility and forgiveness? Write a short prayer to use this month asking God for patience and include one or both of these other virtues.
4. The virtue of patience helps us to endure when we ourselves or those we love are suffering. The suffering of Christ is referred to as His "Passion", a word that comes from the same root as the word patience. On your own, prayerfully read the Passion of Christ (look at the end of one of the four Gospels). With your friends, discuss why Christ had such patience. Ask Him to help you follow His example.