

# Family Page

## Background Reflection

This chapter takes another look at how we live out the New Covenant—not only by what we don’t do but also by what we choose to do. The Seventh Commandment requires us not to steal, but it encompasses so much more than merely not stealing. The Seventh Commandment requires that we make sure everyone has what they need to live. Living the covenant calls us to seek justice and to give others what they deserve.

The Church has always had concern and love for the poor. We have a special obligation to look out for those who cannot help or defend themselves. We are called to respond to the needs of those around us, not to be selfish. We give of what we have, joyfully, knowing that our gift will help them. It is in this joyful giving that we truly imitate Christ’s love for us.



## Family Activities

- Read together the Featured Story on page 1390 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (Amos 8:4–7). Invite your child to tell you what she or he learned about justice and treating others fairly.
- Discuss ways your family can support needy people in your community. Ideas might include helping out in a soup kitchen, or collecting outgrown or unused clothing and toys to donate to those in need.
- Watch the video “Simple Acts of Kindness (HD)—Give it a Try” (YouTube, 4:26) together. Ask your child to reflect on how simple acts of kindness can happen every day, in ordinary life, but can make a big impact. Discuss ways your child can show simple acts of kindness throughout the day.

## People of Faith

### Saint Katharine Drexel (1858–1955)

Saint Katharine’s family loved their faith, and they were generous with their wealth. Katharine learned to serve those in need. At the urging of Pope Leo XIII, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to minister to African Americans and Native Americans. The sisters started schools and missions across the United States. We celebrate Saint Katharine’s feast day on March 3.

## Prayer

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Dear Lord, open our hearts to be aware of the needs of others. Help us to share joyfully with others and to always imitate your love for the poor. Amen.