

## God Is With Us

The day I felt closest to God this year was when I delivered a donation of toys and money to \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Hospital. One day, when I was 5 years old I had a medical emergency. This is the day in my life I have felt closest to God. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I was home from school because I was sick. It was a sad day. I was having trouble breathing. That day I thought I was going to die. I was worried that I was going to stop breathing. I thought I was going to meet God that day. It made me feel happy & sad. I was happy to meet God, but sad that I would have to say goodbye to everyone. My mom took me to a doctors office and the doctor called 911. I was transported to a hospital by ambulance. I had an oxygen tank & an IV connected to me. Three hours later, I was taken in another ambulance to the children's hospital. They did tests, gave me medicine & took care of me. The next day I was recovering and got to go home. I was saved by God that day. I was saved by God telling my mom to take me to the doctor immediately. My mom told me she felt someone in heaven was guiding her what to do. I think God was guiding all the people that were trying to help me that day. He gave them the knowledge & what they needed to save my life. Over the past 3 years I have had many visits to the hospital for similar situations.

I think God saved my life so I could do good things to help other people. I decided to help other children like me after that day. When I was sick & returned to the hospital 2 weeks later I talked with my mom and had the idea to raise money to help buy toys for the children's hospital. My mom & I talked to my teacher & we worked with the school to start a fundraiser for the children's hospital. We sold keychains to raise money. Some teachers donated toys and my family donated money as well. We raised \$1100 & many toys. I took the toys and money to the hospital to deliver it for all the children. Each year I help with the fundraiser at my school. We have raised thousands of dollars for the hospital. Each year my 2 sisters and I have our own fundraiser. We set up a lemonade stand with snacks and lemonade in the front yard of our house to raise money for the hospital. We raise hundreds of dollars each year with our lemonade stand. We take the money and go shopping at a local toy store to buy toys for kids of all ages. My sisters and I choose toys we think the other kids will like & enjoy. We decorate boxes with pictures and put the toys and money in them. We also make cards with our class at school & bring them. We drive to the hospital to deliver them. We have done this for the last 3 years. I would like to keep doing this every year. I want to help all of the children that visit the hospital every year. I also joined a service group at my school where we have fundraisers for many organizations throughout the entire school year.

It makes me feel good to help other kids. It is a good thing to help other people. Helping the hospital brings me closer to God, because he helps people. I think God saved me so I can do good things in this world. In my life, I want to always help others like God has taught me. When I am an adult I want to continue to help the hospital for what they did for me when I was a kid. I want to create my own charity to raise thousands of dollars to help sick kids by helping to pay for more advanced medical equipment. As an adult I want to have a job that helps people in some way. I feel that God has guided me through my experience, so I could use my life in a good way to help others.

## **Christ Is Alive!**

“How do we know if Christ is truly alive?” It’s a common question asked by many people and it has one simple answer...the way to know He is alive is to feel His presence, and how do we feel His presence? It’s an answer that will vary! The way I have felt His presence was in a sad and dark time...

One time I have felt Christ in my life was when a dear friend of my family was diagnosed with cancer. It was a very sad time. Her husband asked of our prayers for her. That night after Mass we added our friend to our list of prayers; from then on, we always added her in our prayers every night.

That next Sunday after Mass we went over and talked to our friend’s husband. We asked how she was feeling; but the answer was not the best news... the doctor had said she had only a matter of months left before her passing. That night, we prayed very hard for her and we even prayed early in the morning.

One night, before bed my mother received a text. When she opened it and read it she was so amazed. The text said, “\_\_\_\_\_ has had a test and the doctors said that the tumor has disappeared; it was gone! and her body was like it was never there. Thank you so much for those prayers, they have helped her! God willing, we will see you soon, good night.”

My mother was so happy, she told me and my sister the news and we were happy as well. A few Sundays later after Church, we saw \_\_\_\_\_ and we went over to say hi and she was very happy to see us.

God may not always answer our prayers. If our friend had passed away most people would have blamed God for not doing anything to save her; and, that is mostly the cause of why some people turn away from God.

What do I mean by he is still here? I mean by that, that you may not see God and you may not hear Him but he is always there in the most unexpected places.

You can feel and hear God everywhere. You just have to be silent and still, you have to wait. If you still don’t hear Him, he might be just talking to you in a different way. God is always there even if you turn away from him. He will always wait for you to come back and when you do, he will say... “Welcome home my child,” for we are all adopted children of God.

So whenever you ask “ how do I know God is truly alive” ...

God is alive and he always will be. We can’t see him because he is a spirit but as Jesus promised he will come to Earth...

“One... last... time.”