

# **10 Things to Have in a Catholic Home**

**By Zoltan Abraham**

Building the Domestic Church requires that our homes be fully equipped with Catholic essentials. Below are ten things that would be good for every Catholic home to have:

1) Catholic Bible: Many Bible editions have been published, so make sure you pick a Catholic version. The most popular in English is the New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE), which also comes in a study edition.

2) The Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Catechism elucidates the basic theological and moral framework of our faith. I recommend reading it all the way through at least once, but in any case, keep a copy in your home as the go-to reference book.

3) Spiritual Reading: Compile an assortment of Catholic books, both fiction and non-fiction, to read for at least for 15 minutes a day. Better yet, turn off the TV or the streaming services and read out loud from Catholic classics to your spouse, family, friends, and neighbors – anyone who would like to listen.

4) Rosary: Among Catholic devotional prayers, the Rosary holds pride of place. Our Holy Mother told us in various apparitions to pray the Rosary daily. Make sure you have several rosaries at home, and say the prayer together whenever possible.

5) Home Altar: Set aside at least one special place in your home that is dedicated to prayer. But you don't just need to have one. You could make

an altar in the living-room, office, your bedroom, etc. The altar can display your Bible and an assortment of the items discussed below.

6) Crucifix: Display a crucifix in a prominent place in your home. Better yet, put one in every room. Put a crucifix in your foyer, so it is the first thing anyone who enters will see.

7) Holy Images: Display paintings, icons, statues, and other images of our Holy Mother, the Queen of Peace, as well as of the saints and holy angels, throughout your home. For some modern saints, we even have photographs. Displaying these images is an invocation for protection by the heavenly hosts, so place them in every room.

8) Blessed items: Your list should include holy water, blessed candles, and blessed salt, all blessed by a priest. As with other Catholic objects, none of these is a talisman that offers magical protection. However, our intentional choice to make these things present in our homes is an additional invocation for the Holy Spirit to come into our lives.

9) Seasonal Religious Décor: Christmas and Easter have been effectively de-Christianized by corporate America. But work against the tide by displaying religious décor during both of these seasons. In fact, go further and display seasonal religious décor for the whole of the liturgical year (which is a separate article in itself).

10) Catholic Music: The Catholic faith has given rise to a treasure-trove of musical works, both traditional and contemporary. Make sure you put together Catholic playlists for wherever you listen to music in your home. Music moves the heart. So is the music we are listening to moving our hearts toward our faith and God?

11) Bonus Suggestion: Cleanse your home! Just as the Catholic items we display are an invocation for the presence of the Holy Spirit, displaying items contrary to our faith is a negative invocation, the opening of our homes to the presence of evil. Get rid of anything from your home that could be a channel for dark forces to enter.

