

# Traveling with (Catholic) kids

Traveling with kids is one of those unique situations that can inspire fear in even the most stalwart of folks. There's a pile of organization, a bigger pile of stuff, and all the stressors and unknowns along the way.

Over the years, I've come to see trips with kids as just that, "trips." They aren't vacations in the sense that I get time "off" from being a mom. But they are a chance to expose my kids to new places, a chance to share them with far-off family members, and a chance to grow as a human being myself. (That last one is the hardest, in case you wondered.)

Though we're "staycationing" for much of the coming year's school breaks, we will have a trip coming up to see some distant family. Though I'd like to think that 14 years and four kids makes me an expert, I know better.

One of the things that has become a hallmark of my trip planning, in the midst of the lists and the details and the stress, has been trying to incorporate the Catholic. Maybe it's because I'm a convert. Maybe it's because it's so easy to do. Maybe it's because I like to have one. more. thing. to keep me busy... ????

Turns out I'm not the only one thinking this way: Check out [these great tips for incorporating your faith into your spring break plans](#).



Mass isn't optional. In fact, no one even questions it. I use [MassTimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org) (or their app) as my starting place, but always make sure I check with the parish I want to attend. I remember being the parish secretary who didn't know that Mass times needed to be updated there...

I also love to find what cool Catholic attractions are nearby. It's a fun chance to see how universal our faith is and a new glimpse at what's different, too.



There are so many shrines around the world – use the power of Google or [this handy “sites by state” site](#) I found in my own hunting.

This list of the [11 best vacation spots for Catholic families](#) may or may not have inspired me to make made a new traveling

bucket list for my family. ????



Catholic-Link.org

It's interesting, though, how many – and how varied – the Catholic sites are.

If you need practical ideas (and hope), check out [this great piece at CatholicMom.com about road tripping with \(lots of\) kids.](#)



CatholicMom.com

There are plenty of sources that have lists of what to pack, how to survive in airports, and mindsets you should embrace.

I've read enough of them to feel like I have that part down.  
(But you should know better, dear reader. I don't.)

Use the power of Google, yes. But also remember that you know your family best. Talk to them. Involve them.

And don't forget to smile. It may not be a vacation in the sense of "you don't have to do anything," but it is the stuff of memories!

*Do you have a link or resource to share? Send it to us at [takeout@osv.com](mailto:takeout@osv.com) so we can share it in a future issue!*