

Living the Liturgy at Home

First Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7
Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19 (4)
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:33–37

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are Emmanuel, God with us.
In these holy days of Advent,
come to your people
with justice, healing, and peace.
Fill us with a spirit of love and
generous service,
so that our hearts will be ready to
celebrate your coming at Christmas
and our lives will reflect your Kingdom
that will last forever when you
come again.
You live and reign with
God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ We are called to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. We are all called to holiness and to be active disciples of Jesus in the world because we have a crucial role as “priest, prophet, and king.” Specifically, how might we, as a family, prepare our hearts and lives during Advent?

☉ How can we each be better about turning ourselves more to God in moments when we are “falling asleep” on the watch?

Faith in Action

As we await the coming of Christ Jesus, have your family “adopt” another family in need. Inquire at your parish office or at Catholic Charities how your family may provide gift of warm winter clothing, toiletries, food, or toys and books for children. Include your child in selecting gifts.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that during the season of Advent, Catholic Christians anticipate and celebrate Christ’s coming in three different ways: the Messiah’s Second Coming at the end of time as we know it, Jesus’ coming as an infant in Bethlehem some two thousand years ago, and Christ’s coming once again into our hearts this Christmas as we welcome Emmanuel (“God with us”)?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Second Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11

Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12,
13–14 (8)

2 Peter 3:8–14

Mark 1:1–8

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are Emmanuel, God with us.
In these holy days of Advent,
come to your people
with justice, healing, and peace.
Fill us with a spirit of love and
generous service,
so that our hearts will be ready to
celebrate your coming at Christmas
and our lives will reflect your Kingdom
that will last forever when you
come again.
You live and reign with
God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do we nurture a spirit of respect for differences in our family? in our workplaces or at school? in our parish community?
- ☉ What are we doing, individually and as a family, to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

Faith in Action

This week, reflect on your child's Baptism. If possible, show your child the white candle that was given to you at your child's Baptism. Talk about the promises that were made at that celebration and explain to your child what it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

?? Did You Know?

. . . John the Baptist was actually Jesus' cousin? He was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, who was thought to have been too old to have a child. Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth when both women were pregnant, and John leapt in Elizabeth's womb, the first to testify to Jesus. As a grown man, John also testified to the coming of the Christ.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11

Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54
(Isaiah 61:10b)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are Emmanuel, God with us.
In these holy days of Advent,
come to your people
with justice, healing, and peace.
Fill us with a spirit of love and
generous service,
so that our hearts will be ready to
celebrate your coming at Christmas
and our lives will reflect your Kingdom
that will last forever when you
come again.
You live and reign with
God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Besides John the Baptist, who have been effective witnesses to the presence of Christ? Consider the examples of the saints or of people you know. How can we elevate ourselves to follow their example?

☉ How might we remember to keep the anticipatory spirit of Advent in our hearts amid a busy time of shopping and secular festivities?

Faith in Action

Luminaria refers to the Mexican custom of lighting a path to your home to “prepare the way” for the Christ child. The paper lanterns are simple to make. Pour sand into a brown or white lunch-size paper bag, enough to create a secure foundation for a lit votive candle and to weight the bag. On Christmas Eve, line your front walk with the bags, and light the candles!

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the song “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is based on the O Antiphons, which are prayed starting on December 17? Each antiphon, prayed before the *Magnificat* during evening prayer, uses an ancient biblical image for the Messiah, connecting us to the great tradition of those who await the coming of the Savior. O come, Emmanuel!

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29 (2a)

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are Emmanuel, God with us.
In these holy days of Advent,
come to your people
with justice, healing, and peace.
Fill us with a spirit of love and
generous service,
so that our hearts will be ready to
celebrate your coming at Christmas
and our lives will reflect your Kingdom
that will last forever when you
come again.
You live and reign with
God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How have you made room for God in your life?
- ☉ How does Mary offer you a model for trusting in God and his plan for you?

Faith in Action

If you have never gone to Midnight Mass as a family, do so this year. Spend a few moments when you return before going to bed (or opening presents!) sharing with one another why each member of the family is a gift to the others.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Gabriel is one of the three archangels mentioned in the Bible? Michael is mentioned in Daniel, Jude, and Revelation. Raphael is mentioned in the Book of Tobit. Gabriel is best known for the Annunciation but appears in other places as well, including to John the Baptist's father, Zechariah.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

December 25



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:1–6

Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13
(Luke 2:11)

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14

Prayer

Lord our God,
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you have become one of us.
During this Christmas season,
help us to enter more deeply
into the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to recognize your presence
in the Holy Child in the manger,
in the sacraments of the Church,
and in the people around us:
in family, friends, and strangers,
knowing that Christ was born for all
and that we are all children of God.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Christmas lasts for more than just one day? Today begins the liturgical season of Christmas Time, which ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Lord's baptism is generally the Sunday following Epiphany, but on occasion, it occurs on the Monday directly following Epiphany.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Invite each person to tell his or her favorite part of the Christmas story and explain why.
- ☉ If you could be one character in the Christmas story, who would it be? Why?

Faith in Action

The Gospel recounts how Mary and Joseph had to travel to Joseph's hometown in order to be registered under the house of David. Have your family take a "census," using the following questions. You might discover something new about your family, or that their answers prompt further discussion!

1. How many people live in our house?
2. What's the age of the youngest person in our household?
3. What's the age of the oldest person in our household?
4. How many Bibles do we have in our home? Why do we have them?
5. What's our favorite thing about Christmas?
6. What do we like about our family praying together?
7. When are the best times for our family to talk about God?
8. How does our family's faith help us at school or work?
9. What are you thankful to God for today?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



Scripture Readings

Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3 or
Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14

Psalms 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9
(7a, 8a) or 128:1–2, 3,
4–5 (see 1)

Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19 or
Colossians 3:12–21 or 3:12–17

Luke 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Prayer

Lord our God,
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you have become one of us.
During this Christmas season,
help us to enter more deeply
into the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to recognize your presence
in the Holy Child in the manger,
in the sacraments of the Church,
and in the people around us:
in family, friends, and strangers,
knowing that Christ was born for all
and that we are all children of God.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are the essential qualities of a holy family? How has our family helped one another to become more Christ like?
- ☉ What blessings within our family are you most grateful for?
- ☉ Focus on the figure of the baby Jesus in the Nativity scene. What does this child's arrival mean for our salvation and redemption from sin and death?

Faith in Action

Though we are one Church, our experiences of worship can differ. Get copies of or go online for different bulletins from friends or family members who are members of different parishes. Compare the bulletins for similarities and differences. Attend Mass at another parish and afterward discuss how the liturgy was the same or different. Are there events or projects in the other parishes that you might like to suggest including at your parish?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that today's Gospel tells about the first time Jesus appears in the Temple in Jerusalem? Luke uses these visits to show Christianity's continuity with the Jewish traditions.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1



Scripture Readings

Numbers 6:22–27

Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:16–21

Prayer

Lord our God,
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you have become one of us.
During this Christmas season,
help us to enter more deeply
into the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to recognize your presence
in the Holy Child in the manger,
in the sacraments of the Church,
and in the people around us:
in family, friends, and strangers,
knowing that Christ was born for all
and that we are all children of God.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are the major challenges to family peace in your home? How can they be avoided?
- ☉ What are the actions and attitudes that help maintain a peaceful home life? Do you see these as gifts from God to your family? Why or why not?
- ☉ What were some qualities of Mary's life with Jesus?

Faith in Action

One way of honoring Mary as Queen of Peace would be to learn more about the United Nations. Start with an online or library search to learn more about the history of the United Nations and to discover some of the contributions to peace that various United Nations organizations are making. Perhaps each family member could focus on one specific United Nations committee or organization and share what he or she learned with the rest of the family. For those who live close to New York City, this activity could include a tour of the United Nations headquarters. All could write a note to a representative of the United Nations encouraging peacemaking.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Third Ecumenical Council that proclaimed Mary as mother of God was held in the Turkish city of Ephesus in 431? According to tradition, Mary went to live near Ephesus with the Apostle John after Pentecost. Since the late nineteenth century, Mary House in Ephesus has been a pilgrimage site.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13
(see 11)

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

Lord our God,
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you have become one of us.
During this Christmas season,
help us to enter more deeply
into the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to recognize your presence
in the Holy Child in the manger,
in the sacraments of the Church,
and in the people around us:
in family, friends, and strangers,
knowing that Christ was born for all
and that we are all children of God.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ During this Christmas season, how have you been led closer to Jesus?

☉ The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus. If you were to join them, what gifts would you bring to Jesus?

Faith in Action

The Wise Men traveled far to see the baby Jesus. Invite your family to travel to a different parish for Mass. Choose a parish and do a little research on it before attending Mass. Afterward, ask your family to share similarities and differences between your parish and this one.

? ? Did You Know?

. . . that the Bible never says how many Magi came to see Jesus? Tradition usually counts them as three because three gifts are mentioned. The names have many variations, but they are most commonly known as Melchior of Persia, Caspar (or Gaspar) of India, and Balthazar of Arabia.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:1–11 or Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7

Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 (3) or
Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10 (11b)

1 John 5:1–9 or Acts 10:34–38
Mark 1:7–11

Prayer

Lord our God,
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
you have become one of us.
During this Christmas season,
help us to enter more deeply
into the mystery of the Incarnation.
Help us to recognize your presence
in the Holy Child in the manger,
in the sacraments of the Church,
and in the people around us:
in family, friends, and strangers,
knowing that Christ was born for all
and that we are all children of God.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that on this feast day, Pope John Paul II
baptized children in the Sistine Chapel?

Conversation Questions

☉ When you were baptized, your parents and godparents promised on your behalf that you would be a faithful member of God's family; to live a model Christian life by God's Word and by Christ's example; to proclaim this faith to others and to work for justice and peace. In what ways do you live out these baptismal promises each day?

☉ How might we be better about intentionally living these promises? What are some concrete ways we can fulfill these?

Faith in Action

It is a common practice in many parishes to celebrate Baptisms as a part of Sunday Mass. Often, these celebrations take place during Masses that are generally attended by large numbers of families with children. Is this practice a part of your parish celebrations? At home, take out the baptismal candle that was given to your child at his or her Baptism. Light it and allow your child to offer prayers asking Jesus to help them live out his or her baptismal promises.

Living the Liturgy at Home

First Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Genesis 9:8–15

Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (see 10)

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:12–15

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew
our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ What is the greatest temptation you have ever faced?

☉ How did God help you overcome it?

Faith in Action

Enrich your Lenten Scripture experience by viewing art depicting the *temptation of Christ*. (Do some research online or at the library to view various artist interpretations.) Talk about how temptation is a part of life, just as it was for Jesus when he was on earth. In what ways can we walk (and stay on) the path of the Lord this Lent? How may the Holy Spirit help guide us to avoid temptation?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Mark's account of the Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospel accounts and was the first to be written? We can think of Mark as the first reporter on the scene so the stories could be shared as quickly as possible. Mark lets the facts of Jesus' life speak for themselves.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Second Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13,
15–18

Psalms 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19
(116:9)

Romans 8:31b–34

Mark 9:2–10

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew our
hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How can we transfigure, today, our personal and family life and the life of the community?
- ☉ How are our Lenten resolutions progressing?

Faith in Action

Plan to pray the Stations of the Cross at least once this Lent. Check your parish bulletin for times. (If your parish youth group will be performing the Living Stations, attend with your child.)

?? Did You Know?

. . . that there are three different accounts of the Transfiguration in the Gospels, one in each of the three Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke? Each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear one of these accounts. They all share the same basic structure but differ in some of the details.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Exodus 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8,
12–17

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (John
6:68c)

1 Corinthians 1:22–25

John 2:13–25

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew
our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Are we passionate about anything in our lives today? Does it align with God's law or Christ's teachings?

☉ Are we filled with a deep and burning love for the things of God and for his Son, Jesus?

Faith in Action

As our Lenten journey continues, check in with one another on your Lenten promises. How can you support one another as we approach the halfway point?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Temple that Jesus visited was the Second Temple? The First Temple was constructed under King Solomon. The Second Temple was reconstructed under King Herod, but it was destroyed in AD 70. All that remains today is a portion of the Western Wall, a sacred site also known as the Wailing Wall.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6 (6ab)
Ephesians 2:4–10
John 3:14–21

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew
our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Reflect on God's faithfulness to you. How has his faithfulness opened your eyes? How will it guide you this week?
- ☉ How does faith in Christ make life a little clearer? How has God guided you through dark times?

Faith in Action

Practice a corporal work of mercy by organizing a spring-cleaning weekend at home. Ask each family member to find three to five high-quality, still-useful items that would be appreciated by those in need and donate them to your favorite charity. Pray together for those who will receive them.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday? *Laetare* is a Latin word that comes from the entrance antiphon. The opening lines are "Laetare, Jerusalem," meaning "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." The color rose may be used as the liturgical color today. We are joyful and hopeful because Easter is near.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13,
14–15 (12a)
Hebrews 5:7–9
John 12:20–33

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew
our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Think about a time when you didn't see past a certain challenge or a difficulty. Reflecting on it now, could you see that something new or positive emerged from it? Share your thoughts.

☉ Who are the people in your lives who bring you hope and life? How do they do this?

Faith in Action

As we draw near to Good Friday, it's appropriate to focus on the crucifix. Crucifixion was the Roman way of putting criminals to death. Why do we wear this sign of death? Why do we hang it in our homes and display it in our churches? Through Jesus' death, death as a whole takes on a new meaning. It is through the crucifixion that Jesus rises to new life and that sin and death are conquered forever. You might want to place a crucifix on your dining table over the next few weeks as a reminder of this.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Jesus' obedience to God's will is the direct opposite of the choice made by Adam and Eve? Learning to be obedient to God's will is something that we have to work on throughout our lives.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4–7

Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20,
23–24 (2a)

Philippians 2:6–11

Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39

Prayer before a Crucifix

Lord our God,
during this holy season of Lent,
renew in each of us
the grace of our Baptism.
May we realize that we are your sons
and daughters
and that, just as Christ lived a life
obedient to your will,
we too are called to a life of holiness,
love, and service.
Through prayer, fasting, and works
of mercy
transform our lives and renew
our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ When have we, like Simon, helped someone carry a heavy burden?

☉ When is it difficult to admit that we are followers of Jesus? Have we thought about how this is a denial of him?

☉ This week, how will we show that we honor Jesus as the Christ and Son of God?

Faith in Action

The liturgies of the Triduum (the “three days”) are the highest holy days of the Church. Plan to attend at least one, if not all, of these liturgies as a family. Check your parish bulletin or website for Mass times for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, when adults in RCIA come into full communion with the Church, and Easter Sunday.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the only day of the year that the Church does not celebrate Mass is Good Friday? We spend this day in prayer and solemn fasting. Good Friday services include a reading of the passion of Jesus, special prayers for the Church and world, veneration of the cross, and a Communion service.

Living the Liturgy at Home



Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Scripture Readings

Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc,
17–18 (see 1 Corinthians 10:16)

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–15

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
today we give you thanks and praise
for sharing with us
the greatest of gifts:
the gift of your Body and Blood
in the Eucharist.
May we come to know you better
in the cup we drink
and the bread we break.
May we recognize your presence in
those we love
and in those who need our love.
May we follow your example
of love and service
toward all those we meet.
Who live and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ John's Gospel tells us the story of what happened after the Last Supper. What does it teach us about how we are called to act when we leave the Sunday Eucharist?

☉ Jesus taught the apostles how to serve and taught Peter what it means to allow others to serve us. That is humility. How do you show humility?

Faith in Action

There is only one Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday. It begins at sundown and marks the start of the Triduum, the three holiest days of the Church year. Consider how your family will keep this day holy. Perhaps you will attend Mass together. Some of you might make a visit to church after the liturgy to pray before Christ in the Eucharist. This liturgy may begin too late for young children to attend. If so, your family can gather in the evening and one of you can read this scripture passage and talk about it. Consider how each of you will respond to Christ's invitation to serve one another.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the oils that will be used for anointing all year long are blessed by the bishop earlier on Holy Thursday at the Chrism Mass? These oils will be used in Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. They are stored in the ambry.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalms 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25 (Luke 23:46)

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1—19:42

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you hung on the cross for us.
You endured pain to bring us healing.
You experienced rejection
so that we might be children
of God forever.
You suffered death
so that we might have life.
As we pray and fast today,
and remember all that you suffered
for our sake,
we give you thanks and praise,
for the wood of the cross
has brought joy to the world.
Who live and reign with
God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ In the other three Gospel accounts, someone helps Jesus carry his cross. In John's Gospel, Jesus carried it himself. Can you point to other parts of the story that show Jesus' strength in the face of death?
- ☉ Many characters in this story respond to Jesus in different ways. Who do you find most interesting? Who do you most identify with, and why?

Faith in Action

This is the most solemn day of the liturgical year. We stop at the foot of the cross and keep watch as Jesus suffers and dies for us. Reflect on the solemnity of this day and think of how you will keep this day sacred. The Church asks us to fast. In addition, you can make every effort as a family to join with the others of your parish in venerating the cross and praying for all those who are included in the saving actions of Christ. Perhaps you can put away all media and make it a quiet day of prayer and reflection. Allow time for family members to pray together in front of a crucifix. Display the crucifix in a prominent place in your home.

? Did You Know?

. . . that Good Friday is the only day of the year when the Church does not celebrate Mass and the words of consecration are not said? There is a communion service in which we receive already-consecrated hosts that have been reserved.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Easter Vigil



Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a; Psalm 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35 (30) or 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20–22 (5b); Genesis 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11 (1); Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18 (1b); Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13 (2a); Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6 (3); Baruch 3:9–15, 32–4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (John 6:68c); Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 18–28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2) or Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 (3) or Psalm 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19 (12a); Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Mark 16:1–7

Prayer

Eternal God,
this is the night!
This night is brighter than the day
because it is filled with the light
of Christ's Resurrection from the dead.
May all who will be baptized tonight
live their lives of faith with Easter joy.
Renew in faith, hope, and love
all who are already baptized.
May Christ's Resurrection from
the dead
change our lives
and transform our world,
both now and for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen. Alleluia!

?? Did You Know?

. . . that at the Easter Vigil, the Church throughout the world welcomes new members to the Body of Christ through the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist?

Conversation Questions

☉ Imagine the women's reaction when they found the large stone rolled away and a young man who greeted them with the news that Jesus has risen. If you were one of them, what would you be thinking?

☉ Where do you seek the Risen Christ today? Who are the people who point the way for you? Does your faith help you to discover Jesus in others?

Faith in Action

Today is a great celebration of new life! The best way to celebrate the promise Jesus made to us is to gather with the faithful in church and receive the Eucharist. The Eucharist will strengthen us to look for Jesus in our own lives. It may mean sharing ourselves, as Jesus did, in service to those who need us. As a family discuss and decide how you will bring Jesus and proclaim the Good News of salvation to the lives of others.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Psalms 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23 (24)

Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

Sequence: *Victimae paschali laudes*

John 20:1–9 or Mark 16:1–7 or Luke 24:13–35 or Matthew 28:1–10

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead change the meaning of your life?
- ☉ Imagine you are at the empty tomb with Mary Magdalene. How would you have felt? What would you have said to Mary?

Faith in Action

Before or after Mass, allow your child to observe the markings on the Paschal candle. Explain that each one has a meaning. The numbers indicate the calendar year. The cross reminds us of the passion and death of Christ. The *alpha* and *omega* remind us that Christ is the beginning and end of all things. The five pieces of incense inserted into the cross represent the five wounds of Jesus.

? Did You Know?

. . . that Mary Magdalene is called the apostle to the Apostles? She was the first to share the Good News—Jesus Christ's Resurrection!

Living the Liturgy at Home

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday



Scripture Readings

Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24 (1)

1 John 5:1–6

John 20:19–31

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

?? Did You Know?

. . . that today is the Octave of Easter, the eighth day of Easter, and is known as Divine Mercy Sunday? The name comes from a revelation by Christ to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who was canonized in 2000 by St. John Paul II. Today's feast celebrates the bountiful mercy God bestows on those who sincerely seek forgiveness.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How have you experienced the mercy of God recently?
- ☉ Who are you being called to forgive at this time in your life?

Faith in Action

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about "doubting Thomas." Do you know someone who has stopped going to church or who has started to question his or her beliefs? Make an effort today to reach out to this person, just as the Apostles did when they kept Thomas with them in the upper room. This week is an opportune time to draw "doubting Thomases" back to God. Invite that person to Mass with you and your family, expressing your desire to have his or her presence in the community again.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7–8, 9 (7a)

1 John 2:1–5a

Luke 24:35–48

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

?? Did You Know?

. . . that throughout Easter Time, we rejoice in our Baptism and our membership in the Church? At Mass during this liturgical season, we may celebrate a Sprinkling Rite instead of the Penitential Rite. We are sprinkled with holy water to remind us of our Baptism.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do you imagine eternal life? Does it reassure you that the resurrection involves eternal life of body and soul?
- ☉ How might each of you become peacebuilders—in the ways you speak or act toward one other at home? at school? in the workplace?

Faith in Action

Reflect on the Sign of Peace that we share with others at Mass. Christ's peace is shared among the assembly. Talk about how we also know Christ's peace through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Set aside time this week for your family members who are able to receive this special grace, God's forgiveness and gift of peace.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 4:8–12

Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28,
29 (22)

1 John 3:1–2

John 10:11–18

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus uses the image of shepherd and sheep to tell us how much God loves and cares for us. How may we become faithful followers of the Good Shepherd?

☉ Sheep rely on their shepherd for everything they need. Do you put your trust in Jesus and depend on him to give you what you need?

Faith in Action

The image of sheep reminds us that lambs' wool is often used to make warm clothing. One of the corporal works of mercy is to clothe the naked. Although the weather in North America grows warmer during this time, the need for clothing—especially warm clothes—is a year-round need. What donations can your family make to your local shelter? Each morning this week, as you dress for work or school, pray for those who are in need of good clothing.

? Did You Know?

. . . that the first people to whom the birth of Jesus was announced by an angel were shepherds tending their sheep? These shepherds would have known exactly what it took to be a good shepherd for those sheep in their care. They responded to this good news and joyfully paid homage to the newborn King, Jesus.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 9:26–31

Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32
(26a)

1 John 3:18–24

John 15:1–8

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ In what ways does Jesus' grace flow through us individually or personally?
- ☉ What are some ways the love and grace of Jesus flows through our family?

Faith in Action

In addition to praying for your friends and acquaintances who are having a hard time, perform an act of service in your community. You might consider making these friends dinner, offering to help with a household chore, or assisting at your local food pantry. If possible, include your whole family or your child in this chosen act of service. Remind your child how you are connected to those in need and how serving them helps you too, because we are all a part of the same body of Christ.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the image of a vine would have been very familiar in Jesus' time? Grapes were harvested to eat and used to make wine. Wine was part of Jesus' table fellowship, including his first miracle, at Cana. At the Last Supper, the grape achieves its highest purpose: becoming the Blood of Christ.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 (see 2b)

1 John 4:7–10

John 15:9–17

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do you define love?
- ☉ The words we hear in today's Gospel are some of the last words Jesus gives his followers. What might your last spoken words be to those you love?

Faith in Action

Check your parish bulletin for an outreach activity or community project that you can participate in as a family. (For example: volunteering to serve in the parish food pantry; working in the thrift shop; participating in a fundraiser to help a group in need.) Reflect on the experience afterward; ask your child for his or her thoughts on how the project demonstrated how we love one another as Christ asks.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that a beautiful way to think about who God is comes from the First Letter of John? “God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him” (1 John 4:16). The original Greek word used for love here is *agape*, which refers to a love that is complete self-gift to another.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1–11

Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6)

Ephesians 1:17–23 or 4:1–13 or
4:1–7, 11–13

Mark 16:15–20

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How can we continue the mission of Jesus?
- ☉ How is our family spreading the Gospel message?

Faith in Action

Celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord by performing an act of service for someone in a foreign country this week. You might donate money to Catholic Relief Services or another organization that is active in countries around the world. If there is an organization that helps recent immigrants to learn English or get settled, consider volunteering with them. Once you've decided on a course of action, research the country from which the people you will be helping hail. Find out what the major issues facing that country are, and learn what life is like for people there.

? Did You Know?

. . . that the Church celebrates Christ's Ascension into heaven on the Thursday following the Sixth Sunday in Easter? In the United States, however, the majority of dioceses transfer this celebration to the following Sunday, replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter on the local Church's calendar.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26

Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12,
19–20 (19a)

1 John 4:11–16

John 17:11b–19

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

? Did You Know?

. . . that when Jesus refers to the “son of destruction” in John’s account of the Gospel, he is speaking about Judas, the disciple who betrayed him? There may be times when we feel betrayed. We must take care that the choices of others do not keep us from doing what is good.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Saints and martyrs have suffered for the faith. Who has been a particular role model of perseverance in faith for you or your family?
- ☉ How are you being called to witness to God’s love in your family and your community at this time?

Faith in Action

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we are reminded that we are not of the world, just as Jesus is not of the world. This week, practice living “out” of the world. Turn off phones, computers, and the TV. Avoid shopping centers and busy public places. Instead, take time to pray in solitude or to read Scripture. Just as Jesus went off by himself to pray sometimes, we need to be alone with God too. Later, gather with the family to talk about your individual experiences.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Pentecost Sunday



Scripture Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34
(see 30)

Galatians 5:16–25 or
1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13

Sequence: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

John 15:26–27; 16:12–15 or
20:19–23

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we rejoice with all of creation
because you have risen from the dead.
As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter,
help us to understand the meaning
of your empty tomb:
death does not have the last word;
light will triumph over darkness;
sadness will be conquered by hope.
Make us people of life, light, and hope,
and show us how to share our
Christian joy
with others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen. Alleluia!

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church? Having received the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples could begin the work of bringing the Good News to all nations.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What in your life reminds you that God is present?
- ☉ How has the Holy Spirit inspired you or given you courage?

Faith in Action

The Spirit is described in many different ways in the Bible. Gather as a family and read the following passages in the Old Testament aloud: Isaiah 42:1–3; Isaiah 61:1–3; and Joel 3:1–3. Discuss which one best describes the Spirit and why. What qualities of the Spirit resonated for you in each of the passages?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10
(8a, 9a)
1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,
17–20
John 1:35–42

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way
of your commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people
as you love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up
the Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that a simple fisherman named Simon went on to become Peter, one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ? Peter set down his fishing nets and became “the rock” on whom Jesus built his Church. Peter led the Christian community after Jesus’ Ascension into heaven, making him the first pope of the Church.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What does Jesus want you to “come and see”? about yourself? about others? about the Church?
- ☉ How has your participation in the life of your parish helped you to come to know Jesus Christ?

Faith in Action

Do you take the time in your family to talk about God’s call or vocations? Explain that each of us discerns a way to live our baptismal call: for example, through single or married life, priesthood, or consecrated life. Go to usccb.org to find out more about vocations and to download a prayer to know one’s vocation.

Recall that we bless ourselves with holy water upon entering or leaving the church, which reminds us of our baptismal commitment and our continuing journey as Christ’s disciples.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (4a)

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do you experience the presence of Christ in your life? How will you “turn around” to be a better disciple of Christ?
- ☉ What is your greatest dream or hope concerning how you can make the world a better place? What is one step that you can take right now toward that goal?

Faith in Action

As a family, plan a night of outreach. You might invite others over for an evening activity at home. Do you know anyone who might be in need of companionship, or is new to the area, or facing some personal challenges? Offering a night of hospitality is a way for your family to learn compassion and giving, as well as giving consolation and comfort to another who needs it. Consider other ways you might practice outreach and how often.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Sea of Galilee is the largest freshwater lake in modern-day Israel? It remains an important site for commercial fishing, the same industry in which the earliest disciples were working when Jesus called them. The sea is also Israel's most important source of drinking water.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 7–9 (8)
1 Corinthians 7:32–35
Mark 1:21–28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What is one way we can help bring peace to our family and/or community?
- ☉ What “evil spirit”—negative thought, anxiety, or sin—do I need Jesus to cast out?

Faith in Action

Instead of “time outs,” try “prayer outs” whenever your child is feeling sad, angry, anxious, or frustrated. Pray with your child if he or she is having trouble calming down. Call on Jesus Christ to expel the bad feelings and bring about a sense of peace.

? Did You Know?

. . . that in the Church there are priests who are exorcists? The Church has a long history of ministers of the Church praying over people thought to be possessed by unclean spirits. The practice continues today in which each diocese has its own diocesan exorcist, who is commissioned by the local bishop.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6
(see 3a)

1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23

Mark 1:29–39

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Jesus is conscious and aware of his mission by constant prayer. How is prayer an important component of your spiritual life?
- ☉ How has each of us preached the Good News? What acts of healing and teaching have we done for others?

Faith in Action

This week, make a list of the ways each of you preaches how much God loves us, not by words, but by actions and attitudes. Post your list on the fridge or in another prominent place and encourage each other to continue to preach the Good News by the ways you live.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick may be received each time we suffer a serious illness, or periodically for those with chronic illness or those who are suffering from old age. God's abundant gifts of healing power and mercy are received in these sacraments.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46

Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 11 (7)

1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1

Mark 1:40–45

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life Jesus has
brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ What prayer of yours was answered in a way you did not expect? What did you discover about faith and about how God answered your request?

☉ Who are the people in your life who seem to be, like the leper in today's Gospel, on the outside looking in? How can you help them?

Faith in Action

Learn more about St. Damien of Molokai, who cared for those who had leprosy. Read more about him on a website on the saints or find a video about his life. Talk with your child about how St. Damien's actions, inspired by Christ, gave relief to people who were suffering.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that leprosy is a disease that persists to our day? This disease continues to spread in some parts of the world because many people do not have access to the care and medicines they need. Medicines to treat leprosy have been available, however, since the 1940s.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:18–19, 21–22,
24b–25

Psalms 41:2–3, 4–5, 13–14 (5b)

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

Mark 2:1–12

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

? Did You Know?

. . . that Jesus' healing would have restored people to the community? Often people who were ill or permanently injured were set apart from their neighbors. In healing them, Jesus restores them to their place in society.

Conversation Questions

☉ Do we sometimes feel paralyzed by fears or by lack of energy? Do we allow the strength of Jesus to take over?

☉ Jesus gives us new life by forgiving our sins. In doing this he is encouraging us not just to forgive others but first of all to forgive ourselves. If we do, we learn to live at peace that we are human beings and make mistakes. When was the last time we received Jesus' healing forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation?

Faith in Action

Sometimes we shy away from prayers for healing because we've prayed for a cure that didn't happen or because we think only priests can pray for healing. Catholic communities are active in healing ministries, and your family can help. You can pray for the sick, for doctors, for physical comfort and improvement, and for spiritual peace. You can call, send well wishes, or bring small gifts or food to the sick. You can make short visits. Helping your child become more comfortable with hospitals and nursing homes helps teach patience and compassion and shares Jesus' healing and life-giving love.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Hosea 2:16b, 17b, 21–22

Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10,
12–13 (8a)

2 Corinthians 3:1b–6

Mark 2:18–22

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ The Pharisees and John the Baptist's disciples were confused by the actions of the followers of Jesus. They did not seem to be obeying the rules the holy people honored. Jesus presented them with new ways of honoring God that included joy. What are some of the things you do as a follower of Jesus that bring you joy?

☉ In every group there are certain rules we must follow. Discuss as a family what the most important rules of the Church are. List the rules your family follows. Are there some you are missing or can improve on? How well does your family obey all these rules? How do these rules help you and others?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Pharisees wanted to live lives of holiness, which they felt was best done by upholding the Law of Moses rigorously? Jesus challenged their understanding of what it means to live a life of holiness, and so we often see them disagree in Scripture. The Pharisees were living their lives based on the best knowledge of their time. Then Jesus came and revealed something completely new!

Faith in Action

How can we use the commandments and the corporal works of mercy to fill the “new wine skins”? As a family, review the commandments. Jesus summed up all the laws by giving us the Great Commandment, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength and your neighbor as yourself.” The corporal works of mercy give us some guidelines for how to do this. In Matthew's scene of the Last Judgment Jesus doesn't ask if we obeyed the commandments. He asks if we attended to all the needs of God's people. How will your family work, with joy, to put into action the new view of the Christian life that Jesus presents?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 5:12–15
Psalm 81:3–4, 5–6, 6–8,
10–11 (2a)
2 Corinthians 4:6–11
Mark 2:23—3:6 or
2:23–28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the very first words that Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Mark focus on the coming of the Kingdom of God? The coming of the Kingdom is of utmost importance.

Conversation Questions

☺ “The Sabbath is made for man.” What does this mean? In the story of creation in Genesis God rested from work on this day. It is a model for us. How do we renew our lives and our spirits on this day set aside for God? Is celebrating the Sabbath only a responsibility or can it be an opportunity?

☺ In the extended part of the Gospel (Mark 3:1–6) Jesus heals a man's hand on the Sabbath. Before he does this, he asks if it is lawful to do this work on the Sabbath. Discuss this question with your family. Have some members take the side of the Pharisees and some argue on the side of Jesus.

Faith in Action

What does Sunday mean in our lives today? Reflect on how you spend your Sundays. Does spending some time honoring and worshiping God take precedence in planning your day? What activities would be considered adding to the keeping of the Sabbath? Write down each activity your family participated in on a given Sunday. Decide which ones added to your rest and helped bring you closer to God. Which ones could be eliminated; what could be added to make your Sabbath experiences richer and deeper? Decide as a family which activities you will add and subtract in the coming weeks. Add the new ideas to your calendars.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:9–15

Psalms 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8
(7bc)

2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

Mark 3:20–35

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way
of your commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people
as you love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up
the Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the word *Ordinary* in Ordinary Time tells us the order of the weeks? Ordinal numbers are first, second, third, and so on.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus speaks about us as if we are the beloved members of his own family. What specific actions and words demonstrate that I am a faithful part of this Christian family? What actions might separate me from this family? What can I do to repair that separation?

☉ The words and actions of Jesus challenged many of the existing ideas and rules that were followed by the people of his day. What did Jesus teach that changed the world he lived in? How did leaders respond to those ideas? Do the ideas of Jesus still challenge us today?

Faith in Action

We enter into the family of God by the waters of Baptism. Recall the recent Baptisms of your family members. As you pore over photos or video, talk about how and why godparents were chosen for each person. Discuss the reason for choosing each person’s name. Talk about how each person acted as “light to the world” that day. You may want to show the baptismal candle and white garment worn by those baptized. Check your parish bulletin for the names of children who have been recently baptized and remember to pray for them and their families.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 17:22–24

Psalm 92:2–3, 13–14, 15–16
(see 2a)

2 Corinthians 5:6–10

Mark 4:26–34

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Explain how a parable Jesus told is meaningful to you. Why?
- ☉ Do you feel a connection with God when you are surrounded by the natural world? How?

Faith in Action

Reinforce the theme of growth from today's Gospel by doing an art project together with your child. Using construction paper, scissors, glue, and markers, have your child draw an outline of a tree with branches. Write the title at the top of the sheet: "How My Faith Grows." On each leaf, write down one way your family may grow as Christians (examples might be: going to Mass, praying, reading the Bible, and helping a friend in need). Have your child glue these leaves to the tree and display the artwork during Ordinary Time as a reminder for your family to continue growing in faith.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that St. Thérèse of Lisieux is known for her "little way"? During her life, she constantly looked for "little ways" to share Christ's love with her family and the sisters in her community. She believed that acting with love in small ways helps us grow in holiness.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Job 38:1, 8–11

Psalm 107:23–24, 25–26,
28–29, 30–31 (1b)

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

Mark 4:35–41

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Who or what reminds you that Christ is in your “boat” when life becomes stressful or chaotic?
- ☉ How would you answer the disciples’ question: “Who then is this whom even the wind and sea obey?”

Faith in Action

This week, have each family member share a time when he or she was afraid. How were his or her fears calmed? How can Jesus bring peace and calm in the family?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that faith is a combination of knowledge and trust? When we learn more about God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—our trust in God deepens. Reading the Bible, sharing faith with friends, learning about saints, and celebrating the sacraments are some of the ways of knowing God better.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11, 12,
13 (2a)

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15

Mark 5:21–43 or 5:21–24,
35b–43

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What kind of healing do you and your family need from the risen Christ right now?
- ☉ Who needs our prayers of healing or for peace as they prepare to meet God in heaven?

Faith in Action

Jesus often used physical touch to heal people in the Bible. Incorporate the soothing power of physical touch into your family's prayer life by holding hands when praying or by making the Sign of the Cross with your thumb on your children's foreheads before they go to bed.

People who are sick for a long time can often begin to feel lonely and forgotten. Offers of help and meals peter out as the illness continues. Make an effort this week to reach out to the sick people who you know, and engage your children in your efforts.

? Did You Know?

. . . that when Jesus heals and performs other miracles, he offers glimpses of what the Kingdom will be in its fullness? In Jesus' healing miracles, we see the possibility of a world without illness and injury.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 2:2–5

Psalm 123:1–2, 2, 3–4 (2cd)

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Mark 6:1–6

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Gospel of Mark is considered to be
the earliest composed of the Gospels?

Conversation Questions

☉ How long have we known Jesus? What do we
know about him? How may we each come to know
Jesus better?

☉ In today's Gospel, the Nazoreans are amazed
at the Jesus they thought they knew but really
didn't. Are we sometimes guilty of taking someone
we know and love for granted?

Faith in Action

Talk this week about how you discern God's plans
for you and your life. If you have a family mem-
ber or friend who has discerned an unusually
challenging path of service for himself or herself,
such as becoming a vowed religious or mission-
ary, invite that person to come talk to your family
about how he or she discerned God's call.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Amos 7:12–15

Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12,
13–14 (8)

Ephesians 1:3–14 or 1:3–10

Mark 6:7–13

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way
of your commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people
as you love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up
the Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that one of the Church’s most famous missionaries is St. Teresa of Calcutta? Teresa was born in Albania, and from a young age, she knew that she wanted to become a missionary. She was sent to India, where she served the poor for the rest of her life. She founded her own order of missionary sisters, the Missionaries of Charity.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are we called to do as disciples?
- ☉ What are the hardest parts of discipleship? Who can best help us in our journey of following Jesus?

Faith in Action

Identify one way (whether through words or actions) that your family can bring God’s message of love to others this week. Perhaps you can volunteer at a local charity, visit someone who is having a hard time, or perform some household chores for an elderly neighbor.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Psalm 23:1–3, 3–4, 5, 6 (1)

Ephesians 2:13–18

Mark 6:30–34

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☻ How did the crowds of people in the Gospel feel when Jesus stopped to help them, even though he had planned to rest with the disciples? Do we change our plans in order to help people who need us?

Faith in Action

Often we postpone trying to help people in need because it seems too overwhelming or we think we are too busy. Follow Jesus' example in this Sunday's Gospel and do what you can (however small) to help a cause of your choice this week. Show your child that it is worthy of your time.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that this passage from Mark occurs before the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish? Instead of resting with his disciples, Jesus begins to teach the crowds that followed them. Reading the entire story can help you to understand how all the passages fit in relation to one another.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

2 Kings 4:42–44

Psalm 145:10–11, 15–16, 17–18
(see 16)

Ephesians 4:1–6

John 6:1–15

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus desires to share himself with us in the Word and in the Bread of life. There is no limit to what Jesus wants to share with us. How might each of us share our gifts and resources with others?

☉ Jesus is present in the everyday encounters of our lives, especially in the poor, the marginalized, and those in need. How often do we open our hearts and reach out in compassion and love to them?

Faith in Action

Your child may have learned about the different liturgical ministries in your parish in class this week. At Mass, notice all of the laypeople who assist in the celebration. You might consider attending your parish's next ministry fair with your child or responding to a call for new liturgical ministers. Find out ways your whole family may assist in the liturgical celebration.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that if you have a hard time understanding Jesus' teachings, you are not alone? Jesus' disciples also struggled to understand him. After Jesus fed the five thousand, the disciples saw him walking on the sea and were frightened. The Gospel according to Mark tells us that the disciples had not understood what happened with the loaves and fish.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15

Psalm 78:3–4, 23–24, 25, 54
(24b)

Ephesians 4:17, 20–24

John 6:24–35

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ In what ways does receiving Eucharist fill us, make us strong, and help us to reach out to others?
- ☉ What can we do during the week to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion?

Faith in Action

This week, your family can create your own “Grace before Meals” placemat. Start with an 11” × 17” sheet of colored paper. At the top, write: “The [Name] Family Grace.” Have all family members contribute ideas on how to construct the prayer. Write the final prayer text in the center of the sheet. Have your child decorate the border and interior of the placemat. Protect it from stains with clear contact paper. You may want to make one placemat for each family member so each has his or her own copy of the prayer.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Church reads the Bible typologically? This means that we read about events in salvation history through the lens of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We read the manna in the desert as a prefiguration of the Eucharist.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

1 Kings 19:4–8

Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9
(9a)

Ephesians 4:30—5:2

John 6:41–51

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that when Jesus says “I AM” in the Gospel of John, he calls to mind God speaking to Moses in the burning bush? He is revealing something about Himself: that he is the Son of God.

Conversation Questions

☉ What did you do this week to prepare to receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist?

☉ How does Jesus teach us about God? What is one thing Jesus said that helped you know more about God?

Faith in Action

One way to learn more about the meaning of the Eucharist is to share a family meal as frequently as possible. At each meal, we share more than food. We share our lives with one another. Choose one day this week when everyone can contribute something to the evening meal. It can be setting the table, finding flowers to decorate the table, cooking part of the meal, making a special dessert, or cleaning up after the meal. During dinner, invite everyone to share what happened in his or her day. Everyone may opt to say something special about every member of the family. Each family member can go forth from the meal with new life and love for one another.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Proverbs 9:1–6

Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7 (9a)

Ephesians 5:15–20

John 6:51–58

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith? It provides us with food for the journey, the grace to live out our call from God, our Christian vocation.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ When you watch people in church receiving Communion, what gestures do you notice as they receive the Body and Blood of Christ?
- ☉ How are all those different people, even some whom we don't know, connected to us through the Eucharist?

Faith in Action

We share in the life of Christ through the sacraments. Gather pictures of the sacraments celebrated in your family: Baptisms, First Communions, the sacrament of Reconciliation (if you have them), and your wedding. As a family, discuss where these events took place: Did they all take place at the same church, or are different parishes represented in the pictures? Who are the people present at these celebrations? What memories can each of you share about these important events? Talk about how each event is a special milestone and how each brings your family closer to Christ.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Joshua 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b
Psalm 34:2–3, 16–17, 18–19,
20–21 (9a)
Ephesians 5:21–32 or 5:2a,
25–32
John 6:60–69

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way
of your commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people
as you love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up
the Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that one Roman charge against the early Christians was cannibalism? John tells us that many of those gathered around Jesus did not understand what he was saying and went away. Peter stays because Jesus has the words of eternal life.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What do you think helped the Apostles believe in Jesus?
- ☉ If you were to write a creed about what you believe about God and Jesus Christ, what would it include? What helps you believe in him?

Faith in Action

Our faith is empty if we do not live it out in our everyday actions and words. Invite each family member to write one action that shows we are followers of Christ. For example: “Say a kind word to someone who needs it.” “Pray for someone who is sick.” Collect all the slips of paper into a jar to display prominently in the house. At the beginning of each day, have your child choose one of the slips from the jar. Encourage one another to perform that action sometime during the day. When you gather for family prayers each night, share how each of you performed that action.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8

Psalm 15:2–3, 3–4, 4–5 (1a)

James 1:17–18, 21b–22, 27

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Identify some external actions you practice every day or every week, such as making the Sign of the Cross or praying daily. How do these actions remind you of your faith and what you are called to do?

☉ Identify some bad things that come from within, such as feelings of jealousy or annoyance with another well-meaning person. How can you stop yourself from thinking or behaving this way?

Faith in Action

Discuss and consider works you can do together as a family or as individuals that will help feed or clothe those in need, or visit someone who might be lonely or in need of company, or give comfort to someone who is in mourning. At the end of the week, gather together again to share what you did and any interesting aspects of the experience.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that in challenging the purity customs of his time, Jesus laid the groundwork for the ministry to the Gentiles. While Jesus was born Jewish, he came for all people of all times.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:4–7a

Psalms 146:7, 8–9, 9–10 (1b)

James 2:1–5

Mark 7:31–37

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What might interfere with your being able to hear God's Word?
- ☉ If you could choose one message to speak about God, what would you say?

Faith in Action

The Gospel reminds us that we must open our ears to the cries of all the people who are suffering around the world and speak words of comfort. If there is a poor box or a St. Vincent de Paul society in your parish, consider how your family may contribute some money or assistance. Or you may choose to donate to any group that helps the poor. Include a note with a Bible quotation of Jesus helping the poor with your donation. It is a good way to share the Good News you hear with those who are waiting to receive it.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that because we are all one in Jesus, when one member of the Body of Christ suffers, all suffer. When someone ceases to practice the faith, the Body of Christ is lacking because of that person. We are all one in the Lord.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4c–9a

Psalm 116:1–2, 3–4, 5–6,
8–9 (9)

James 2:14–18

Mark 8:27–35

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Recall names for Jesus found in the Bible, such as Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, or the Way, and ask how that name helps us to know him.
- ☉ Jesus asks us to take up our cross and follow him. How can we do that in our family?

Faith in Action

Each time a person is baptized, he or she becomes part of God's family. God calls them by name and the community welcomes them. Many people are baptized in your parish each month. Sometimes the names of the newly baptized are printed in your parish bulletin. As a family, design and send a baptismal card for one of the babies who will be baptized. Or you may reach out to the parents of the newborn with an offer to help provide baby's necessities or caregiving.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that many great saints have at times questioned difficult teachings? For example, St. Teresa of Calcutta admitted to loneliness and isolation from God at times in her life, but she always remained faithful to her calling.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20

Psalm 54:3–4, 5, 6–8 (6b)

James 3:16—4:3

Mark 9:30–37

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life Jesus has
brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin are the first married couple to be canonized together? They were serious about offering their children to God, and they raised a saint and Doctor of the Church: St. Thérèse!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What is the hardest thing you have to do in order to follow Jesus? What is the easiest thing for you to do as a follower of Christ?
- ☉ How might we practice humility in our day-to-day lives?

Faith in Action

This week Jesus defines discipleship by using the example of a child. Many children suffer in this world. Let us focus on helping children in need. Do you know of an organization that helps single moms? Is there a daycare center in your area? Contributions to these groups will help the children in their care. Collect or purchase some items that will help them care for their children. Baby food, cereal, sleepers, diapers, and bibs make good contributions. Gently used baby furniture or toys might also be appreciated.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Numbers 11:25–29

Psalm 19:8, 10, 12–13, 14 (9a)

James 5:1–6

Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way of your
commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people as you
love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up the
Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign with
the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

? Did You Know?

. . . that there have been many child saints? St. Maria Goretti, Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and St. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio are just a few you might like to research.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What did you do today that shows you are a faithful follower of Jesus?
- ☉ How can we be better about trying to live as Jesus wants us to?

Faith in Action

The corporal works of mercy are a good indication of what we can do to follow Jesus. You can find most of them listed in Matthew 25:31–46. Gather your family together and read this passage. Choose one of the actions to do together. Can you gather clothes to donate to a homeless shelter or resale shop? Can you serve food and drink to those in need? Can you visit a relative who is sick or send cards to a nursing home in the area?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18–24

Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6
(see 5)

Hebrews 2:9–11

Mark 10:2–16 or 10:2–12

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Catholic Social Teaching helps us understand how we are to live in relationship with one another? It is grounded in a fundamental respect for each human person as unique and unrepeatable.

Conversation Questions

☉ What did Jesus tell us is the great commandment? [Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul.] How do we follow it?

☉ What is the second? [You shall love your neighbor as yourself.] How do we follow it?

Faith in Action

When a number of different people and personalities make up a family, there will sometimes be disharmony or disagreement. But we should also remember that the most important part about living together as a family also means loving, respecting, helping, and enjoying one another's company.

This week, gather as a family to discuss house rules. Do members need to be reminded of any rules? Do any current rules need to be modified or now eliminated? As you talk together about establishing the house rules, make sure that everyone understands the Gospel message this week. Review the rules together to ensure that they also embody the spirit of love, respect, and living together in harmony.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 7:7–11

Psalm 90:12–13, 14–15,
16–17 (14)

Hebrews 4:12–13

Mark 10:17–30 or 10:17–27

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to the Apostles,
“Come, follow me.”
You say the same words to us,
today and every day.
Help us to follow you faithfully:
to walk in the way
of your commandments,
to help those who are struggling,
and to love all people
as you love them.
May we rejoice in your presence
with us
as we work to build up
the Kingdom of God,
where you live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Pope Francis has condemned what he calls “the throwaway culture,” irresponsible consumption of the world’s resources and lack of care for human beings? “No one is disposable!” he has said. He advocates for responsible consumption and just stewardship of the world’s resources.

Conversation Questions

☉ If Jesus asked you to leave all you had to follow him, what would you miss the most?

☉ Think of some of the things that belong to you. How can you use these things to become better followers of Jesus?

Faith in Action

Raise this topic for discussion: You unexpectedly get some money from a relative. It is not an enormous amount, but enough to buy a game system or a new TV or to take a weekend vacation. You could donate it all to an organization that helps those in need. What arguments would you put forth for buying something for your family? What arguments would you make for donating it? As a family, make a final decision. After this experience, do you have a better understanding of how the rich man felt when Jesus said, “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor”?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 53:10–11

Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20,
22 (22)

Hebrews 4:14–16

Mark 10:35–45 or 10:42–45

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life
Jesus has brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that “apostolic” is one of the four marks of the Church? This means that the Church carries on the tradition of the Apostles. The bishops, through the laying on of hands from one to the next, have received their authority from the Apostles.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Who would you name as one of the best leaders in your parish? Why?
- ☉ Who would you name as one of the best leaders in your workplace or school? Why?

Faith in Action

When we focus on servant leadership, we can look to the saints who have given us wonderful examples of what it means to serve others. If anyone in your family is named after one of the saints, look up some information about the life of that saint. Discuss how that person served others, and talk about how he or she might be a model for the family member who shares the same name. When you pray together, you might include the saints’ names, and ask them to intercede for you so you will have the strength and courage to serve others.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:7–9

Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6 (3)

Hebrews 5:1–6

Mark 10:46–52

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☺ Think about your own faith. How do you take the time to listen for Jesus calling to you? What is Jesus saying to you?

☺ In what areas of your life do you need to persevere? How would you maintain the strength to keep it up, or not to give up when things get difficult?

Faith in Action

Plan a visit with your family to a nursing home, homeless shelter, or soup kitchen. Explain to your child that Jesus calls us to offer our gifts and share our resources and time with others in need. At home, discuss the experience. Was it mutually beneficial? How?

?? Did You Know?

. . . that it is required of us as Christians to show God's mercy to others? There are both corporal and spiritual works of mercy, all of which involve care for our brothers and sisters. If we are judging others, we will be too busy to love them, to paraphrase St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 6:2–6

Psalm 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51 (2)

Hebrews 7:23–28

Mark 12:28b–34

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your holy face
we see the face of God.
Help us to keep our eyes
always fixed on you,
so that in everything we do,
we may be pleasing to you.
May we love you and follow you
all the way to God's Kingdom,
where you live and reign
with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that some saints have been able to see the face of Christ in the suffering person to whom they were giving care? We believe that each person is the image and likeness of God and that Christ is present in a particular way in the poor. But St. Peter Claver, among others, could look at a poor person and see Jesus there plainly.

Conversation Questions

The law spoken by Jesus in today's Gospel encourages us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Talk to your child about how neighbor means more than just the people who live nearby. It means all of the people in the world.

☉ Whom do you consider your neighbor?

☉ How can we show love to our neighbors who are far away, even in other countries?

Faith in Action

What is your neighborhood like? Are you friends with your neighbors? Do you spend time with them? Do your children play together? During dinner or sometime in the evening, gather your family and talk about what you can do to help a neighbor. It could be something fun like baking cupcakes and delivering them to some of the neighbors. It could be something helpful like cutting someone's grass, shoveling snow, or running errands. It could be something for a neighbor far away, like donating to a charity. Take this opportunity to practice this important command of Jesus.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

1 Kings 17:10–16

Psalm 146:7, 8–9, 9–10 (1b)

Hebrews 9:24–28

Mark 12:38–44 or 12:41–44

Prayer

Lord our God,
you sent your Son into the world
to live with us as one of us,
to heal, to teach, to sanctify,
and to proclaim the Good News
of the coming of the Kingdom.
Help us to live our Baptism to the full
and to find ways to do what Jesus did:
to bring joy and life wherever we go,
to lift up the suffering,
and to tell other people
about the new life Jesus has
brought us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that humility is one of the virtues that is associated with the cardinal virtue of temperance? Virtues are habits of goodness, and like all habits, they grow easier with practice. We practice humility when we spend less time focused on ourselves, recognizing that we are not God.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What do you think the money we give to the church pays for in our parish?
- ☉ Why do you think it is important that we contribute money, whether a little or a lot, to church every week?

Faith in Action

Many organizations and churches sponsor some sort of sharing activity aimed at providing families with the things they need to celebrate the holidays. It might be supplying a good meal at Thanksgiving or contributing money or gifts for families to celebrate Christmas. Check if your parish sponsors such a program and find out how your family might participate.

Alternatively, check your local community organizations committed to helping those in need. Decide, as a family, how and what you will contribute.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Daniel 12:1–3

Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11 (1)

Hebrews 10:11–14, 18

Mark 13:24–32

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that Catholic Christians believe in bodily resurrection? When we recite the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed (commonly known as the Nicene Creed), we say: “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”

Conversation Questions

☉ When you think of heaven, what do you imagine it to be like?

☉ This week’s Gospel describes the end times and is a reminder of how we should be preparing for the day we will be judged. Are we living in a way that makes us worthy to stand before God and be with him forever? Are there some things we should change so that we are worthy?

Faith in Action

Are the names of the people in your parish who died listed in your bulletin? If they are, you might consider sending a note of condolence to their families. Make a card and include a picture of the Paschal candle on the front and some of Jesus’ words: “I am the Resurrection and the Life” or “I will raise you up on the last day.” If you don’t know the family personally, send the card to your parish church office to be forwarded.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Scripture Readings

Daniel 7:13–14

Psalm 93:1, 1–2, 5 (1a)

Revelation 1:5–8

John 18:33b–37

Prayer

God of the covenant,
from the time of Abraham and Moses
until today,
you have been faithful to your people.
Even when we have wandered far from
your ways,
you remain close to us,
to guide us, protect us,
and make us your own people.
May your children listen to your Word
and rejoice to walk in your ways.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ The Bible contains many parables that teach us what God's Kingdom is like. The rich, varied descriptions offer us a multidimensional picture of what we may look forward to. How would you describe Jesus' Kingdom in your own words?

☉ Pilate and Jesus are discussing their definitions of leadership. Which type of leadership do I follow in my life? Am I like Jesus or Pilate in my daily actions?

Faith in Action

As we enter into the season of Advent, this last week of the liturgical year is a good time to make Christ the King the focus of your family prayers. Have your child decorate your altar or prayer table this week with an image of Christ the King. You may purchase a mounted image or have your child help you create one by framing a blessed image of Christ the King. As a family, pray to give up some materialistic pursuits this week and offer the sacrifice for the preparation of their souls to receive the Infant King.

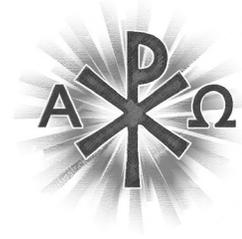
?? Did You Know?

. . . that Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical year? It points us toward the end of history, when God will be all in all. We hear in the Scriptures that death will be conquered forever and that there will be no more suffering or pain.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

February 2



Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1–4

Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10 (10b)

Hebrews 2:14–18

Luke 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

Prayer

Lord our God,
may we be like Mary and Joseph,
obedient to your law,
carrying out all that you ask of us.
May we be like Simeon and Anna,
trusting in your promises
and open to your grace.
Help us to recognize you in our midst,
for holiness is all around us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

? Did You Know?

. . . that the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas? The start of Mass on February 2 includes a procession and blessing of candles. Candles symbolize the Light that entered our world forty days earlier, on Christmas, and continues shining today.

Conversation Questions

☉ Simeon called the baby Jesus “light” for all the nations. Why is this an appropriate image for Jesus?

☉ The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that Jesus was the Messiah for which he and all of Israel were waiting. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when Simeon spoke to them?

Faith in Action

The feast of the Presentation is also called Candlemas because on this day the Church blesses all the candles it will use during the year. Let a candle be the center of your prayer this week. Use a candle you have in your home or purchase a new one. Light it when your family is all together to share a meal. Remind everyone that light is the symbol of Jesus. And, it was Jesus who said to us, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). Share stories about how each of you acted as a “light to the world” during your day at school and at work. Pray that God will help you to keep your light shining brightly.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 19



Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16
Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29 (37)
Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22
Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or
Luke 2:41–51a

Prayer

God our Father,
you entrusted the care of your
incarnate Son
to the loving care of Mary and Joseph.
Even when he did not know
where you were leading,
Joseph followed your guidance;
even when life was confusing or sad,
he trusted in your will.
May we be faithful and loving like
Joseph.
May we trust in you
in good times and in hard times,
knowing that you are with us always.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that many saints have had great devotion to St. Joseph? One is St. Andre Bessette, who built a church in Montreal in St. Joseph's honor.

Conversation Questions

☉ What respect do children owe parents?
What respect do parents owe their children?

☉ Even the most learned men of Israel were “astounded” by the questions and answers of Jesus. Imagine that you had an opportunity to sit and talk with Jesus. What questions would you ask? What explanations or answers would you like Jesus to give about the issues that concern you most?

Faith in Action

Many parishes celebrate St. Joseph's feast day with a St. Joseph's table. Usually the proceeds of such an event are donated to the poor. If you are not able to attend a parish's St. Joseph's table, consider celebrating in your own home by serving a special dinner. Many bakeries sell special breads and cakes that may become part of your menu.

Or opt not to spend all the week's grocery money and donate the savings to the charity of your choice or a food pantry that serves the hungry. Remember to pray for all those who are hungry and homeless.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

March 25



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10

Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11
(8a, 9a)

Hebrews 10:4–10

Luke 1:26–38

Prayer

God of love,
you chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the Mother of your Son,
and she answered yes to your call.
Make our hearts open to your word
and give us the courage to say yes
to whatever you ask of us.
May we become examples of
God's love to all we meet.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

? Did You Know?

. . . that the Annunciation has inspired many artists? Fra Angelico, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and Caravaggio are only a few examples. Look them up!

Conversation Questions

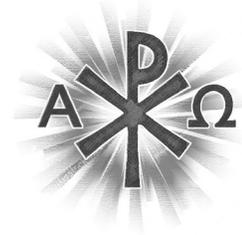
- ☉ How have we responded like Mary, telling God, “May it be done to me according to your Word”?
- ☉ What does it mean for my life that “Nothing will be impossible for God”?

Faith in Action

This feast of Mary is an appropriate time to gather the family to pray the Rosary. As you say the Hail Marys on the beads of each decade try to focus on the Joyful Mysteries. The first decade recalls the feast we celebrate today, the Annunciation (which demonstrates the virtue of humility). The remaining decades invite us to reflect on the Visitation (charity), the birth of Jesus (poverty), the Presentation in the Temple (obedience), and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple (piety). The words in parentheses are the virtues that are illustrated by each event. As you pray, ask for God's help and Mary's guidance to affirm and strengthen those qualities in you.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

Psalms 33:4–5, 6, 9, 18–19, 20,
22 (12b)

Romans 8:14–17

Matthew 28:16–20

Prayer

Eternal God,
by our Baptism
“in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,”
you have given us a share
in your divine life
and made us your sons and
daughters.
May we proclaim this faith
by the way we live our lives.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Today we reflect on how God invites us into a relationship with him—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can your actions this week reflect the action of God in the world?

☉ Have you thought about the meaning of the Sign of the Cross whenever you bless yourself?

Faith in Action

While the Holy Trinity is a mystery that can never be understood, many artists throughout the ages have offered their own personal images of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a family, plan a tour of a local art museum in order to view some of this devotional art by master artists. (Alternatively, look at these works online.)

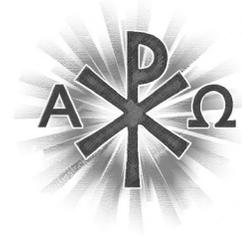
?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Trinity is one of the mysteries of our faith? We believe that God is one but with three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Creed articulates our faith in the Trinity.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Sunday after Trinity Sunday



Scripture Readings

Exodus 24:3–8

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16,
17–18 (13)

Hebrews 9:11–15

Sequence: *Lauda Sion*

Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
out of love for us
you gave us the gift of your
Body and Blood
so that we might be saved from
our sins.
When we celebrate the Eucharist,
we are reminded of your death
and Resurrection
and we give you thanks.
May we do what is right by
imitating you,
who lives and reigns with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ All meals require some kind of planning and preparation just as our Sunday liturgy also requires planning and preparation. What might we do as a family to prepare ourselves better for the celebration of the Eucharist?
- ☉ How does it make you feel to know that each week at Mass you are receiving the Real Presence of Christ when you receive the host and drink from the chalice at Holy Communion?
- ☉ How else have you experienced the presence of Christ in your prayer life, your family life, and in your service to the community? Be specific.

Faith in Action

In the beginning of today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to prepare for the Passover meal. Like most meals, the Passover meal required planning and preparation. As you gather as a family, discuss what is required to prepare for your family meals. Plan a special Sunday meal together by choosing the menu, preparing the shopping list, and assigning duties for cooking, setting the table, preparing decorations, leading the prayers, and cleaning.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that on this solemnity, the community of faith often processes with the Blessed Sacrament? At the end of Mass, the priest places the Body of Christ in a display vessel called a monstrance. This is taken in procession (often outside into the streets) and ends in the church with a prayer called Benediction.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday after the Second Sunday
after Pentecost



Scripture Readings

Hosea 11:1, 3–4, 8c–9
Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6 (3)
Ephesians 3:8–12, 14–19
John 19:31–37

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were crucified out of love for us.
From your heart,
pierced by the soldier's lance,
flowed blood and water:
blood to become the source
of life for your people,
water to wash their sins away.
May our lives reflect your
self-giving love
and may we be people who live
for others.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Jesus' suffering and death is one way he showed his love for us. In what other ways did Jesus show us his great love during his time on earth?
- ☉ Why do you think Jesus wants us to receive him in the Eucharist frequently? When we receive him, how are we changed?

Faith in Action

Research the life of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the saint associated with today's solemnity. Our tradition recalls her experience of seeing Jesus and his Sacred Heart. In this vision, Jesus requested that we receive the Eucharist frequently, especially on the First Friday of each month. If you have a picture of the Sacred Heart in your home, discuss with your child the symbols and what they represent.

In response to Jesus' invitation, encourage your family to receive the Eucharist frequently and attend Mass on the First Fridays of each month. Our devotion to the Sacred Heart also encourages us to treat others with the same love and tenderness symbolized by the heart of Jesus. Pray to the Sacred Heart today as part of your family prayers.

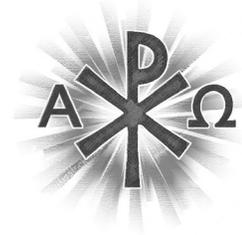
? Did You Know?

. . . that the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most popular and well known in Catholicism? Devotees venerate Jesus Christ's physical and wounded heart, which symbolizes God's selfless love for humanity. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Pope Pius IX, and Pope Leo XIII all promoted a stronger and widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 24



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:1–6

Psalm 139:1–3, 13–14,
14–15 (14a)

Acts 13:22–26

Luke 1:57–66, 80

Prayer

Lord our God,
you knew us before we were born
and destined us
to know, love, and serve you.
As we celebrate the birth
of St. John the Baptist,
who announced Christ's coming,
may we know and live out your call in
our lives.
Like John, may we joyfully proclaim
the presence of Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ John challenged people to change their lives so that their daily activities reflected their belief in God. How do you do this in your life?
- ☉ The name John means “God is gracious.” How was God gracious to Zechariah and Elizabeth? How is God gracious to you?

Faith in Action

Today's readings tell us that God knows each of us even while we are still in the womb. He calls us by name and has a plan and mission for each of us. This week, tell your child about his or her birth. How did you feel when you found out about him or her? What time was your child born and where? How did family and friends react when they first met your child as a baby? It is also a good time to share photos or mementos of your child's birth and early years.

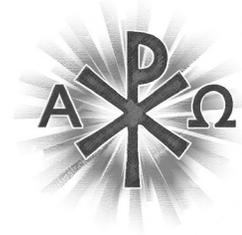
?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Church celebrates the birthdays of only two saints as feast days? John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary are two figures we reflect on a great deal during Advent, but their nativities happen in the summer.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

June 29



Scripture Readings

Acts 12:1–11

Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

Matthew 16:13–19

Prayer

Gracious God,
you have built your Church
on the foundation of the Apostles:
Peter, the rock, and Paul,
the preacher.
Like them, help us to be strong in
our faith
and to share with everyone we meet
the Good News of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How am I part of the foundation of the Church?
How do I help to build up the Church?
- ☉ Jesus asks Peter, “Who do you say that I am?”
How would you answer that question?

Faith in Action

Each year every parish around the world participates in the Peter’s Pence Collection. The money collected provides the pope with the resources to help those who are suffering from war, oppression, natural disasters and disease. This is an excellent example of how the Church continues the work of Jesus. Catholics around the world contribute to this fund and provide assistance for the brothers and sisters they cannot see. How can your family contribute? Decide on a way that you can give of your own resources to help others. Give up something and with the money you save add it to the fund you will donate to Peter’s Pence.

? Did You Know?

. . . that as a Roman citizen, Paul could not be crucified? He was martyred by beheading. St. Peter was crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to die the same way as Jesus.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6



Scripture Readings

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 9 (1a, 9a)

2 Peter 1:16–19

Mark 9:2–10

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your Transfiguration,
you gave your Apostles
a glimpse of the glory of heaven,
where you are seated
at the right hand of the Father.
When we feel surrounded by darkness,
may your glory shine in our hearts
and help us to live in hope
of the coming Kingdom of God.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Peter, James, and John were the Apostles who accompanied Jesus at the Transfiguration. They also prayed with him in the Garden of Olives before he was arrested. Our closest friends are usually those who stand with us in good/glorious times and bad/suffering times. Who are the people in your life you would choose to be with you in these times?

☉ The Apostles hear a voice from heaven giving them the instruction, “Listen to him.” In what ways does your family listen to Jesus?

Faith in Action

August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration, is also the date when we remember the destruction of the city of Hiroshima by the atomic bomb in 1945. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). God told us to “listen to [Jesus].”

Peacemaking begins at home. Ask forgiveness for anything you have done wrong, and extend forgiveness to others who have wronged you. Consider celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation and make peace with God and with your brothers and sisters. Consider making a donation to an organization that works to create peace around the world.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that in seeing Jesus’ two natures, human and divine, the disciples saw a prefiguration of the Eucharist? The bread and the wine come from the earth but are transfigured into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15



Scripture Readings

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab

Psalms 45:10, 11, 12, 16 (10bc)

1 Corinthians 15:20–27

Luke 1:39–56

Prayer

Lord God,
when Mary died,
you raised her body and soul
into heaven.

In Mary's Assumption,
you give us a glimpse of what is
to come.

At the Second Coming of Christ,
our bodies too will be raised up
in glory.

May our faith in this heavenly home
change the way we live our lives here
on earth.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

Choose a day this week when the weather is beautiful. Sit outside or take a nature walk.

Discuss the following:

☉ Who do you think helped Mary prepare to be Jesus' Mother?

☉ How can you be like Mary?

Faith in Action

The Gospel on this solemnity is the story of the Visitation. It remembers the long journey Mary made from Nazareth, where she lived, to the hill country of Judea, where Elizabeth lived. It was a very long walk. Invite your family to take a walk around your neighborhood. Visit one or two (or more) churches, depending on how many you have within walking distance of your home. When you arrive at the church, find the place where Mary is honored. What does it look like? Do any of the stained-glass windows include images of Mary? On your walk home, ask each person to recall his or her favorite statue or picture and explain why. Discuss why Mary is so honored in the Catholic faith.

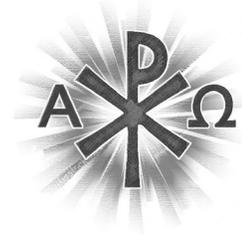
?? Did You Know?

. . . that because of her special role in history, Mary received special grace? She was preserved from original sin to prepare her for her vocation. She never sinned. She was taken up body and soul into heaven.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14



Scripture Readings

Numbers 21:4b–9

Psalm 78:1bc–2, 34–35, 36–37,
38 (see 7b)

Philippians 2:6–11

John 3:13–17

Prayer

O God,
through your great love for humanity,
the cross of Christ has become
the source of life for all believers.
May we who believe
in the power of Christ's cross
experience its saving effects in
our lives.
Help us to take up our own crosses
every day
and recognize in them the path to
holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Have you ever seen John 3:16 at some event or on a poster or bumper? It is taken from today's reading. Why do you think people display this passage so often?

☉ In the time of Jesus, the cross was a symbol of death. Why do we "exalt," praise, and honor the cross today?

Faith in Action

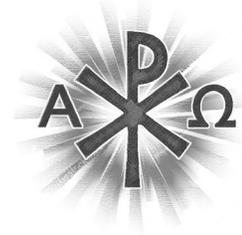
The cross is our Christian symbol. Do you have a cross or crucifix in your home? If not, consider purchasing one, having it blessed by your parish priest, and displaying it in a prominent place. The sign of the cross reminds us of our Baptism when we died to sin so that we can rise to glory with Jesus. Be sure to begin and end each of your family prayers with a deliberate and respectful sign of the cross. Next time you are in church, notice the different types of crosses and crucifixes that are displayed in your parish.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that legends say that, during a pilgrimage in 326, St. Helena found the Cross on which Jesus died? With the help of her son, Emperor Constantine, she built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the site. It took nine years to build the church. At its dedication, pieces of the Cross Helena located were placed inside the church.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of All Saints



November 1

Scripture Readings

Revelation 7:2–4, 9–14

Psalms 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6 (see 6)

1 John 3:1–3

Matthew 5:1–12a

Prayer

O God,
you gave the saints the wisdom to
seek you above all things
and the humility to follow wherever
you call.

Send your Holy Spirit to fill us with
that same wisdom and humility
so that after following you here on
earth,
we may join the saints in heaven
praising and thanking you forever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

☉ Which of the Beatitudes is the most meaningful to you? Which one will you aspire to live by?

☉ Think about the people you know who are living today. Who do you know who is like a saint?

Faith in Action

Today we remember all the saints in heaven and on earth. Tomorrow is the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls' Day, when we remember all who have died in the love of the Lord. This would be a good time to visit the cemetery where members of your family are buried. If you have no family members buried nearby, pray for the people who are buried at the cemetery you decide to visit together.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that when we look at the saints, we see tremendous diversity? C.S. Lewis said, "How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been; how gloriously different are the saints." We can respond in many ways to the universal call to holiness we receive when we are baptized.

Living the Liturgy at Home

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)



November 2

Scripture Readings

Wisdom 3:1–9 or 4:7–15 or Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalms 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6 or 25:6, 7b, 17–18, 20–21 or 27:1, 4, 7, 8b, 9a, 13–14

Romans 5:5–11 or 5:17–21 or 6:3–9 or 8:14–23 or 8:31b–35, 37–39 or 14:7–9, 10c–12 or 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 or 15:51–57 or 2 Corinthians 4:14–5:1 or 5:1, 6–10 or Philippians 3:20–21 or 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 or 2 Timothy 2:8–13

Matthew 5:1–12a or 11:25–30 or 25:31–46 or Luke 7:11–17 or 23:44–46, 50, 52–53; 24:1–6a or 24:13–16, 28–35 or John 5:24–29 or 6:37–40 or 6:51–59 or 11:17–27 or 11:32–45 or 14:1–6

Prayer

God of the living,
on this day we remember in prayer
all who have died.
Fill them with your peace
and bring them into your presence
with all their sins forgiven.
Help us to see our life as your
gift to us
and to spend our days in love, prayer,
and service
until we stand before you
and rejoice for ever in the glory of
heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that as the Church comes to the end of the liturgical year, she reflects on the end of history? We hear about the “Four Last Things”: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. All Souls’ Day reminds us that Jesus has opened a way for us. He is the firstfruits, and we, the living and the dead, hope to receive the same gift in the fullness of the Kingdom.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Take a moment to remember all those in your family and circle of friends who have died. Share stories about them and pray for them.
- ☉ This day is one part of a celebration of the “Communion of Saints.” It is the union of the saints in heaven, all those who have died, and we who are now on earth, “saints in the making.” Choose a favorite saint and talk about why his or her life is an inspiration and model for your journey to sainthood.

Faith in Action

One of the spiritual works of mercy urges us to pray for the living and the dead. Many parishes have a memorial Mass on this day. Consider attending with your family.

*Please note that there are many options for today’s Gospel, both in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* and in the standard *Lectionary for Mass*. Therefore, the reading selected for this session may not match what is used during your parish’s Mass.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 9



Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12

Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9 (5)

1 Corinthians 3:9c–11, 16–17

John 2:13–22

Prayer

Lord our God,
your greatness cannot be contained
by earthly dwellings.
Still, we give you thanks
for the many holy and beautiful places
where we worship you
and join with others in praising
your name
and building up the Body of Christ
here on earth.
Make each one of us a temple to
your glory,
a worthy dwelling place of your
Holy Spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How are you a “temple of God” and have the “Spirit of God” dwelling in you, as St. Paul writes (1 Corinthians 3:16)?
- ☉ What does it mean to you to be a part of the Church? A part of the Body of Christ?

Faith in Action

The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the home cathedral of the bishop of Rome, the pope. Since the pope is the leader of all Catholics, this church is our home too. Take a virtual tour of St. John Lateran with your family by going to the official Vatican website (www.vatican.va). From the home page, click on the link to Basilicas and Papal Chapels Virtual Tours. Each diocese has its own cathedral. Cathedral comes from the word “cathedra,” the chair on which the bishop sits. Learn about your diocese’s cathedral and bishop. If possible, visit the cathedral with your family. Pray for your bishop and all believers, that God strengthen us to build up the Church here on earth.

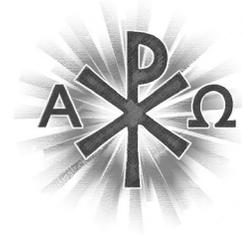
?? Did You Know?

. . . that St. John Lateran is the pope’s church?
We often think of St. Peter’s when we think of the pope, but his chair as the bishop of Rome is located in St. John Lateran!

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8



Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:9–15, 20

Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 (1a)

Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12

Luke 1:26–38

Prayer

Lord our God,
you kept the Blessed Virgin Mary
free from every stain of sin
from the moment of her conception
so that she might become the mother
of your divine Son.
Through the grace of our Baptism,
help us to turn away from sin
so that we can be ready to respond to
your call
and bring Christ to all those we meet.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What has been our most powerful experience of God?
- ☉ What kind of a response have we each made to the moments in our lives when God is calling to us? Do we have a sense of his divine plan for each of us?

Faith in Action

Throughout the centuries, many great artists have depicted of the Annunciation story and other events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Fra Angelico, a medieval monk, created a particularly beautiful one. Visit an art museum or look online to view.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was dogmatically defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX? The dogma teaches that Mary was conceived by normal biological means but that God acted upon her soul and kept her free from original sin when she was conceived. Today is a holyday of obligation.