

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

- ☉ Besides putting up the decorations and lights and shopping for gifts, what can we do to get our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus?
- ☉ If Jesus came to your home for Christmas, what would you like him to find you doing?

Faith in Action

If Christ were to come back now, what would you like him to find you and your family doing? As we await the coming of Christ Jesus, you might choose to have your family “adopt” another family in need. Inquire at your parish office or at Catholic Charities how your family may provide the gift of warm winter clothing, toiletries, food, or toys and books for children. Include your child in selecting gifts. You might also consider assisting on a food drive or serving food to those in need. Explain to your child that the activity should show you are preparing for the coming of the Lord.

?? 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

- ☉ John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by telling everyone they needed to change their lives to become better people. What one thing can each member of your family change to get ready for Jesus?
- ☉ In what ways are we “light” to the people around us?

Faith in Action

Your family might try living simply for one day this week. John the Baptist lived in the desert because his focus and attention was on his mission. How might your family live one day without the computer, the television, or cell phones? Use the time to focus on reading Scripture or praying or service.

?? 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

☉ John was not the Messiah people were waiting for. But he had an important job to do in preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. As we wait for Jesus to come again, how well have we been preparing our hearts and lives for Jesus' coming?

☉ What reasons do we have to rejoice this Sunday? this week?

Faith in Action

Today's Gospel reading invites us to reflect on our Baptism. Show your child photos or video of his or her Baptism. Talk about how significant a moment that was in his or her life. If you are able, show the symbols representing new life: the white garment, holy water, baptismal candle. Affirm all the ways your child has been living as a baptized Christian.

?? 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

Psalms 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

☉ Not all of us are visited by a messenger of the Lord with a request from God. Yet we do receive invitations from God all the time. How might we be on the alert for these calls?

☉ How can we say yes to God beyond the Advent season?

Faith in Action

Prepare to attend Mass together as a family for Christmas. Jesus came as one of us to show us how to live. This is a great gift to celebrate! While you are at church visit the crèche. Pause for a moment to thank God for the great gift of Jesus and to listen quietly to God's Word in your heart.

? 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 96:1–2–3, 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? If you were with the shepherds when they heard the news, how would you feel?
- ☉ Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. What is the best gift you've given this year? Why? What is the best one you've received? Why?

Faith in Action

Help your child send thankyou notes to those who gave gifts to him or her. If your child is too young to write, he or she can draw in the blank space inside the card a picture of himself or herself with the item given or dictate a message for you to write. Use this opportunity to talk about the gifts that God has given us, especially the gift of Jesus. We thank God for our blessings through prayer and in the way we use our gifts.

?? 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.

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.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the Congregation of the Holy Cross is a religious community in the Church that is made up of sisters, brothers, and priests? The members of the Holy Family are the patrons for this religious community. The sisters are dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the brothers to St. Joseph, and the Holy Cross priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are the essential qualities of a holy family? How has our family helped each other 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

Our experience of worship is the same, regardless of parish, since we are all one Catholic Church. Try to obtain copies of different bulletins from friends or family members who are members of different parishes. You may also look up bulletins online. Compare the bulletins for similarities and differences. Are there events or projects in the other parishes that you might like to suggest including at your parish?

**Please note that your child's session will have focused on Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23, the reading found in the Lectionary for Masses with Children. This is different from what is used during Mass, which is taken from one of the options in the standard Lectionary for Mass.*

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

- ☉ How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw Jesus?
- ☉ How do you think Mary felt when these strangers came to worship her newborn son?

Faith in Action

Christmas Time is an opportunity to talk to family members about their own births. Find some photos and information about your child's birth, as well as photos or videos of their significant milestones, such as eating at the table or taking first steps. Help your child understand how precious he or she is to the family. As your child grows, he or she will continue to reflect God's presence in the world.

? 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

- ☉ The Wise Men looked for God's work in the movement of the stars. When have you seen the beauty and grandeur of God's work revealed in the natural world?
- ☉ The Wise Men and King Herod responded differently to the news of Jesus' birth. How can you respond to God with worship and praise?

Faith in Action

Epiphany is sometimes called "Little Christmas." Jesus was born among the Jews, but he was revealed to the whole world on Epiphany. Celebrate with a special meal. Find recipes for king cake online, or decorate a regular cake to look like a crown. During the meal, share stories of your own epiphanies or the times in your lives when you have encountered God.

? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How are we called to live as baptized Christians?
- ☉ How does each member of our family live out his or her baptismal call?

Faith in Action

With your child, share family pictures of liturgical events and sacraments. Talk about your child's Baptism and, if possible, the Baptisms of other family members. Explain that everyone who is baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit are members of God's family. Come up with a way to welcome those in your parish who are newly baptized and their families. Perhaps your child can help make a card welcoming the newly baptized into God's family.

? Did You Know?

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

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

☉ Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Each Lent the Church teaches we must do three things: fast, pray, and give alms. Decide as a family how you will do each of these resolutions. (Help your child especially with his or her resolutions.)

☉ How will we avoid temptation and grow closer to God?

Faith in Action

There are many traditional methods of entering more and more deeply into the spirit of Lent, such as prayer, penance, fasting, almsgiving, and sacrifice. Discuss and choose some things that are meaningful to your family. Set aside a Lenten table or corner. Use the liturgical color of violet to adorn the space. Add symbolic items to help you focus on your Lenten choices such as an alms box or a Bible. Keep a family journal or scrapbook in this space, and jot down prayers, add pictures, and record experiences or memories of past Lenten seasons. Pray and grow together in preparation for Easter.

?? 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.

become God's child. How do we act as children of God?

☪ The voice in the Gospel tells us to listen to what Jesus says. What is one teaching of Jesus that you can act on as a family during Lent?

Faith in Action

This week's Gospel invites us to think about how growing closer to God in Lent can transform our lives. Talk with your family about some of the Lenten practices that you did as a child, as well as through your teen years and as an adult. Be honest about times when you followed through on your commitments and times when you did not. If you have not already, commit your family to some Lenten disciplines, such as always remembering to say grace at meals and refraining from eating meat and dessert on Fridays.

Alternatively, spend 10–15 minutes each day this week reading what Jesus says to you from the Bible. Compare the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5 with the Sermon on the Plain from Luke 6:17–49. Discuss the meaning of the words Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:7–14. Discuss John 10:11–18 as a meditation for Lent. Read the story of Lazarus, John 11:1–44, and talk about how Jesus' humanity is revealed in this account. Discuss one of Jesus' parables or another favorite passage.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☪ Jesus' friends hear a voice saying, "This is my Son." When we are baptized, we know that we also

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Exodus 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8, 12–17

Psalm 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

☉ The Gospel reminds us that church is a sacred place where we can be close to God in a special way. Discuss how our actions and movements in church demonstrate that we know it is a holy place.

☉ What in my life is cluttered and needs to be “cleaned out”? Talk with your child about what might be distracting us from focusing on God—especially at Lent.

Faith in Action

Are there other prayer opportunities offered at your parish during Lent: the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, Evening Prayer, Lenten Mission? Consider participating with your family to enrich Lent with more prayer. Fasting and almsgiving complement one another during the Lenten season. Choose an evening this week when your family can eat a simple Lenten meal. How much money did you save by preparing this simpler fare? Contribute it to the charity of your choice.

?? 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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ God loves us so much he gave us Jesus. No matter how far we might stray from him, God won't give up on us. How should we live? Is it easy to live up to this kind of love?

☉ What is it about verse 3:16 that resonates with people? Why do you think it's so cherished and beloved?

Faith in Action

In the Gospel from the standard Lectionary, Jesus refers to the serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert. To better understand this reference, read Numbers 21:4–9. Like the bronze serpent, Jesus is lifted up, that when we look to him, we may be saved from the consequences of our own sin. If you don't already have one, place a crucifix in a prominent place in your home. Gather around it, and pray together. Discuss times in your family life when you most need to look to Jesus. By sharing your faith with your child, you provide a firm foundation for his or her own faith, something to which your child can cling throughout life.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalms 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

☉ Today's Gospel tells us that for a plant to grow a seed must die. When we want to make other people happy and give them what they need sometimes we need to give up a part of our lives. What is one way to do this?

☉ How might we inspire each family member to grow in service to God and others? What qualities or potential might we encourage to flourish?

Faith in Action

Encourage your family members to think of ways in which they make sacrifices for each other for the good of the family. Affirm all that they do and reward their good deeds with a special dessert or outing. Talk about areas for improvement in positive ways. Pray as a family for relatives or friends who are on active duty in the military or who serve in occupations that require sacrifice, both physically and financially.

?? 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

This week, when we enter into the mystery of Christ's death, it is important for young children to know that Jesus who died is alive in spite of the events of Good Friday. Rather than discussing questions this week, talk with your child about Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Faith in Action

On Thursday, we begin the Triduum, the three most sacred days of the Church year. Participate in as many of the Holy Week events in your parish as possible. Have your feet and your child's feet washed on Holy Thursday. Observe three minutes of silence at noon on Good Friday. If the Easter Vigil Mass is too long for your child, stay for the kindling of the fire and lighting of the Paschal candle.

?? 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

Psalms 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

☉ When Jesus washed the feet of his friends, it was a powerful example of service and love. How do we serve others as Jesus taught us? How can what we do, no matter how big or small, serve others?

☉ After we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we are sent out to serve others. What can we do during the week to remind ourselves of this and live in the love Jesus gives us through the Eucharist?

Faith in Action

The liturgy for Holy Thursday is unique and you could plan to attend it as a family. It is the only Mass celebrated on this day and it is the last time Mass will be celebrated until the Easter Vigil. Together, we celebrate the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist and are reminded that, even on the night before he died, he was serving others with love. The liturgy of Holy Thursday ends with a procession to reserve the Eucharist. Many people remain at church to pray and remember Jesus' sacrifice and love. If your family is not able to attend the liturgy, spend some time together in prayer, reflecting on today's Gospel reading.

?? Did You Know?

. . . 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.

?? 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

Conversation Questions

☉ The story of Good Friday is about the ultimate sacrifice a person is willing to make for another. Can you think of ways that we sacrifice our own things for the good of others?

☉ Jesus told Pilate that his Kingdom is not of this world, it is God's Kingdom and we are a part of it. What does the Kingdom of God look like? How can we be a part of it?

Faith in Action

The cross is our Christian symbol. Today, in a very special way we honor the cross. Today's liturgy is different from a Mass; we gather as a community of believers to pray for the world, give honor to the cross of Jesus, and to receive Communion. Consider making the cross or a crucifix a central symbol in your home. If you can't attend the liturgy today, spend time in prayer around a cross or crucifix at home. Keep this symbol part of your home for the rest of the year to remind you of Jesus' great sacrifice and love.

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 forever.
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

☉ The women worried that the stone would keep them separated from Jesus. They wondered who would roll it back. What keeps you separated from Jesus sometimes? Who helps you keep connected with Jesus? How do you feel when you are close to Jesus?

☉ The young man in the tomb instructed the women to go tell the followers of Jesus that he is risen and that they will see him in Galilee. We too hear that Good News today. How do we share that with others? Where do we find Jesus in our lives? Who points the way for us?

Faith in Action

The women who found the empty tomb were given the mission of spreading the news to Jesus' disciples and then to the whole world. Jesus lives today among us in the faces of our neighbors, the poor, the homeless, and all those who need our help. We must become the face of Jesus for these people. What can you do to bring the fullness of life to those in need? Involve your child in carrying out your mission.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Psalm 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

☉ When Jesus died, the disciples were very sad. But when they went to his tomb Jesus was not there. God had given him a new life. God promises us that same life. How does that make us feel? What does it tell us about the people we love who have died?

☉ If you were with Peter and John at the tomb, what would you tell everyone about what you saw?

Faith in Action

It is a tradition in many families to color eggs for Easter. Eggs are a wonderful symbol of new life. They also remind us of how Jesus' tomb was broken open to reveal new life. Use some of your colored eggs to make a beautiful centerpiece for your dining table. Talk with your child about what the eggs symbolize.

**Please note that your child's session will have focused on John 20:1–9, the reading found in the Lectionary for Masses with Children. This could be different from what is used during Mass, which is taken from one of the options in the standard Lectionary for Mass.*

?? 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!

Conversation Questions

- ☉ The Second Sunday of Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Gospel talks about forgiveness and spreading God's word. Talk about what mercy means among your family and have each person share how they can practice mercy.
- ☉ When do we experience the presence of Christ with our senses?

Faith in Action

Whether your child is in the parish school or the religious education program, he or she is learning about Jesus and his mission to the world. It is our mission too. Take some time each week during Easter Time to talk with your child about what he or she is learning about Jesus. Add to what they share by telling them what you know and believe.

? 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.

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!

Conversation Questions

- ☺ Jesus wants us to be peacemakers. What can you do to bring peace to your family? your classroom? your workplace?
- ☺ Can you help bring peace to the world? How?

Faith in Action

There are many countries around the world that desperately need peace—not just the absence of war or conflict or fear. Pray for peace around the world. This week, pray for one country or region each day. Ask God to bless the area with peace by filling the hearts of people who live there with peace and love.

?? 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.

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 says we must listen to his voice.
Who helps you hear the voice of Jesus?

☉ What is Jesus telling you to do?

Faith in Action

We are called to model our lives on the qualities of the Good Shepherd, including showing selfless love, tender mercy, and unfailing courage in the face of injustice. Be the love of God to those who are weak, vulnerable, and in need of protection. You might participate in any or all of the following: volunteer in a literacy program or an after-school program for children or teens; patronize stores that sell fair-trade products; write letters supporting just immigration reform and trade agreements to your government representatives; pray for justice and peace. However possible, involve your child in these efforts.

?? 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

☉ Is Christ the center of our lives? Are we bearing the kind of fruit that God intends?

☉ What will need to be pruned from our lives so that we may become healthier branches?

Faith in Action

The vine is a beautiful symbol of our connectedness to God. Consider planting a vine in your garden or a planter at home. Involve your child in keeping the vine strong and healthy by giving it water and access to enough sunlight. You might add it to your prayer table (if the location has light). Consider adding a small placard to your prayer table with Jesus' words from today's Gospel passage: "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered."

?? 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!

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus tells us we must love one another as God loves us. God loves us completely, no exceptions. How do we experience God’s love?

☉ When we think of God’s love, we discover how we are supposed to love one another. That is not always easy, especially when we don’t feel loved in return. How can we love others in the same way God loves us—without conditions and limits?

Faith in Action

All the other laws in the world would not need to be obeyed if we all just obeyed Jesus’ commandment to love one another. This week, have your family focus on this law and to base their daily actions on love. Imagine a morning commute that has drivers being courteous to one another. Imagine a home where each person helps without having to be asked or reminded. Try following this command to the letter this week, and at the end, talk about the experience. Was it hard? Was it rewarding?

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

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples a mission to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. This mission continues. We're sent forth from every Mass with the words: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." To serve the Lord is to proclaim the Gospel. We're reminded on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord that this mission belongs to all who believe. Each day this week, spend a few minutes together talking about how your actions that day proclaimed the Gospel. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you discuss this principle and how it applies to all that you do.

?? 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!

Conversation Questions

- ☺ How does it feel to know that Jesus prays for each one of us?
- ☺ Who or what situations should be in our prayers this week?

Faith in Action

Jesus knew that the mission he gave us was not an easy one. That's why he prayed for us and sent his Holy Spirit to guide us. Join your prayers to his, asking God's wisdom and strength for those like yourself who are raising faith-filled children, those who teach the faith in our Catholic schools and parish programs, those who are discerning a vocation to ordained or consecrated life, and those who are drifting away from the faith. Continue to nurture your faith, to learn and grow in understanding of your baptismal calling, and to prepare yourself for the tough questions your child will one day ask.

? 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.

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!

Conversation Questions

☉ Wind and breath can be powerful and strong,
as well as soft and gentle. How does the Holy
Spirit work like this in my life?

☉ How can I help others in my family to be open to
the Holy Spirit and to offer peace and forgiveness?

Faith in Action

Do you know anyone who has been initiated into
the Church at Easter? Or a young person who
has celebrated his or her First Holy Communion?
What about any preteens who have been recently
confirmed? Pray for them and send them a card
with your well wishes as they join or become
more fully a part of the Church.

? 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.

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

- ☉ When Andrew and John met Jesus, they immediately wanted to follow him. Do we open our ears to hear, to listen deeply so we can give a positive response to God?
- ☉ Are our hearts and eyes wide open to recognize the presence of the Lord and hear him tell us, “Come and see”?

Faith in Action

This week, discuss the strengths and gifts you’ve seen in your family. Look for the big and small ways to use these talents to give glory to God. Discern together what God might be calling each of you, including your child, to do to serve others.

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus goes out to look for his followers. Do we let Jesus find us? Do we hear Jesus calling each of us by name?

☉ Are we brave enough to go out and look for others to know Jesus? What is our mission?

Faith in Action

Among the early Christians, the fish was a symbol of Jesus. You can still see this symbol today on jewelry, bumper stickers, car magnets, etc. It comes from an acrostic made from the Greek word for fish: ΙΧΘΥΣ. Each letter stands for a Greek word:

I (I) = Iesous (Jesus)

X (Ch) = Christos (Christ)

Θ (Th) = Theou (God's)

Υ (U) = Uios (Son)

Σ (S) = Soter (Savior)

Explain to your child that early Christians used the fish as a secret symbol so that other Christians could find them.

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.

? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ At what times in your life do you feel God's presence?
- ☉ In the face of all evil in the world right now, how much do we trust in God? Explain.

Faith in Action

Authority, authenticity, and author all share the same root word, which means “creator” and carries connotations of accepting responsibility for the content of that which is created. Jesus taught with authority, as author, the one responsible for the covenant, God. Authority and responsibility are both things with which people struggle. Discuss this week how you use authority and how you accept responsibility. What can you learn from Jesus about these two things? Discuss how you honor the authority of others and pray for and support those with great responsibility. What can Jesus teach you about this? If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

Psalms 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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. Peter's mother-in-law began to serve once she was healed. Are our lives a service to God and to our brothers and sisters?

☉ Jesus is also aware of his mission through prayer, and he takes time to pray. How often have we prayed for healing body and soul and for guidance?

Faith in Action

At every stage of life, each of us makes important decisions that have an impact on us and those around us. Teach your child that we all need quiet reflection and prayer before these important decisions are made. We can call on the Holy Spirit, or God the Father, or Jesus Christ to help guide us. You might share some crossroads or key decisions you have made and how prayer helped guide you in making a decision.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46

Psalms 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

- ☉ Who are the “lepers” of modern society? Who is ostracized, marginalized, ignored?
- ☉ Are we truly open to being more like Jesus if it means reaching out and “touching” the individuals we usually avoid?

Faith in Action

Sometimes, whether intentionally or unintentionally, people who have serious illnesses are treated like outcasts by others in the community. People might not know how to act around a person with cancer or someone who has recently had an amputation, for example, and so they stay away. Consider visiting a seriously ill person with your child (after you have checked with their family that they are well enough for visitors). Demonstrate through your actions that even though the person might have a breathing tube or might be in a wheelchair, there is nothing to fear about the person. Becoming comfortable with people who are sick or disabled at a young age will help your child to grow into a caring adult.

?? 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.

there. Who are some people we know who need our help and care? How can we show our concern for them?

☉ Jesus first says to the man, “Your sins are forgiven.” What actions or words have we committed that need forgiveness? When we have done something wrong, how do we feel when we have said, “I’m sorry,” and received forgiveness?

Faith in Action

Sometimes wrong actions and mean words burden us and make us feel worried or sad about how we have behaved. Make a habit of asking for and giving forgiveness. Choose a time that your whole family may gather together for prayer. Begin by naming one blessing you received or one good action or word you shared with someone that day. After each statement pray, “I/We thank you God” (or something similar). Then invite each person to share a time when they have not done what is right or good. After each statement pray, “I’m sorry. Please forgive me” (or something similar). Be aware that there will be times when no one has anything to share. Participating in this examination every day can help all family members become more aware of the need to make good choices.

?? 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

☉ Jesus cured the man who could not walk. The man was able to reach Jesus because his friends loved him and cared enough for him to carry him

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.

?? 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!

Conversation Questions

☉ Today's Gospel talks about rules and changing the rules. What are some of the rules followed in your family? Is there ever a time when those rules change or exceptions are made? What is the purpose or reason for the rules you follow?

☉ What are some of the rules of the Catholic faith? Choose one or two of the commandments we follow and talk with your family about how you follow those rules. How might you improve how you obey God's rules?

Faith in Action

Catholics practice seven works of mercy that include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, giving shelter to the stranger, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. This week, choose one or more of these works for your family to practice. Ideas include donating clothing or food, serving food at a soup kitchen, visiting a friend or fellow parishioner who is ill and homebound, or visiting a loved one's burial place. Jesus invites us to follow these rules for Christian living that help those in need and bring joy to our lives.

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.

Conversation Questions

☉ The Gospel says the Sabbath was made for the good of the people. Just as God rested at the end of the work of creation, so we too rest at the end of our week. It is our opportunity to offer ourselves and our work to God in his honor and to praise him. How does your family observe the Sabbath (Lord's Day)?

☉ Jesus and his followers were doing things on the Sabbath that were against the rules. Jesus gave an example of King David breaking a rule that helped his people. Can you break a rule in order to do good or help someone? Is the answer to this question different depending on the situation?

Faith in Action

The Gospel tells of a time when King David of Israel broke a rule in order to feed his hungry men. Although Sunday should be a day of rest, some people do important work every day. How do doctors, police officers, firefighters, nurses, service workers, etc., help the lives of other people? Pray for all who spend part of their Sunday working for the good of others. Remember that their good work can be a form of prayer and a way of praising God.

?? 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.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:9–15

Psalm 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus says that if we obey God we are part of his family. In addition to our families, the people in our parish are members of God’s family. Think of people in your parish. What is one quality each has that you can emulate to become a better Christian?

☉ Our family teaches us about God and helps us obey God. Our godparents were chosen by our parents to help with this responsibility. Why did you choose the godparents for your child? How have they helped your child know and obey God?

Faith in Action

At Baptism we are welcomed into a community of faith—the family of God. Reflect with your child by looking at his or her baptismal photos, candle, and the garment. You might show your child the cards or gifts that he or she received. Consider inviting the godparents to a special dinner. Talk about how they and their faith have grown since the day of their Baptism.

? 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.

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ What does “thy kingdom come” mean?
Why do we pray for God’s Kingdom to come?

☉ What are we called to do to build God’s
Kingdom on earth?

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.

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ God always responds to our cries for help, but perhaps not always in ways that we expect. We must have faith when Jesus seems “asleep” or silent during the crisis we’re experiencing. How might we try to look at situations through the lens of God?

☉ Does knowing that Jesus is right there with us help us to feel less afraid?

Faith in Action

In some parts of the world, hailstorms, tornadoes, or other extreme weather might be causing damage to life and property. Talk with your child about how you can donate some money, canned goods, blankets, and other supplies to a relief effort. Perhaps your family can take a trip to the local historical museum to see images of a major catastrophe that struck your area. Discuss how the community came together to rebuild. Invite your children to explore ways of helping other children restore their lives so that they become Jesus who calms the storms for others.

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 does Jesus' action of restoring Jairus' daughter to life teach us about our life in the family? our life in the community?
- ☉ Meditate on today's Gospel and identify with Jairus or his sick daughter. Keep your focus on Jesus and on his deep compassion and healing power. How does this awareness of God's power to bring life offer hope in a world of suffering?

Faith in Action

Jesus performed many miracles during his time on earth that helped people come to believe. Miraculous events have happened through the intercession of the saints as well. Read your child stories of these miracles this week. Plenty of illustrated children's books about Jesus' miracles (such as *The Miracles of Jesus* by Tomie dePaola) and about saints' lives are available in your local public or parish libraries.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ In today's Gospel, the Nazoreans exclaim, "How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles?" In the same way, we express our indignation by asking, "Who does that person think he is?" Have we ever paused to consider why we might feel jealous or begrudging toward someone else? How might we be better at not being judgmental?

☉ How does having faith in God change the way that we think and act?

Faith in Action

Your child likely has a lot of questions about God (and everything else!) at this age. Answering theological questions can be hard, but instead of brushing them off, write them down and seek answers from the Bible, from Scripture studies, or from your parish leaders. Children are little theologians, and engaging seriously with their questions will help them grow in faith.

?? Did You Know?

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

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.

Conversation Questions

- ☺ Who tells us about God? How well do we listen to them?
- ☺ How might we tell other people about God? How do we do this by our actions? by our words?

Faith in Action

We are dismissed from Mass to go and preach the Good News to all. Learn more about the Church’s evangelization efforts today and find out how your family may get involved. Go online to learn more about Catholic World Mission, an organization that supports the mission of the Catholic Church to empower the poor and spread the Gospel: <https://catholicworldmission.org/evangelization/>. Or ask your parish leadership for suggestions on ways your family may participate in evangelization efforts.

?? 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.

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 may we take time with God to restore our inner sense of peace when we are feeling angry or overstimulated?
- ☉ How does regaining our own inner peace help us to reach out to others in peace?

Faith in Action

Consider taking time apart as a family for a retreat. Ask your parish for recommendations for organized family retreats, or plan a day apart from work, TV, cell phones, and other distractions in order to enjoy one another's company and talk about your family's strengths and challenges.

?? 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

- ☉ What gifts and talents does each family member have to offer Jesus?
- ☉ 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

Recognize the gifts that each of your family members brings to the table this week. Be sure to recognize the contributions your children make to your family life. Thank each member of your family for sharing their gifts. Take time each day this week to give thanks to God in prayer for the gifts he has bestowed on your family.

?? 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

- ☉ What do you say to God when you pray? How do you listen to God when you hear Bible readings or prayers?
- ☉ We say prayers of thanks to God. Besides saying “thank you,” what are some ways we can thank God by our actions?

Faith in Action

Can you integrate prayer into your everyday tasks or routine? When you wake in the morning, perhaps you can say a morning offering. There are several versions available online. You can print one to tape onto your bathroom mirrors so everyone can learn this daily dedication of oneself to God.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How many ways does God nourish us, both physically and spiritually?
- ☉ How do you share God's love with others? Do you have to be talking about God to share his love?

Faith in Action

Human beings need many forms of nourishment, such as food, water, encouragement, love, guidance, and hope. Often human beings are lacking in the nonphysical needs. Do you know of anyone who is lacking in a spiritual need that you can fulfill, such as offering friendship or help? Share your experiences and thank God for nourishing you so that you can nourish others. Seek nourishment from God often so that you will be able to help those who hunger for him.

?? 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.

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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Some say we are what we eat. What does this say about who we are as Christians when we eat and drink Christ's Body and Blood?

☉ What do you know about heaven? What do you think it will be like?

Faith in Action

Because Jesus has given us himself as true food and true drink, we are sent forth to be Christ-like in our actions, fed by Jesus Christ. Teach your child the importance of caring for those in need, and collect food for a local food bank. Emphasize that Jesus feeds us so that we may grow closer to him and be more like him.

Or take your child to your parish church while Mass is not being held (arrive early or stay a few minutes after Mass). Visit the tabernacle, and genuflect before it. Kneel in a pew near the tabernacle and ask your child to offer any prayer intentions. Pray in thanksgiving for God's nearness in the gift of the Eucharist.

? 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.

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

Most children have questions about Jesus. Answer the questions as best you can. This week, choose a Gospel and read to your child about Jesus' life. After reading the Gospel passages, ask your child the following questions:

- ☉ What does Jesus say about God?
- ☉ How does Jesus treat others? How can we be more like Jesus in our action?

Faith in Action

People come and go in our lives. True friends, however, stay with us through times of scandal and loneliness. Jesus experienced those times. Foster the virtues of understanding, patience, trust, and commitment in your family, because they build solid family relationships and friendships. Ask family members who are true friends and who are “fair-weather” friends. Discuss why some people remain loyal and why others leave when the going gets tough. Then, read John 6:60–69. Ask how Jesus must have felt when his followers left him. Ask how Jesus felt when Simon Peter said he would stay. Finish with a prayer for true friends and forgiveness for those who don't stay with us.

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Virtues are morally good practices. What virtues can you see in yourself? What virtues do you want to cultivate in yourself?

☉ Many people show virtues when others are watching. Who do you see practicing virtues even when others may not notice? How does that make you feel about that person?

Faith in Action

The Letter of James tells us that our faith should lead us to caring for those in need and not allowing ourselves to be conformed to the world. Your family can work together to assist others in need. Inquire with the St. Vincent de Paul Society or another organization that helps families in need. Make a plan to involve your entire family in a service project.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:4–7a

Psalm 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

- ☉ When you hear about Jesus' miracles, what does that tell you about him?
- ☉ If you were the person healed, how would you feel?
- ☉ What are some ways we can enhance our home with positive sounds?

Faith in Action

Discuss the isolation experienced by those who cannot hear, and resolve to be more patient with those who frequently ask you to repeat things. Learn to communicate a few words in American Sign Language. Resources are available online. Learn to sign a prayer, and add it to your family's daily prayer time. Many insurance companies don't cover hearing aids, and assistance programs for the poor can't provide the best quality devices. Several charitable groups, including Lions Club International, have funding campaigns to refurbish state-of-the-art hearing aids for low-income people who need them. Find out how you can help.

?? 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

- ☉ Are there times in our lives when we choose the easier, more comfortable route or give in to temptations instead of being faithful to God?
- ☉ During those moments, how do we try to make the right choice?

Faith in Action

Using media about saints who persevered in suffering, discuss with your child what grave suffering these holy men and women endured. Note how the saints persevered in the suffering. (Find resources at your parish or public library.)

?? Did You Know?

. . . that many great saints have at times experienced some challenges and difficulties? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Jesus' disciples argued over which of them was the greatest. Do we ever think of ourselves as better than other people?
- ☉ When do we act with self-importance or show off? How could we act with humility instead?

Faith in Action

Think of people who have recently shown their love and kindness for you or your family. Have your child help you make simple thank-you packages for them. You'll need brown lunch bags, decorating materials, pens and card stock, and imagination. Have your child suggest what might go inside the bags for each person. Your child can decorate the bags and help deliver them.

?? 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!

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.

Conversation Questions

☉ What are some of God’s rules for us? Do you think that the world would be a better place if everyone followed his rules all the time? Why?

☉ Everyone has an easier time with some of God’s rules than others. Some people are not jealous, while others find fairness to be easy. What rules are easy for you, and which ones are difficult? (Talk about ways that your family may support one another with those that are more difficult to follow.)

Faith in Action

What rules do you enforce at home? Rules are meant to keep us safe and to ensure that the home environment is orderly and that members of the family can live peaceably and fairly with one another. Talk with your child about rules, both at home and at school. Then talk about rules we follow in the wider world. Discuss the Ten Commandments in the context of living at home, at school, and in the wider world. Teach your child that the world around us is a better place when we follow God’s rules for us.

? 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.

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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ In our family, how do we recognize one another's human dignity?
- ☉ If you were to list the ways people should respect one another, what would be on the list?

Faith in Action

Relationships are a critical aspect of the Kingdom of God; in fact, they are right at the core of what the Kingdom of God is. This week, reflect on your relationships. Ask yourself: What relationships are fruitful, life-giving, and positive? What makes them good and positive? What relationships in my life are strained and need some more attention? In what ways can I work on nurturing these relationships to be more life giving?

?? 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.

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

☉ Did the rich man in today’s Gospel have to stay sad, or was there a way he could follow God, if he so chose?

☉ How can you follow Jesus’ teaching every day?

Faith in Action

Jesus challenged the rich man in this Sunday’s Gospel to take a hard look at his priorities. Jesus challenges us in a different way, perhaps by asking us to give up attitudes of perfectionism, not to work too much, or not to be distracted from following him. As a family, look at your priorities, and find one thing that keeps you from doing something that you know you should do for God or for one another. Make a change, just for this week. At the end of the week, discuss the impact of this change on your relationship with God.

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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Do you find it easier to serve others or let others sometimes serve you?
- ☉ What did you think about the disciples' reaction to James' and John's request?

Faith in Action

As a family, resolve to perform an act of service together. Your parish bulletin or office might be good sources of ideas, or inquire about any service projects in the community. Assist in a soup kitchen by wiping tables, help hand out groceries at a food pantry, visit a nursing home to sing a few songs with residents, or engage in some other charitable activity. Do this out of love for Jesus, and ask if you may pray with those you're helping. Afterward, have your family share their thoughts and reactions on the experience. Did they feel like they were heeding Jesus' call to serve others?

? 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.

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are the gifts you have, and how can you use them to serve God and others?
- ☉ How would you respond if Jesus asked you, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Faith in Action

Discuss with your child how serving others is a way we respond to Jesus' call and one way we use the gifts God gave us. The actions do not need to be dramatic or attention grabbing; indeed, we can keep the work quiet and humble. Each family member can write down a gift he or she has that he or she will concentrate on using to serve other family members this week. Each person can record this gift on a piece of paper and fold it for privacy. (You can help your child with his or her resolution.) Place the folded slips on your prayer table, so there is a visible reminder of this commitment.

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

- ☉ How is being a Catholic Christian important to you?
- ☉ What type of person do you find it most difficult to love? How might you go about trying to love this person?

Faith in Action

Make it a movie night at home. Watch the film *Remember the Titans* (PG), starring Denzel Washington and Will Patton. This sports drama is about a West Virginia high school that has recently been integrated. Washington plays a football coach who is newly hired to lead a team of both white and black players who initially do not like each other. Talk about a scene in which the boys are on an early morning run. They stop at the field where the Battle of Gettysburg was fought. The coach tells his players that they may hate each other, but they will respect one another. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus instructs us to love the Lord God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Discuss whether any of the characters adhere to the Great Commandment.

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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ If you had money to give to any group or charity, to whom would you give it?
- ☉ Money isn't the only gift we have to offer others. What else can you give in love?

Faith in Action

This week, compile a list of extra chores your child can complete for payment. Explain that the money they earn will be donated to a specific Catholic parish or charity. If it is reasonable, check with friends and neighbors who might be willing to pay your child a small amount for completing simple jobs. At a specified end date, collect the money and make the donation together with your child.

?? 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.

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

☉ How do we focus on the important aspects of Christian life, such as loving God and caring for one another?

☉ The approaching season of Advent is a good time to change anything that does not help us anticipate Jesus’ coming in power and glory. What can we ask God to help change about ourselves during these last days of Ordinary Time?

Faith in Action

Caring for God’s creation is an important undertaking; foster your child’s love and appreciation of the world around you. Plan an excursion to a local nature preserve, aquarium, or planetarium, or take a nature walk in your own yard. Talk about what you see, touch, and smell and how you feel when beholding God’s creation.

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

☉ What are the responsibilities of a king?
How does Jesus exceed such expectations?

☉ In what ways do we each use our own power
and love to bring about God's Kingdom?

Faith in Action

Christ is King, and we want to be formed in his ways. This week, find Scripture stories on Jesus Christ's life and ministry. Commit to reading a chapter or page each night. Discuss how the Gospel message and themes can be applied in your own lives.

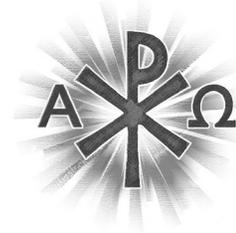
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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

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 calls Jesus “a light to the nations.” How is Jesus like a light for all people?

☉ When you were baptized you were given a lighted candle representing the light of Christ. How can you live in the light of Christ? How do you share this light with others?

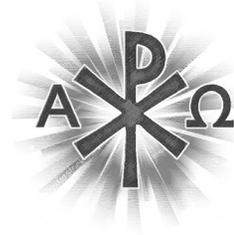
Faith in Action

How will you know if you are living in the light of Christ? As a family, draw and cut out paper flames. Invite each person in your family to talk about what he/she has done in the past week to share their light (talents, resources, abilities) with others. Write (or draw) these things on the paper flames. Throughout the week, add to these paper flames. At the end of the week, say a prayer together asking Jesus to show you the way to always be a light to others.

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

☉ Mary and Joseph found Jesus talking and listening to the learned men in the Temple. Jesus said, he belonged “in my father’s house.” What did Jesus mean by these words? Who was Jesus calling “father”? What work was Jesus doing when he talked with the men?

☉ Mary and Joseph were amazed that their young son was showing that he was truly God’s Son. Yet, Jesus returned home with them, and lived with and respected them for almost twenty years. What example did Jesus set for how we should live in our families?

Faith in Action

St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Each day this week when you gather for dinner or before bedtime think of the work done by people you know. Begin with your family but extend it to friends and neighbors. Choose one occupation each day and pray for that group of people. It can take the form of a litany like “For all teachers, who inspire children, we pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord hear our prayer,*” or you can use your own form that suits your family. All work is holy and helps build God’s Kingdom. The people who do this work need our prayers.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

March 25



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10

Psalm 40:7–8, 8–9, 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

☉ Mary's yes to God's desire for her to become the mother of Jesus took faith and courage. What are the kinds of things God asks of us? Do we answer yes or no?

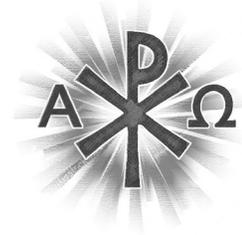
☉ The angel tells Mary, "Nothing is impossible for God." Do you believe that? When have you seen God do the impossible?

Faith in Action

The Annunciation is one of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. These five events—The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, and The Finding of Jesus in the Temple—focus on important moments in the lives of Mary and Jesus. As a family, pray the entire rosary together or do a decade each night. As you pray each decade of the rosary announce each event and think about it as you pray. You can find instructions on how to pray the rosary on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

Psalm 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

- ☉ What images do you conjure about the Father? the Son? the Holy Spirit?
- ☉ Which Person of God do you relate to the most and why?

Faith in Action

Explain to your child that St. Patrick used a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. Help your child draw a three-leaf clover, labeling each leaf “Father,” “Son,” and “Holy Spirit.” Talk about the Trinity as mystery. Help your child to know that no matter how much we think or say about God, we will never fully understand everything because God’s mystery is infinite.

?? 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

Psalms 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

Talk with your child about why he or she is not yet able to receive the Eucharist. Explain that the Eucharist is so important in our lives, but that we need to get ready by learning about God and praying before we can receive it. You might talk about your own experience of First Communion and what receiving the Body and Blood of Christ means for you.

Faith in Action

If your parish has a Corpus Christi procession, attend with your child. Children love processions, and participating in one on today's solemnity is an excellent way to show him or her its meaning and importance. Or attend Eucharistic adoration with your child. If time is short, make a prayer visit to the Blessed Sacrament in your own church. Explain to your child why we kneel before the Blessed Sacrament: we are thanking God for the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

?? Did You Know?

... that on this solemnity, the community of faith often processes with the Blessed Sacrament?

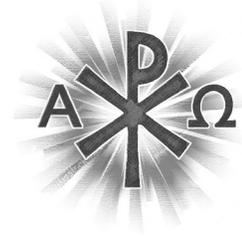
At the end of Mass, the priest places the Body of Christ in a display vessel called a monstrance.

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

- ☉ How often does your family celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation? Talk about how you can take advantage of this gift of grace.
- ☉ When Jesus was dying the people who loved him were very sad. They did not like to see him suffer. Are there people we know who are suffering? For whom should we pray?

Faith in Action

Throughout our days we frequently encounter times when we need to ask forgiveness for something we've done wrong or offer our forgiveness to someone who has wronged us. Forgiveness helps us to find our way back to God. Every day this week, gather as a family to review your day. As part of your prayer, include the things for which you want to be forgiven or ask for the grace to forgive another. Children and parents can share their faults and failings. Hearing that adults struggle with similar types of issues can be good role-modeling for children.

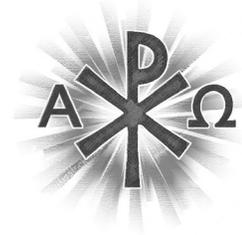
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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

Psalms 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

☉ The same angel, Gabriel, appeared to Zechariah and to Mary. He said the same words to both, “Do not be afraid.” Do you turn to God for comfort when you are afraid?

☉ John the Baptist told everyone to prepare their lives and hearts to receive the Lord. How do you prepare yourself for prayer or church so that when you are praying, you are ready to welcome Christ?

Faith in Action

Historically, many countries celebrate this feast day of St. John the Baptist with outdoor traditions because it close in date to the summer solstice. These include bonfires, sweet treats made with honey (that John ate in the desert) and beautiful garlands made from summer blooms. Plan to have a family meal outside around the barbeque and include honey-based treats for dessert. Take time to thank God for the different seasons and all of creation. Ask each person at your meal to say one way that he or she has prepared the way for God this past week or how your family can plan to do so in the coming week.

**Please note that your child's session will have focused on Luke 1:5–17, the reading found in the Lectionary for Masses with Children. This is different from what is used during Mass, which is taken from the standard Lectionary for Mass.*

? 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 (5b)

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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Peter, the “rock,” was called by God to be the first Pope. Each Pope after him continues the work of spreading the Good News and helping people come to faith. How do you help in this mission of the whole Church?
- ☉ What are some things that get in the way of us spreading the Good News?

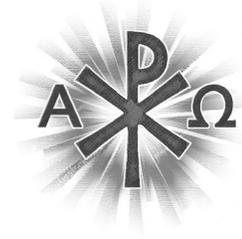
Faith in Action

This feast of Sts. Peter and Paul reminds us of the continuing work done by the pope today and the mission to spread the Good News with everyone we meet. With the proceeds from the collection known as Peter’s Pence, the pope has the resources to assist those around the world who are victims of war, oppression, natural disasters and disease. We are called as Christians to care for others, especially those who have no advocate. In our caring acts, we act as witnesses of the love of God to others. As a family, choose one way to spread the Good News of Jesus through an act of charity. Talk about why you will choose a particular organization to support or activity to participate in as a family. How do these actions show other people God’s love?

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

☉ Jesus went to the top of a mountain and took three of his best friends with him. He would take the same three friends with him to the Garden of Olives before he was arrested. Who is always with you in good times and in bad?

☉ We hear God say, “Listen to what he says.” Invite each family member to think of some of the words of Jesus that are important to them. Talk about what they mean and why they are important. It is important to listen but also to do what Jesus says. How can we act on the words of Jesus?

Faith in Action

Singing Scripture is a wonderful way for children to memorize, internalize, and understand God’s Word. Ask your pastor or director of religious education for resources and recommendations to help your child learn more Scripture passages or stories through song.

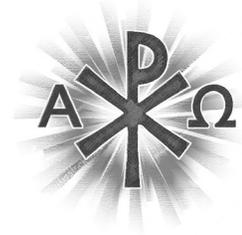
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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

Psalm 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

☉ What do you find most remarkable about the Virgin Mary? What questions do you have about her?

☉ We don't know much about Mary's childhood. What would you want to know about her childhood?

☉ If you could have a conversation with Mary, what would you say to her? What questions would you ask her and why?

Faith in Action

Mary was young and not yet married when she assented to become the mother of God's Son. Being pregnant and unmarried would have had major social consequences for her and probably would have cost her her life had she not had Joseph's support and strong faith in God's plan. How do you help women say yes to life? Inquire at your parish office about projects or programs that help young women with children. Go to the USCCB's pro-life page to learn more: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/index.cfm>. Check your attic and basement for baby items in good condition that are no longer being used, and ask your friends and family to do the same. Collect and donate these items to an organization that helps women in need.

?? 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 78:1–2, 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

- ☉ When you see a cross, how can you maintain a reverential attitude toward it?
- ☉ The sign of the cross reminds us that the saving act of Jesus is imprinted on our bodies. Do you begin and end each prayer with this sign? Is it just a routine act or do you consider it a prayer in itself?

Faith in Action

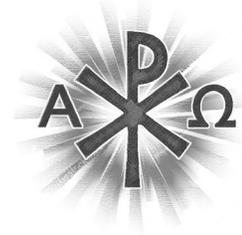
Spend time this week reflecting on the ways in which your family prays with a cross or crucifix. Do you have a crucifix in your home? This is a cross that bears the form of Jesus on it. Do you have a cross in your home? Where is your cross or crucifix? Having it in a living room or dining room can help the whole family make the cross a more central part of prayer. Gather before the cross or crucifix every time you pray as a family this week. Have a different family member begin the prayer each day by reflecting on the cross in their life that day.

?? 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

☉ How were you named? Were you named for a saint?

☉ Who is a saint to whom you feel particularly close? Why?

☉ The Beatitudes give us much to think about in how we live our lives. Do we truly hunger and thirst for all that is good? Do we show mercy to those who need it? Are we peacemakers? How might we live more according to the Beatitudes?

Faith in Action

Select a children's book about a saint, and show your child how each saint began life just like any other average child—growing up and learning every day how to grow closer to God. Make sure your child sees how human the saints were, emphasizing that they were ordinary men, women, and children who had extraordinary love for God and others.

?? 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 (1) (4ab) or 25:6 and 7b, 17–18, 20–21 (1) (3a) or 27:1, 4, 7, 8b, 9a, 13–14 (1a) (13)

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

☉ Jesus comforted the widow of Nain when she lost her son. Jesus continues to comfort us through the kind words and actions of our family and friends. Has your family lost someone beloved? Talk about how friends and other loved ones comforted you. Have you had the opportunity to comfort others? What did you do?

☉ The Feast of All Saints precedes the Feast of All Souls. Discuss with your family who their favorite saint is. Are the people in your family named after saints? Research the life of that saint. Saints are also patrons of certain occupations. Name the occupations in your family, including student, and find out who your patron saint is.

Faith in Action

Participate in a special Mass of Remembrance of prayer service on All Souls’ Day.

**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

- ☉ The word “church” can be used to describe the building and the people who are part of the Christian family. How would you explain the difference between the two? Are there similarities?
- ☉ How does your family welcome Jesus and make him a part of your everyday life?

Faith in Action

The basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome, the church of the bishop of Rome, the pope. This church is steeped in history and is a significant building in our history. You can make an online virtual tour of this beautiful basilica. Closer to home, plan a trip to the cathedral in your diocese. While you are there, learn about its history, special architecture and art, and your bishop. Take a few moments to pray for the pope, the bishops, and all who lead the Church. Pray also for yourself and all who work every day to build up the Body of Christ.

**Please note that your child's session will have focused on Luke 19:1–10, the reading found in the Lectionary for Masses with Children. This is different from what is used during Mass, which is taken from the standard Lectionary for Mass.*

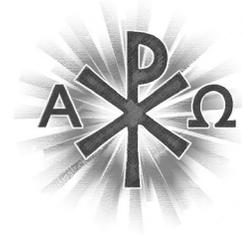
? Did You Know?

. . . 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

- ☉ Why is Mary special to us Catholics?
- ☉ When Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said,” she meant it with her whole heart. What are some ways we can show that we are the servants of the Lord during Advent?

Faith in Action

To be chosen by God for a particular task is an awesome thing. That is why we honor Mary, the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. We believe that each of us is chosen by God in particular and important ways and that he has given each of us gifts and talents to share with the world. Together, reflect on Mary’s humble response to God’s call. Pray as a family that each person be like Mary and respond to God with a resounding yes by using their gifts and talents to serve others in both large and small ways. Conclude by praying together the Hail Mary, or pray a decade of the Rosary, reflecting on the Joyful Mystery of the Annunciation.

?? 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.