

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

- ☺ In this week's Gospel, we learned that it is important to "Be watchful! Be alert!" to prepare our lives for God. Name someone you know who is watchful and alert and is doing Jesus' work. How does that person do Jesus' work?
- ☺ What would you do or say to welcome Jesus? What would you tell him about yourself?

Faith in Action

If you do not have an Advent calendar at home, download one or use a template to make your own. Mark down on your calendar the times of Sunday Mass your family will attend, prayers at home, service opportunities, family traditions (such as putting up the Christmas tree), and so on. Ask your child for his or her ideas to add to the calendar.

?? 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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ How is our family preparing the way of the Lord during this Advent season?

☉ Talk about your Baptisms, where you were baptized, and who your godparents are.

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.

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

☉ What is the difference between how John baptizes and how Jesus baptizes?

☉ In today's Gospel John defines himself negatively three times: I am not the Messiah; I am not Elijah; I am not the Prophet. What do these three denials tell us about who John is?

Faith in Action

Spread joy this week by singing Christmas carols at a nursing home or community center with your family, neighbors, or church friends. Make an appointment with the service coordinator. Organize a festive party afterward and create an atmosphere of fellowship and care. Sit and talk with the residents or play games.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29 (2a)

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What did we do together that helped us to stay awake and anticipate the coming of the Lord this Advent season?
- ☉ 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

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. Tell your family how important it is to remember to thank God for their blessings and gifts always.

?? 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

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

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

☉ God is great, and yet, God took the form of a little baby to be with us. I wonder why God wanted to be with us.

☉ Do you think Mary and Joseph and the angels and shepherds recognized who Jesus was? [the Savior]

Faith in Action

Sometimes it can be difficult to manage all of the commercial aspects of Santa and presents with the spiritual message of the season. Christmas is full of family traditions. This year, you may want to research some of your family's ethnic traditions and start some new ways to celebrate in a meaningful way. By making subtle choices, you can integrate your faith into the celebrations. It can be as simple as choosing religious Christmas music instead of secular. Attending Mass with your family is a very special tradition. Most Catholic churches have special liturgies for families with young children on Christmas Eve. When you make your faith an important part of the season, your children will see that and respond with great joy! Merry Christmas!

Living the Liturgy at Home

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



Scripture Readings

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

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

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

Luke 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☉ How does our family resolve conflict and show forgiveness toward one another? Do we treat everyone in our family with dignity and respect?

☉ 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

When tough decisions have to be made, how are they made in your family? Are issues brought to prayer? Are trusted family members, friends, or colleagues consulted? How is this process communicated to children and are older children invited into the process? How we model bringing God into our everyday lives speaks volumes to young children.

**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.*

?? 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.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1



Scripture Readings

Numbers 6:22–27

Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:16–21

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are some of your favorite titles for Mary? Why do you think we honor Mary with so many different names?
- ☉ What are some ways that Mary helps us to come closer to Jesus?

Faith in Action

This week's Gospel spoke about the Blessed Mother and how she reflected in her heart. God's grace fills our lives with many wonderful things. Make a "blessings board" at home. Every day, write down one blessing (small or large) for which you are grateful. Next Sunday, look at your blessing board and thank God for everything on it. Erase it and start again. Invite your child to contribute to the blessings board.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ During Christmas Time, how have you been led closer to Jesus?
- ☉ The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus. If you were to join them, what gifts would you bring to Jesus?

Faith in Action

Use this traditional Epiphany blessing at home. Gather your family at the front door and lead them in praying the Our Father. Then write [first two digits of the calendar year] + C + M + B + [last two digits of the calendar year] above the doorway in chalk. The numbers stand for the numbers of the new year, and the letters stand for the first initials of the names of the three Wise Men. Conclude by singing “We Three Kings” or another favorite Christmas song together.

?? 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 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

- ☉ In Jesus' day, baptism was done in a stream, river, or lake. How does the Church baptize people today?
- ☉ When you were baptized, your parents and godparents promised on your behalf that you would be a faithful member of God's family, to live a model Christian life by God's Word and by Christ's example, to proclaim this faith to others, and to work for justice and peace. In what ways do you live out these baptismal promises each day?

Faith in Action

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

?? 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

Psalms 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (see 10)

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:12–15

Prayer before a Crucifix

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What leads you to temptation? How can we help one another overcome temptations?
- ☉ What can we give up or do differently in order to grow closer to God during Lent?

Faith in Action

Discuss ways your family can intentionally pray more often during the season of Lent. Suggested ways are to gather at church for Stations of the Cross, for praying the Rosary, for a First Friday Mass, or for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Consult your parish bulletin or website for ideas on how to pray within a community setting.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Second Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13,
15–18

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

Romans 8:31b–34

Mark 9:2–10

Prayer before a Crucifix

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How is our family taking the time to listen to the Word of God this Lent?
- ☉ Do we need to be shown something in order for us to be impressed enough to believe it? How do images help us to know something?

Faith in Action

Choose a way to pray more often this Lent. Consult your parish bulletin or website for prayer opportunities. Explore a different devotion every week.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Exodus 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8, 12–17

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

1 Corinthians 1:22–25

John 2:13–25

Prayer before a Crucifix

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

Conversation Questions

☉ 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.

☉ Jesus wanted to be sure that people were worshiping God and learning about him in the Temple. What things can we do in church to make sure we are paying attention to worshiping and learning about God?

Faith in Action

Talk to your child about when you were in religious education or attending a Catholic school. What were some teachings of Jesus that impressed you? Did you have a favorite Bible story? What images of Jesus were popular then? Were there any songs at Mass that you really liked? Ask your child these same questions after you share.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

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

Prayer before a Crucifix

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

Conversation Questions

- ☺ God loves us so much he gave us Jesus. Based on God's love for us, how should we live? Is it easy to live up to this 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

This week, you might read or retell the story of *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown. Point out that no matter what the young bunny does to hide, the mother finds him. Talk about how God is like the mother in this story. No matter what we do to hide, God, who never gives up on us, is still there.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31–34

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.

?? 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.

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?

☉ In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Whoever serves me must follow me." How can you follow Jesus? What things can you do to serve Jesus?

Faith in Action

Is there someone in your family who has served in the name of the Lord? If so, tell this story to your family. If not, lead a discussion about a saint who served the poor, such as St. John of God, St. Frances Cabrini, or St. Vincent de Paul. Talk about how Jesus tells us that God will honor whoever serves him. If you are involved in ministry at your church, talk to your child about why you serve. Discuss how doing simple things well is a service to God. St. Thérèse of Lisieux dedicated herself to doing little things to please God. Even returning a library book on time pleases God. Little things make a difference.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4–7

Psalms 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

☉ What are your reflections on Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us?

☉ Talk with your child about Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Faith in Action

The liturgies of the Triduum (the “three days”) are the highest holy days on the church calendar. Plan to attend at least one of these liturgies as a family. Check your parish bulletin or website for Mass times for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night where adults from RCIA come into full communion with the Church.

You can also find many demonstration videos online showing how to fold palm leaves into crosses, flowers, and other decorations. Doing this together as a family can start a Palm Sunday tradition that will be cherished for years to come. While browsing online show your child what palm trees look like in the Holy Land.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper



Scripture Readings

Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14

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

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–15

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How does receiving the Eucharist (or going to Mass, for young children who don't receive the Eucharist) help prepare us to serve others?
- ☉ How can we serve others in our work or when we are at school?

Faith in Action

Hands-on service is vital in family life. We serve each other every day, from serving meals to homework help, yard – and housework, and other daily chores. Be more mindful about how you serve one another at home. Decide as a family how you can you follow Jesus' example in your parish or community.

? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalms 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16,
17, 25

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1—19:42

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☉ The passion and death of Jesus is a sad story.
What was an especially sad part for you?

☉ What about this story gives you cause to hope?

Faith in Action

Obtain a children's Stations of the Cross book (or create one to view together with your child by finding images online). After you have prayed the Stations as a family, lead the following discussion. Jesus places his life into God's hands on Good Friday and sacrifices himself so that our union with God may be restored. We can place our lives into God's hands, too, by becoming aware of the work of God around us. Did you notice a loving or kind act today? Did a scene from nature move you toward peacefulness? Did you show or receive compassion from another? Ask your family members where they have seen God today in their everyday lives.

? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Easter Vigil



Scripture Readings

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

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

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

☉ At the Easter Vigil, people are baptized into
new life in Christ. We may not remember our own
Baptism, but we are invited to renew our baptismal
promises. What is one way we can say yes to God
this week?

Faith in Action

Easter is such an important feast that we
celebrate for fifty days—even longer than we
prepared during Lent. The first eight days is
called the octave of Easter. During the octave,
we celebrate each day as though it were Easter
Sunday. During the octave, keep the celebration
going! You might sing Alleluias before bedtime
or read the Resurrection stories aloud from the
Bible (there are four accounts). You could also
spread secular activities, like egg hunts and
spring crafts, over the course of the eight days
to show that our joy is too profound to be con-
tained to a single day.

? Did You Know?

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

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!

? 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!

Conversation Questions

☉ God promises us new 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? Would you have believed that Christ had risen?

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 today. 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.*

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

- ☉ What does it mean to believe in something? How can you believe in something you can't physically see?
- ☉ 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 them share how they can practice mercy.
- ☉ When do we experience the presence of Christ with our senses?

Faith in Action

Many sacraments are celebrated during the Easter season, such as Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Marriages, and Ordinations. If you know someone who will be celebrating this year, discuss as a family how you will help that person to celebrate and continue to grow in their faith. Share stories and/or photos from your own celebrations.

? 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!

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

☺ How might you become a peace builder—in the ways you speak or act toward others at home? at school? in the workplace?

Faith in Action

Seek opportunities for the whole family to participate in outreach and be sure your child is included. Offer hospitality at home and assign a task of meal planning and decorations to each member. Or contact a local soup kitchen or food pantry and volunteer to help as a family. Talk afterward about how the experience brought about peace. Did each member think of themselves as peacemakers?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 4:8–12

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

1 John 3:1–2

John 10:11–18

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

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

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

Faith in Action

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 9:26–31

Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32
(26a)

1 John 3:18–24

John 15:1–8

Prayer

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

?? 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.

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

Help your child stay connected to Jesus by reading Bible stories on a regular basis. Assist your child in learning key Catholic prayers, such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Make Mass attendance a regular practice and use any liturgical handouts at Mass as a teaching aide for your child.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 (see 2b)

1 John 4:7–10

John 15:9–17

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do you define love? Do we feel like we are loved by God and others?
- ☉ Do we treat each other with mutual respect most of the time? When have we failed to do so?
- ☉ What might your last spoken words be to those you love?

Faith in Action

All the other laws in the world don't 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 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?

? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1–11

Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6)

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

Mark 16:15–20

Prayer

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

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ How can we join Jesus in his mission?
What are we called to do?

☉ How is our family spreading the
Gospel message?

Faith in Action

This week's Gospel reminds us of our mission to go and share all we know about Jesus and his teachings. If you need help in knowing what good things to share, review the Nicene Creed. This creed is our profession of faith—it is like our Catholic mission statement. Contact your parish priest or director of religious education for more guidance and resources.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Scripture Readings

Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26
Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20
(19a)
1 John 4:11–16
John 17:11b–19

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Jesus lived in the world but was not of the world. Do we live by the world’s standards or by God’s?
- ☉ How will we, as a family, make Christ’s intercession, “That they be one as we are one,” a reality?

Faith in Action

For what would you pray to ensure your child’s happiness? What do you hope for your child? Write down your prayers and hopes for your child. Share them during a special family meal or one on one at bedtime. Compare your prayers with Jesus’ prayer for his disciples in this Sunday’s Gospel. Are they similar or different?

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

☉ How do you imagine the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit help us?

☉ How are we being fruitful disciples of Jesus?

Faith in Action

Celebrate with your family and talk about how the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit have been present in your lives. Talk about your Confirmation and why you chose your particular saint name.

Be aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit this week. When you go out to a store or park or any other public area, ask your child to observe where they see joy, love, patience, and/or goodness. Talk about how these gifts are our reminder that the Holy Spirit is present with us.

**Please note that your child's session will have focused on John 20:19–23, the reading found in the Lectionary for Masses with Children. This is different from one of the options that could be used during Mass, which is taken from the standard Lectionary for Mass.*

? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do we help each other to discover what God is calling us to do? Do we encourage action once we know what God wants from us?
- ☉ How has your participation in the life of your parish helped you to come to know Jesus Christ?

Faith in Action

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

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

?? 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.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalms 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (4a)

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ When was the last time you were invited to try something new?
- ☉ In what ways are we trying to be good disciples of Jesus?

Faith in Action

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

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

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

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

Faith in Action

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6
(see 3a)

1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23

Mark 1:29–39

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How are you spreading the Gospel message in your actions without words, as Jesus heals in the Gospel today?
- ☉ Would people know that you and your family are Catholic Christians by the way you assist others in kindness and love?
- ☉ If you didn't use words, how would you communicate your care and concern for others?

Faith in Action

Find out who needs prayers for healing at church or at your child's school and then gather your family to decide what action you could take to assist them. Is there an organized way to get meals to the family? Could your family write a prayer, pray it, and then write it onto a card to send to that person? Take action!

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46

Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 11 (7)

1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1

Mark 1:40–45

Prayer

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

? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ The man with leprosy had faith that Jesus could heal him. How do you think the man felt once he was healed?

☉ Through Jesus, we can be forgiven even when we do something wrong. Why is it important to try to do better and not do things that are wrong, even though we know we can just be forgiven later?

Faith in Action

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus healed a leper and made him clean. Today the children made cutouts representing themselves in class. Put the cutout that your child made on a wall where your child can see it. Put a dry erase marker close by. Every time your child does something that he or she knows was wrong, invite your child to write or draw about it on the cutout. Once your child has said sorry to the person who he or she wronged and has prayed to God for forgiveness, help your child to wipe the cutout clean. Talk about how bad it can feel when we are carrying sin around inside of ourselves, and how good it feels when we are forgiven and have a new beginning.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:18–19, 21–22,
24b–25

Psalms 41:2–3, 4–5, 13–14 (5b)

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

Mark 2:1–12

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

☺ Who needs our help and care? How can we show our concern for them?

☺ What actions have we committed or what words have we said that need forgiveness? When we have done something wrong, how do we feel when we have confessed, "I'm sorry," and been forgiven?

Faith in Action

Visiting the sick is one of the corporal works of mercy, which are ways that we show Jesus' love to others. Jesus says that whenever we visit someone who is ill, we do it for him. As a family, visit an older relative, a homebound neighbor, or residents at a nursing home. With them, you might want to share something you like to do, such as a craft, a puzzle, or a board game. If you are not able to visit, you can make cards or care packages or make a phone call or video chat. The gift of your time is a great way to show love.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Hosea 2:16b, 17b, 21–22

Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10,
12–13 (8a)

2 Corinthians 3:1b–6

Mark 2:18–22

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☉ 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

When we celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus the Bridegroom is present with us. Sunday Mass is such a great gift; we can always do more to grow in faith, hope, and love. This week, spend more time with Jesus by attending a daily Mass or Adoration or by sitting quietly in a church or chapel before the tabernacle. Even young children can enjoy this if it is only for a few minutes, and this time with Jesus helps us to grow in love and friendship with him.

?? 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!

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 Mark 2:23–28

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

☉ Sometimes we are caught up in our desire to follow the rules and act judgmentally toward those who do not. This week, how can you focus on loving people instead of judging them?

☉ We have a role in spreading Christ's peace throughout the world. How can you be especially peaceful this week?

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.

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

- ☉ How do you define family?
- ☉ How does our family treat others like our brothers and sisters in the family of God?
- ☉ Is family a help or a hindrance in being a part of the Christian community?

Faith in Action

Acknowledge the gifts or talents of your family members by making a list of each one’s talents. Make the Sign of the Cross over them, saying, “God has blessed you with these talents. Use them wisely and to bring people to know God more closely. Amen.” This simple blessing will help everyone to remember the source of his or her talents or gifts. Do this blessing every day this week; at the end of the week, talk about the ways each person has put their talent or gift to good use.

? 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

☉ The meaning of parables is never too obvious, and the purpose of parables is really to challenge us to think more deeply about the issues. What did the parable of the mustard seed spark in you?

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

Faith in Action

Have your child offer one dollar in the collection basket at Mass. Compare the growth of a seed to the results of the offertory collection. What does one dollar’s worth of food mean for a hungry child? What does a Bible mean to a family in a refugee camp or to a lonely traveler? What does the visit of one minister of care mean to a homebound parishioner who received Holy Communion? Encourage your family to make a difference in the world with just one small action. We are called to bear fruit for God’s Kingdom.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Job 38:1, 8–11

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

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

Mark 4:35–41

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☺ A storm at sea could be very dangerous. If Jesus had not saved the disciples, they might have died. The disciples were very scared, but Jesus saved them and protected them just as he saves and protects us. What can we do when we feel scared?

☺ What do you fear the most? How does remembering that God is always with you help you to feel less afraid?

Faith in Action

The Gospel reading today spoke about Jesus saving his disciples from a storm by calming the waves. Every family faces storms. Talk as a family about the “storms” you have faced in your lives and how faith helped you through it. Were there people God sent to help you? Or did prayer make the struggle easier to bear?

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11, 12,
13 (2a)

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15

Mark 5:21–43 or 5:21–24,
35b–43

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☉ A little girl was raised back to life in today's Gospel account. What does this action of Jesus teach us?

☉ A father's faith in Jesus is rewarded when Jesus heals his daughter. What are some ways in which God has responded to your prayers?

Faith in Action

Today's Gospel tells how Jesus brought comfort to a family by healing their child. We can bring comfort to children who are ill just like Jesus did. Collect G-rated DVDs from family members and friends to bring to a children's hospital for sick children to watch while they are recovering. You might also want to collect books and games to donate as well.

Or consider inviting a child with an intellectual or physical disability for a play date this week. Talk to the child's parent ahead of time about their particular needs and make your child aware of them too.

?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 2:2–5

Psalm 123:1–2, 2, 3–4 (2cd)

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Mark 6:1–6

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ It can be hard to have faith sometimes when we feel sad or disappointed. How can we still have faith in God in these times?
- ☉ If you have experienced sadness or disappointment, how were these challenges overcome?

Faith in Action

Talk with your child this week about your family's journey in faith. If you come from a long line of Catholics, show your children photos of their grandparents and great-grandparents and talk about the example in faith that they set for you growing up. If your family is new to the Catholic faith, talk about what made you or your family decide to become Catholics and about the experience of conversion and Baptism. If you and your partner do not share a religious denomination and have decided to raise your children Catholic or with both faiths, talk about how you arrived at that decision and why it was important to you that your child learn about the Catholic faith.

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

- ☉ Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples two by two instead of sending them alone?
- ☉ Do you think that Jesus sends us two by two as well? Who are some of the good partners Jesus has given you in your lives?

Faith in Action

Remember missionaries abroad and in the United States in your prayers this week. If you know anyone who is serving as a missionary, pray for that person. Pray for all those who travel to distant places in order to help those in need.

Find children’s books about some of the Apostles, like St. Peter and St. Paul, at your parish or local library. Learn more as a family about the lives of Jesus’ first followers. How are they role models for today’s disciples?

?? 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

Psalms 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 do I respond when my children, family, and friends interrupt my rest?
- ☉ When I see someone in need, do I reach out to him or her without hesitation?

Faith in Action

The disciples in this week's Gospel probably thought that they had done some good work and deserved a break. They may have felt surprised that Jesus started to help the crowds of people, even though he just invited the disciples to rest. Obviously, Jesus wanted to set the example that taking care of the needs of others came first. This week, take whatever good you already do for others and bring it to a new level. As a family, think of ways all of you could go that extra mile for someone else. Devote some time to a person in your life who may crave your presence but often gets pushed aside in favor of other priorities. Talk to your children about our call to place loving others ahead of our own plans or desires.

?? 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 does the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand tell you about who Jesus really was?
- ☉ Have we remembered to give thanks to God for all his blessings, mindful that God will always provide for our needs?

Faith in Action

The experience of hunger can be physical or spiritual or emotional. What can you do this week to feed those who are hungry? Perhaps your family will pool your resources to buy nonperishable food for or volunteer at a local food pantry. Or you might give the gift of your presence and companionship to someone who is lonely or sad or feeling frustrated and overwhelmed.

?? 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 actions can we take that will help us grow in our faith? In what ways can we assist in our parish community?

Faith in Action

Hunger is a reality year round. In the summer-time, many food pantries' stocks are low. Find out how your family can support a food pantry in your neighborhood or at a local church. Your family can organize a food drive in your neighborhood or as an extended family project.

?? 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

- ☉ What hungers do you experience? How does Jesus fill that hunger?
- ☉ How does today's Gospel passage help us better understand how important the Eucharist is?

Faith in Action

Jesus promises that in the Eucharist, we are brought closer to God. Inquire at the parish office if you and your child may talk with a minister of care who brings the Eucharist to the homebound (at a residence or nursing home). At the Mass, the entire faith community shares a special meal together, and ministers of care perform outreach to those who are unable to celebrate with the faith community because they are ill or cannot physically attend Mass. Ask if the minister may show your child the pyx and to describe a typical visit.

?? 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

- ☉ Why do we eat healthy foods? What are your favorite healthy foods to eat?
- ☉ 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?

Faith in Action

Talk to your child about how your family is connected through a series of relationships. Show photos as you talk to your child about your ancestors. Impress on your child how it is important to stay connected to our family and the ways you do so through special celebrations or annual events. Make the connection to your parish family as well.

?? 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

- ☉ How does our family remain with Jesus and grow as disciples?
- ☉ In what ways can we consume the teachings of Jesus this week and act?

Faith in Action

If your parish has scheduled Eucharistic Adoration, that would be an ideal opportunity to show your child how we honor the real presence of Christ in the host. During adoration, show your child how to genuflect before the monstrance.

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

Be mindful of how your words match your actions this week. When you promise to do something for a family member, coworker, or classmate, make sure your actions follow your words. Let people know by your kind or loving actions that you are a disciple of Jesus. No words are necessary when doing a good deed for someone in need.

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

- ☉ How does our family foster forgiveness and healing reconciliation? How is our family listening to Jesus' teaching and responding?
- ☉ When you hear about Jesus' miracles, what does that tell you about him? If you were the person healed, how would you feel?

Faith in Action

Most of us know someone who is widowed, sick, or hurting in some way. Perhaps there is a new family nearby or a busy parent caring for foster children. Offer a meal or bring some needed items. Often it is the loving care you give to those struggling or hurting. As a family, pray for the poor, the orphaned, and refugees. Pray for all people to hear their calling to serve those in need, and ask God to guide your family in such ministry.

?? 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

Make a list of favorite service projects your family has done together or individually. Decide together which ones to make annual events at certain times of the year. Commit to exploring new opportunities to serve during Advent and Lent. At the completion of service, talk about your experiences and connect them to your response to God.

?? 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

- ☉ How do we serve one another, and how can we serve one another better in our family?
- ☉ Sometimes people argue about silly things. Have you ever had an argument like that? How did you feel afterward?

Faith in Action

In this week's Gospel, Jesus hears the disciples arguing along the way. Arguments naturally happen in family life. Sometimes it is important to notice the argument and to look at it objectively for a few minutes. Is this the way Jesus wants us to treat one another? This week, if you hear some of your family members in an argument, calmly invite the people arguing to take a break for ten minutes to cool off. Then, have them come back together to try to resolve the conflict.

?? 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.

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are some ways disciples of Jesus include others?
- ☉ Do you think people can tell that our family is for Jesus? In what ways?

Faith in Action

Pay attention this week to how your family uses Jesus' name. Are there conversations about Jesus and his teachings at home with your family? Does anyone use Jesus' name incorrectly, such as using it when he or she is angry or frustrated? Are there reminders of your Catholic Christian faith in your home that remind you of Jesus and his holy name?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18–24

Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6
(see 5)

Hebrews 2:9–11

Mark 10:2–16 or 10:2–12

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Have we received our gifts from God in gratitude? Do we share our gifts regularly?
- ☉ What are some of the ways people should respect one another?

Faith in Action

Relationships are a critical aspect of the Kingdom of God; in fact, they are 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? Have an age-appropriate conversation with your child about these questions.

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?

☉ What distracts our family from being the best disciples we can be? Is there anything we need to sell or give away in order to follow Jesus?

Faith in Action

Create a stewardship jar and place it in an area of your home where it is convenient for everyone to contribute. Invite your family to donate spare change or money earned from completing chores. At the end of the week, decide as a family how to use this money to help people in need or ask if your family wishes to make a donation goal.

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

- ☉ Was Jesus a servant leader? Who in our family are servant leaders?
- ☉ How does our family stay connected to Jesus?

Faith in Action

This week, have your child take responsibility for serving the family meals. Go over a list of tasks, including helping to prepare food, setting the table, bringing food and drink to the table, and passing the dishes around to make sure everyone has had helpings of food or refreshing everyone's drinks. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what he or she has observed or learned about service.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are the gifts you have? 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

Our faith always seeks to understand the how and why of things. It is part of our human nature to use our reason. We do not want to be uninformed or blind to something. Invite your child to ask questions about the faith. Ask your pastor or director of catechesis or faith formation to recommend resources to use at home.

? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 6:2–6

Psalm 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51 (2)

Hebrews 7:23–28

Mark 12:28b–34

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Does love of God and love of others go together? How?
- ☉ 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

- ☉ Money isn't the only gift we have to offer others. What are some ways we can selflessly give out of our love for Jesus?
- ☉ Does our family make sacrifices in order to follow the Lord and live our faith?

Faith in Action

Sharing with the community means making sacrifices, as the widow did in today's Gospel. What sacrifices do you make to share with your parish community? Are there changes your family needs to prayerfully consider to share time, talent, or treasure? This week, take time to make a parish stewardship chart, and log how your family shares time, talent, and treasure.

?? 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 Christ’s coming again in power and glory. What can we ask God to help change about ourselves during these last days of Ordinary Time?

Faith in Action

During one night when your entire family is together, ask them to think about good or loving signs they saw happening in creation or among people. Ask everyone to share his or her signs stories. There is so much goodness in creation and we all need to help to keep it good. Depending on which part of creation you wish to focus on, decide as a family what service you will perform this week. Will you help fellow humans, animals, birds, or our air and water? Nothing we can do is ever too small to help.

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

- ☉ How does our family live out the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior?
- ☉ Has our family encountered Jesus regularly in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist, and among those in need?

Faith in Action

Look at the parish bulletin your child has marked up and brought home today (if this activity has been completed in class). Consult your parish's bulletin and plan how your family will seek to transform the world through prayer and deeds this Advent. Seek out child-friendly ideas with a staff director.

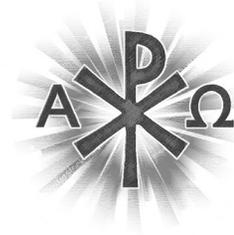
?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

February 2



Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1–4

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

Hebrews 2:14–18

Luke 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

Prayer

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

?? Did You Know?

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How do you take time to listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life?
- ☉ Where do we see God acting in our daily activities?

Faith in Action

It is said that Christians are known by how they show love or kindness to others. We can shine Christ's light to others by our words and actions. What is the best way your family can show this love or kindness? Is there a family in need at your child's school? Consider "adopting" that family by anonymously providing food, clothing, or school supplies. Is a fellow parishioner grieving a loss in his or her family? Maybe you could organize meals to be brought over to their home. Has an illness struck one of your friends? Make specific suggestions on how your family can help, such as picking up groceries, cleaning the house, watching pets, picking up children from school or activities. Wherever there is suffering, seek to lessen its impact.

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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ St. Joseph listened to God's voice and responded. How do you think he knew it was God calling him?
- ☉ How can you listen for God's voice? When do you feel God's presence? Who helps you to listen?

Faith in Action

St. Joseph listened carefully to God's voice and responded with his whole heart. His special call from God was to care for and protect his family, Mary and Jesus. We know from the witness of his life that this work of caring is holy. Maybe you have a person in your life who does the holy work of caring for other people. It could be a grandparent, a parent, an uncle or aunt, a neighbor, a friend. With your child, acknowledge that person. Plan a special thank you for all the ways he or she shows you love!

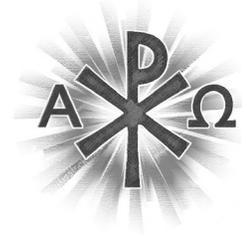
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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.

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

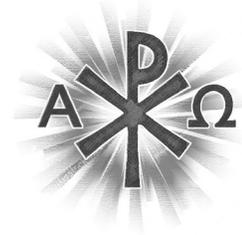
- ☉ Share with your child what gifts you have been given by God and ask your child about his or her gifts.
- ☉ How can we use those gifts and talents to cooperate with God's plan for the world, as Mary did?

Faith in Action

Find out from your parish's liturgy director what needs there are for liturgical ministers. Ask if your family may make a poster advertising this need. Create a headline such as, "Have you heard God calling you?" Write in what is needed on the poster in big, clear letters, including contact information, and have your child draw a relevant image or decorate it. You may even find that some of your own talents can help fill these ministries.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

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

Romans 8:14–17

Matthew 28:16–20

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What are some important things to know about Jesus and about the Catholic faith?
- ☉ Does praying the Sign of the Cross help you to remember the Trinity? What other ways can you remember Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

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 one leaf “Father,” another “Son,” and the last one “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.

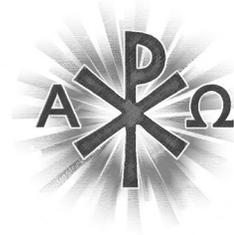
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16,
17–18 (13)

Hebrews 9:11–15

Sequence: *Lauda Sion*

Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Why is it important to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion?
- ☉ How can we show God we are thankful for the gift of his Son, Jesus?

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.

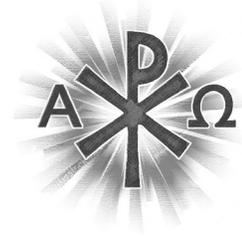
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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.

? 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ When have you experienced God's immense love in your life? When you received this gift, have you been able to keep it to yourself? How have you shared God's love with others? What is one thing you can do this week to bring God's love to someone who really needs it?
- ☉ Is there someone in your life against whom you have been holding a grudge? Could you ask Jesus to make your heart like his heart and forgive? What would forgiving that person look like? What would forgiveness feel like?

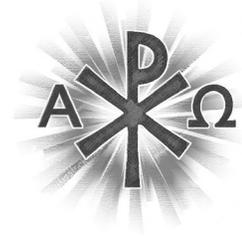
Faith in Action

The sacraments are opportunities for us to experience God's boundless love. In the sacrament of Reconciliation God's love and forgiveness are there for us. Find a time when the whole family can go together to participate in Reconciliation. Children who are too young to receive the sacrament benefit from seeing its importance in the life of adults and older children.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 24



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:1–6

Psalm 139:1–3, 13–14, 14–15
(14a)

Acts 13:22–26

Luke 1:57–66, 80

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

- ☉ In what way are you being called to get others ready for the Lord as John the Baptist did?
- ☉ What saint or family member are we named after?

Faith in Action

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

**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.*

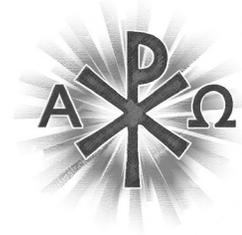
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ What do leaders in the Church do? Are there different kinds of leaders?
- ☉ How can we, as a family, help build up the Church?

Faith in Action

Use a Bible (either in print or online) to find the Scripture readings noted at the top of this page. Our focus today was on the Gospel. In order for your child to hear about St. Peter, read the First Reading from Acts together. Read the Second Reading from 2 Timothy together to learn more about St. Paul. You may also want to read Acts 9:1–19 about St. Paul's conversion to the life of a believer. (At this point in Acts, Paul is still referred to by his Hebrew name Saul, rather than his Greek name, Paul.) Afterward, talk about the qualities of discipleship that each saint demonstrated. Decide as a family how you can act as disciples of Jesus this week.

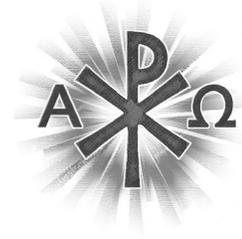
?? Did You Know?

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

Living the Liturgy at Home

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6



Scripture Readings

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 9 (1a, 9a)

2 Peter 1:16–19

Mark 9:2–10

Prayer

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

Conversation Questions

☉ When you think about the world, what makes you feel sad and discouraged? What situations do you wish were different?

☉ When you think about the world, where do you find hope? How might you help to bring about the Kingdom of God?

Faith in Action

Jesus is shown in today's Gospel to be a fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Both the law and the prophets call the people to right relationship with God and neighbor. As a family, discuss what situations in our world make you realize that we are not yet in a world of perfect justice and peace. What injustices particularly touch your heart? What is one thing you can do to address these as a family? Could you write a letter? donate money? volunteer? Allow your child to help guide you to the cause and the action to address it.

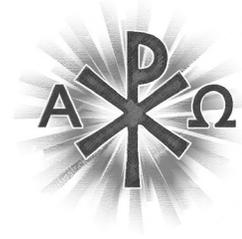
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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

☉ Does our family honor Mary in a special way?
What are some ways our family can pray to
honor Mary?

☉ What else can we research about Mary together?

Faith in Action

Listen to liturgical music this week, especially
the songs composed to honor Mary, such as the
Ave Maria, *The Magnificat*, "Hail Mary, Gentle
Woman," or "Holy Is Your Name." (You can find
these tunes online.) Mary sang God's praises,
and we are invited to do the same, with joy.
Encourage your child to sing along. Ask your
child which song was the most enjoyable.

?? 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

Psalms 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

- ☉ What crosses do you carry in your daily life? What is burdening you?
- ☉ How have you felt God working in your life to help you bear these burdens?

Faith in Action

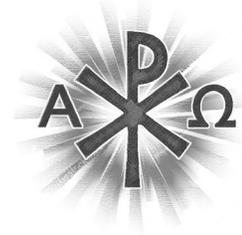
The translation used in the *Children's Lectionary* (which is used in your child's faith formation session) for John 3:16 reads: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never die." This is a very familiar Scripture passage for many of us and it has inspired music and art. Go online to find music and art inspired by this passage. Discuss the artist's interpretation in light of what you know about this passage or what you have heard in the homily at Mass.

?? 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

☉ Is our parish church named after a saint? If so, let's find out some things about him or her.

☉ What does it mean to depend on God?

Faith in Action

We remember the lives of all of those people who have gone before us, both those who have officially been identified as saints by the Church and those who have lived good lives but have not been officially identified as saints. This week, tell your child about some of his or her ancestors in faith. Show your child photos of these people, if you have them. You may want to display these photos on your dining table or in another central spot in your home throughout the week. If your child has known someone personally who has died, such as a grandparent, take time to remember that person this week.

?? 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 John 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

☉ Even though death is a real separation, sometimes we feel the presence of a person who has died with us because we are all connected through Jesus. Have you ever felt that? When?

☉ When we feel sad, it can help us to remember that Jesus has changed everything. He has made it possible for us to be connected to those who have died through him. What can we do to thank him for this gift? Why should we pray for those who have died?

Faith in Action

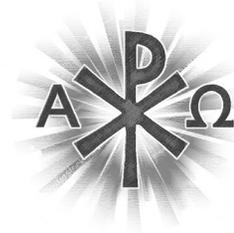
In November, the Church prays for the dead in a particular way. Share stories about your departed loved ones and pray for them. Keep their mementos displayed throughout November as a reminder to pray for them.

**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

- ☉ When have you encountered Jesus in your daily life?
- ☉ Does knowing about Jesus make a difference in your life? Does it change the way you interact with others?

Faith in Action

As a family, discuss how you encounter Jesus. Is it through family prayer time? Do you see Jesus in your acts of service? Do you see Jesus in the work you do or at school? How does meeting Jesus in these places help build the Church? After reflecting on this, look through your parish bulletin and see what activities your church has that can help people see God working in their lives. Maybe there are Bible studies, faith sharing groups, or service projects. Consider attending one of these as a family and inviting someone who does not go to your parish to join you. We can help build up the Church by showing others how our life changes when we meet Jesus.

**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.*

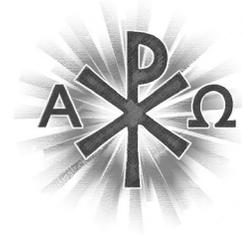
?? Did You Know?

. . . 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.

?? 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.

Conversation Questions

☉ Did God force Mary to say yes? Does he force us? Why do you think God does not overpower us to get us to say yes?

☉ Mary said yes to what God asked of her, although it might have been difficult. Think of her assent and of the assent of people from the Bible or the saints. How did their acceptances of God's will make a difference for humanity?

☉ When might it be difficult to say yes to God?

Faith in Action

Young children can begin to understand how to serve God by following his commands. Mary offered herself in service to the Lord, and we, God's people, are grateful for her loving service to God.

Elizabeth House was founded in 1994 to provide homeless and vulnerable pregnant women and their children with shelter and services. Find out if a support house near you welcomes donations of diapers, food, and baby supplies. Pray as a family about what you will do together to support the organization.