

52 SUNDAYS

A Guide to Reclaim The Lord's Day for Faith and Family 2021

By Anita Houghton and Tara Stenger

Office of Evangelization

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Introduction

Dear Families,

When our team was preparing the manuscript for *52 Sundays* in the summer of 2019, we could have never dreamed nor anticipated what 2020 would bring. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been far-reaching for families: loved ones affected by the illness, financial hardships, the closure of churches, schools, and businesses and as a result, big changes in daily routines and home life. Yet, for every low, there is a high, and even this current scenario has a silver lining. Families are spending more time together and the domestic Church, has, by necessity, come alive! With countless families unable to attend Mass in person, parents brought “church” into their homes, and *52 Sundays* was there to help them celebrate Sunday!

The Church summons Catholic families, in all their shapes and forms, to be stable, loving, and holy environments where Christ can be encountered. *52 Sundays* was created to help families reclaim the Lord’s Day for faith and family – to highlight and reflect on the Sunday Gospel, to explore the lives of the saints, to encourage and introduce a variety of structures for family prayer, and to offer suggestions for food and family fun. The response from families who have been using *52 Sundays* has been overwhelmingly positive, and it is for this reason that we have decided to publish another edition of *52 Sundays* for the calendar year 2021.

It is our hope that this resource will continue to help families encounter Christ anew, grow in a life of discipleship, and witness to the power of his love. This year’s edition includes some new features that we hope you find helpful:

- × A letter to families from Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron
- × Family Connections: a way to use *52 Sundays* in the context of a family small group setting
- × Featuring the Martyrs of the Church: a weekly peek into the life of a saint that has made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his or her life for Christ

- × Family Challenge: a way for your family to put the Gospel into action
- × Triduum Pages: reflections and activities for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday
- × Recipe Index: a listing of all the recipes that have been included in this year's edition

The domestic Church flourishes when parents understand that the purpose of parenthood is not merely to raise happy and successful adults, but to raise disciples to be bearers of the Gospel to generations yet unborn. No human community is better equipped to do this than the family, and *52 Sundays* is here to help you and guide you throughout the next year.

May the Lord pour out his blessings upon your family as you grow together as joyful missionary disciples in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Anita Houghton
Associate Director of Evangelization
Archdiocese of Detroit

A Letter to Families

December 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the start of this new year, I am glad to see that this new edition of *52 Sundays* will be available to the faithful of the Archdiocese as a tool for families seeking to reclaim the Lord's Day.

As I'm sure you've heard your pastors emphasize, the role of parents and grandparents in instilling the faith and nurturing the spiritual lives of your children is irreplaceable: as the first teachers of the faith for them, you are uniquely positioned to have a deep impact on your child's life of discipleship with Christ.

And on my part, I know I have heard just as often from parents that while this sounds like a fine ideal, they sometimes feel at a loss in trying to find concrete suggestions of how to do this. That is why I am happy to hear that this book has been of use to many during this last year, and to see this second edition being presented now for 2021.

I hope above all that you find these ideas to be a simple and natural way for you to reveal and share with your child a bit of your own faith that you hold so dear. I have confidence that along with the time you spend with your children with the rest of the Catholic community at Sunday Mass, especially in the partaking of the Eucharist, these additional suggestions about sharing meals, prayer, and activities together will go a long way in building a stronger Catholic community in southeast Michigan: our local church fully embracing her mission to evangelize.



I want to thank you sincerely for your efforts. I have found the many beautiful stories of families rediscovering the importance of spending time together this past year to be incredibly uplifting and encouraging for our future as a Church. Please be assured of my own prayers and gratitude for each of you as you continue to take up with work with Jesus.

Entrusting you to the intercession of St. Anne, our patroness, and Blessed Solanus Casey, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit



How to Use 52 Sundays

At different moments in the Church's history, the family has been called the "domestic Church," a term that describes the character and mission of the Christian Family. This section shows how *52 Sundays* can help parents build and strengthen the domestic Church.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE DOMESTIC CHURCH?

The domestic Church is more than just enduring the secular culture and hoping to raise kids who will go to Mass when they grow up. The domestic Church does on a small scale, what the Church universal does on a large scale; it makes disciples. Therefore, the domestic Church is a home where family life is completely centered on the lordship of Jesus Christ, where parents who are disciples of Jesus, embrace their role as leaders to make disciples of their children. The domestic Church is not so much about what family members do; it is a shared way of life that is marked by a lived relationship with Jesus, a quest for holiness, and a missionary focus.

No human community is better equipped to do this than the family. Parents are the first to exhibit behaviors in their home that reflect Gospel values by the way they love and forgive one another, by the way they witness and stand up for what is true and good, by the way they care for aging family members and the natural

world around them, and by the way they show mercy to others and model social teaching. As opposed to parish programs that are geared more toward large groups of people, families naturally focus on the particular needs of each individual member. Families also have natural structures of accountability because of how well family members know each other, and because of how much time they spend together. Parents, in their divinely appointed role as spiritual guides, have a level of intimacy and trust with their children, unlike that of a parish volunteer. The family is the perfect "small group" where faith is lived out in real and tangible ways.

Parents can build the domestic Church by weaving a Catholic world around their children and by creating a culture in the home that reinforces the baptismal identity of its members. Parents have control over the religious content, activities, and experiences in the home, and they make decisions on how the family spends its time. Parents help



children see that faith is a lens through which one engages the world. *52 Sundays* helps parents build the domestic Church by providing weekly religious content, activities and experiences in the home that are anchored to the Sunday Gospel. These activities help cultivate habits of discipleship that extend beyond Sunday and into the rest of the week. The following are some tips on how to use the content.



Sacred Scripture is the living Word of God; it communicates to us the deepest truths of God and man. It is one of the primary ways that we encounter Jesus, grow deeper in our faith, and discover the graces needed to face life's challenges. Reflection on Sacred Scripture allows God to speak into the concrete circumstances of our lives. Familiarity with Scripture and a biblical worldview are among the greatest gifts parents can give to their children which will have an eternal impact on their life.

52 Sundays contains the Sunday Gospel for each Sunday in 2021 as well as the biblical citations for all the readings of the day. Here are some ways that you can explore the Gospel each week:

- × Read the upcoming Sunday Gospel a few days before the weekend for your personal reflection. Listen to what God is saying to you personally and consider how the Gospel story relates to your life.
- × Select a part of the story ahead of time and share it with your children before Mass. Have the children listen for this part when the Gospel is proclaimed.
- × Discuss the Gospel as a family after Mass and compare your insights with the homily.
- × Parents, read the Gospel as a bedtime story to your children. If a child is very young, tell the story in your own words or use a children's Bible making a connection with God, the people in the story and your child's life. Help your children encounter God through the stories.
- × Consider reading and discussing the First and Second Readings or the Psalm. Discover how they relate to one another and how they relate to the Sunday Gospel. All the Sunday readings can be found on the USCCB website under Daily Readings. (<https://www.usccb.org/>)

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

The saints are members of the Church who are with Christ in heaven praying for those in the Church who are still on their pilgrimage of faith. The saints in this year's edition of 52 Sundays all share one thing in common: they are martyrs of the Church. (See the section titled, Featuring the Martyrs: Heroes of the Church, for more information on martyrdom and the unique way they can inspire families.)

Saints help us see how our ordinary lives can be lived out in extraordinary ways. Were these people perfect? Of course not! They knew that they were sinners, but they loved God and they knew how much God loved them. While many of us have heroes in the world of sports or music, the saints are our real heroes; they are the ones who serve as models for our lives. They are our companions, mentors, guides, and trusted friends, who, like us, through sorrows and joys, configured their lives to Christ and are an example for us so that we can do it too! These

are real people, alive in heaven, and only a prayer away! We can call on them with our needs and concerns as we would our own family.

52 Sundays makes it easy to get to know our extended spiritual family by featuring one saint each week. Introducing this saint to your family can be done in a number of ways:

- × Talk about the saint throughout the week.
- × Take time to get to know the saint of the week by reading their story at bedtime. Consider getting a book of Catholic saints for children and reading more about the saint of the week. There are many such books available through numerous Catholic publishers.
- × Read, watch movies, or listen to stories about the saint of the week or other saints that inspire you. Take time to understand their life and journey of faith.
- × Parents are invited to preview these stories and adapt them to the developmental level of their children.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

Modern families are mobile and busy! As a result, many families feel they don't have enough time to talk, bond or firmly connect with each other. Having time to talk has many benefits. It is an opportunity to really get to know what is going on in each other's lives; it provides an opportunity to solve problems or disagreements, and it is an opportunity to hand on family values. In addition, listening to one another strengthens relationships. Children, in particular, need to be listened to. Young children can often be dismissed, especially in a busy household. Listening without judgment or agenda and with openness gives them the opportunity to share that which is most important to them.

52 Sundays provides discussion questions on the Gospel passage of the day and questions about the featured saint in order to foster discussion in your family. Discuss these questions at a time that works best for you. Here are some suggestions:

- × In the car on the way home from Mass
- × Over breakfast or lunch
- × During your family dinner
- × At bedtime when you read the Gospel to your children

The discussion questions in *52 Sundays* may stimulate curiosity and lead to more questions. This is a good thing! Sometimes parents get anxious when children ask questions on topics they don't know or understand. It is easy to think that these answers are better left to experts; however, those who don't have all the answers often tend to be better listeners, giving the child the opportunity to explore and ask questions. The curiosity of children is quite possibly the greatest player in their drive to learn. Here are a few pointers that might be helpful in navigating faith conversations:

- × Be docile to the Holy Spirit; the Spirit will prompt you with the right thing to say!
- × If you don't know something, be honest. Tell your child that you will research it and get back with him or her. Feel free to contact your pastor or parish staff to help you find the answer. They can even help you know how best to share the information given the age of your child.
- × Don't think that questions lead to disbelief. Rather, great questions lead to deeper belief.
- × Don't respond to questions with trite answers such as "because that's what the Church teaches" or "because it's true." This is not helpful. Take the time to research and formulate a good response to your child's question.

- × Don't over-answer the question or answer a question they don't have. Be mindful not to firehose them with too much information. Wait for a prompt to offer more information.
- × While it is important to answer your child's question, it is also important to ask them questions. This will help you get at the root of what lies beneath the surface-level questions and what they really want to know.



FAMILY FUN

Family fun is an important part of building a strong family identity. When families have fun together with Christ at the center, it builds a holy bond that can last a lifetime. Traditions are often developed in times of fun. Those traditions help define and individualize each family. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it can be hard to find time to be together. Therefore, a family activity has been included for each week to help you carve out some intentional time to have family fun! Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- × Plan activities ahead of time, especially if it is an excursion. Check hours of operation, ticket prices, etc.
- × Collect supplies needed for craft projects ahead of time.
- × Consider doing activities with other families from your parish or neighborhood.
- × Do the activity suggested in the book or brainstorm other alternatives as a family.
- × Always keep Jesus at the center of all family activity. Take time to pray together and give thanks.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

The New Testament attests to the fact that Jesus often used meals to engage with people and teach important lessons. There are so many benefits to families who share a meal together.

Here are just a few:

- × Children develop a sense of connection, belonging, and self-esteem when they are with a parent who is present and engaged. This relationship is critical during the tween years since youth will turn to the ones they are connected to when things get tough.
- × When families eat together, children get the message that family is important, and that they are important to the family.
- × Being with family can alleviate feelings of stress, anxiety, and isolation children may experience at school or in other social settings.
- × Just by being in their presence each day, parents can pick up on the things kids aren't saying: the verbal and non-verbal cues they're giving, their moods, their habits, and any warning signs of potential problems.
- × There is an intimate connection between the celebration of the Eucharist and a meal at home: prayer, listening to important news of the day (Readings and Gospel), talking about issues that are important to the family as a whole (Homily), bringing the food to the table (Presentation of the Gifts), giving thanks, and partaking of the meal (Eucharist).

As your family reclaims the Lord's Day, make Sunday meals a sacred time to connect with each other and with the Lord. Mealtime also provides the perfect opportunity for observing different seasons and feasts of the Catholic Church in our homes, and this book provides some new and exciting recipes to help you do just that. Some of the recipes have a connection to the Gospel, the featured saint, holiday, or season. Others were selected simply because they are super easy or fun to make. Either way, the recipes will add some variety to your meal rotation and provide an opportunity for the whole family to pitch in and help. Here are some things you may want to consider:

- × Plan ahead! Be sure to have all your ingredients ahead of time so that you don't have to run to the store at the last minute.
- × Involve the whole family. Subdivide tasks so that everyone can take part in preparing the meal.
- × Create a festive atmosphere by playing music during meal preparation.
- × Make Sunday dinner special by setting a nice table. Flowers and cloth napkins can really dress up the table.
- × Pray before your meal using the family prayer provided or your own prayer.
- × Make clean-up a family affair! Many hands make light work.





Prayer has the power to dramatically shift the spiritual atmosphere in your home. It's also one of the best ways to help your family thrive. When you pray together, each member of the family learns what it means to be intimate with God. When you see answers to prayer, you experience God's love and his presence in your daily lives. Home life can sometimes be filled with chaos, tension, and stress. Praying helps to restore peace and change perspectives.

Families that pray together, stay together. *52 Sundays* provides a Family Prayer each week. These prayers will help your family learn new ways to pray. Families are encouraged to set aside some time each Sunday for the family prayer. It may be helpful to create a dedicated prayer space and/or to light a candle to create an atmosphere of reverence. Choose a time that works best for your family such as:

- × In the morning, before Mass.
- × Before your family dinner.
- × Before bedtime.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT
THE GOOD STUFF IN THE MARGINS!**

LITURGY LINK

Each week's liturgy link is a way for kids (and adults) to better engage at Mass and become more aware of the church environment. Parents are invited to ask the liturgy link questions immediately before or after Mass. If you can't easily find the answer, don't hesitate to ask your pastor or another parish staff member.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Each week, families will be challenged to put the Gospel into action by extending radical hospitality, performing works of mercy, practicing virtues, or doing random acts of kindness.

FUN FACTS!

Fun Facts include some fun Catholic and secular trivia for the given day or week.

SHARE HOW YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATED SUNDAY! #52SUNDAYS

The Archdiocese of Detroit will have a *52 Sundays* online presence to engage families and invite them to share their Sunday experiences through #52Sundays. Families are encouraged to share what they did to celebrate each Sunday. Use the hashtag on all of our social media channels:

instagram.com/utgdetroit

twitter.com/utgdetroit

facebook.com/UTGDetroit



Featuring the Martyrs: Heroes of the Church

Since the beginning of Christianity, men, women, and children have been tempted to betray their friendship with Christ in big and small ways. For the first three hundred years of Christianity, it was illegal to be a Christian. Every person in the Roman Empire, no matter what their religion, was to honor the Roman emperor as a god. Of course, Christians refused to do this and as a result, were severely tortured; many were put to death. The Roman government did this because they wanted to discourage others from following Christianity. However, the opposite happened. The early Church thrived and grew out of such persecutions!

There are many stories of the deaths of Christians that have passed down to us over the centuries. These Christians who died for their faith are called martyrs. The word “martyr” comes from the Greek word for witness. They are called witnesses because that’s exactly what they were doing through their deaths: witnessing to their love for God and their fidelity to him. The stories of these young men and women are incredibly inspiring. Perhaps it’s their heroic confidence in the promises of God, their steadfast courage in the face of death, or the drastic nature of their personal sacrifice. While it may seem peculiar

and counterintuitive to celebrate martyrdom, it should be viewed as a triumph. The martyrs remind us that the faithful are conquerors in the battle between good and evil, and that there is no neutral ground between the kingdom of God and the domain of darkness – one must choose one or the other. They show us that endurance for the journey of faith only comes from Christ who gives us supernatural power in the face of adversity. They also remind us that those who sacrifice for the faith will be vindicated and rewarded in the end.

This year’s edition of *52 Sundays* introduces families to some of the martyrs of the Church. The weekly stories span every age of Christianity and touch on all continents of the world. Some of the stories are well-known and others are not, but each leaves a powerful legacy of faith and fortitude. These stories are recommended for upper elementary-aged children and older, as the act of martyrdom is included in each story. Parents are invited to preview these stories and adapt them to the developmental level of their children.

The history of our Catholic faith can be intense and frightening at times, but it is important not

to shy away from these parts of the story, lest we get an inaccurate picture of the world. It is important to help disciples of every age to understand that bad things do happen in this world, but God has a plan that extends beyond all the bad -- a plan to restore his Kingdom to the way it was intended to be in the beginning, with no more sadness and no more tears. The thousands of men and woman who approached their death filled with the joy and love of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, tells us something huge about life with God. It tells us that his promises are real, and in the end, even death cannot separate us from his love.

Today, many people have rejected faith in God because it is, in their opinion, too restrictive, too hard to understand, or too boring. The lives of the saints attest to the fact that the Christian life is certainly not boring, especially those who are featured in this year's edition of *52 Sundays*. Their lives were filled with adventure, drama, and heroism. We live in a culture that is often hostile to Christian principles and ideals. As disciples of Christ, we are called to stand up for our faith and live in imitation of our Savior. While it is unlikely that any of us will be called to give our lives for the faith, every disciple is called to a daily dying to self and witness to the Gospel. It is our hope that the stories of the martyrs will inspire virtue and a more fervent desire to put ourselves under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and live as his witnesses in the world.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Using *52 Sundays* in a Family Small Group Setting

Family small groups are a way that families can grow in their faith together. Family small groups have many benefits. The influence of other faith-filled families will help to reinforce the beliefs and culture you are trying to cultivate in your home. In addition, it serves as an invaluable source of support on the journey of faith. As members of small groups grow closer to Jesus and to each other, they tend to support and minister to one another through life's ups and downs. Conversations with peers tap into shared challenges and experiences in life. Families who participate in small groups testify to the many blessings that come from walking the journey of faith with their peers.



52 Sundays can easily be used in a small group setting. Here are some basic instructions to help you get started:

- × Pray about who to invite into your family small group. Invite 2 - 4 families who have an interest in sharing faith and growing in a life of discipleship.
- × Select a meeting place. The group may choose to meet at the same home or rotate to a different home each week. When selecting a location, consider available space for both adults and children, pet allergies, and driving distance.
- × Choose a start date and a schedule that works for all participants. Families may choose to meet weekly, once per month, or twice per month.
- × For each week, preview content and gather supplies ahead of time as needed.
- × For each week, select a prayer leader and discussion leader ahead of time. Leaders are encouraged to preview the material and prepare as appropriate.

SAMPLE SESSION OUTLINE (90 MINUTES)

1. Gather, Socialize, Share a Meal or Snack (20 minutes without a meal)

- × Consider using the Recipe of the Week for the meal or snack.
- × Add at least 30 minutes if sharing a meal.

2. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- × Gather adults and children together.
- × Choose a prayer leader (adult or child) for the opening and closing prayers. Select a different prayer leader for each meeting.
- × Prayer leader leads a brief prayer in his or her own words. Alternatively, the prayer leader can use the prayer below:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing our families together today. Thank you for your love and for knowing each of us by name. Help us come to know Jesus more deeply as we pray and reflect on the Sunday Gospel. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us in the time we spend together. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Discussion and Activities (60 minutes)

Sunday Gospel and Take Time to Chat

- × The discussion leader reads the Sunday Gospel out loud.



- × After the Gospel is read, the discussion leader moderates the first three questions under the Take Time to Chat section. The discussion leader may ask all adults and children to answer each question or divide the questions between adults and children. The leader is encouraged to ask open-ended follow-up questions to facilitate more conversation. See Tips for Discussion Leaders below.

Meet Our Extended Family

- × After reflecting on the Sunday Gospel, the discussion leader shares the saint story. Depending on the age of the children, the discussion leader may read the story as written or summarize the story in an age-appropriate way. The discussion leader

is encouraged to extend the saint story by sharing any personal insights or research that he or she may have done ahead of time.

- × The discussion leader reads the last discussion question under Take Time to Chat and invites the adults and children to share their answers.

Liturgy Link, Family Fun, and Family Challenge

- × Families are invited to share what they discovered through the Liturgy Link.
- × Families are also invited to share how they will tackle this week’s Family Challenge.
- × Families are invited to do the Family Fun activity together. If the activity is an outdoor activity, families may do the closing prayer before proceeding outdoors.

4. Closing Prayer with Intentions (5 minutes)

- × Families can pray the Family Prayer together as a closing prayer. Alternatively, the prayer leader may lead the group in a brief closing prayer with time for intentions. Leader can pray using his or her own words or use the prayer below:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being with us today and for helping us understand the words of the Gospel. Help us to grow as joyful missionary disciples and to support one another on the journey of faith. Give us your grace for all that we need today and throughout the rest of the week.



*Jesus, hear the prayers that we bring before you now . . .
[invite people to state their prayer intentions]*

After each intention:

Leader: *We pray to the Lord*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

*Lord, we gather these prayers and those that remain in our hearts
and offer them through the intercession of our Blessed Mother as
we pray, Hail Mary. . .*

*Bless us and be with us until we meet again. We ask this through
Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- ✦ Set up your home to be welcoming, organized, comfortable, and clean.

Tips for Families Who are Hosting Family Small Groups

- ✦ Confirm the date of the next meeting and select a prayer leader and a discussion leader for the next session.
- ✦ Make sure your participants know where the bathrooms are located, and that they are clean.
- ✦ Have snacks and water or other drinks available. Consider having group members rotate providing snacks.
- ✦ Consider sharing a meal together each time you meet, having members contribute to each meal or rotate meal preparation responsibilities.
- ✦ Be mindful of allergies (food, pets, etc.) and other health concerns.
- ✦ Consider hiring a babysitter for children who are too young to participate in conversation and providing age-appropriate faith-based activities for them.

Expectations for Small Group Members

- × Members are encouraged to make the small group a priority in their schedule and to be on time for meetings.
- × All members have a responsibility to set a tone and group culture that is respectful, humble, open, honest, non-judgmental, and loving.
- × Members are encouraged to share while maintaining a balance of participating without dominating.
- × Members listen respectfully and do not interrupt one another.
- × All members agree to keep confidential anything personal shared in the group, unless there is a risk of someone harming themselves or someone else.
- × Members are encouraged to pray for one another in between meetings.

Tips for Discussion Leaders

- × Review and pray with discussion material in advance.
 - × You are not a teacher, but a facilitator of discussion.
 - × Listen carefully; do not interrupt.
 - × Give positive and genuine affirmation for everyone's contributions.
 - × Avoid unhelpful tangents.
 - × Encourage participation from everyone.
-
- × Ask additional open-ended questions. For example,
 - × Launching Questions – What came to mind when you heard the Gospel story? What stands out to you?
 - × Observation Questions – What effect did the story have on the people who were there? What does this passage reveal to you?
 - × Understanding Questions – Why is this passage important? Do you understand what it means?
 - × Application Questions – How does this story apply to you? What will you do now?

- × Do not dominate the conversation.
- × Prevent others from dominating.
- × Re-phrase comments for clarity. For example, “What I hear you saying is . . .”
- × Allow for periods of silence as a normal part of small group discussion.
- × Maintain healthy boundaries in group sharing.
- × Pace the conversation, and keep it pleasing to the Holy Spirit (avoid gossip, excessive complaining, etc.).
- × Start and end on time.



JANUARY 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

IS 60:1-6

PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

EPH 3:2-2-3A, 5-6



The Visit of the Magi

Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"


We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.



Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*



Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.



MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St.
Philomena**

(Feast Day
August 11)
January 10, 291
– August 10, 304

It is said that St. Philomena revealed her story to three people who did not know one another and who resided in different parts of the world. These private revelations unveiled the story of St. Philomena's life in great detail and were amazingly identical accounts. One of the revelations came to Sister Maria Luisa di Gesu. St. Philomena came to her and told her she was the daughter of a Greek king who converted to Christianity. When Philomena was 13 years old, she took a vow of consecrated virginity. After her father took his family to Rome to make peace, Emperor Diocletian fell in love with Philomena. When she refused to marry him, she was repeatedly subjected to torture. Yet, in the midst of this torture, God continued to miraculously comfort her and heal her. This infuriated the Emperor

who finally had her beheaded. St. Philomena said to Sister Maria Luisa di Gesu, "My soul took flight towards my heavenly Spouse, who placed me, with the crown of virginity and the palm of martyrdom, in a distinguished place among the elect. That day was so happy for me. . ."

The young virgin willingly traded her earthly life for heavenly salvation and continues her work today promoting the virtues of purity and sanctity among the world's youth and bringing the faithful closer to our Blessed Mother and Jesus Christ. Her name means "daughter of light" (Latin: *fila luminis*), and she is credited with countless miracles and intercessions since discovery of her tomb in the most ancient catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome in 1802.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What would it be like to encounter the baby Jesus?
- × To prostrate oneself is to lay flat on the ground, face down in reverence. Why was it appropriate and fitting for the Magi to worship Jesus in this way?
- × Like Herod in the Gospel and the Emperor Diocletian in the story of St. Philomena, sometimes people tempt us to do something wrong or against God's will. Share a time when you acted in a just way in spite of a temptation.
- × St. Philomena was committed to living a holy life. What are some of the challenges of living a holy life today?

FAMILY FUN Paper Crowns



Make paper crowns for the whole family and wear them at dinner to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany!

Materials:

- × thin cardboard (poster board or old cereal boxes work well)
- × foil gift wrap or construction paper
- × scissors
- × paint, crayons, or felt-tip pens
- × glue
- × stapler
- × optional: stickers, markers, glitter, shapes cut from construction paper

Instructions: Cut a strip of cardboard 3 or 4 inches wide and long enough to go around each person's head and overlap slightly. Cut a piece of construction paper or foil gift wrap the same length but slightly wider (2 inches wider). Glue the construction paper to the cardboard so the bottom edge lines up. Cut a zigzag in the top edge of the construction paper. Note: The construction paper is wider to make it easier to cut the zigzag; it is difficult to cut the zigzag from the cardboard. Decorate using markers, glitter or stickers. Make a ring with the cardboard facing in (toward the head) and the paper facing out and staple to make a crown.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Apple Crisp

Epiphany is celebrated in different ways all over the world. In England, there is a custom of blessing apple trees. Enjoy this apple dessert on this holy day.

- × 8 large apples, peeled and sliced
- × 1 tsp. cinnamon
- × 1 cup brown sugar
- × 1 cup granulated sugar
- × 1 cup flour
- × 1 egg
- × 1/2 tsp. salt
- × 1 tsp. baking powder
- × 1/2 cup melted butter (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place sliced apples in greased 9x13 baking dish. Combine cinnamon and brown sugar. Sprinkle 1/2 of mixture over apples. Combine granulated sugar, flour, egg, salt, and baking powder. Spread this mixture over apples, which will

act as a crust. Sprinkle remaining cinnamon/brown sugar mixture over top. Optional: pour butter over everything. Bake for 40 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly.

Submitted by: *Frederick Family
from St. Colette, Livonia*



Epiphany House Blessing

This ceremony of the blessing of the home and the inscription of the initials of the three Magi above each door can be performed by the head of the family or another designated family member. Have some chalk on hand in preparation for the prayer.

Leader: In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh

in symbol of His burial. The star burned like a flame, pointing the way to God, the King of kings. The wise men saw the sign and brought their gifts in homage to their great King.

Lord, bless this chalk, and let it be a help to our family. Let us use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: O Lord, Almighty God, bless our home that it may become a shelter of health, chastity, humility, goodness, mercy, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May your blessing come upon this house, those who live here, and those who visit, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, inscribe the initials of the Magi upon the main entrance of your home as indicated below:

20 + C + M + B + 21

The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase - Christus mansionem benedicat - which means "Christ bless this house." The plus signs represent the cross, and the numbers in the beginning and end mark the year.

Leader: Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us. Our Father . . .

All: Amen.

LITURGY LINK

The Magi worshipped Jesus by laying prostrate on the ground. What gesture do we use to show reverence to Jesus during the consecration of the bread and wine?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

The Magi practiced prudence when they avoided Herod and returned to their country by another route. The virtue of prudence helps us decide what is right. Practice the virtue of prudence this week. When faced with a difficult situation, pray about it, and let God help you decide the right thing to do.

FUN FACTS!

The gifts of the Magi symbolize the areas of Jesus' life: his kingship (gold), that he is God (frankincense), and his death (myrrh).

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JANUARY 10, 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

IS 42:1-4, 6-7 OR IS 55:1-11

PS 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10. OR IS 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6

ACTS 10:34-38 OR 1 JN 5:1-9



The Preaching of John the Baptist and The Baptism of the Lord

Mk 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens,

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Justin
Martyr**

(Feast Day
June 1)
100 – 165

St. Justin Martyr was born in Flavia Neapolis (present day Nablus, about 30 miles north of Jerusalem) around the year 100. He was born a pagan and educated in philosophy. At the age of 30, he happened to cross paths with an old man walking along the beach who questioned him about his beliefs and especially about the sufficiency of philosophy as a means of attaining truth. Over time, Justin had been persuaded of the superiority of the Christian creed over all other beliefs and philosophies, and seen this belief made manifest in the witness of Christians.

Martyrdom was for him the highest proof of the truth of Christianity. Nobody, he said, died for the teaching of Socrates. Justin's heart burned within him as he realized that he had finally found the Truth he had searched for all his life.

Much like St. John the Baptist, Justin was a great apologist (defender of the faith), engaging in debates with scholars. He wrote numerous works about the faith. For his staunch adherence to the Christian religion, Justin (like John the Baptist) was beheaded in Rome in the year 165.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × John the Baptist said that Jesus is mighty (powerful). How have you seen Jesus' power at work in your life?
- × What is the difference between being baptized with water and being baptized with the Holy Spirit?
- × Why do you think God spoke from the heavens when Jesus was baptized?
- × John the Baptist and St. Justin Martyr were both great defenders of the faith. How is God calling you to live out your faith?

FAMILY FUN Family Dance Party



We have a lot to celebrate today! The Baptism of the Lord and the Christmas season are reasons to rejoice. Play some fun music and have a family dance party. Take turns picking songs to play. You can also take turns teaching each other dance moves. Try a line dance or choreograph your own sequence!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Ramaki (Water chestnuts wrapped in bacon)

*As we celebrate Jesus' baptism by water,
enjoy this water chestnut recipe!*

- × 6-8 cans of whole water chestnuts
- × soy sauce
- × brown sugar
- × 2 packages of center cut bacon

Preheat oven to 350 F. Marinate the water chestnuts in soy sauce, overnight if possible. Put brown sugar in a bowl and cut each bacon slice into 3 pieces. First roll the marinated water chestnuts into the brown sugar and set them in a baking dish until you are finished with all the water chestnuts. Once you have finished your first step then wrap each chestnut in bacon, secure with a toothpick and place it back in the same baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 1.5 hours turning once midway.



Gracious God,
You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways.
Through Baptism you have sent me to continue the
mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others.
Strengthen me to respond to your call each day.
Help me to become all you desire of me.
Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives.
Lead me to choose the way of life you have planned for me.
Open the hearts of all to listen to your call.
Fill all with your Holy Spirit that we may have listening
hearts and the courage to respond to you.
Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire
to make the world a better place by serving you.
Amen.

Adapted from Prayer #7 from:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-for-vocations.cfm>

LITURGY LINK

When you were baptized, you received a candle that was lit from a large, beautifully adorned candle called the Paschal Candle. Locate the Paschal Candle in your church.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Write the text of Mk 1:11, "You are my beloved Son [daughter]; with you I am well pleased" on a 3x5 card. Place it on your bathroom mirror. Read it out loud each day when you brush your teeth and recall that God knows and loves you personally.

FUN FACTS!

The Baptism of the Lord is the last Sunday of the Christmas season.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JANUARY 17, 2021

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 SM 3:3B-10, 19

PS 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

1 COR 6:13C-15A, 17-20



The First Disciples

Jn 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,
“What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” — which translated means Teacher —,
“where are you staying?”

He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,
and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,

was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,

“We have found the Messiah” — which is translated Christ —.

Then he brought him to Jesus.
Jesus looked at him and said,
“You are Simon the son of John;
you will be called Cephas” — which is translated Peter.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Fabian was a layman who came into the city of Rome from his farm one day as people were preparing to elect a new pope. Fabian may have come for the same reason many still come to Rome today during a papal election: concern for the future of the faith, curiosity about the

new pope, and a desire to grieve for the pope who had passed. Many important people gathered to make this momentous decision. During the deliberations, a dove descended from the ceiling and settled on the head of Fabian. The people interpreted this as a sign that Fabian was worthy to be pope, and much to Fabian’s surprise, he was elected.

With Fabian’s election, the Church entered a time of peace and Fabian was able to build up the structure of the Church of Rome. The emperor at the time, Philip, was friendly to Christians; the persecution stopped, and Christians gained acceptance. However, when Philip died, so did the time of peace. The new emperor, Decius, ordered all Christians to deny Christ. Many didn’t have the courage to stand up for their faith, but Fabian did. He died a martyr in the year 250.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × At the beginning of today's Gospel passage, the two disciples heard John's proclamation and followed Jesus. Why do you think they followed him?
- × Jesus asked the disciples what they were looking for. What would you say if Jesus asked you the same question?
- × What was it like for these disciples to meet Jesus? Have you met Jesus? If so, what was that like?
- × What similarities do you see between Cephas (Peter) and St. Fabian?

FAMILY FUN

Change the World One Hand at a Time



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be celebrated on Monday, January 18th this year. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a passionate preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and example, and a martyr for justice. This craft can help you reflect on how you can change the world with the gifts God has given you and the desires he has placed in your heart.

Use a map or draw a large picture of the world. Individually, trace your hand on construction paper and cut it out. Write on the hand what you feel you could do now to help change the world, considering what God is asking of you. Assist younger children with this project if needed. Decorate the hands as desired. Place all the hand cutouts on the picture of the world. Place it in a visible location as a reminder of what you want to do and encourage each other to accomplish your goals.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Chicken Cacciatore Slow Cooker Recipe

*Enjoy this Italian meal in honor of St. Fabian,
whose story started in Rome.*

- × 1 bag frozen chicken breast tenderloins
- × 1 -14oz. can tomato paste
- × 1/3-1/2 cup red cooking wine
- × 4-5 whole cloves garlic chopped
- × 3 jars tomato basil sauce
- × whole mushrooms
- × 1/4 tsp. dried basil
- × 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- × 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
- × 1/4 tsp. salt
- × 1 chopped red pepper
- × optional:
 - sliced/diced onion
 - dried rosemary – 1/4 tsp.

Combine all ingredients in crock pot. Cook on low for 7 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.



Lectio Divina

In today's Gospel, Jesus changes Simon's name to Peter and gives him a special role in the early Church. Today's prayer will use Lectio Divina to help you reflect on the fact that Jesus calls you by name as well.

Lectio Divina (Latin: "divine reading") is a way of developing a closer relationship with God by reflecting prayerfully on his words in Sacred Scripture. In Lectio Divina, the chosen passage is read three times in total, giving an opportunity to think deeply about it and respond thoughtfully.

Choose a reader for the passage on the next page. After each reading, allow for a minute or two of silence to let the words sink in. Listen for any words or phrases that seem to jump out. After the third reading, pray about what God is calling you to focus on today. Family members are invited to share their experience afterward. This formula can be used for any Scripture passage.

Promises of Redemption and Restoration

Isaiah 43:1-4a

But now, thus says the LORD,
who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned
nor will flames consume you.
For I, the LORD, am your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as ransom for you,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes
and honored, and I love you.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." This phrase is spoken by the priest at a particular point at Mass. When does he say it?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Andrew introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus. Ask God to show you one person who doesn't know Jesus and to give you the opportunity to talk to that person. Tell that person about Jesus. Share about your experience at your next family meal.

FUN FACTS!

In the Old Covenant, the Jews sacrificed a lamb and ate its roasted flesh to celebrate Passover. Passover commemorates the time when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Jesus established the New Covenant, when he sacrificed himself (instead of a lamb) on the cross to free us from sin. This is why we call Jesus the Lamb of God.

JANUARY 24, 2021

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JON 3:1-5, 10

PS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

1 COR 7:29-31



The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry and the Call of the First Disciples

Mk 1:14-20

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.
Jesus said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.
He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.

Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

ST. AGAPE

(Feast Day April 3)
d. 304

St. Agape, St. Chionia, and St. Irene were three virgin sisters from Thessalonica, Macedonia. According to Christian tradition, Agape and her sisters were martyred for the faith in the year 304. They were convicted of possessing sacred scriptural texts despite a decree issued in

303 by the Emperor Diocletian naming such possessions a crime punishable by death. During their trial, the sisters refused to make a sacrifice to the pagan gods and were martyred. Even though it would have been seemingly easy for Agape to momentarily push her faith aside to keep her life, she said, “I believe in the living God and will not by an evil action lose all the merits of my past life.” She was wise enough to know that one small evil action can have enormous consequences.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What does it mean to “believe in the Gospel”?
- × Why do you think Jesus commands us to repent?
- × Simon, Andrew, James and John all left behind their old life in order to follow Jesus. In what way are we called to leave behind our old habits and follow Jesus today?
- × Today is *Word of God Sunday* (see Fun Fact). In what way did St. Agape honor the Word of God? In what way can we honor the Word of God in our family?

FAMILY FUN Preschool Games



No matter the age of your children, playing preschool games as a family can be a ton of fun! Younger kids love seeing their parents playing their games and older kids find creative and new ways to make these games new! Take some time today to play Follow the Leader, Simon Says, Red Light-Green Light, Hot Potato, Musical Chairs, or Duck, Duck, Goose.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Catch a (Candy) Fish

Just as Simon and Andrew cast their nets into the sea, make this fun dessert to catch some fish at home!

- × 1 bag square snap pretzels
- × 1 bag Hershey's Kisses
- × candy fish (gummy fish, sharks, Swedish fish, etc.)—You will need at least one per pretzel

Preheat oven to 300 F. Line pretzels on a baking pan and place a candy kiss on each one. Bake for 2 to 3 minutes, until the candy kiss is glossy. Remove from the oven and place the candy fish on top of the kiss, smooshing it down. Allow the candy kiss to harden with the fish now caught in the net. Enjoy!



Enthroning the Bible

On this Sunday of the Word of God, take some time to honor and reflect on the Word of God as a family. Set up a prayer table in a prominent place in your home where your Bible can be visibly enthroned, and your family can gather to pray. Decorate your space with fabric, a candle, flowers, etc. Open the Bible to John 8:28.

Play a praise and worship or instrumental song. During the song, have family members bring to the table a lit candle, the Bible, and a crucifix.

[Reader reads from the enthroned Bible.]

A reading from the Gospel of John. (Jn 8:28-32)

|

Jesus said [to them], “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him.” Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Reader: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

[Take a moment to reflect on the passage. If desired, family members can share a word that spoke to them.]

|

Reader: Lord, you are the source of every blessing. Be with us now and whenever we read the Bible. May we strive always to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Adapted from: *A prayer provided by St. Christopher Parish, Marysville and the Prayer for Placing Objects for Prayer and Devotion in Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers.*

LITURGY LINK

Before the Gospel is proclaimed, we make the sign of the cross on our forehead, our lips, and over our heart. What words do we say when doing this?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Ask God to show you something for which you need to repent. Pray about this and ask God for forgiveness. Receive absolution for this sin through the sacrament of Reconciliation when you are able.

FUN FACTS!

In 2019, Pope Francis declared the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as Sunday of the *Word of God* to remind the faithful to read the Bible regularly and to put God's Word at the center of our lives.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JANUARY 31, 2021

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DT 18:15-20

PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9

1 COR 7:32-35



The Cure of a Demoniac

Mk 1:21-28

Then they came to Capernaum,
and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;
he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”
Jesus rebuked him and said,
“Quiet! Come out of him!”
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.
All were amazed and asked one another,
“What is this?
A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Paul Miki and Companions

(Feast Day
February 6)
1545 – 1597

When the first missionaries came to Japan in 1549, they were welcomed, and many Japanese people became Christians. When the Japanese leader Hideyoshi took command, he feared that Christians would take over the government, so in 1587 he banished them and destroyed many of their churches. On December 8, 1596, Hideyoshi arrested and condemned to death the friars of Miako. Among them were Paul Miki and his companions: missionary priests, brothers, laymen, catechists, doctors, artisans, servants, and innocent children.

Paul Miki was born in Japan and educated by the Jesuits. He would have been the very first Japanese priest if he had escaped arrest, for he had already completed his studies for the priesthood. From his cross he forgave his persecutors and told the people to ask Christ to show them how to be truly happy.

Some missionary priests stayed and went into hiding, dressing like the Japanese people in order to minister to the Christians. When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves, they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith for over 200 years. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonized in 1862.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why do you think the people in today's Gospel story were astonished at Jesus' teaching?
- × The Gospel tells us that Jesus has authority over unclean spirits. Have you ever thought about how powerful Jesus is? Is there anything that Jesus can't do?
- × What would it be like to see Jesus performing the mighty acts we hear in the Gospels?
- × Consider the courage of St. Paul Miki and Companions. What made them so brave?

FAMILY FUN

Origami



To celebrate the heritage of St. Paul Miki, do some simple origami today. You can find printable guides online to make animals, envelopes, paper airplanes, fans, and more.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK Sushi Bake

*Enjoy this delicious Japanese dish
in honor of St. Paul Miki.*

- × 3 Tbsp. seasoned rice vinegar
- × 3 cups cooked sushi rice
- × 1/2 cup cream cheese, softened
- × 1/2 cup Kewpie mayonnaise
- × 6 ounces imitation crab, shredded and roughly chopped
- × 1/4 cup green onion, sliced
- × 1/4 cup furikake (Japanese seasoning)
- × Optional: nori sheets, wasabi, soy sauce

Cook sushi rice according to package instructions. Preheat oven to 450 F. In a large bowl, mix rice with seasoned rice vinegar until well combined. In a separate bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, crab and green onion and fold until combined. Spread the rice into a 9x13 baking dish and smooth out along the bottom. Sprinkle the half of the furikake over the rice. Layer the crab mixture over the top, and top with the rest of the furikake. Bake for 15 minutes or until bubbly and slightly browned on top. Serve with nori sheets, wasabi and soy sauce to taste.

Submitted by: Joyce Family from
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Madison Heights



Adapted Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray.
And do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God
thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls.
Amen.

OUR FATHER ...
HAIL MARY ...
GLORY BE ...

In your Name Lord Jesus Christ,
we pray that you would cover us,
our work to Unleash the Gospel in the Archdiocese of Detroit,
our families, and all our possessions,
with your love and your Most Precious Blood
and surround us with your heavenly angels,
saints and the mantle of Our Blessed Mother.
For you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, Jesus taught in the synagogue. In what way do we hear Jesus' teaching at Mass?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Think about something for which you need more courage. Write (or draw) it on a piece of paper. Ask one family member to pray for this intention for a whole week.

FUN FACTS!

Synagogue is a Greek word that literally means a gathering of people. In the time of Jesus, a synagogue was a place where Jews gathered, worshiped, prayed, and learned. In the Jewish religion, the sabbath was observed on Saturday. However, Christians worship on Sunday because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JB 7:1-4, 6-7

PS 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 COR 9:16-19, 22-23



The Cure of Simon's Mother-in-Law, Other Healings, and Jesus Leaves Capernaum

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue

Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.

They immediately told him about her.

He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,

they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

The whole town was gathered at the door.

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,

and he drove out many demons,

not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.
Simon and those who were with him pursued him
and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.”
He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come.”
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Victoria
of Albitina**

(Feast Day
February 12)
d. 304

St. Victoria of Albitina was born in North Africa. She converted to Christianity when she was still a youth. Victoria refused an arranged marriage to a young nobleman and on her wedding day she escaped through a window in her parents' house. She sought refuge in a nearby church and there dedicated her life to God.

Her pagan brother tried to intercede with the judge by claiming she was insane; she disproved this by engaging in a debate with the judge. The judge was willing to release her if she agreed to her brother's supervision, but she refused, saying she would obey only God. The judge, knowing her family, pleaded with her to not throw away her life on what he considered a fantasy; she proclaimed that she was a Christian, that she was loyal to God, and that she had taken part in the Eucharist. She was noted during her imprisonment for her courage. She was later martyred with 45 fellow parishioners.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Share a time when you asked Jesus to help when you or someone you know was sick.
- × Today's Gospel tells us that "the whole town" was gathered at the door of Simon and Andrew's house. How many people do you think Jesus healed that night?
- × Why do you think it was important for Jesus to go and preach in the other villages?
- × St. Victoria of Albitina dedicated her life to God at a young age. What do you think inspires someone to devote their life to God? In what way have you dedicated your life to God?

FAMILY FUN Bingo



Have each family member create a 5x5 bingo board (either print one out or just draw it on a regular piece of paper). In a random pattern, fill the squares with numbers, letters, words, or pictures. If using words or pictures, you may want to choose a theme such as football. Whatever answers are on the board, write them on a slip of paper and put them in a bowl. Have one person pick a slip of paper and call out the answer. Participants cover the square that was called if it is on their board. The first person to get 5 squares covered across, down, or on the diagonal wins! Consider having small prizes for the winner or let them be the one to call the answers next.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Hot Roast Beef Party Sandwiches

Peter's mother-in-law hosted people at her house just after Jesus healed her. This is a great recipe whether you are hosting people or simply gathering with your family.

- × 2 (9-oz) pkgs. dinner rolls
- × 2/3 cup peach preserves
- × 1/2 cup mustard/mayo blend (Grey Poupon has a great dijon blend)
- × 3/4 lb. thinly sliced deli roast beef
- × 1/2 lb. thinly sliced Havarti cheese
- × salt and pepper to taste

Remove rolls from packages. Do not separate rolls. Cut rolls in half horizontally, creating one top and one bottom per package. Spread preserves on top side of rolls; spread mustard-mayo on bottom side of rolls; top with beef and cheese. Sprinkle with salt and pepper if desired. Put two halves together, preserves side down, and wrap in aluminum foil. To make ahead, prepare recipe until this point. Freeze up to one month and thaw overnight in refrigerator and bake as directed. Bake at 325 F for 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Slice into individual sandwiches. Optional: Add ½ cup toasted walnuts to add crunch.



Prayer for Family Members

Jesus still heals and takes care of people's needs today. Take time to pray for the needs of those in your family. Each family member can name one or more persons they want to pray for. Write all the names down and pray the prayer on the next page, inserting the names as indicated.

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus, protect [list of names] physically, spiritually,
emotionally, and psychologically this day. Help them
to know that they can turn to you for strength and
guidance. Keep evil far from them and help them to
trust you as their refuge and strength. Make them
strong and courageous in the presence of danger,
recognizing that with you they can face any challenge.
Take care of them in all the circumstances of their lives.
Amen.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, Jesus came into the house or "under the roof" of Simon Peter's House. Fill in the blank with these words: roof, soul, Word, worthy. Lord, I am not _____ that you should enter under my _____, but only say the _____ and my _____ shall be healed. When do we say this response at Mass?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Continue to do the Prayer for Family Members throughout the rest of the week.

FUN FACTS!

Today, in the city of Capernaum, you can see the excavation site of Simon Peter's house, the actual site where today's Gospel story happened. A large modern church has been built over the site, but visitors can see the first century home through a large glass window in the middle of the church.

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LV 13:1-2, 44-46

PS 32:1-2, 5, 11

1 COR 10:31-11:1



The Cleansing of a Leper

Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
“If you wish, you can make me clean.”

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,
touched him, and said to him,

“I do will it. Be made clean.”

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;
that will be proof for them.”

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.
He spread the report abroad
so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.
He remained outside in deserted places,
and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Lucy Yi Zhenmei

(Feast Day February 19)
December 9, 1815
– February 19, 1862

Lucy Yi was born in 1815 in China. Lucy was the youngest child in her family and was very dedicated in her prayer life. At the age of 12, she decided to consecrate her life to God. She loved reading and learning. When she was 20 years old and pursuing her college education she fell ill. After her recovery

Lucy took her spiritual life still more seriously. She knew she could not leave her family to become a nun because they needed her financial help. Instead, she prayed daily and worked to support them. After her father died, she lived with her brother and mother, using part of her time to teach the faith to children nearby. Lucy Yi later became a missionary, and while on a mission trip in 1862, she entered a region that was hostile to Christians. The local governor imprisoned and sentenced to death the priest and several missionaries in their group. She was among those who were sentenced to death because she refused to renounce her faith. The following day she was executed. St. John Paul II canonized St. Lucy Yi and her companions on October 1, 2000.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Consider the leper in today's Gospel story. How strong was his faith in Jesus? How easy or hard is it to have faith today?
- × Why do you think Jesus didn't want the leper to tell anyone except the priest that he was healed?
- × Why do you think the man told everyone anyway?
- × St. Lucy Yi spent her time teaching the faith to children, much like a catechist would today. Who has helped you grow in your faith by their teaching and example?

FAMILY FUN Kindness Scavenger Hunt



This Valentine's Day, find ways to love by doing a Random Acts of Kindness Scavenger Hunt. As a family, create a checklist of 15 random acts of kindness and distribute the checklist to each family member. The object of the game is to complete all of the random acts of kindness by the end of the week. At the end of the week, spend time over a special dinner or dessert sharing what you did throughout the week and how it made everyone feel. Discuss which tasks were easiest and which were most difficult.

Possible Ideas:

- × Assist with making a meal.
- × Call a family member and tell them "I love you!"
- × Clean out old toys and books for donation to goodwill.
- × Do someone's chores.
- × Donate food to a local food pantry.
- × Draw a picture or write a note to someone you don't see often letting them know you are thinking of them.
- × Give someone a compliment.
- × Give someone a high five.
- × Give someone a hug.
- × Help with cleaning-up, even if you didn't help make the mess.
- × Hold a door for someone.
- × Let someone else pick the game you play.
- × Make someone laugh.
- × Push in the chairs at the table.
- × Read a story to someone.
- × Share your toys with someone.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Chocolate Mint Icebox Cake

Enjoy this sweet treat for St. Valentine's Day!

- × 1 package (9 ounces)
chocolate wafers
- × 1 3/4 cups chilled heavy cream
- × 3/4 tsp. mint extract
- × 1 cup miniature chocolate chips
- × 1/4 cup sugar

Make the mint cream: With an electric mixer, beat heavy cream, sugar, and mint extract until stiff peaks form.

Line a serving platter with two sheets of wax paper side by side. Assemble the cake: Spread each wafer with about 1/2 Tbsp. mint cream, forming stacks. Lay stacks horizontally along seam of wax paper, pressing gently to form a log. With a small spatula or knife, cover log with remaining cream. Refrigerate at least 4 hours and up to 2 days. To serve, gently remove wax paper from underneath cake (holding cake in place with a metal spatula if necessary). Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Slice cake diagonally with a serrated knife. Serves 8.



Prayer for Black History Month

*During Black History Month, we remember
the importance of hearing the stories of others:*

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace, Mother of Hope,
We pause now to remember those stories that are all around us,
But so often passed over,
Those stories that when told are shared because
Of what someone is, not who they are.
This month in our nation's character
Is Black History month.
Help us to realize that Black history is
All our histories.
May the day come when these stories
Are so wildly taught that no month need
Be separately divided.
We know this day will not come until we as a people
Make different choices.
We pray now for those new choices.

May we come to see a day where the prison system
Becomes redemptive, not punitive.
A day where the legal system learns to focus more squarely on the facts,
And the not colors of our skin.
A day where our schools are as well funded, as the needs demand.
May our role models be allowed to excel when they thrive,
And not be taken down for their rich heritage.
We know this will require a shift in power.
And this can be scary for some.
Give those full of fear - hope.
May we come to know grace,
So that our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us.
There are so many beautiful stories needing to be told.
And we need to get the chance to hear them.
Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month,
And every month,
Come to be known as our history too.
We are most human when we see the humanity in others.
Amen.

From: <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-black-history-month1>

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, Jesus shows mercy to the leper. In what part of Mass do we ask Jesus to have mercy on us? What are the words we say at Mass when we ask for mercy?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Discuss as a family something that you either want to give up or take on that will help you to be more like Christ during the season of Lent. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

FUN FACTS!

Leprosy (Hansen's disease) is an infectious disease caused by a slow-growing bacteria. If left untreated, it can cause nerve damage that can result in crippling of hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness. The bacteria that causes leprosy was discovered by G. H. Armauer Hansen in Norway in 1873. The first effective treatment (promin) became available in the 1940s. In the 1950s, dapson was introduced.

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

GN 9:8-15

PS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

1 PT 3:18-22



The Temptation of Jesus and The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Mk 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

“This is the time of fulfillment.

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Bl. Charles de Foucauld

(Feast Day
December 1)
d. 1916

Blessed Charles de Foucauld was born into an aristocratic family in Strasbourg, France. When he was a teenager, Charles distanced himself from the faith and claimed that he no longer believed in God. In 1876, Charles joined the French army and was sent to Algeria. His experience in the army inspired him to take up travel and exploration. Charles set out for a one-year exploration expedition to Morocco. Because Europeans were forbidden in Morocco, Charles disguised himself as a Jew.

When he returned to France, he felt a strong interior grace to go back to Church. He would spend long hours there repeating this strange prayer: “My God, if you exist, allow me to know you!” Eventually, Charles felt the call to leave everything and follow Jesus. He became a Trappist monk, and after 7 years, Charles left the monastery and worked as a gardener and sacristan for the Poor Clare nuns in Nazareth, and then later in Jerusalem. At the age of 43, he returned to France and was ordained a priest. Later that year Charles journeyed to Beni-Abbes, Morocco, to serve among the Tuareg people, a nomadic ethnic group. He was deeply respectful of the faiths and cultures he lived among and became a “brother” to the people. De Foucauld was the inspiration for the founding of several lay associations, religious communities, and secular institutes of laity and priests. He was assassinated by a band of men at his hermitage in the Sahara on Dec. 1, 1916. On May 26, 2020, Pope Francis approved a second miracle attributed to de Foucauld’s intercession, paving the way for his canonization.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What emotions do you think Jesus felt while he was in the desert? What do you think he thought or prayed about when he was there?
- × Today's Gospel says that angels ministered to Jesus. Have you ever felt the presence of angels in your life?
- × Jesus said, "This is the time of fulfillment." What does he mean by this?
- × What would it be like to be a missionary to people of other faiths and cultures?

FAMILY FUN Movie Night



Watch a family movie set in the desert. Consider *The Prince of Egypt*, *Aladdin*, or *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Pop some popcorn, grab some blankets, and enjoy your time together! Alternatively, select a movie where someone is alone for a long period of time like *Up*, *Frozen*, or *Moana*.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Grandma Bebe's Beef Stew

You'll be tempted to peek under the lid of this recipe when it smells so good!

- × 1 envelope of dry onion soup mix
- × carrots, onions, and potatoes (as many as you like)
- × About 3 pounds beef stew meat (cut in chunks or one large roast)
- × 2 cans Campbell's Golden Mushroom Soup (or beef broth)

Combine the onion soup and one can of Golden Mushroom Soup. Mix with all the vegetables and put all in the bottom of a crock pot. Place meat on top of vegetables. Top with other can of Golden Mushroom Soup. Cook in crockpot on low for 6 to 8 hours or in a pan in the oven covered in tinfoil at 325 F for 2.5 to 3 hours.



The Our Father and Guardian Angel Prayer

We hear today of Jesus being tempted and the angels ministering to Him. Today, ask for God's protection by praying the Our Father and calling on your Guardian Angel.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGELS PRAYER

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard to rule and guide. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

When we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, the minister uses one of the phrases in today's Gospel while marking our forehead with ashes. Which phrase is it?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Sometimes we are tempted into bad behaviors. As a family, identify one behavior that you would like to see improved in your household. Make a commitment to change that behavior for one week.

FUN FACTS!

February 22nd is known as Be Humble Day!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

GN 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18

PS 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

ROM 8:31B-34



The Transfiguration of Jesus

Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
“Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Josaphat

Feast Day November 12
c. 1580- November 12,
1623

St. Josaphat was born John Kuncevic in about 1580 in a village of the Province of Volhynia (then a part of the Polish Kingdom, now modern-day Ukraine). His parents belonged to the Eastern Rite Church of Kyiv (Ukraine) which was then separated from Rome. When

John was just a child, his mother explained the icons in church. Years later he told a friend that he felt a spark of fire leave the wounded side of Christ (pictured in the icon) and enter his own heart, which was filled with joy. This event influenced the rest of his life. Within him grew the desire to suffer for his Savior.

John's father sent him to Wilno, where the topic of reunification of the Eastern Rite Church with the Roman Catholic Church was a hotly debated topic. In 1595, the local bishops held a synod and voted to unite with Rome. In the meantime, John made his profession of faith, then entered the Basilian Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Wilno and took the name of Josaphat. He was ordained a priest in 1609, and eventually became the Bishop of Plock. He at once called a Synod to revitalize his diocese where he pursued the reunion of all with Rome. This was met with hostility and Josaphat suffered much slander.

Josaphat was eventually removed from Ploock and cruelly killed on November 12, 1623. He was forty-five years old. Josaphat's death brought a movement toward Catholicism and unity.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why do you think Jesus transfigured himself for Peter, James and John?
- × Share a time when you have encountered Jesus.
- × Take a moment to reflect on this phrase from today's Gospel: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." What do you hear God saying to you in your heart?
- × St. Josaphat tried to be a good leader and do the right things, even though people didn't agree with him. Share a time when you did the right thing even if others disagreed with you.

FAMILY FUN Marshmallow & Toothpick Creations



Marshmallows remind us of the cloud in today's Gospel. Grab some marshmallows (mini ones work great) and toothpicks. Putting toothpicks in the marshmallows and connecting them to other toothpicks and marshmallows, your family can create towers, buildings, cities, or whatever your imagination inspires! Feeling competitive? Have a challenge to see who can build the tallest structure. For younger children, consider using full-sized marshmallows and straws.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Marshmallow and Popcorn Balls

*Transform these simple ingredients
into something dazzling!*

- × 15 cups popped popcorn,
which is 1/2 cup popcorn
kernels popped
- × 6 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- × 5 cups miniature marshmallows
- × 3/4 tsp. vanilla extract
- × cooking spray

Pop the popcorn and remove any kernels that did not pop. Place popcorn in large bowl that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Prepare a large baking dish or piece of parchment paper. Heat butter and marshmallows over medium-low heat until melted, stirring often. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. (Optional: also add 1/4 tsp. salt for a kettle-corn flavor) Pour

mixture over the popcorn, tossing or stirring to make sure all the popcorn is coated evenly. Let mixture cool enough to touch. Spray cooking spray on your hands and form a cup of popcorn into a ball. Place each ball in the baking dish or on the parchment paper. Continue until you use all the mix, spraying additional cooking spray on your hands as needed. Munch and enjoy!



Litany of the Sacred Heart

*Select one person to be the leader;
all others read the responses in bold.*

Kyrie Eleison, **Kyrie Eleison**
Christe Eleison, **Christe Eleison**
Kyrie Eleison, **Kyrie Eleison**

Christ, hear us. **Christ, hear us.**
Christ, graciously hear us. **Christ,
graciously hear us.**

God, our Father in heaven, **have mercy on us**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us**
God, the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us**
Holy Trinity, One God, **have mercy on us**

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, united in substance to the Word of God, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High One, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, wellspring of all virtues, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of divinity, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke you, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with insults, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses, **have mercy on us**

Heart of Jesus, obedient unto death, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, victim of sins, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in you, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in you, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints, **have mercy on us**

Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world, **spare us, Lord.**
Graciously hear us, **Lord have mercy on us.**

Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
make our hearts like to yours.

Let us pray:
God our loving Father,
grant wisdom to those who govern us,
compassion and courage
to those who work to defend human life,
and safety and care to every human being.
For you alone who formed us in our mothers' wombs,
and who call us home to heaven,
are God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

From: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-life-prayers-before-the-blessed-sacrament.cfm>

LITURGY LINK

What colors and/or designs do you see in the stained-glass windows at your parish? Do they look different outside than they do inside?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

In today's Gospel, God the Father tells us to listen to his Son. This week spend 3 minutes each day in silence listening to God. Begin by quieting yourself and simply asking God to be with you and speak to you. Share your experience with your family at the end of the week.

FUN FACTS!

The largest popcorn ball in the world weighed over 9,000 pounds and was 24 feet around. It is located in Sac City, Iowa.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MARCH 7, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

EX 20:1-17 OR EX 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11

1 COR 1:22-25



Cleansing of the Temple

Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money changers seated there.
He made a whip out of cords
and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
“Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
“What sign can you show us for doing this?”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”
The Jews said,

“This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?”

But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
many began to believe in his name
when they saw the signs he was doing.

But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,
and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.

He himself understood it well.

See the Appendix for the Scrutiny readings.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

(Feast Day
March 7)
d. 203

Saints Perpetua and Felicity were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa by the Emperor Severus. Perpetua, a well-educated noblewoman, made the decision to follow the path of her mother and became a Christian, although she knew it could mean her death during the persecutions ordered by the Emperor Severus.

Her pagan father was frantic with worry and tried to talk her out of her decision. At 22-years-old, the well-educated, high-spirited woman had every reason to want to live -- including a baby son whom she was still nursing.

Perpetua was arrested with four other catechumens, including Felicity who was eight months pregnant, and their instructor in the faith, Saturus. Perpetua was baptized before she was taken to prison. She was known for her gift of “the Lord’s speech” and receiving messages from God. At the time of her baptism she was told by God to pray for nothing but endurance in the face of her trials.

While in prison, Perpetua was able to visit with her baby. Her father came and begged her to change her mind. When she and the others were taken to be examined and sentenced, the judge, out of pity, tried to get her to change her mind, but she did not back down. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheater. Felicity gave birth to a girl a few days before the games commenced. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Jesus was angry with the merchants in the temple because they were cheating the people. Have you ever been cheated? How did that make you feel?
- × Jesus was also angry because the merchants were robbing the people of the opportunity to worship and pray. Have you ever been distracted in prayer? What did you do to push away the distractions?
- × Everything that Jesus says is important, but sometimes the people in the story don't understand what he means. For example, in today's Gospel, the people didn't understand what Jesus meant when he said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." What do you do when you don't understand something that Jesus says?
- × Perpetua and Felicity were brave women who knew that God would take care of them and their families, even though they were punished for being Christians. Share a time when you did something brave with God's help.

FAMILY FUN

God Made vs. Human Made



We hear in today's Gospel about what people have made (the temple) and what originates from God (Jesus). This game is a fun and easy way to teach young children about God as creator and giver of all good gifts. Point to an object and ask, "human-made or God-made?" Children are then invited to respond. This game is a lot of fun and can lead to many teachable moments. For example, is a car human-made or God-made? A car is human-made but God gave the human the intelligence and creativity to design it and the strength and diligence to assemble it. Isn't God good?



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

24-Hour Salad

Today's Gospel teaches us that it took forty-six years to build the Jerusalem temple! Build this delicious salad in just one day! This recipe is meant for a party so feel free to cut it in half for a smaller crowd.

- × 3 heads of lettuce, shredded
- × 1 bag of frozen peas, thawed
- × 6 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- × 6 slices of cooked bacon, crumbled
- × 6 slices of cooked bacon, crumbled
- × 8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese (can substitute swiss cheese or combine the two)
- × 2 envelopes of Hidden Valley ranch dressing mix
- × 2 cups of mayonnaise
- × 2 cups of sour cream
- × Optional: paprika

In a large bowl, layer lettuce, peas, eggs, bacon, and cheese. In another bowl, make the dressing by mixing together the mayonnaise, sour cream, and ranch mix. Spread the dressing over the top layer in the bowl. Sprinkle with paprika, if desired. Cover the bowl and refrigerate the salad for up to 24-hours. Right before serving, toss the salad with the dressing and mix well. Enjoy!



Righteous Anger

In today's Gospel, Jesus expressed anger to convey his displeasure over abuses in the temple. As followers of Christ, it is appropriate for us too to get angry over sin. Evils such as abuse, racism, pornography, etc. should incense us. This prayer will help to transform righteous anger into peace.



God of righteous anger and holy healing,
We pray for our world
and for people who have been hurt by members of the Church.
We ask for accountability, change and healing.

God of Peace,
We pray for our world
where war has become a way of life.
We pray for reconciliation and your peace that surpasses all understanding.

God of Creation,
We pray for our world
For ocean and mountain, hill and vale, forest and meadow
and for all the creatures with which we share
this beautiful creation.
We pray for wisdom that we may be faithful and humble
stewards of this beautiful planet.

God of Love,
We pray for our hearts
And all that we hold dear
Family and friends,
Work and rest and play.
We pray for joy and compassion that we may live and share
your love.
Amen.

Adapted from: <https://worshipwords.co.uk/god-of-righteous-anger-a-prayer-thandiwe-dale-ferguson-usa>

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the most important of Jewish buildings because God was present there in a special way. Today, Jesus is present in a special way in the Eucharist, which is reserved in the tabernacle. Find the tabernacle in your church.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on the quality of our worship and prayer at home. Create and decorate a prayer space in your home that is dedicated to prayer and worship of God. Invite family members to use this space throughout the week and beyond.

FUN FACTS!

The Jerusalem temple was divided into several courts. The outermost court, open to non-Jewish pilgrims, was used for selling sacrificial animals and exchanging foreign currency for the appropriate coins needed to pay the temple tax.

MARCH 14, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23

PS 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

EPH 2:4-10



Nicodemus

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,
but whoever does not believe has already been condemned,
because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,

because their works were evil.
For everyone who does wicked things hates the light
and does not come toward the light,
so that his works might not be exposed.
But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,
so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

See the Appendix for the Scrutiny readings.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Victor
Emilio
Moscoso-
Cárdenas**

(Feast Day May 4)
April 21, 1846 –
May 4, 1897

Victor Emilio Moscoso-Cárdenas was born in Cuenca in Ecuador on April 21, 1846. He studied law in college but felt drawn to the religious life, so he

abandoned his studies in order to join the Jesuits in 1864. He began his novitiate in Cuenca where the Jesuits had settled since the order was forced to leave Quito due to the anti-religious sentiment and persecution at the time. Moscoso studied in the San Luis college where he did his philosophical studies.

Moscoso first began his duties as a priest and as a teacher. He was known for his kind and generous personality and a serene, simple, and humble character. In 1895 the Liberal Revolution broke out in Ecuador, which triggered a series of persecutions and a wave of anti-religious sentiment against religious orders and priests. On May 4, 1897, the soldiers who were authorized to take priests as prisoners, barged into the church, killed

several people, and broke the tabernacle. The men proceeded to throw the hosts to the ground and drink the wine mocking the sacraments. They found Moscoso in a room kneeling. There, he was shot and killed. On February 5, 2019, Pope Francis -- himself a Jesuit -- approved his beatification and declared that he had been killed “in odium fidei” (in hatred of the faith).

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why was it necessary for God to send his Son into the world to die for our sins?
- × What does Jesus mean when he says that whoever believes in him will not be condemned?
- × In today's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as “light” and says that some prefer darkness to light. Why would someone prefer darkness (to do evil works) rather than follow Jesus?
- × Where do you see darkness and light in the story of Bl. Victor Emilio Moscoso-Cárdenas?

FAMILY FUN Flashlight Tag



To remember that Jesus is the light shining in the darkness, play a game of flashlight tag tonight. When it starts to get dark, select one person to be “it.” The person who is “it” gets a flashlight and counts to 50 with their eyes closed. While he or she is counting, everyone else hides. When the person is finished counting, he or she has to find the others by shining the flashlight on them. The next person who becomes “it” is either the first or the last person found.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Potato Garlic Soup with Rosemary Butter

*We can take comfort in knowing that God sent
his Son to save us. Enjoy this comfort food today!*

- × 4-5 cups chicken broth or bone broth for extra protein
- × 6 whole garlic cloves, peeled
- × 4-5 large russet or Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chunked
- × 1 cup whole milk
- × salt to taste
- × 1/8 tsp. white pepper
- × 1 Tbsp. finely chopped rosemary
- × 1/4 cup butter

Place broth, garlic cloves and potatoes in pot. Bring to a boil and lower to simmer until potatoes are tender. Carefully blend ingredients with immersion blender or slightly cool to puree in batches in blender until smooth. Add milk and salt and pepper to taste. Prepare garnish by adding rosemary to butter. Garnish with generous dollop of chopped fresh rosemary butter.



St. Joseph Prayer

*The Feast of St. Joseph is on March 19th.
This week call on his protection and intercession.*

A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR PROTECTION

St. Joseph, whose protection is so great,
so strong, so prompt before the throne of God,
I place in you all my interests and desires.

St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession
and obtain for me from your divine son
all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
so that having engaged here below your heavenly power,
I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you
and Jesus asleep in your arms.
I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart.
Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me,
and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

During Lent, those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil participate in three rites called the Scrutinies, which happen on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. The Scrutinies and the readings for these Masses offer a special chance for personal reflection and self-examination for those preparing for baptism. The scrutiny readings are located in the Appendix of this book.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Make a John 3:16 sign and place it in a prominent place in your home. Invite each family member to memorize John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

FUN FACTS!

Christians started holding "John 3:16" signs at sports stadiums beginning in the late 1970s as a way to spread the Gospel. The phrase explains God's saving grace in a nutshell.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

JER 31:31-34

PS 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

HEB 5:7-9



The Coming of Jesus' Hour

Jn 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?
‘Father, save me from this hour’?
But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.
Father, glorify your name.”
Then a voice came from heaven,
“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”
The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;
but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”
Jesus answered and said,
“This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.
Now is the time of judgment on this world;
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself.”
He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

See the Appendix for the Scrutiny readings.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Magdalene of Nagasaki

(Feast Day
October 20)
1611 - 1634

Magdalene of Nagasaki was a Japanese woman who, in spite of great danger and difficulty, remained faithful to Jesus Christ until her martyrdom. Magdalene was born in the early seventeenth century into a devout Christian family. Her parents were martyred around 1620, when Magdalene was in her teens.

It was around this time that the first Augustinians arrived in Japan. As a committed Christian, Magdalene made herself known to them. She served as a catechist and interpreter for the early Augustinian missionaries. She found their Augustinian spirituality appealing, with its emphasis on the interior search for God and community. She asked to be accepted into the Order of Saint Augustine, and in 1625 was formally received into the Augustinian Third Order. She considered becoming a full-fledged Dominican sister, but continued religious persecution kept her from doing so.

As persecution of Christians in Japan became stronger, Magdalene fled to the hills, where she worked at bringing the Word of God to those who did not know Jesus and strengthening the faith of those who did. As a follower of Jesus, she was threatened, ridiculed, tortured, and killed, but through it all, her Christian witness was strong. Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1987.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel, Jesus says that when a grain of wheat dies and falls to the ground, it produces much fruit. Share an example of how this happens in nature.
- × In what way do we benefit from Jesus' death?
- × The Gospel makes it clear that those who put Jesus first gain eternal life. Is it easy or hard to put Jesus first? Explain your answer.
- × Why have Christians been persecuted in every age of history?

FAMILY FUN
**Hula Hoop
Contest**



A circle is a symbol of eternal life because it has no beginning and no end. Think about Jesus' offer of eternal life as you do this activity.

See who can keep a hula hoop spinning the longest around their waist. Come up with other challenges: How many times can you spin it around your arm? Your neck? Your ankle?



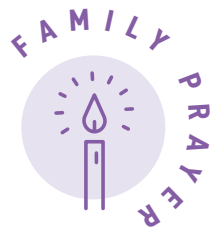
RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Baked Parmesan Chicken

In the Gospel of John, Jesus' "hour" refers to the hour of his Passion and Death. This easy recipe bakes in just one hour.

- × 3 lbs. bone-in chicken thighs
- × 1 cup of breadcrumbs
- × 1 cup of grated parmesan cheese
- × garlic salt to taste
- × pepper to taste
- × paprika to taste

Preheat oven to 350 F. Rinse chicken thighs. Pour remaining ingredients in plastic bag. Coat each thigh by placing it in the bag and shaking it. Place chicken in one layer in a baking dish. Add 1/3 cup of water to the bottom of the dish. Dot each chicken thigh with butter or margarine. Bake for 1 hour. Enjoy!



A Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father,

We desire to live our lives serving you. Help each member of this family see the path to which you are calling them.

We thank you for those you have brought into our lives to help us live out our call. Please help us to see each of them through your eyes today.

We pray especially for our children's future vocations. We lift up those people who will cross each of their paths and impact how they serve you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

The word "Amen" means "so be it" or "it is so." How many times do we say "Amen" at Mass?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

As a family, pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith today. Pray for this intention all week.

FUN FACTS!

The name "tertiary" comes from the Latin word for "third." It is used to denote those who belong to a third order religious community. Third order religious communities are generally made up of people who are either married or single and have an interest in the religious order's way of life. These lay people do not take monastic vows but offer support to the work of the Order in terms of voluntary work, gifts of money and goods, and of study and promotion of the Order's teaching.

MARCH 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



The Entry into Jerusalem

Mk 11:1-10 (The Gospel at the Procession with Palms)

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’” So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it.

So they brought the colt to Jesus
and put their cloaks over it.
And he sat on it.
Many people spread their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy branches
that they had cut from the fields.
Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:
“Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!
Hosanna in the highest!”

IS 50:4-7

PS 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

PHIL 2:6-11

The Lord's Passion

Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

See Appendix for the Lord's Passion.

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Diego
Luis de San
Vitores and
St. Pedro
Calungsod**

(Feast Day
April 2)
1627 - 1672,
1654 - 1672

Fr. Diego Luis de San Vitores was a Jesuit missionary who was granted permission to serve in the Philippines. As he was making his way there, the ship carrying him stopped in Guam and Fr. Diego Luis vowed to return there. He arrived in Guam in 1668 along with Pedro Calungsod and a group of Jesuit missionaries and lay assistants from the Philippines. Fr. Diego Luis believed that young men, strong in their faith like Calungsod, would be helpful in influencing the youth. The Jesuit missionaries only chose those catechists and assistants

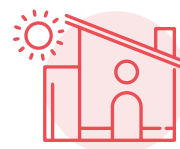
who were outstanding models of Christian life to accompany them on their missions. Calungsod, a native of the Philippines, was in his late teens when he came to Guam. In 1669, Fr. Diego Luis established the first Catholic church in Guam.

After the death of a friendly local chief who had supported the missionaries, members of the Chamorro (an indigenous tribe) rose against the missionaries. Fr. Diego Luis and Pedro Calungsod were both martyred on April 2, 1672. After the murders, the Christian Faith spread quickly throughout Guam. Blessed Diego Luis was beatified in 1985 by Pope John Paul II, and St. Pedro Calungsod was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What strikes you when you hear the story of the Lord's Passion?
- × The soldiers beat Jesus and made fun of him. How do you think that made Jesus feel?
- × What would it have been like to be Simon of Cyrene?
- × In what way do the saints who have died for their faith imitate Christ?

FAMILY FUN Q-Tip and Finger Painting



Using a Q-tip or your fingers, paint the characters from the Passion story. Then post them around the house for Holy Week. You will need various colors of paint, paper (or paper plates), paint brushes, water, and newspaper or something to keep the paint from getting on the floor. Consider creating a donkey (with your handprint), Jesus, Pilate, the guards, the cross, Peter, the Last Supper, etc.



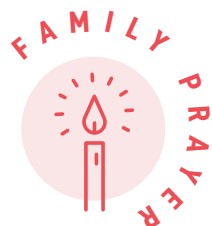
RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Stuffed Red Peppers

*As you prepare this meal, reflect on how the veil
of the sanctuary was torn from top to bottom.*

- × 4 large red peppers
- × 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- × 1 lb. ground sirloin
- × 1 chopped Vidalia onion
- × 2 cups cooked rice
- × 2 tsp. garlic salt
- × 1 tsp. black pepper
- × 1 Tbsp. finely chopped garlic
- × 1 large can crushed tomatoes
- × 1 8 oz. can tomato paste
- × 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh
Italian parsley
- × 1-2 cups shredded mozzarella

Heat oven to 350 F. Cut peppers in half from the top to the bottom, removing the stem and seeds. Rinse. Put them in a pot of boiling water for 3 minutes. Remove and dry. Meanwhile, in a skillet, cook the onion and garlic in vegetable oil for 3 minutes. Then, add beef, parsley, garlic salt and pepper and brown. Drain any fat. Stir in the cooked rice, tomatoes and paste. Cook for 2 minutes. Lay the peppers down in a 9 x 13 baking pan. Stuff the mixture into each half. Put the remaining mixture around the peppers. Cover with foil. Bake for 15 minutes. Uncover. Cover the top with mozzarella and bake for 15 minutes without foil on. Enjoy!



Rosary

Recite a rosary together as a family, meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries that reflect on the journey Jesus took during Holy Week.



You can find a scriptural version of these mysteries at:
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/scriptural-rosary-the-sorrowful-mysteries.cfm>

LITURGY LINK

Red is the liturgical color for Palm Sunday. Where do you see red at Mass today?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

As a family, watch *The Passion of the Christ* (R), *Jesus of Nazareth* (G), or an age-appropriate movie about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

FUN FACTS!

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd spread cloaks on the road before him. To spread cloaks on the road was an ancient gesture of homage before a newly crowned king.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

APRIL 1, 2021

HOLY THURSDAY— THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Triduum—the three days from the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper to the end of Easter Sunday—marks the most important time of the Church year. It is the shortest liturgical season of the year.

EX 12:1-8, 11-14

PS 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18

1 COR 11:23-26



The Washing of the Disciples' Feet

Jn 13:1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.

He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.

So, during supper,

fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin

and began to wash the disciples' feet

and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

“Master, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus answered and said to him,

“What I am doing, you do not understand now,
but you will understand later.”

Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered him,

“Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.”

Simon Peter said to him,

“Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.”

Jesus said to him,

“Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,
for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all.”

For he knew who would betray him;

for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

So when he had washed their feet

and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,

he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you?

You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,

you ought to wash one another’s feet.

I have given you a model to follow,

so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Lawrence

(Feast Day August 10)
c. 225 - August 10, 258

Lawrence was a Roman deacon under Pope Sixtus II. We know very little about his life, but he has made a deep and lasting impression on the early Church. In AD 258, Emperor Valerian issued an edict: all bishops, priests and deacons must be put to death. Saint Lawrence, other deacons, and Pope Sixtus II were apprehended. The Pope was killed, but the emperor offered to spare Lawrence's life, in exchange for his handing over of "the treasures of the Church." He imagined that the Christians must have considerable treasure because of the sacred vessels that were used at Mass. Lawrence acknowledged

that the Church was indeed rich and asked for time to get everything in order and make an inventory. After three days he gathered a great number of blind, lame, maimed, leprous, orphaned, and widowed persons and put them in rows. When the emperor arrived, Lawrence simply said, "These are the treasures of the Church." The emperor was so angry he had a great gridiron prepared with coals beneath it, and had Lawrence's body placed upon it. After the martyr had suffered the pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he made his famous cheerful remark: "It is well done. Turn me over!"

St. Lawrence is buried in Rome and the basilica built over his tomb has become one of the seven pilgrim churches in Rome.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates humble service by washing the disciples' feet. What does it mean to be humble? Why is humility an attractive quality in an individual?
- × Share a time when you performed an act of service for someone. How did that make you feel?
- × At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we celebrate Jesus' Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. Why is the Eucharist important to you?
- × St. Lawrence presented to the emperor those who were outcast and called them the treasures of the Church. Why are people more important than gold and riches?

FAMILY FUN Family Foot Washing



On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. At the Mass of the Last Supper, we hear the story from the Gospel of St. John, of Jesus washing his apostles' feet. The foot washing scene in the Gospel is not only meant to be an example of humble service, but also a record of the institution of the priesthood. Today's foot washing activity helps families remember that we too are called to mirror Christ's humility and serve one another.

Invite your family to wash each other's feet at home. Ensure that everyone gets a turn. You'll need some towels (one for the floor and others for drying the feet), a chair, a pitcher or large glass of warm water, and a basin or large bowl. Prepare the space with a towel on the floor and a chair on top of that. Have the other items nearby. Begin by reading the Gospel. Then invite each family member to have their feet washed.

When someone gets their feet washed:

- × Invite them to sit in the chair.
- × Place their feet over the large bowl.
- × Pour the warm water over their feet.
 - × Dry their feet with a towel.
- × Optional: Kiss the top of their feet when you are finished.
- × Then invite the next person to sit in the chair to have their feet washed.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Easy Lamb Chops

On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. The Passover meal included eating roasted lamb. Remember Jesus' Last Supper with this easy meal!

- × 8 - 1/2-inch-thick lamb loin chops (about 2 pounds), fatty tips trimmed
- × salt and freshly ground pepper
- × pinch of dried thyme
- × 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- × 1 Tbsp. of minced garlic
- × 1 sliced onion
- × 3 Tbsp. red wine or water
- × 2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- × 2 Tbsp. minced parsley
- × pinch of crushed red pepper

Step 1: Season the lamb with salt and pepper and sprinkle lightly with thyme. In a very large skillet, heat the olive oil until shimmering. Add the lamb chops and garlic and cook over moderately high heat until the chops are browned on the bottom, about 3 minutes. Turn the chops, add onion and cook until the chops are browned, (about 2 minutes longer for medium meat). Transfer the chops to plates, leaving the garlic in the skillet.

Step 2: Add the water, lemon juice, parsley and crushed red pepper to the pan and cook, scraping up any browned bits stuck to the bottom, until sizzling, about 1 minute. Pour the pan sauce over the lamb chops and serve immediately.

Submitted by: Hall Family from
Divine Child, Dearborn.



Breastplate of St. Patrick

On Holy Thursday, we recall how Jesus showed us to serve one another and gave us the gift of the Eucharist. The breastplate of St. Patrick reminds us that Christ is always with us. Pray it together as a family.

|

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

LITURGY LINK

What is different about how the Mass of the Lord's Supper ends versus how all other Masses end? If you do not attend this Mass, you can look it up on the internet.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper as a family or do the foot washing activity in your home.

FUN FACTS!

At every Mass, the priest uses the exact words that Jesus said at the Last Supper to transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. These are called the Words of Institution:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it:
for this is my body which will be given up for you.
Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
for this is the chalice of my blood,
the blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which will be poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in memory of me.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

APRIL 2, 2021

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



Suffering and Triumph of the Servant of the Lord

Is 52:13–53:12 (First Reading of the Liturgy)


See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred was his look beyond human semblance
and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man—
so shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless;
for those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up like a sapling before him,
like a shoot from the parched earth;
there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him,
nor appearance that would attract us to him.
He was spurned and avoided by people,

a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity,
one of those from whom people hide their faces,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,
our sufferings that he endured,
while we thought of him as stricken,
as one smitten by God and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins;
upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed.
We had all gone astray like sheep,
each following his own way;
but the LORD laid upon him
the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted
and opened not his mouth;
like a lamb led to the slaughter
or a sheep before the shearers,
he was silent and opened not his mouth.
Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away,
and who would have thought any more of his destiny?
When he was cut off from the land of the living,
and smitten for the sin of his people,
a grave was assigned him among the wicked
and a burial place with evildoers,
though he had done no wrong
nor spoken any falsehood.
But the LORD was pleased
to crush him in infirmity.



If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction
he shall see the light in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.
Therefore I will give him his portion among the great,
and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty,
because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;
and he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.

PS 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25

HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9

JN 18:1–19:42

Visit www.usccb.org for the Gospel for Good Friday.

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



St.
Longinus

(Feast Day
October 16)
d. 1st Century

St. Longinus is the centurion who pierced the side of Our Lord while He was hanging on the Cross. It is said that when he threw his spear into Christ's side, some of the blood and water from Jesus' wound fell into Longinus' eyes, healing him of his cataracts and leading to his conversion. St. Longinus then converted, left the army, took instruction from the apostles, and became a monk in Cappadocia. There he was arrested for his faith, his teeth forced out and tongue cut off. However, St. Longinus

miraculously continued to speak clearly and managed to destroy several idols in the presence of the governor. The governor, who was made blind by the demons that came from the idols, had his sight restored when St. Longinus was beheaded. The blood of St. Longinus came into contact with the governor's eyes and healed him. St. Longinus' relics are now in the church of St. Augustine, in Rome. Longinus' spear is one of the many relics of Christ, and it can be found in St. Peter's Basilica.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In what way does the reading from the Book of Isaiah foreshadow Jesus?
- × Heaven is a place without sin. If Jesus hadn't offered his life for our sins, would anyone be able to reach heaven? Explain your answer.
- × Jesus died on the cross for your sins. How does that make you feel?
- × What was it like for St. Longinus before and after Jesus' death on the Cross? How can we live showing our lives are different because Jesus died on the Cross for us?

FAMILY FUN

Visit a
Cemetery



At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus is laid in a tomb. Visit a local cemetery to pay respect for the faithfully departed. Visit someone you know personally or someone else for whom you can offer prayers. Clean up the gravesite and offer this prayer for them:

Eternal rest grant to him/her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Vegetable Soup

*Enjoy this vegetarian soup on this day of
fasting and abstaining from meat.*

- × 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- × 2 cups chopped spinach
- × 2 Tbsp. finely minced garlic
- × 1 tsp. salt
- × 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- × 2 cups carrots, peeled
and chopped into rounds
- × 2 cups potatoes, peeled and diced
- × 1 medium yellow or white onion, chopped
- × 2 celery stalks, chopped
- × 2 cups fresh green beans, cut
into 3/4-inch pieces (can use frozen)
- × 32 ounces vegetable broth
- × 4 cups peeled, seeded, and chopped
tomatoes (or a large can of diced tomatoes)
- × 1 cup corn
- × 1-2 tsp. lemon juice
- × 1-2 bay leaves
- × Optional:
 - 1/4 cup fresh parsley
 - 1/2 tsp. curry powder
 - 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
 - 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes

Heat the olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium-low heat. Once hot, add carrots, potatoes, celery, onion, and green beans with 1/2 the salt. Stir often, until the onion is translucent, about 7 minutes. Add the garlic and any other spices you like, such as curry powder, pepper flakes, or thyme. Stir occasionally for about 5 minutes. Add the vegetable stock and raise the heat to high, bringing the soup to a simmer. Then add the corn, tomatoes, bay leaves, and pepper. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for about 25 minutes. Add the spinach and let simmer another 5 minutes. Remove from heat and take out bay leaves. Stir in the lemon juice and the parsley as well as any spices needed for taste. Serve and enjoy!



Prayer before a Crucifix

Listen and reflect on the African Spiritual, Were You There. You should be able to find the song on YouTube or wherever you stream music. When you are done, pray this prayer in front of a crucifix in your home:

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus,
While before your face I humbly kneel
And with burning soul, pray and beseech you,
To fix deep in my heart,
Lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity,
True contrition for my sins
And a firm purpose of amendment.
While I contemplate with great love and tender pity,
Your five most precious wounds,
Pondering over them within me,
And calling to mind the words that David,
your prophet, said of you, my Jesus,
“They have pierced My hands and feet,
They have numbered all my bones.”
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Today is the only day in the entire year that Mass is not celebrated. That is why the celebration for the day is called the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Pray the Stations of the Cross as a family or attend the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at your parish.

FUN FACTS!

The name Good Friday is entirely appropriate for this day because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins.

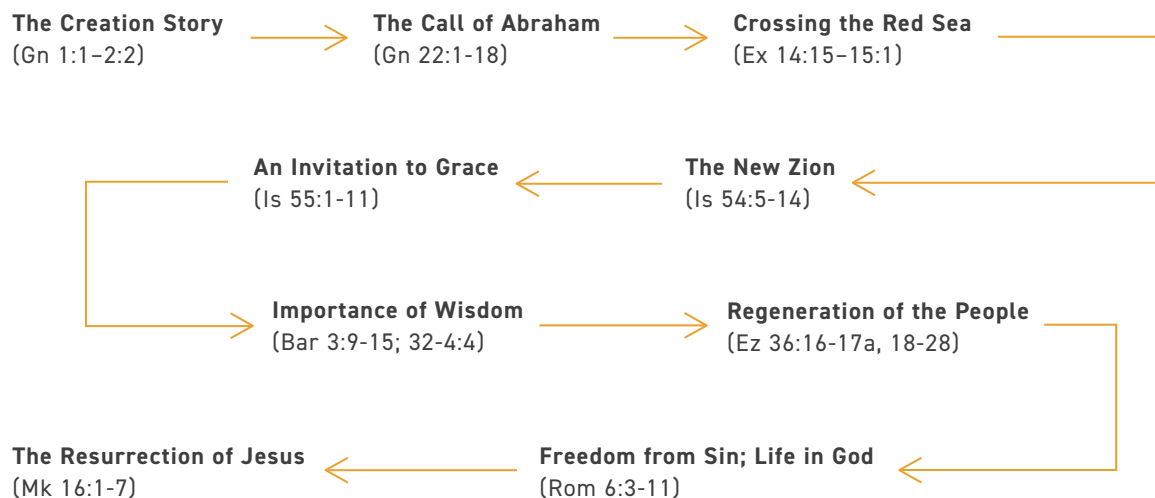
Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

APRIL 3, 2021

HOLY SATURDAY

For the Easter Vigil, the Liturgy of the Word consists of seven readings from the Old Testament. Each reading is followed by a psalm that is sung and a prayer that relates what has been read in the Old Testament to the mystery of Christ. After these readings conclude, the altar candles are lit and the Gloria is sung for the first time since before Lent (with the exception of Holy Thursday). The Alleluia is also sung for the first time since before Lent. The Gospel of the Resurrection follows.

Easter Vigil Readings of Salvation History





The Resurrection of Jesus

Mk 16:1-7

When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome
bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.
Very early when the sun had risen,
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.
They were saying to one another,
“Who will roll back the stone for us
from the entrance to the tomb?”
When they looked up,
they saw that the stone had been rolled back;
it was very large.
On entering the tomb they saw a young man
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,
and they were utterly amazed.
He said to them, “Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.
Behold the place where they laid him.
But go and tell his disciples and Peter,
‘He is going before you to Galilee;
there you will see him, as he told you.’”

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



St.
Emerentiana

(Feast Day
January 23) d. 304

Emerentiana's mother was the wet nurse and nanny of St. Agnes. The influence of Agnes and her parents had a profound effect on Emerentiana. A slave by birth but a milk-sibling, Emerentiana was inspired by her mistress Agnes who was teaching her the holy Faith so that she might be baptized a Christian.

Her course of study was abruptly ended with the glorious death of Agnes. Several days after Agnes was publicly martyred, Emerentiana went to the tomb to pray. Mocked by a group of pagans who saw her there grieving, she courageously defended her mistress.

This brave rebuttal raised the fury of a group of pagans and they stoned Emerentiana to death on the very tomb of her dear mistress Agnes. The tomb of the teacher became the throne of martyrdom for the disciple. It is a beautiful scene that confirms what has been believed and taught since the first centuries of the Church: martyrdom is equivalent to baptism for those not yet baptized.

This evening at the Easter Vigil, the Church welcomes catechumens into the Catholic Church in parishes across the whole world. Like St. Emerentiana, these individuals were inspired by someone who witnessed their faith and were led by teachers and mentors to be baptized into new life.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Imagine you are Mary Magdalene in the story. What would your reaction be at the sight of the empty tomb and the angels?
- × Do you think people had a hard time believing that Jesus was alive? Why or why not?
- × Why is Jesus' resurrection so important to the Christian faith?
- × People who are seeking baptism in the Catholic Church will be baptized tonight at the Easter vigil. Many of us have been baptized as infants. What do you think it's like to be baptized as an adult? What do you think it feels like to have all your sins washed away for the first time in the waters of baptism and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

FAMILY FUN Make Your Own Paschal Candle



Each year at the Easter Vigil, the parish prepares a new Paschal candle. It reminds us of our eternal life in Jesus Christ. The Paschal Candle is lit during Mass on Easter through the feast of the Ascension of our Lord and during baptisms. The Paschal candle has four decorative features: the cross, the Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) symbols, the numbers of the current calendar year, and the five grains of incense, which symbolize the 5 wounds of Jesus.

You will need:

- × 1 tall white pillar candle
- × Acrylic paint and paint brushes or decorative
 - × Stickers
 - × Pencil and paper
 - × Scissors or a knife
- × Cloves or gems/rhinestones

Start with sketching your design on paper. Then draw it on the candle before you paint it. On the candle, put a cross in the Center. Above the cross, draw the Alpha symbol (Α). Below the cross, draw the Omega symbol (Ω). The Greek letters Alpha and Omega signify that God is the beginning and the end. Starting in the upper left quadrant around the cross, write one number of the year in each section: 2-0-2-1. Then, you can add the rhinestones at the beginning and end of each bar of the cross and one in the center (5 rhinestones total). If you chose to use cloves instead, use your scissors or a knife to carve out a little bit of the wax so that the clove can sit in the candle. These five marks represent the 5 wounds of Jesus on the cross.

*Pray this prayer when
your candle is complete:*

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.
Amen.



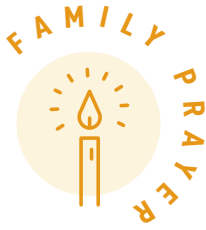
RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Rice Pilaf

*Many cultures around the world continue
to abstain from meat on Holy Saturday.
You can enjoy this recipe even if this is not
your tradition.*

- × 3/4 stick of butter
- × 1 1/2 cup fine egg noodles
- × 1 cup uncooked long grain rice
- × 2 cups vegetable broth

Melt butter in a frying pan. Add fine egg noodles. Over medium heat, lightly brown egg noodles, stirring often to avoid browning/burning. Add rice. Mix rice around in the pan to mix with fine egg noodles and butter. Add chicken broth. Cover pan and simmer on low for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, stir the pilaf and taste. Add a little salt if preferred. Enjoy!



Be Still Meditation

Meditate on these words from Psalm 46:10 today. Have one person read the line, wait a minute or two, and then read the next line. As they are reading, those listening can close their eyes, carefully breathing in and out while focusing on the words. If you want, you can play soft, instrumental or reflective music in the background.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

LITURGY LINK

The Easter Vigil is a special Mass that celebrates God's salvific work, culminating in the resurrection of Christ. The Liturgy of the Word has more readings than in a normal Mass. How many readings are there before the Gospel? Hint: If you don't attend the Easter Vigil, you can look at the diagram at the beginning of this section for the answer.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Prepare an Easter basket with food and drink for your Easter meal and attend an Easter Basket Blessing at your parish or a church near you.

FUN FACTS!

In churches across the world, the Easter Vigil typically begins outside the church at nightfall. The congregation gathers around a bon fire (the new Easter fire) which is a symbol of the light of Christ. The priest blesses the fire and the new Paschal candle is then lit by the fire. Each person has a small candle and follows the priest or deacon holding the Paschal candle into the darkened church.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

APRIL 4, 2021

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

ACTS 10:34A, 37-43

PS 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

COL 3:1-4 OR 1 COR 5:6B-8



The Empty Tomb

Jn 20:1-9

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,

not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Cleopas of Emmaus

(Feast Day
September 25)
1st Century

St. Cleopas was one of the disciples who met the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, and is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on September 25th. While little is known of either him or his companion, there is a tradition which identifies this Cleopas with

the husband of Mary (the mother of James the Lesser). Furthermore, some speculate that he was the brother of St. Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary.

The Gospel of Luke offers a unique post-resurrection narrative of Cleopas and an unnamed traveling companion who were on their way to Emmaus, a town about 7 miles from Jerusalem. The two travelers felt troubled over the recent death of Jesus. They had placed great hopes in Christ and felt confused over his death, yet they were simultaneously amazed over the stories circulating that day about a resurrection. As they walked, they encountered Jesus who interpreted the Scriptures to them in

an attempt to help Cleopas and his friend understand the necessity of what had happened. The words of Jesus must have given the two a sense of awe, for as they approached Emmaus, they urged Jesus—whom they still did not recognize—to stay with them. Jesus agreed, and at the dinner table, he took the bread, blessed it, and gave it to Cleopas and his friend. It was at that moment the two realized that this stranger was Jesus. At the moment of recognition, however, Jesus vanished. Even though it was already evening and getting dark, Cleopas and his companion promptly went back to Jerusalem to share their glorious experience.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Which holiday do you think is more important, Christmas or Easter? Explain why.
- × What would it be like to see the empty tomb on the morning of Jesus' resurrection?
- × Jesus rose from the dead. What difference does that make to your life?
- × Why do you think Cleopas and his friend initially had a hard time believing in Jesus' resurrection?

FAMILY FUN Paper Chain of Gratitude



Invite each family member to write on a slip of paper something for which they are grateful today. Turn one slip into a paper ring and staple or tape it. Put the next paper slip into the first ring and create a new ring. Repeat this until all the paper slips are added. Consider having a particular color for each family member. Continue doing this all week or possibly the whole Easter season to see how much you have to be grateful for in your lives!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

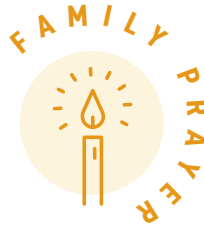
Tortilla Roll-Up

The stone was rolled away!

Celebrate with this tortilla roll-up!

- × 2 -8oz packages of cream cheese, softened
- × 1 package original ranch style salad dressing mix
- × 1 small jar chopped red pimentos, drained
- × 1 small can chopped chilies, drained or 1/2 of a fresh jalapeño pepper, cored and diced
- × 1 can ripe olives drained and chopped
- × 1 package fajita size flour tortillas

Soften cream cheese in a bowl and mix all ingredients together. Spread the mix on the tortillas and roll the tortilla. Wrap to tighten with saran wrap. Chill overnight or for several hours. To serve, cut in bite sized pieces, about 3/4 inch to serve.



As a family, listen to the song *Build My Life*. You should be able to find the song on YouTube or wherever you stream music. Reflect on the lyrics and share what Easter means to you.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

Listen to the words of the hymns that are being sung at Mass today. In what way do these hymns glorify what God has accomplished in Jesus Christ?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Practice unusually gracious hospitality by inviting someone who may be alone or new to the area to join you for Easter dinner at your house or a relative or friend's house. If this is not possible, ask this person to join you for a later celebration.

FUN FACTS!

The site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is identified as the place of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth. Today, visitors can enter the cave (which is preserved inside the church) and see the actual place where Jesus rose from the dead. Visitors generally wait in line for 3 or 4 hours to visit the tomb.

APRIL 11, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

and Divine Mercy Sunday

ACTS 4:32-35

PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 JN 5:1-6



Appearance to the Disciples, Thomas, and Conclusion

Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.



The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.


Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”



Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”
But he said to them,
“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”
Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”
Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”
Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples
that are not written in this book.
But these are written that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.



MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Irenaeus

(Feast Day
June 28)
d. 202

St. Irenaeus was the Bishop of Lyon in the region of Gaul (present day France). He, much like Thomas the Apostle in today's Gospel, was a seeker of truth. He is known for laying the foundations of Christian theology and exposing and refuting the errors of the Gnostics. The Gnostics claimed access to secret knowledge imparted by Jesus to only a few disciples. Their teaching was attractive and confusing to many Christians. It was the spread of Gnosticism in Gaul, and the ravages it was making among the Christians of his diocese, that inspired Irenaeus to undertake the task of exposing its errors. He produced a treatise in five books in which he set forth fully

the inner doctrines of the various Gnostic sects, and afterwards contrasted them with the teaching of the Apostles and the text of Sacred Scripture. His work gradually ended the influence of the Gnostics. St. Irenaeus suffered martyrdom in Lyons, with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Sometimes, people call the apostle Thomas, "Doubting Thomas." Why do you think he got that nickname?
- × What would it be like to see Jesus alive, after he died on the cross?
- × Why do you think it's hard for some people today to believe in Jesus?
- × During his life, St. Irenaeus exposed false teachings about Jesus. Do you think there are any false teachings about Jesus today? Why or why not?

FAMILY FUN Build a Fort



After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples gathered in the Upper Room. Create a gathering space of your own by building a fort at home. You can build it with blankets, pillows, cardboard boxes, etc. Hang out and play games, tell stories, or imagine what it was like for the disciples in the Gospel today.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Irresistible Coconut Custard Pie

Once Thomas encountered the risen Christ, the truth of the Gospel was irresistible! Celebrate the risen Christ with this irresistible pie!

- × 2 cups whole milk
- × 3/4 cup sugar
- × 1/2 cup flour
- × 4 eggs
- × 4 Tbsp. butter, softened
- × 1 tsp. vanilla
- × 1 tsp. baking powder
- × 1 1/4 cup coconut

Put all ingredients, except coconut, in mixer and blend for one minute. Add 1 1/4 cup coconut. Place in a buttered and floured deep pie dish. Bake 360 F for 45-50 minutes until slightly golden browned around edges.



Chaplet of Divine Mercy

St. John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000 when St. Faustina Kowalska, to whom Jesus revealed the Divine Mercy image, was beatified. Jesus told Sr. Faustina, “Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy.” This day is a chance to reflect on the mercy of God in our lives. Many people pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00pm every day. You are encouraged to pray it today, on the feast of Divine Mercy.

Here is how you pray the chaplet using a rosary.

SIGN OF THE CROSS
OUR FATHER
HAIL MARY

APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ON THE OUR FATHER BEADS:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

ON THE HAIL MARY BEADS:

For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

AFTER FIVE DECADES, CONCLUDE BY RECITING THREE TIMES:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

LITURGY LINK

What do we say after the priest says, "Let us offer each other the sign of peace"? How does that remind you of today's Gospel?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

At 3:00pm each day this week (the hour of mercy), say "Jesus, I trust in you" and pray for an increase in trust in God. Set a reminder on your phone to help you remember.

FUN FACTS!

April 12th is Drop Everything and Read Day (D.E.A.R. Day). It is also National Licorice Day. Grab a snack and read some Scripture tomorrow.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

APRIL 18, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

PS 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 JN 2:1-5A



Appearance to the Disciples in Jerusalem

Lk 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled?

And why do questions arise in your hearts?

Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this,

he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
And he said to them,
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.”

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (Feast Day April 24)
January 5, 1577
– April 24, 1622

Mark Rey was born in 1577 in Sigmaringen, Germany. As a practicing lawyer, he traveled across Europe as a tutor to aristocrats but then started defending the poor. Nicknamed “the poor man’s lawyer,” Rey upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people. If a poor man needed some clothing, Rey would often give the man the clothes right off his back. His life was characterized by complete generosity to others. In 1612, he became a Franciscan Capuchin monk, taking the name of Fidelis. Before entering the order, he divided his wealth between needy seminarians and the poor. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and

cured many sick soldiers. When he was sent to Switzerland as a missionary to preach against the Calvinists and Zwinglians (Christians who belonged to congregations that broke away from the Catholic Church), he was accused of opposing the peasants’ national aspirations for independence from Austria. Fidelis was stabbed to death in a church in Seewis. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XIV in 1746. Fifteen years later, he was recognized as a martyr. The ministry of Fidelis exemplifies Jesus’ command in today’s Gospel to preach in his name and to witness to his life.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- ✦ In today's Gospel story, Jesus asked his disciples why they were troubled. Why do you think they were troubled?
- ✦ Share a time when you went to Jesus when you were troubled.
- ✦ Why did Jesus ask the disciples to look at his hands and his feet?
- ✦ St Fidelis of Sigmaringen helped the poor and oppressed. Why is it important for us to help the poor?

FAMILY FUN Playground Fun



In today's Gospel, the disciples were "incredulous for joy." Playgrounds bring great joy to children. Celebrate the joy of the season at a playground in your favorite park or a new park that you've always wanted to visit.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Easy Artisan Bread

Remember Jesus' triumph on the cross by making this bread.

- × 3 cups all-purpose flour (one may be whole wheat white)
- × 1/2 tsp. yeast
- × 1 tsp. salt
- × 1.5 cups warm water (100-110 F)

In a bowl, stir all ingredients until combined. Cover with plastic wrap and set at room temperature for 8 to 24 hours. Turn dough out onto a well-floured surface and form a ball by pulling the dough from the sides to the top. Rest for 30 minutes as you preheat oven to 450 F. Place baking dish with high sides into the oven while preheating. Slash a cross on top of the bread and carefully place into baking dish. Cover and bake 30 minutes; uncover and bake 10-15 minutes more until golden brown. Cool before slicing.

Submitted by: *Frederick Family of St. Colette in Livonia*



Prayer for the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry

God of infinite Mercy,
you sent your Risen Son
to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus.
Grant us today a missionary spirit and send us forth to
encounter our sisters and brothers:
to walk with them in friendship,
to listen to their hopes and dreams with compassion,
and to proclaim your Word with courage,
so that they might come to know you once again
in the breaking of the Bread.
Make us all missionary disciples, and stay with us always,
as we seek to share the joy of the Gospel
with people of all generations,
from every race, language, culture, and nation.
We ask you this with burning hearts,
filled with the Holy Spirit,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and through the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother
Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Star of the New Evangelization in the Americas.
Amen.

From the Prayer for the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic Ministry: <https://vencuentro.org/prayer-for-the-v-encuentro/>

LITURGY LINK

Outside the Easter season, the first reading is typically from the Old Testament. During the Easter season, the first reading is from which book in the New Testament?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

As a family, decide on one way your family can help the poor this week.

FUN FACTS!

Jesus' resurrected body was different from his earthly body – he appeared and vanished instantly, yet he had flesh and bones and he ate food.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

APRIL 25, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:8-12

PS 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

1 JN 3:1-2



The Good Shepherd

Jn 10:11-18

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, who is not a shepherd

and whose sheep are not his own,

sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,

and the wolf catches and scatters them.

This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,

and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.
This command I have received from my Father.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Peter
Chanel**

(Feast Day
April 28)
1803-1841

St. Peter Chanel was born in the diocese of Belley, France. After his ordination to the priesthood, he found himself in a rundown country parish and completely revitalized it in 3 years. However, his heart was set on missionary work, so in 1831, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary (Marists) which concentrated

on missionary work at home and abroad. In 1836, St. Peter was appointed Superior of a little band of missionaries sent to proclaim the Faith to inhabitants in Western Oceania. After an arduous ten-month journey, St. Peter went to the Island of Futuna (northeast of Fiji) accompanied by a lay brother and an English layman. At first, they were well received by the pagans and their king. However, the king's jealousy and fear were aroused when the missionaries learned the language and gained the people's confidence; he realized the adoption of the Christian Faith would lead to the abolition of some of the prerogatives he enjoyed as both high priest and sovereign. When the king's son asked to be baptized, persecution by the king reached a climax. Fr. Chanel was clubbed to death. Within two years after his death, the whole island became Catholic and has remained so. He was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1954. Peter Chanel is the first martyr of Oceania and its patron.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Compare and contrast the behaviors of the good shepherd and the hired man in today's Gospel story.
- × Jesus says, "I know mine and they know me." Do you think Jesus knows you personally? Why or why not?
- × What is it like to hear the voice of Jesus?
- × The saints lived exciting lives of heroic service and evangelization. What do you think God is calling you to do to serve his Church?

FAMILY FUN Sheep Talk and Yarn Crafts



On this Good Shepherd Sunday challenge your family to learn more about sheep and try your hand at knitting.

There are many words to learn when talking about sheep:

- × The female sheep is called a ewe.
- × A male sheep is called a ram. Rams, which are larger than ewes, sometimes fight with each other to prove who is the strongest.
- × The young sheep are called lambs.
- × Sheep eat facing the same direction, always keeping the wind blowing toward them. Each sheep usually keeps two other sheep in sight when feeding.
- × Sheep move around in large groups called flocks.
- × Sheep farms may have little flocks of 50 to 200 sheep.
- × Larger operations may have 1,000 to 5,000 sheep.
- × Little flocks of 10 or fewer sheep may belong to people who like to dye and knit yarn that is made from the sheep's wool.
- × Sheep provide meat called lamb or mutton. Lamb comes from a sheep less than a year old. Older sheep provide meat called mutton which has a much stronger flavor and is tougher meat.

- × Sheep have a thick coat of wool on their body which is called a fleece.
 - This fleece can be made into a fiber called yarn.
 - In spring, the fleece is removed by a shearer. Skilled shearers can remove the fleece all in one piece in about 5 minutes. A talented shearer can shear over 100 sheep in one day.
 - The wool that comes from sheep is cleaned and turned into yarn which is made into wool fabric. Sweaters, coats, mittens and suits can be made from wool.
 - Other parts of the sheep are used to make things such as insulation, baseballs, upholstery, crochet needles, and tennis balls.
 - Oil from the wool of sheep is called lanolin and is used to make beauty products such as lotions and creams.

Yarn Craft

Option 1: Learn how to knit by exploring an online tutorial or asking a friend or relative to help. Check out Walmart or the Dollar Store for inexpensive knitting supplies. Pick a simple project for each family member to try.

Option 2: Yarn Sheep

For each sheep craft, you will need:

- × Two wooden clothes pins
- × An oval shaped piece of cardboard about 4 inches long
- × Enough yarn to wrap around the cardboard
- × Glue
- × Felt or construction paper

Paint or color one end of the sheep black for its head. Use a black marker or paint to color the clothes pins black. Clip your painted clothes pins onto the appropriate spots on the sheep. Make sure that it can stand up. When you have them where you want, put a dab of glue between the cardboard and the clothes pin to hold it tight. While the glue is still wet, slip the end of the yarn in so it holds in place. Keep wrapping making sure to cover the springs of the clothes pins and any cardboard. Add enough layers until the sheep is as fat as you would like him. Tuck the end of the yarn into the sheep and put a dab of glue on it to hold it. Next cut little ears out of felt or construction paper, and a tail too if you like and glue them on.

From:

<http://www.maefonline.com/pdfs/Sheep.pdf>

And:

https://sweetgrace.typepad.com/the_inadvertent_farmer/2010/01/baa-baa-black-pink-and-blue-sheep-an-easy-yarn-craft.html



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Easy Shepherd's Pie with Roasted Potatoes

- × 8 red new potatoes
- × 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- × salt and pepper
- × 1 lb. extra lean ground turkey (or lean ground beef)
- × 1.5 cups diced onion
- × 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- × 2 cups low-sodium beef broth
- × 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- × 1 cup frozen peas
- × 1 cup frozen carrots

Rinse and dice potatoes into bite-sized chunks and toss with melted butter, 1 tsp. kosher salt, and 1/2 tsp. black pepper. Cover and microwave for 7 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, cook the meat and onion in an oven safe skillet over medium-high heat until meat is no longer pink.

Drain if necessary and return to skillet. Stir in the flour until incorporated, about 1 minute. Add the broth and Worcestershire and cook until thickened, about 5-7 minutes. Stir in peas and carrots and simmer until heated through, about 1-2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, about 1/2 tsp. each. Scatter the cooked potatoes over the meat and broil until golden brown, about 5 minutes.

From: <https://www.kevinandamanda.com/easier-shepherds-pie-with-roasted-potatoes/print-recipe/35342/>



Psalm 139

*Reflect on what it means to be known by God
as you listen and meditate on this passage
from Psalm 139:1-16.*

LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
LORD, you know it all.
Behind and before you encircle me
and rest your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
far too lofty for me to reach.

Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.
If I take the wings of dawn
and dwell beyond the sea,
Even there your hand guides me,
your right hand holds me fast.
If I say, “Surely darkness shall hide me,
and night shall be my light”—
Darkness is not dark for you,
and night shines as the day.
Darkness and light are but one.

You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.
My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.

LITURGY LINK

The priest prays a prayer right after Communion. What descriptions of God do you hear in this prayer today?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Write a letter to Jesus, telling him those things that are most important to you. Younger children can draw a picture instead of writing a letter. Afterward, find a quiet space and allow Jesus to answer your letter. Bring a blank piece of paper to write down what you hear.

FUN FACTS!

Shepherding is among the oldest occupations, beginning some 5,000 years ago in Asia Minor.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MAY 2, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 9:26-31

PS 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

1 JN 3:18-24



The Vine and the Branches

Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own

unless it remains on the vine,

so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,

because without me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

will be thrown out like a branch and wither;

people will gather them and throw them into a fire

and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.
By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY

STS. TIMOTHY AND MAURA

(Feast Day May 3)
d. 286

Sts. Timothy and Maura suffered for the faith during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. Timothy came from Egypt and was the son of a priest. Raised in the Church, he became a lector and spent his evenings preaching the Gospel

as well as keeping the holy Scriptures and liturgical books safe in his home during the persecutions. In the year 286 Timothy married a pious 17-year-old woman named Maura, and the two began a life of prayer and Christian witness together.

When Timothy and Maura had been married for only 20 days, Timothy was denounced as a Christian and a keeper of the holy books. His captors, on the authority of Diocletian himself, demanded that Timothy surrender the books of Scripture to them. Timothy refused and was tortured. Arian, the governor, tried to convince him to give in for Maura's sake. Maura was brought to Timothy and

encouraged him to stand firm and not deny Christ. She confessed to be a Christian herself and was subject to torture as well. Afterward, she was immersed in a pot of boiling water, but remained unharmed. While the governor was impressed by the miracle, he soon resumed his tortures by having the young couple nailed to two crosses facing each other.

For 10 days they prayed together, sang hymns, and encouraged each other as they suffered for Christ. Ultimately, both found themselves welcomed into the arms of Christ as glorious martyrs. The witness of their courage and joy so inspired their torturer that he soon became a Christian, was martyred himself, and is venerated in the Eastern Church as St. Arian of Alexandria.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What happens to a branch when it is cut off a vine? What is Jesus trying to teach us through this analogy?
- × In what way does the story of the vine and the branches describe your relationship with Jesus?
- × Jesus says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." What would you ask of Jesus today?
- × In the story of Sts. Timothy and Maura, why do you think Maura encouraged Timothy to keep the faith? Who encourages you to keep the faith?

FAMILY FUN Family Nature Walk



Encounter God in nature by going for a walk today and looking for different types of vines and branches. Notice the similarities and the differences. How many types can you find? Discuss how they connect to the Gospel today. Consider collecting items to make a nature collage once you get home.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Crunchy Chicken Salad

Grapes grow on vines. Think about today's Gospel as you enjoy this crunchy salad made with grapes!

- × 4 cups cubed cooked chicken breast meat
- × 1 cup diced celery
- × 1 cup seedless green grapes (cut in half)
- × 1 cup cashews
- × lettuce
- × salt and pepper to taste
- × Dressing:
 - 3/4 cup mayo (not Miracle Whip)
 - 1/4 cup sour cream

Combine chicken, celery and grapes. Toss with the dressing. Serve on a bed of lettuce with the cashews sprinkled on top.

Submitted by: McAfee Family at St. Francis Cabrini in Allen Park



ACTS Prayer

This prayer will help you to stay close to Jesus. It has a simple formula using the acronym, ACTS. Spend time reflecting and sharing on the following prayer prompts.

- A—Adoration**
—I praise You, God, for...
- C—Confession**
—I am sorry for...
- T—Thanksgiving**
—I am thankful for...
- S—Supplication**
—I ask You for...

LITURGY LINK

Where do you see images of vine and/or branches around your church?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Invite someone who has stopped going to church to come to Mass with you next week.

FUN FACTS!

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month. Say a special prayer today for children and teens in foster care, the situations they face, and their case workers. Also, pray for families to be open to becoming foster families. To learn more about foster care, visit: <https://ccsem.org/adoption-and-foster-care/>

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MAY 9, 2021

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

PS 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 JN 4:7-10



The Vine and the Branches

Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.
It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
This I command you: love one another."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Paul
Chong Hasang**

(Feast Day
September 20) 1795
– September 22, 1839

St. Paul Chong Hasang was born in Korea, in 1795. He came from a family of noble scholars that were dedicated to the Catholic faith and to its growth in Korea. His father was a Catholic intellectual who had written the first Catholic catechism in the Korean language. His father was martyred in 1801. His family

was thereafter persecuted and stripped of all property. Despite this hardship and tragedy, the family never denied the faith.

Throughout his life, he continued to seek missionary support for the Church in Korea. When Paul was twenty-one, he went to China, where he asked the Bishop of Peking to send missionaries to Korea. He escorted Bishop Laurent Imbert on his mission and served him faithfully during his ministry. Bishop Imbert was impressed by Paul's devotion to the faith and decided

to prepare him for the priesthood. Before this could happen, however, a new persecution of Christians broke out in Korea. Bishop Imbert was forced to flee; Paul and his mother and sister were arrested.

While awaiting execution in prison, Paul wrote "A Letter to the Minister," defending the Catholic faith to the Korean government. This work impressed everyone, even the enemies of the Church. However, the government was not moved to alter its stance. After much suffering and torture, Paul and his family were beheaded outside Seoul on September 22, 1839. Despite severe hardship and persecution, he kept his faith and served as a sterling example of piety for others, heeding the words of Jesus in today's Gospel to remain in his love and bear fruit that remains.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you." Jesus does love you! Do you believe that? Why or why not?
- × Jesus encourages us to keep his commandments. Is it hard or easy to keep God's commandments? Explain your answer.
- × Share a time when the love of Jesus has been shared through your mother or a mother-figure in your life.
- × St. Paul Chong Hasang's family taught him the faith, but he also lived it out in his own way. What are ways your family has helped you grow in faith? What are ways you have grown on your own?

FAMILY FUN

Create a Spiritual Bouquet



This Mother's Day, create a spiritual bouquet for your mother or a mother-figure in your life. Invite each member of the family to write down one way they will pray for that person. Ideas include praying a specific prayer, giving up something you enjoy on their behalf (fasting), or trying a new prayer style. These offerings can each be written on a piece of paper that is decorated to look like a flower. Combine all the "flowers" to give as a bouquet, then be sure to pray for that person in the way you offered.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

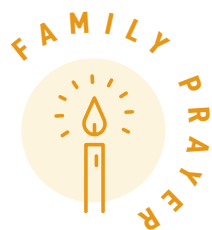
Korean Noodle Bowl

In honor of our saint, enjoy this Korean dish. You can use whatever vegetables you have that are fresh and in-season. Use as little or as much of each ingredient as your family enjoys!

- × 1/3 package of somen noodles
(about 2 ounces per serving)
- × 3 whole scallions
- × 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- × 4 Tbsp. sesame seed oil, divided
- × 1-2 cups julienned carrots
- × 1-2 cups broccoli florets
- × 1-2 packages of medium shrimp,
peeled and uncooked
- × 1/4 cup soy sauce
- × 2-3 Tbsp. honey or brown sugar
- × 1-2 Tbsp. lime juice
- × 1-2 Tbsp. grated ginger
or 1 tsp. ground ginger
- × 1 Tbsp. dried cilantro
- × 1-2 tsp. Korean red pepper
paste or Sriracha sauce
- × 3 tsp. sesame seeds
- × Optional: 1 fried or poached
egg per serving

Prepare somen noodles according to package instructions and drain when done, rinsing with cold water. Slice scallions, keeping white ends separate from the green shoots. In a wok or large pan, preheat 2 Tbsp. of sesame oil over medium-low heat. Add white ends of scallions and garlic to the oil and cook until fragrant. Be careful not to burn the garlic. Add carrots and broccoli and continue to cook until almost tender, 3-5 minutes. When the vegetables are not quite fully cooked, add shrimp and cook until they start to look opaque. While the shrimp cooks, begin mixing the sauce. Combine remaining 2 Tbsp. sesame oil, soy sauce, honey, lime juice, ginger, cilantro and red pepper paste in a bowl and whisk together until well combined. Pour sauce over shrimp just as it begins to turn pink and mix well. Toss in noodles and mix them into the sauce. Top with chopped green scallion shoots and sesame seeds. Optional: add a fried or poached egg on top of each served bowl. Enjoy!

Submitted by: *Joyce Family from
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Madison Heights*



Prayer for Friends

*In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us friends.
Offer this prayer for the friends in your life.*

Lord, please help us to know your friendship in and through the people in our lives. Thank you for blessing us with friends who love us, share our sorrows, laugh with us, encourage us, stand by us in times of need. Bless our friends with health, wholeness, life, and love. We pray especially for (have each person who would like name a situation, particular friend, or relationship for which they would like to pray).

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

After the 1st and 2nd readings, we say "Thanks be to God." After the Gospel, the priest says, "The Gospel of the Lord." How do we respond?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

In today's Gospel, Jesus commands us to love one another. Try to be the MOST loving person in your family this week. Invite your family to vote on who was the most loving at the end of the week.

FUN FACTS!

On Mother's Day, more phone calls are made than any other day of the year.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MAY 16, 2021

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

and 7th Sunday of Easter

ACTS 1:1-11

PS 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

EPH 1:17-23 OR EPH 4:1-13



The Commissioning of the Eleven and the Ascension of Jesus

Mk 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Go into the whole world

and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved;

whoever does not believe will be condemned.

These signs will accompany those who believe:

in my name they will drive out demons,

they will speak new languages.

They will pick up serpents with their hands,

and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them.

They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them,
was taken up into heaven
and took his seat at the right hand of God.
But they went forth and preached everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Cristóbal Magallanes and Companions

(Feast Day
May 21)
d. 1915-1937

Cristóbal grew up in rural Mexico, working as a shepherd. At age 19, he entered the seminary, and once ordained, became a parish priest in Jalisco. He founded a seminary, authored a newspaper, founded schools for both adults and children, and assisted the people of his congregation

with employment via the organization of carpentry shops and an electric mill. Father Cristóbal encouraged the cooperation of his congregation with the indigenous peoples of the region, together forming an agricultural cooperative which was quite successful.

Cristóbal and his 24 companion martyrs lived under a very anti-Catholic government in Mexico, one determined to weaken the Catholic faith of its people. Churches, schools, and seminaries were closed; foreign clergy were expelled. Cristóbal established a clandestine seminary, and he and the other priests were forced to minister secretly to

Catholics during the presidency of Plutarco Calles (1924-28). Despite his preaching against violence, he was arrested on his way to a local farm to celebrate Mass. Without trial, he was shot and killed, following his request to distribute his possessions to the poor, and his general absolution of his would-be executioners. The companions of Father Cristobal did not die as a single group but over 22 years' time in eight Mexican states during the Mexican Cristero War. They were beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later by St. John Paul II.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What does Jesus command us to do in today's Gospel?
- × How can we "go and proclaim the Gospel to every creature"?
- × Jesus said that great signs will accompany those who proclaim the Gospel. Where does that power come from?
- × St. Cristóbal forgave the people who were about to kill him. In what way does this remind you of Jesus? How can you be more forgiving?

FAMILY FUN

Make a Kite



Kites remind us of Jesus' ascension into heaven. Here is one way to make a simple kite using common household supplies.

Supplies:

- × Paper lunch bag
- × Yarn or strong string
- × Scissors
- × Popsicle stick for each kite
- × Streamers, tape, crayons, stickers, construction paper to decorate the kite

First decorate your kite using the supplies you have. Then, using the scissors, cut a small hole at the bottom base of the bag. Cut a piece of yarn or string that is about 2 feet long. Secure one end to the middle of the popsicle stick; this will help keep the string inside the bag when the kite is flying. Feed the other end of the string through the hole in the bag. If you desire, use tape to hang streamers from the open part of the bag to wave when you fly your kite. Your kite is ready to fly!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Shortcut Jalapeno and Cheese Corn Bread Using Jiffy Mix

Honor our Mexican saint by making this delicious recipe!

- × 1 box of Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- × 2 tbsp. of melted butter
- × 1/3 cup of milk
- × 1/2 cup of shredded cheddar cheese
- × 1 can (15 oz.) of sweet corn – drained
- × 1 – medium Jalapeno diced (or) 2 Tbsp. of canned jalapeno diced (Or substitute 1 can chopped green chiles (4.5 oz))
- × 1 egg

Preheat oven to 375 F. Starting with the corn muffin mix, combine all the ingredients and mix until moist. Grease an 8×8 pan and pour the mixture into the pan. Bake for about 25-35 minutes. This moist bread may appear not done. Insert a toothpick in the middle of dish. When it comes out clean, you will know the bread is fully cooked.

Adapted from: <https://kidfriendlythingstodo.com/shortcut-jalapeno-cheddar-cornbread-using-jiffy/>



Prayer Over Family Members

Jesus, our Lord, we worship you. You are our brother and our Savior. We look forward to the glory of Heaven, but until that time, you have commissioned us to proclaim the Gospel.

Bless us, Lord, and help us be a blessing to others.

[Pray the following prayer individually over each family member. Invite everyone else to place their hand on the person's shoulder.]

Bless [name of family member] and give [name] the grace and wisdom he/she needs for this day and strength for carrying out your will. Help [name] proclaim the Good News of Jesus in word and deed today and always.

Help us to always seek you, Lord. We look to you for guidance, strength, and all that we need. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

What are the last words that are said by the priest or deacon at the end of Mass? In what way do these words remind you of today's Gospel?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Decide on one way your family can proclaim the Gospel to your neighbors and friends.

FUN FACTS!

Christianity began with a small group of disciples that followed Jesus in his earthly life. Today, there are over 2.3 billion Christians in the world (about 1/3 of the world's population). We still have a lot of work to do to proclaim the Gospel to every creature!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

MAY 23, 2021

PENTECOST SUNDAY

ACTS 2:1-11

PS 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13

OR GAL 5:16-25



Appearance to the Disciples

Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Joan
of Arc**

(Feast Day May 30)
January 6, 1412
– May 30, 1431

Joan was born to pious parents of the French peasant class near the province of Lorraine. When Joan was only twelve years old, the great miracle of her life unfolded. One summer day, she heard a mysterious voice, which was accompanied by a bright light. She identified the speaker as Michael the Archangel. He spoke to her many times, gradually revealing a mission. “You have been chosen to restore the kingdom of France,” said the voice, “and to protect King Charles.” She was to accomplish these things as the head of the army! In obedience, Joan offered her services to the commander of the royal forces. After telling the commander a fact that could have only

been known by revelation, he was persuaded to take her seriously and outfitted her with white armor adorned with the names of Jesus and Mary.

During the Hundred Years War, Joan led French troops against the English and recaptured the cities of Orléans and Troyes. This enabled Charles VII to be crowned as king in Reims in 1429. Captured near Compiègne the following year, Joan was sold to the English and placed on trial for heresy and witchcraft. The English resented France’s military success—to which Joan contributed.

Although Joan is most remembered for her military exploits, she had a great love for the sacraments, which strengthened her compassion toward the poor. Popular devotion to her increased greatly in 19th-century France and later among French soldiers during World War I.

Joan was burned at the stake as a heretic after a politically motivated trial. A second Church trial 25 years later nullified the earlier verdict. Joan was a martyr, but not in the technical sense. She was killed for her politics, not for her faith. She died because she did what she thought God wanted her to do. She was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What's the difference between the peace that Jesus gives and the peace the world gives?
- × Who is the Holy Spirit?
- × What is different about someone who allows the Holy Spirit to work in their life?
- × How was the Holy Spirit at work in the life of St. Joan or Arc?

FAMILY FUN Fruit of the Spirit



The Bible says, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Write down each of these "fruits" on different slips of paper. Gather different kinds of fruit, at least as many as the members of your family. Flip over the paper slips and mix them around. Pair an actual fruit with each fruit of the Spirit and have each family member choose one. Eat the real fruit, and whichever fruit of the Spirit you've chosen can be taped to your bedroom door. In the year ahead, ask the Holy Spirit to help cultivate that fruit in your heart!

Submitted by: Spizarny Family from the National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Rosemary's Chocolate Cake

Make this cake to celebrate the birthday of the Church this Pentecost! Light some birthday candles to remind you of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire. Sing "Happy Birthday" together!

- × 2 cups sifted flour
- × 2 tsp. baking powder
- × 2 tsp. baking soda
- × 2 cups sugar
- × 1/2 tsp. salt
- × 4 rounded tbsp. cocoa powder

- × 2 cups hot water
- × 1 cup vegetable oil
- × 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- × 2 tsp. vanilla

Sift flour, baking powder, soda, sugar salt and cocoa together. Add hot water, oil, eggs and vanilla and beat until all incorporated (batter will be very runny). Bake in heavy 9x13 pan (stoneware is best) at 350 F for 40 minutes or until tester comes out clean.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit by St. Augustine and Prayer for a New Pentecost

Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in your life personally with the prayer from St. Augustine. Then, pray for our Archdiocese with the Prayer for a New Pentecost.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
 Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
 Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
 Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
 Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A NEW PENTECOST

Father in heaven, renew your wonders in our time, as though by a new Pentecost and grant that your holy Church in Detroit, praying perseveringly and insistently with one mind, together with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and guided by Sts. Joseph and Anne, may increase the reign of the Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

The priest says, "The Lord be with you!" What do we say in response?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Red is the liturgical color for Pentecost. Invite each family member to wear red to Mass today.

FUN FACTS!

The Monday after Pentecost is the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, which Pope Francis declared in 2018. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
 #52Sundays

MAY 30, 2021

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

DT 4:32-34, 39-40

PS 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

ROM 8:14-17



The Commissioning of the Disciples

Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them,
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

(Feast Day June 3)
d. between November 15,
1885 – January 27, 1887

By 1879 the first Catholic missions were started in Uganda and other parts of Central Africa. Under King Mutesa, missionaries preached, people studied the faith, and many believed in Jesus. Unfortunately, King Mutesa was succeeded by King Mwanga, who began persecuting the Christians in Uganda. Mwanga was a corrupt man who abused his young pages (male servants).

Charles Lwanga was in his late teens when he served as a page in the court of King Mwanga. He served under the chief page, Joseph Mukasa, who was a Catholic

and went to great lengths to protect the younger boys from the king. Mukasa denounced the king's actions and the king subsequently had Mukasa beheaded. That night, realizing that their lives may be in danger, Charles and 100 other catechumens were baptized. At 25 years old, Charles replaced Mukasa as chief page. Charles catechized the young men, encouraged them to refuse to take part in the pagan customs of the country, and protected them from the king's advances.

The following May, King Mwanga learned that some of the pages were being instructed in the faith. He was furious and ordered all the pages to be questioned to separate the Christians from the others. Mwanga commanded his soldiers to kill Charles Lwanga and his friends. Most of the pages were under the age of twenty-five. The youngest was thirteen years old. After their deaths, many other Christians were persecuted and killed. The example of these teenagers and men inspired other people, which caused the faith to grow and spread in Africa. Twenty-two Ugandan martyrs, including Charles and the pages, were canonized in 1964.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × How would you describe the three Persons of the Trinity? Draw a picture if it helps.
- × Which person of the Trinity do you pray to the most? Explain your answer.
- × Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. What can your family do to respond to this commission?
- × St. Charles Lwanga went to great lengths to protect younger boys from danger. Share a time when you protected someone from getting hurt or getting into trouble.

FAMILY FUN Water Fun



Water reminds us that we are baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Take some time to play water games today. You can play with water balloons or run through a sprinkler. Here are some other water games to consider:

- × Water Balloon Baseball—Use a plastic bat and use a water balloon instead of a ball.
- × Ice Breaker—Freeze something (toy, laminated paper, etc.) in a baggie of water and then “break” the ice to get the item out. For older kids, consider putting a large t-shirt in a baggie filled with water and freeze it. Then challenge them to get the item out of the bag, unfreeze it, and wear it.
- × Wet Chalk—Wet the ground and create a drawing with chalk. Watch it change as it dries! (Bonus: You can do this inside on a chalkboard or another safe surface such as a bathtub wall).
- × Toe Swim—Fill a large bowl with small toys, water, and ice cubes on top. Put your toes in the water to fish out a toy.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Grammie's Cheesecake

This recipe reminds us of the Most Holy Trinity as it has three distinct parts that make one delicious dish!

Crust Ingredients:

- × 9 oz vanilla wafers, crushed
- × 1/4 cup butter, melted
- × 1 Tbsp. sugar

Filling Ingredients:

- × 3 - 8 oz packages of Philadelphia Cream cheese, softened
- × 1 cup sugar
- × 5 eggs at room temperature
- × 1 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- × dash of salt

Topping Ingredients:

- × 1 pint sour cream
- × 1/2 cup sugar
- × 1 tsp vanilla

Mix all the crust ingredients. Pat into a 9 x 13 Pyrex dish and set aside to make filling. Place cream cheese in mixing bowl and beat adding eggs one at a time, beating in between each addition. Add sugar, vanilla, and salt till blended, pouring over crust. An electric hand-mixer works best, but it is not required. Layer filling over the crust. Bake at 325 F for 40-45 minutes until slightly brown around the edges and center is bouncy to the touch. (If you overcook, cheesecake begins to crack and will not be as moist.) Refrigerate overnight before topping. Mix the topping. Spread over filling at least an hour before serving. Serve a bowl of berries alongside for added flavor.



The Glory Be

*The Glory Be honors the Most Holy Trinity.
Reflect on the words of this traditional prayer using
the questions below. Have one person read the prayer
and reflection question one line at a time. Pause for
a minute or two after each line in order to think
about the question. Invite family members to share
their reflections.*

Glory be to the Father

– How do I show glory to God?

and to the Son

– How would I describe Jesus to my friends?

and to the Holy Spirit

– Where have I seen the Holy Spirit working in my life this past week?

as it was in the beginning

– What is my earliest memory of God?

is now

– What is God speaking to my heart right now?

and ever shall be world without end.

– What do I think Heaven will be like?

Amen.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

We begin and end Mass with the same action. What is it, and how does it relate to today's feast day?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

St. Patrick had a strong devotion to the Trinity. He was known to make the Sign of the Cross many times throughout the day, whether in times of trouble or in thanksgiving. Count how many times you make the sign of the cross this week.

FUN FACTS!

Water balloons were originally intended to be waterproof socks to protect people's feet. After the inventor, Edgar Ellington, filled one with water, he found a rip that would cause a leak. Upset, he threw it down on the table. The splash inspired him to change course and market the invention as a water balloon.

JUNE 6, 2021

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

(Corpus Christi)

EX 24:3-8

PS 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18

HEB 9:11-15



Preparations for the Passover and the Lord's Supper

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,
Jesus' disciples said to him,

"Where do you want us to go
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them,


"Go into the city and a man will meet you,
carrying a jar of water.

Follow him.

Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,


"The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"

Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.

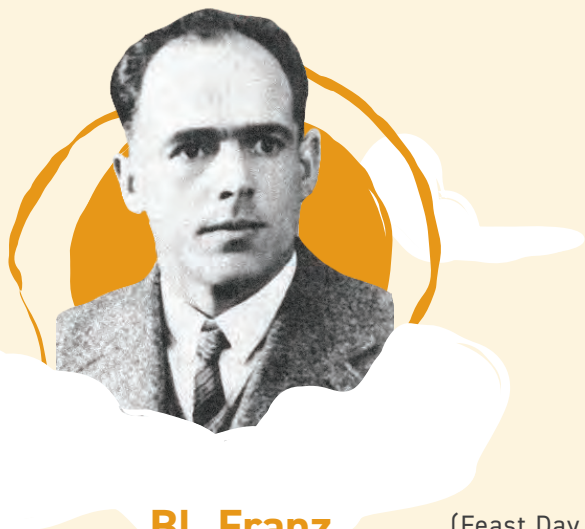


Make the preparations for us there."
The disciples then went off, entered the city,
and found it just as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, gave it to them, and said,
"Take it; this is my body."
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,
and they all drank from it.
He said to them,
"This is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many.
Amen, I say to you,
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
Then, after singing a hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.



MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Franz
Jagerstatter**

(Feast Day June 7)
May 20, 1907
- August 9, 1943

Franz Jagerstatter was born in Upper Austria as the child of a farm maidservant, Rosalia Huber. Franz lost his father during World War I and was adopted after Heinrich Jagerstatter married his mother. As a young man, he loved to ride his motorcycle and was the natural leader of a gang whose members were arrested in 1934 for brawling. For three years he worked in the mines in another city and then returned to his hometown, where he became a farmer and married Franziska Schwaninger, a deeply religious woman. Inspired by his wife, Jagerstatter began to study the Bible and the lives of the saints.

In 1939, he was drafted into the Austrian army. When he refused to take the oath of loyalty to Hitler and perform military service with a weapon, he was imprisoned in Linz, Austria where he was tortured and bullied for two months. Franz believed that he could not be both a Nazi and a Catholic, and that there were some things in which one must obey God more than men. While he was tempted to lose his faith, God's presence was with him which helped him to persevere.

Franz learned that one year before, a priest had refused to perform military service for the same reasons as his and had died for his convictions. This news gave Franz the support and comfort he needed in order to stay strong in his convictions. On August 9, 1943, Franz Jagerstatter was beheaded. He was beatified in Linz on October 26, 2007.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In what way does today's Gospel reading explain our belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?
- × Why is receiving the Eucharist special to you? Share a time when you felt Jesus powerfully present after receiving the Eucharist.
- × Discuss the way in which the Eucharist fulfills the Passover celebration. (Hint: see the Fun Fact from January 17th.)
- × Do you think Bl. Franz Jagerstatter was right for standing up for his convictions? Why or why not?

FAMILY FUN Cooking Together



In today's Gospel, the apostles prepared a special meal: the Passover. Today, invite your family to prepare a special meal together. Choose a recipe that is a family favorite or one that is new to everyone. Choose one special recipe or make several recipes that can be enjoyed together as a whole meal. Consider using the Recipe of the Week as your appetizer. Assign tasks to each family member. Use your best dishes and linens. Light candles to create a festive atmosphere.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

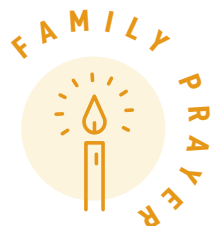
Chopped Corned Beef Appetizer

Today, we celebrate the bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The wine in this recipe transforms the ingredients into an easy and delicious appetizer.

- × 1 tsp. minced dry onions
- × 1 tsp. sherry or cooking wine
- × 8 oz pkg. cream cheese
- × 2 tsp. mayonnaise
- × 1/4 lb. corned beef, finely chopped
- × 1/4 cup stuffed olives, finely chopped

Soften onions in sherry/wine for about 5 minutes. Blend with cream cheese & mayonnaise. Add onions, corned beef & olives. Roll into ball and chill for 3-4 hours. Serve with crackers or pretzels.

Submitted by: *Frederick Family*
from St. Colette in Livonia



Praying with Music

*As a family, listen to the song I Am Yours—
Consume Me Completely. You should be
able to find the song on YouTube or wherever
you stream music. Reflect on what these
lyrics say about the Eucharist.*

LITURGY LINK

At what point during Mass does the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Find a time to go to Eucharistic Adoration as a family this week. Prepare children ahead of time by explaining what Eucharistic Adoration is and what to do when you get there.

FUN FACTS!

June 11th is National Corn on the Cob Day! What is your favorite kind of corn?

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

JUNE 13, 2021

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EZ 17:22-24

PS 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

2 COR 5:6-10



Seed Grows of Itself and The Mustard Seed

Mk 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God;
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land
and would sleep and rise night and day
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,
he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit,
first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.
And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once,
for the harvest has come.”

He said,
“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable can we use for it?
It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.
But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”
With many such parables
he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.
Without parables he did not speak to them,
but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



(Feast Day
June 26) c. 1500
– June 26, 1549

Fr. Luis de Cáncer de Barbastro, O.P., was a Dominican priest and Spanish missionary to the New World. In 1542 he went to the territory of Guatemala and successfully ministered to the Mayan people. Aware of their sensitivity for music and their mistrust of Europeans, he used song as

a first means of contact. The Dominican friars translated the content of their preaching into rhythmic poetic form using the different languages of the region and employing images and musical expressions from the local cultures. Fr. Cáncer mastered the different dialects of the area and was the composer of Christian canticles in these native languages. His evangelization efforts were so successful that an area that was known for violence was renamed the “Province of True Peace.” He believed that aggression and violence were counter-productive to the spread of the Gospel and that the native peoples needed to be treated with dignity.

Following his missionary success in Guatemala, Fr. Cáncer went on a mission to Florida in 1549. His expedition set sail from Mexico and landed just north of modern-day Tampa Bay. Fr. Cáncer celebrated Mass in Florida on the Feast of Corpus Christi. At first the missionaries were welcomed by the native peoples, who knelt in prayer as Fr. Cáncer chanted litanies to God and to the saints. However, this welcome did not last long. Two of Fr. Cáncer's companions went ashore to stay with the natives, but soon perished at the hands of their hosts. When Fr. Cáncer heard word of the killing, he resolved to continue with the mission despite the danger. On June 26, he made his way ashore where he was clubbed to death in sight of the rest who were still in the boat. Though not a canonized saint, he is nevertheless regarded by those working for the canonization of the martyrs of La Florida as the "proto-martyr" of Florida.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Fill in the blank with your own description.
The Kingdom of God is like _____ .
- × What is Jesus trying to teach us in the first part of the Gospel reading?
- × In the second half of the Gospel reading, Jesus is teaching us about how the Kingdom of God will grow in spite of its small beginnings. In what way does God want to use your family to spread the Good News of Jesus and build the Kingdom of God?
- × Fr. Cáncer and the Dominican friars used music to evangelize native cultures. How can music be used to evangelize today? What is your favorite church hymn or Christian song?

FAMILY FUN Plant a Garden



Create your own garden in a dedicated space in your backyard or in pots. Plant your seeds in rich soil and water them as needed. Be sure they get the right amount of sunlight. Over time, you will see your seeds grow and be reminded of today's parable!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Make Ahead Breakfast Bake

This delicious breakfast recipe contains dry mustard, which reminds us of today's parable of the mustard seed. Dry mustard is made by toasting mustard seeds for 20 seconds in a dry skillet and grinding them in a spice grinder.

- × 1 lb. bulk sausage (breakfast or mild/sweet Italian work well)
- × 3 cups day old bread, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- × 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (about 4 ounces)
- × 6 eggs, lightly beaten
- × 2 cups whole milk
- × 1/2 tsp. salt
- × 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- × 1/2 tsp. dry mustard (you can substitute 1 1/2 tsp. of prepared Dijon or Yellow mustard)

Crumble sausage in skillet, cook over medium heat until browned, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and drain well. Spread bread cubes into bottom of buttered 13x9x2 dish. Top bread cubes with crumbled, browned sausage, and cheese. Combine eggs, milk, salt, pepper, and mustard. Beat well and pour over bread/sausage/cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake, uncovered, at 350 F until knife inserted in center comes out clean – about 40-50 minutes. Yield: 6-8 servings.

Used with permission from: *Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver, Court 247, "All of Our Favorites Millenium Cookbook"*



Litany of Humility

The mustard seed is neither large nor impressive. However, it has its purpose according to God's will. The Litany of Humility reminds us that we need not be large nor impressive to carry out God's will for our lives. Invite one family member to lead this litany; responses are in bold.

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being extolled, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being honored, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being praised, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being preferred to others, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being consulted, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being approved, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being humiliated, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being despised, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of suffering rebukes, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being calumniated, **Deliver me, Jesus.**
From the fear of being forgotten, **Deliver me, Jesus.**
From the fear of being ridiculed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**
From the fear of being wronged, **Deliver me, Jesus.**
From the fear of being suspected, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase
and I may decrease, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be praised and I go unnoticed,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be preferred to me in everything,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may become holier than I, provided
that I may become as holy as I should,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds yet becomes the largest of plants. What is the smallest thing you see in the church? What is the largest?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Share the story of the Gospel using your own words to someone outside of your immediate family.

FUN FACTS!

The Kingdom of God is the manifestation and the realization of God's plan of salvation in all its fullness. (St. John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, #15)

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JUNE 20, 2021

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JB 38:1, 8-11

PS 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31

2 COR 5:14-17



The Calming of a Storm at Sea

Mk 4:35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,
so that it was already filling up.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke him and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up,

rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!”

The wind ceased and there was great calm.

Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified?

Do you not yet have faith?”

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More

(Feast Day
June 22)
1469-6/22/1535,
1478-7/6/1535

John Fisher was born in England in 1469. After he was ordained a priest, the royal family appointed him tutor for Prince Henry, who became King Henry VIII. In 1504, Fisher became bishop of Rochester, and also chancellor of Cambridge University. Henry, then king, was proud to be his friend.

All this changed when King Henry wanted to divorce his wife and marry another woman. Henry's request for a divorce was refused by the pope (because, in the eyes of the Church, marriage is permanent), and Bishop Fisher

supported this decision. He was strong enough to resist signing the document siding with King Henry, even though all the other bishops of England had signed it. Six months later, King Henry had parliament write another document claiming that Henry was supreme head of the Catholic Church in England. Again, Bishop Fisher refused to sign. This made the king angry. The bishop was sentenced to prison in 1534 on the charge of high treason. Fisher was kept in prison for 14 months without a trial. In June of 1535, he was condemned to death by beheading.

Thomas More was born in 1477. Thomas was married and had four children. He was a shrewd lawyer and eventually became the chancellor of England, which is the highest-ranking judicial office in England. Thomas was a charming, witty man, who won the friendship of the king. That friendship changed when King Henry asked Thomas to approve of the divorce he wanted. When Thomas refused, the king became angry. Then when Thomas refused to sign the Oath of Supremacy, he was sent to prison. He was

kept for more than a year in the Tower of London. The king tried hard to make him change his mind, but Thomas stood firm. He knew this stand would mean certain death for him and disgrace for his family, but he followed his conscience. Finally, after suffering for a long time, Thomas was led out to be beheaded on July 6.

The stories of John Fisher and Thomas More are a reminder of the importance of religious liberty and the importance of witnessing our faith in the public sphere. Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More teach us that this can only come about through Christians with courageous conscience, being faithful to truth, and having a proper understanding of the relationship between church and state.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Share a time when you were in a big storm. Were you scared? Did you pray to God for help?
- × What would it have been like to witness the wind and the sea obey Jesus' command to be still?
- × Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"
- × What are the similarities between the stories of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More?

FAMILY FUN
**Get to Know
Your Father**



In today's Gospel, the disciples questioned Jesus' concern for them. One way we show we care about someone is to take an interest in what matters to them. On this Father's Day, spend some time learning more about your father or someone who is a father-figure in your family. You may be surprised to learn something new! Here are some questions to get the conversation started:

- × What is your middle name?
- × If you could do anything to help people, what would you do?
- × What is your favorite dessert?
- × If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
- × What was your favorite subject in 2nd grade?
- × How old were you when you were Confirmed? What do you remember about it?
- × What is your least favorite vegetable?
- × What did you want to be when you grew up?
- × What is one of your favorite experiences of God?



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

BBQ Shrimp

*You will be “filled with great awe”
when you try this shrimp recipe!*

- × 3-lbs. shrimp, deveined
- × 12 Tbsp. butter, melted
- × 4 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- × juice of 1 lemon
- × 2 cloves of garlic
- × 3 tsp. Old Bay Seasoning
- × 2 tsp. Cajun/Emeril Seasoning
- × 3 tsp. hot sauce
- × 1 1/2 tsp. French black pepper
- × olive oil

Mix all ingredients together in large bowl. Put in larger baking dish and drizzle with olive oil. Bake at 375 F until pink. Once done, toss several times. Serve over pasta or rice and with warm crusty bread.



Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

*Pray this prayer before bedtime to
let the peace of Christ envelop your family.*

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

LITURGY LINK

In the Prayers of the Faithful, we offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. How do we respond to each of those prayers?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Write out the verse from Isaiah 41:10 and place it in a spot that will be a daily reminder for your family to trust God in times of fear: "Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" - Isaiah 41:10.

FUN FACTS!

The Sea of Galilee's location makes it subject to sudden and violent storms as the wind comes over the eastern mountains and drops suddenly onto the sea, which is 700 feet below sea level. Storms are especially likely when an east wind blows cool air over the warm air that covers the sea. The cold air (being heavier) drops as the warm air rises. This sudden change can produce surprisingly furious storms in a short time, just as it did in Jesus' day.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

JUNE 27, 2021

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WIS 1:13-15; 2:23-24

PS 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13

2 COR 8:7, 9, 13-15



Jairus's Daughter and the Woman with a Hemorrhage

Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35B-43

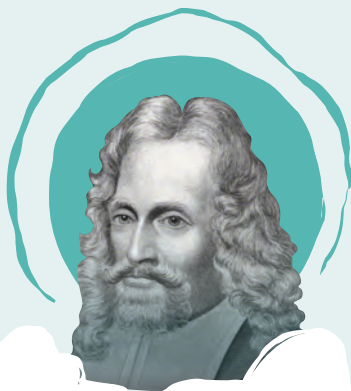
When Jesus had crossed again in the boat
to the other side,
a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea.
One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward.
Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying,
“My daughter is at the point of death.
Please, come lay your hands on her
that she may get well and live.”
He went off with him,
and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.
She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors
and had spent all that she had.
Yet she was not helped but only grew worse.
She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd
and touched his cloak.
She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."
Immediately her flow of blood dried up.
She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.
Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him,
turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?"
But his disciples said to Jesus,
"You see how the crowd is pressing upon you,
and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'"
And he looked around to see who had done it.
The woman, realizing what had happened to her,
approached in fear and trembling.
She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth.
He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you.
Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking,
people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said,
"Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?"
Disregarding the message that was reported,
Jesus said to the synagogue official,
"Do not be afraid; just have faith."
He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.
When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official,
he caught sight of a commotion,
people weeping and wailing loudly.

So he went in and said to them,
“Why this commotion and weeping?
The child is not dead but asleep.”
And they ridiculed him.
Then he put them all out.
He took along the child’s father and mother
and those who were with him
and entered the room where the child was.
He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,”
which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”
The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around.
At that they were utterly astounded.
He gave strict orders that no one should know this
and said that she should be given something to eat.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Oliver
Plunkett**

(Feast Day July 2)
November 1, 1629
– July 1, 1681

St. Oliver Plunkett is especially familiar to the Irish and the English—and with good reason. The English martyred Oliver Plunkett

for defending the faith in his native Ireland during a period of severe persecution.

Oliver was born in Ireland in 1629. He studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained there in 1654. Due to religious persecution in his native land, it was not possible for him to return to minister to his people. After some years of teaching and service to the poor he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh in Ireland. Archbishop Plunkett established himself as a man of peace and, with religious fervor, set about visiting his people, establishing schools, ordaining priests, and confirming thousands. Four years later, in 1673, a new wave of anti-

Catholic persecution began, forcing Archbishop Plunkett to do his pastoral work in secrecy and disguise, and to live in hiding. Meanwhile, many of his priests were sent into exile, schools were closed, Church services had to be held in secret, and convents and seminaries were suppressed. As archbishop, Plunkett was viewed as ultimately responsible for any rebellion or political activity among his parishioners.

Archbishop Plunkett was arrested and imprisoned in Dublin Castle in 1679, but his trial was moved to London where he was tried for treason. With deep serenity of soul, he was prepared to die, calmly rebutting the accusations against him and refusing to save himself by giving false evidence against his brother bishops. Oliver Plunkett publicly forgave all those who were responsible for his death. He was hanged, drawn, and quartered in July 1681. Pope Paul VI canonized Oliver Plunkett in 1975.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel story, when Jesus was in the crowd, many people bumped into him, but only one person touched him in faith. What was the difference between how the crowd encountered Christ and how the woman encountered him? What can we learn from this?
- × What would it have been like to witness Jesus raising a twelve-year-old girl from the dead?
- × Why do you think Jesus healed Jairus' daughter? Does God still heal today?
- × If you lived in the time of St. Oliver Plunkett, would you continue to practice the Catholic faith even if it was prohibited by the government? Why or why not?

FAMILY FUN
**Family
Bike Ride**



Jesus traveled all over Galilee preaching the Gospel. Take some time to enjoy God's creation by going on a bike ride together as a family. Consider riding by a church and stopping briefly to say a prayer. Remember that inside each Catholic church there is a tabernacle which contains the Eucharist, the real presence of Christ. Be sure to thank Jesus for his sacrifice and the gift of the Eucharist.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

**Make Ahead
Mashed Potatoes**

*Enjoy this potato dish in
honor of our Irish saint!*

- × 8 large potatoes, pared
- × 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- × 1/4 cup sour cream
- × salt and pepper to taste
- × butter
- × paprika

Boil potatoes in salted water until tender; drain and mash. Add cubed cheese, sour cream, butter, salt and pepper and mix well. Cover. Can be stored in refrigerator several days. Before serving sprinkle with paprika and bake uncovered in 350-degree oven 30-35 minutes or until heated through.



Prayer for the Sick by St. Augustine of Canterbury

*Let the healing power of Christ flow through
your family as you pray this prayer.*

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Where is the oil kept that is used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Prepare and deliver a meal to someone who is sick or needs assistance.

FUN FACTS!

Potatoes were the first food ever grown in space. They were grown in the space shuttle Columbia in 1995.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JULY 4, 2021

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EZ 2:2-5

PS 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

2 COR 12:7-10



The Rejection at Nazareth

Mk 6:1-6a

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples.

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue,

and many who heard him were astonished.

They said, "Where did this man get all this?

What kind of wisdom has been given him?

What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!

Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary,

and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?

And are not his sisters here with us?"

And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them,

"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place

and among his own kin and in his own house."

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there,

apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Augustine Zhao Rong

(Feast Day
July 9)
d. 1815

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Over the centuries, Christianity in China was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly depending on China's relations with the outside world.

Augustine Zhao Rong, is one of a group of 120 Catholics who were martyred between the years 1648 and 1930 in China. Zhao Rong was a bailiff of a county jail. During the persecution of 1772, he was moved by the words of Fr. Martinus Moyer to his fellow Catholic prisoners, and, ultimately

converted. He later became a priest, and when in 1815 another persecution broke out, he was arrested and tortured. Because of his age, he died of the ill treatment.

Of the 120 martyrs, eighty-seven were Chinese, ranging in age from nine to seventy-two, and four of them were priests. Thirty-three were foreign-born, mostly priests or women religious. Though the missionaries and religious tried to distance themselves from foreign policies, the Chinese government did not differentiate and saw them all as westerners.

The martyrdoms of China are very moving, each person having died heroically though many of them suffered torture and cruel deaths. Fr. Francis Li, grandson of a Chinese martyr, describes his grandfather going to his death joyfully saying to his brother and son, "Let's go, we are going to heaven today!"

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why do you think the people in Jesus' hometown rejected him? How did that make him feel?
- × Share a time when you felt rejected. How did you work through it?
- × Why do you think Jesus was unable to perform many mighty deeds when he was in his hometown?
- × St. Augustine Zhao Rong was converted to Christianity through the moving words of a priest. What words would you use to share Jesus with someone?

FAMILY FUN Independence Day Celebration



Freedom is a great gift. Celebrate our nation's freedom by attending a 4th of July parade or fireworks display. Thank God for the freedom we have in our country and ask him to help you to be his voice. If you don't have access to a local 4th of July celebration, consider organizing a neighborhood parade. Invite friends and neighbors to decorate bikes, make signs, and dress in red, white, and blue!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Black Eyed Pea Salad

Enjoy this summer salad this 4th of July!

- × 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- × 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- × 2 tbsp. of white wine or apple cider vinegar
- × 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- × 1 tsp. sugar or 1 tsp. honey
- × 1 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- × 2 cloves garlic, minced
- × 1/2 - 1 tsp. salt (to taste)
- × 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- × 1/3 cup red onion
- × 1 cup chopped bell peppers either red, yellow, or orange (or a mix of all three)
- × 2 Tbsp. chopped black olives
- × 2 cups cooked long grain white rice or cooked brown rice
- × 2 cups cooked fresh or frozen black-eyed peas (if using canned black-eyed peas, make sure peas are drained, well-rinsed and not too mushy)

- × 3 Tbsp. chopped basil or parsley (optional)
- × 8 cups salad greens (romaine, bibb, young kale, red leaf work very well, or iceberg)

In large mixing bowl, whisk olive oil, Dijon mustard, vinegar, lemon juice, cumin, sugar/honey, garlic, salt and cayenne pepper. Add onion, bell peppers, olives, rice, and peas. Stir until coated. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour, up to 24 hrs. Stir once more, adding basil/parsley and a dash more salt if desired. Then turn onto bed of salad greens and serve.

Submitted by: *Figueroa Family
from Corpus Christi, Detroit*



Canticle of Zechariah

The Canticle of Zechariah is prayed every morning in the Liturgy of the Hours (a prayer of the Church that marks and sanctifies the hours of each day). The Canticle is Zechariah's prophetic exhortation about the greatness of God in sending his son, John the Baptist, as the forerunner to announce the coming of Christ. There are many words and themes in this canticle prayer that can prepare our hearts and minds for the work of evangelization.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
for he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
and from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him
without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, child, shall be called prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Just like Jesus taught in the synagogue in today's Gospel, the priest or deacon teaches us during the homily at Mass. Pay attention to the homily and share what you heard.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Sometimes we can be mean and critical of people in our household. Make a commitment to only say kind and encouraging things to your family members this week.

FUN FACTS!

Americans consume about 150 million hot dogs while celebrating Independence Day. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, that number of dogs can stretch from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles more than five times!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JULY 11, 2021

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AM 7:12-15

PS 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

EPH 1:3-14 OR 1:3-10



The Mission of the Twelve

Mk 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.

He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—

no food, no sack, no money in their belts.

They were, however, to wear sandals

but not a second tunic.

He said to them,

“Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave.

Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you,

leave there and shake the dust off your feet

in testimony against them.”

So they went off and preached repentance.

The Twelve drove out many demons,

and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

MARTYRS OF SCILLITAN

(Feast Day July 17)
d. 180

The Scillitan Martyrs were a group of twelve North African Christians (seven men and five women) who were executed for their beliefs on July 17, 180. Their names were Speratus, Nartzalus, Cintinus (Cittinus), Veturius, Felix, Aquilinus, Laetantius, Januaria, Generosa, Vestia, Donata, and Secunda. They were an example of the strength and vigor of the Church in Africa in the 2nd century. The martyrs take their name from Scilla (or Scillium), a town in Numidia (present day Algeria). The Acts of the Scillitan Martyrs are considered to be the earliest documents of the church of Africa.

Speratus, their principal spokesman, wrote that they had lived a quiet and moral life, paying their dues and doing no wrong to their neighbors. However, when called upon to swear an oath to the emperor, they refused. The proconsul of Scillium asked the seven men and five women what has caused them to rebel against worshipping the emperor. They replied, “the books and epistles of Paul, a just man.” The emperor was seemingly unimpressed but not particularly upset, and so he gave them thirty days to reconsider and recant, but they all refused. Their trial and execution took place in Carthage under Governor Vigellius Saturninus, who was the first persecutor of Christians in Africa.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Jesus sent the apostles out two-by-two instead of sending them alone. What are the advantages of doing something with a buddy?
- × What does the Gospel tell us was the result of the disciples' missionary work?
- × Is it easy or hard to talk about Jesus to those who don't know him? Why?
- × The Martyrs of Scillitan were asked to worship the emperor instead of Jesus. Why is it wrong to worship anyone other than Jesus?

FAMILY FUN Surprise Adventure



Jesus sent the Twelve out on an adventure to bring the Gospel to others. Plan a day of fun and surprise your children with a special adventure. Anything you and your kids love to do can make for a great surprise play day. It's a great opportunity to try something new or do something they've been begging to do.

Here are some ideas to consider:

- × A trip to a special store
- × A day at the park with a picnic
- × Beach day
- × Go fruit or vegetable picking at a local farm
- × Hit the water park
- × Visit an aquarium
- × City day with a museum stop and a restaurant
- × Visit an indoor trampoline play space



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Goldfish Cracker Mix

The apostles were sent on mission with no food. These fishermen would love to munch on this cracker mix if they arrived at your house!

- × 1 bag Parmesan
Goldfish Crackers
- × 1 bag Pretzel
Goldfish Crackers
- × 1 bag Cheddar
Goldfish Crackers
- × Optional:
1 can honey
roasted peanuts

Mix all ingredients together
in a bowl and serve. Enjoy!

Submitted by: *Finn Family from
St. Jane Frances de Chantal,
Sterling Heights*



Openness to God

Invite family members to open their hands (as if they were receiving a gift or treasure) while praying this prayer. Select a leader to read this prayer slowly, including silence as indicated.



Lord,

We know that you are present to us in many different ways. We encounter you in Sacred Scripture, in the Mass, in nature, in music, in silence, and in other people. Even though you are there, we do not always listen to you and we are not always open to what you want to reveal to us. But today, we come to you with open hands and open hearts. Help us to see what we need to see and hear what we need to hear.

[period of silence]

Increase in us a desire for you. Help us to be more open and docile to the movement of your Spirit and mindful of those you've sent to help us and guide us.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

The apostles in today's Gospel story were cared for financially and physically by the people they visited. What are ways that your parish cares for those in need?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Create a mission statement for your family that reflects how God is calling your family to build the kingdom of God.

FUN FACTS!

July 17th is World Emoji Day. Emojis are yellow smiley faces that have a variety of facial expressions. Harvey Ball created the yellow smiley face design in the 1960s and this inspired emojis which were first used in Japan in the 1990s. Which emoji best describes how you feel today?

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JULY 18, 2021

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JER 23:1-6

PS 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

EPH 2:13-18



The Return of the Twelve

Mk 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.

They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Sebastian

(Feast Day January 20)
c. 256 – January 20, 287

According to legend, Sebastian was born at Narbonne, Gaul. He became a soldier in the Roman army and encouraged two Christians, Marcellian and Marcus, under sentence of death, to remain firm in their faith. Sebastian made numerous converts: among them were Nicostratus, who was in charge of prisoners and his wife, Zoe, a deaf mute whom he cured; the jailer Claudius; Chromatius, Prefect of Rome, whom he cured of gout; and Chromatius' son, Tiburtius. After Chromatius was healed, he set the prisoners free, freed his slaves, and resigned as prefect.

Sebastian was captain in the praetorian guards during the reign of Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. Neither knew that Sebastian was a Christian, but when it was discovered that he was a Christian, he was ordered to be executed. He was shot with arrows and left for dead, but when the widow of St. Castulus went to recover his body, she found he was still alive and nursed him back to health. Soon after, Sebastian intercepted the Emperor, denounced him for his cruelty to Christians, and was beaten to death on the Emperor's orders.

St. Sebastian is the patron saint of athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading and defending the Faith.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Jesus wanted his apostles to rest after they ministered to the people. Why is it important to rest?
- × Jesus also wanted to spend some quiet time with his disciples. Jesus wants to spend quiet time with you too. What are some ways you can spend quiet time with Jesus?
- × Why were there so many people following Jesus? Why was he so popular?
- × In what way did St. Sebastian exhibit courage in his life as a Christian?

FAMILY FUN Backyard Olympics



The Summer Olympic Games provide the perfect inspiration for families and friends to create an Olympic competition. Friendly competition teaches children about teamwork and how to be a gracious winner or loser. Before starting your backyard Olympics, consider holding an opening

ceremony and ask Olympians to take an oath of good sportsmanship like athletes do at the Olympic Games.

Call some friends or relatives and invite them to join your family for some games to play in the yard or a local field. Consider creating paper medals for the events.

Some event ideas include:

- × **Running Long Jump:** With a running start, see who can jump the farthest from a line marked on the ground.
- × **Relay Race:** Use a stick or baton to hand off between runners while they go on a designated path. If you don't have enough runners for a race, have participants race to beat their own time.
- × **No Water Synchronized Swimming:** Have groups pick music and choreograph a short routine to see how in sync they can stay.
- × **Balance Beam:** Paint a straight, even stripe on a flat section of lawn, which is the "balance beam." Ask participants to perform a series of increasingly difficult maneuvers without straying from the stripe. Award points for completion of each maneuver. Some fun suggestions include: walking forward, walking backward, hopping on one foot, doing front rolls, doing cartwheels.

- × **Hula-hoop-a-thon:** Kids keep their hoops moving as long as possible and are eliminated when their hoops touch the ground.
- × **Discus:** See who can throw a frisbee the farthest distance.
- × **Water Balloon Shot Put:** See who can throw a water balloon the farthest distance.
- × **Pool Noodle Javelin:** Each child gets three attempts to see who can throw his or her pool noodle the farthest.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Watermelon Sorbet

While you take some time to rest today, enjoy this easy-to-make treat!

- × 5 to 6 cups frozen watermelon, cubed (cut and freeze on a tray or in a Ziploc bag overnight)

- × Juice of 1/2 a lemon or a lime

Put watermelon in a blender. Add lemon or lime juice. Blend and enjoy.



Prayer of St. John Henry Newman

Pray this prayer in the evening or before bedtime.

May the Lord support
us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then in his mercy may he
give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest, and peace
at the last.
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, we hear that great crowds followed Jesus. How many people do you think can fit in your church? About how many people do you think were there for Mass this weekend?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Jesus taught the crowds many things. Resolve to learn one thing new about the Catholic faith this week. Share what you learned with your family members.

FUN FACTS!

The Summer Olympics typically happen every 4 years. They were postponed in 2020 and are slated to start on Friday, July 23rd in Tokyo, Japan. The modern games were first held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

JULY 25, 2021

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 KGS 4:42-44

PS 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

EPH 4:1-6



Multiplication of the Loaves

Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes

and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,

he said to Philip,

"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him,

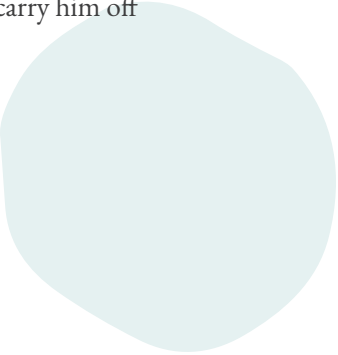

because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples,

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,



"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish;
but what good are these for so many?"
Jesus said, "Have the people recline."
Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.
So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.
Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,
and distributed them to those who were reclining,
and also as much of the fish as they wanted.
When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,
"Gather the fragments left over,
so that nothing will be wasted."
So they collected them,
and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments
from the five barley loaves
that had been more than they could eat.
When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,
"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."
Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off
to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



Bl. Stanley Rother (Feast Day July 28)
March 27, 1935
– July 28, 1981

Stanley Francis Rother grew up on a farm in Oklahoma and attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School. He worked hard doing chores, attended school, played sports, was an altar server, and enjoyed the activities associated with growing up in a small town. While in high school, he began to discern the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. After high school, he went to seminary and was ordained a priest. After five years, Fr. Rother received permission to join the staff at the Oklahoma diocese's mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. He served

the native tribe of the Tz'utujil. Fr. Rother learned Spanish and the Tz'utujil language. He celebrated Mass in their language and helped translate the New Testament.

Fr. Rother was surrounded by extreme poverty among the Tz'utujil, who were living in one-room huts growing what they could on their small plots of land. He ministered to his parishioners in their homes eating with them, visiting the sick and aiding them with medical issues. He even put his farming skills to use by helping them in the fields, bringing in different crops, and building an irrigation system.

While he served in Guatemala, there was a civil war and the Catholic Church was caught in the middle due to its emphasis on catechizing and educating the people. During this conflict, thousands of Catholics were killed. For his safety, Fr. Rother returned home to

Oklahoma, but didn't stay long, as he was determined to give his life completely to his people, stating that "the shepherd cannot run." He returned to Santiago Atitlan to continue the work of the mission.

Within a few months, he was executed. On Dec. 1, 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized Fr. Rother as a martyr for the faith. He is the first martyr from the United States and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified. The Rite of Beatification was held on Sept. 23, 2017, in downtown Oklahoma City – an event attended by more than 20,000 people from around the world.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

× How did Jesus multiply the loaves and fish in order to feed the 5000+ people who were there?

× In the Gospel, the young boy shared what he had with Jesus. How can you share your gifts and talents with Jesus?

× How does today's Gospel remind you of Mass?

× Bl. Stanley Rother returned back to Guatemala to minister to his people in spite of the danger there. In what way does Fr. Rother remind you of Jesus?

FAMILY FUN Family Picnic



Just like the crowds reclined in a grassy place in today's Gospel, do the same by planning a picnic in a park or in your backyard. Pack your favorite food and some bread to recall today's Gospel story. Bring plenty of water, fresh fruit, and vegetables to keep everyone hydrated. Bring along at least one large blanket. The blanket can be used as a tablecloth for the picnic table or on the ground providing a comfortable spot to sit and eat. Pack a few damp wash cloths inside a resealable bag, which can be used to clean a picnic table and little ones' hands before (and after) eating. Be sure to bring along a few simple toys and games for your kids too (sports balls, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, etc.). If the weather does not cooperate, move the picnic indoors. Just set-up a blanket on the floor and enjoy!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Pasta with Smoked Salmon Cream Sauce

Jesus fed over 5000 people with only two fish.

This recipe needs only one. Enjoy!

- × 1 – 8oz. can chicken stock
- × 1 cup whipping cream
- × 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
or 2 tsp. dried dill weed
- × 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- × 12 oz. tagliatelle or
linguine, freshly cooked
- × 4 oz. smoked salmon,
cut into thin strips
- × feta cheese
- × capers

Bring chicken stock & cream to boil in heavy large skillet over high heat. Reduce heat & simmer until mixture thickens enough to coat a spoon, whisking occasionally about 10 minutes. Whisk in dill and lemon juice. Add pasta & toss to coat. Remove skillet from heat. Add salmon; toss to combine. Add feta & capers. Season to taste with salt & pepper. Makes 4 servings.

Submitted by: *Frederick Family
from St. Colette in Livonia*



Grace Before and After A Meal

Today, say grace before and after your meal. You can use your own words to say grace or the commonly used prayers below. Think about the words of the prayer and discuss what they mean to you as you share your meal.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give Thee thanks for all Thy benefits, O Almighty God, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

The priest says a prayer called a collect (pronounced: call-ekkt) after the Gloria that varies week to week. Before he starts speaking, there is time for silence and for us to pray in our hearts. He then “collects” those prayers and lifts them up in prayer. What prayer intentions do you bring to Mass today?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Feed the hungry in your area by donating non-perishable food items to a local food bank.

FUN FACTS!

We celebrate the feast of Blessed Solanus Casey on July 30th. Blessed Solanus lived in Detroit and was beatified at Ford Field on November 18, 2017. Blessed Solanus was known for praying for people’s intentions. Many healings are attributed to his intercession, even when he was alive. We continue to pray for his canonization. Don’t forget to ask Fr. Solanus to pray for your prayer intentions!

AUGUST 1, 2021

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EX 16:2-4, 12-15

PS 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54

EPH 4:17, 20-24



The Bread of Life Discourse

Jn 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there,
they themselves got into boats

and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

And when they found him across the sea they said to him,

"Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said,

"Amen, amen, I say to you,

you are looking for me not because you saw signs

but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

Do not work for food that perishes

but for the food that endures for eternal life,

which the Son of Man will give you.

For on him the Father, God, has set his seal."

So they said to him,

"What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them,

"This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."

So they said to him,

"What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?"

What can you do?

Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:

He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

So Jesus said to them,

"Amen, amen, I say to you,

it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven;

my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven

and gives life to the world."

So they said to him,

"Sir, give us this bread always."

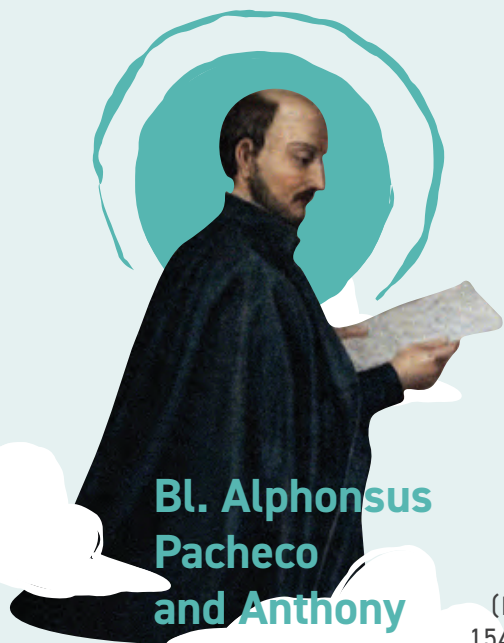
Jesus said to them,

"I am the bread of life;

whoever comes to me will never hunger,

and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Alphonsus
Pacheco
and Anthony
Francisco, SJ**

(Feast Day July 25)
1549 – July 25, 1583;
1550 – July 25, 1583

Alphonsus Pacheco was born in Spain. At the age of eighteen, he entered the Jesuit novitiate. He was eventually recruited for the Far East missions. Alphonsus arrived in Goa, India in September 1574 and was ordained a priest and worked at St Paul's college. He returned to Europe and two years later he returned to Goa with thirteen new missionaries.

Anthony Francisco was a Portuguese missionary and was among the thirteen who arrived in Goa with Fr. Pacheco in 1581. Francisco was ordained in 1582. Fr. Francisco was appointed to the mission at Orlim on the Salsette peninsula; however, his active

missionary career lasted only a few months. When a new mission superior arrived in Salsette, Fr. Pacheco served as his guide in the visitation of all the villages in Salsette. Fr. Francisco and others were among the group. In the village of Cuncolim, there was a revolt against Portuguese colonization and the Jesuits were killed in the incident. When Fr. Pacheco saw the hostile Hindu villagers massacring his three companions, he boldly faced the assailants and immediately a lance pierced his breast. Extending his arm in the form of a cross, he prayed, "Lord, you were pierced with a lance for me. I ask you to pardon those who have wounded me and to send them to other missionaries to lead them to heaven." Fr. Pacheco died saying the name "Jesus." The last to fall was Fr. Francisco. All five Jesuits were between thirty and thirty-five years of age. Their bodies were recovered from a well and taken back to the mission in Goa. They were beatified by Pope Leo XIII on April 2, 1893.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Throughout the Gospel of John, people have difficulty believing that Jesus is the Son of God sent by the Father. Why do some people have difficulty believing in Jesus?
- × What does Jesus mean when he says, “I am the bread of life”?
- × What does Jesus mean when he says that those who come to him will never hunger and never thirst? In what way is this phrase related to the story of the multiplication of the loaves from last week’s Gospel?
- × If you could go anywhere in the world to proclaim the Gospel, where would you go?

FAMILY FUN Chalk Art



The people in today’s Gospel ask Jesus for a sign that he is God. Take some time today to decorate the sidewalk or driveway with messages of faith and encouragement to help your neighbors believe in Jesus. You may also want to give them an activity to do as they walk by your house such as a hopscotch game, a maze, or another activity.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Soda Bread

*Make this soda bread to remind
you of Jesus, the Bread of Life!*

- × oil
- × 2 cups flour
- × 1 tsp. salt
- × 1 tsp. baking soda
- × 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- × 1 cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 450 F. Oil a covered casserole dish or a Dutch oven. Sift together flour, salt, baking soda, and Cream of Tartar. Add buttermilk. Mix until blended; dough will be a bit sticky. Knead 4 or 5 times (not too much or the bread will be tough) and shape into a ball. Cut cross in top and place in prepared pan. Bake covered 30 minutes.

Submitted by: McAfee Family from
St. Francis Cabrini in Allen Park



Jesus, the Bread of Life

Father in heaven,
you have made us for yourself;
our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Fulfill this longing through Jesus, the Bread of Life,
so that we may witness to him
who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.
By the power of your Spirit
lead us to the heavenly table
where we may feast on the vision of your glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

During the Preparation of the Gifts, the gifts of bread and wine, are brought to the altar in procession. The priest then prepares the bread and wine before the Eucharistic Prayer. Watch to see what he does to prepare the gifts.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Invite someone over to your home for dinner with whom you have lost touch or someone who has recently experienced loss.

FUN FACTS!

There are almost 200 different types of bread. Some of the most popular types of bread in the United States are Texas Toast, banana bread, sourdough, bagels, and cornbread.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

AUGUST 8, 2021

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 KGS 19:4-8

PS 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

EPH 4:30-5:2



The Bread of Life Discourse

Jn 6:41-51

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said,
"I am the bread that came down from heaven,"
and they said,

"Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?

Do we not know his father and mother?

Then how can he say,

'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Stop murmuring among yourselves.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him,
and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

They shall all be taught by God.

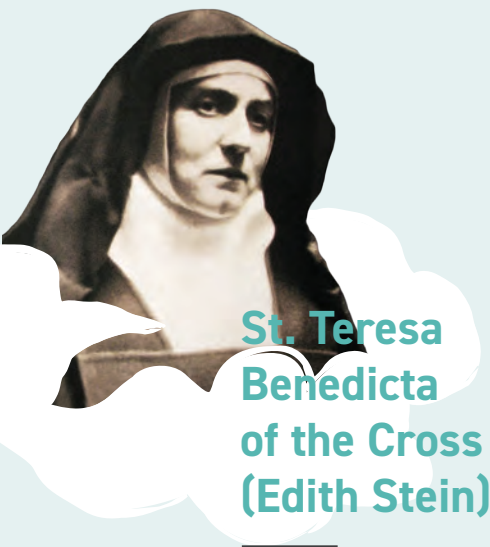
Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father
except the one who is from God;

he has seen the Father.

Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever believes has eternal life.
I am the bread of life.
Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;
this is the bread that comes down from heaven
so that one may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Teresa
Benedicta
of the Cross
(Edith Stein)**

(Feast Day
August 9)
October 12, 1891
– August 9, 1942

Edith Stein was born into a prominent Jewish family in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland). At the age of 14, she stopped believing in God. She went to university

and became fascinated with philosophy. She eventually earned a doctorate in philosophy in 1916 and became a university teacher. Her spiritual journey began after reading the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, which led to her baptism in 1922. After several years as an active laywoman, rising intellectual, and pioneer feminist, Edith Stein entered the Carmel of Cologne where – in imitation of St. Teresa of Avila -- she became a Carmelite nun, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and devoted herself to contemplative prayer and philosophical work.

After living for four years in the Cologne Carmel, Sister Teresa Benedicta moved to the Carmelite monastery in Echt, Netherlands, in 1938. The Nazis occupied that country in 1940. In retaliation for being denounced by the Dutch bishops, the Nazis arrested all Dutch Jews who had become Christians. Teresa Benedicta and her sister Rosa, also a Catholic, died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was a woman of integrity who followed the truth wherever it led her. Pope John Paul II beatified Teresa Benedicta of the Cross in 1987 and canonized her 12 years later.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel reading, why were the Jews murmuring about Jesus?
- × What do you think people do in heaven?
- × How does today's Gospel support our belief that the Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus?
- × St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was inspired by (and took the name of) St. Teresa of Avila. Which saint most inspires you?

FAMILY FUN Bubble Fun



Jesus is the living bread that came *down* from heaven. Today, make some bubbles and send them up to heaven. You can use bubbles from the store or make your own solution and wand.

- × 4 cups warm water
- × 1/2 cup sugar
- × 1/2 cup blue Dawn dish soap

Whisk the sugar into the warm water until the sugar dissolves. Whisk in dish soap. Let the homemade bubbles sit for a couple of hours for best results. Make your own wand with one of the following:

- × **Fly swatter**
- × **Plastic cup:** Punch a hole in the bottom to blow through. Dip the large open end into the solution.
- × **Plastic soft drink bottles:** Cut the bottom off the bottle and dip. Use the lid end of the bottle to blow.
- × **Pipe cleaners:** Create just about any shape you like from a pipe cleaner, just make sure you keep a small section as a handle.
- × **Plastic funnel:** This already has a natural shape for a bubble wand. Use the large end to dip and the small end to blow.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK
**Celebration
Ice Cream Cake**

Celebrate Jesus with this delicious cake!

- × **For Cake:** 1 store bought Angel food cake (you can also use a chiffon tube cake)

- × **3 pints of ice cream** (Choose 3 flavors that work well together. There are so many possibilities, but some ideas include: coffee, maple walnut, and chocolate chip; mint chip, chocolate, and vanilla; strawberry, vanilla, and lemon.
- × **Large soup spoon** for scooping ice cream from pint and knife or spatula for spreading
- × **For chocolate whipped cream icing:**
pint of heavy whipping cream
metal bowl and hand beater
2-3 Tbsp. of chocolate fudge topping (i.e. Hershey's or Sanders ice cream topping)

Put metal bowl and beaters in freezer along with pint of whipping cream for 10-15 minutes before whipping the cream. Whip cream until soft yet somewhat firm peaks form before adding the chocolate fudge. If you add too soon, the cream will not whip to a stiff enough consistency. Put the whipped cream into the refrigerator until ready to ice the cake.

Slice angel food cake in half horizontally with a serrated bread knife. Slice each section in half again horizontally so that there are four even layers. Use a sturdy dinner sized paper plate

and cut a piece of parchment or wax paper to size before laying down the first layer of cake. This makes it easy to transfer ice cream cake to a nice serving plate later. Take two of the pints of ice cream out of the freezer to let soften a few minutes before spreading on layers. Work quickly to scoop and spread first pint of ice cream on bottom layer of cake. Smooth ice cream and add second layer of cake. Spread second pint of ice cream. Put cake back into the freezer to harden.

Take remaining pint of ice cream out of the freezer to soften. Use a second plate for the third layer of cake, then spread the 3rd flavor of ice cream topped with final 4th cake layer. Put back in freezer to harden. When hardened, take bottom section out of freezer and ice with chocolate whipped cream, including inside of tube. Add second layer of hardened cake and frost this portion as well with the chocolate whipped cream. Return to freezer until hardened and ready to serve.

Depending on the season and air temperature, you may need to let the ice cream cake soften from 5 - 15 minutes before slicing to serve. Sprinkle with shaved chocolate or fruit.



Prayer Journaling

Sometimes it takes time to understand the meaning of the Gospel. Journaling is a great way to unpack the words and talk to God.

Create a simple prayer journal or get an empty notebook. Set aside 10-20 minutes for your family to reflect on the Gospel. Create a prayerful environment by lighting candles and/or playing instrumental music in the background. Read today's Gospel and invite everyone to listen to what God is saying to them in the silence of their hearts. After a period of silence, invite everyone to write what they heard in their journal. (Younger children can draw or doodle). At the end of your reflection time, take turns sharing your experience. Close your time in prayer by saying the Our Father together.

LITURGY LINK

What gesture do we do before we receive the Eucharist? a) bow, b) genuflect, c) make the sign of the Cross, or d) trace the sign of the cross on our heads, lips, and heart. Why is this gesture important?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Learn more about your ancestors this week and resolve to pray for these family members each day.

FUN FACTS!

Bubbles were added into the National Toy Hall of Fame in 2014!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

AUGUST 15, 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB

PS 45:10, 11, 12, 16

1 COR 15:20-27



Mary Visits Elizabeth and the Canticle of Mary

Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed

that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary remained with her about three months
and then returned to her home.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Catherine of Alexandria

(Feast Day
November 25)
d. 310

Catherine of Alexandria was born around 287 in Alexandria, Egypt. At that time, Alexandria was one of the finest cities in the world, and a center of learning and culture as well as faith. Christian tradition states that she was of noble birth, possibly a princess, and very well-educated. Around the age of fourteen, she experienced a moving vision of Mary and the infant Jesus, and she decided to become a Christian.

When she was only eighteen years old, Catherine presented herself to the Emperor Maxentius

who was violently persecuting the Christians, denounced him for his cruelty, and endeavored to prove that worship of false gods was wrong. Astounded at the young girl's audacity, but unable to provide an argument against her position, the tyrant detained her in his palace and summoned fifty philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defense of her faith and emerged from the debate victorious. Her words were so moving that several of the pagans converted to Christianity and were immediately executed. Maxentius was furious and had Catherine scourged and then imprisoned. During her imprisonment more than 200 people came to see her, including Maxentius' wife. All converted to Christianity and were subsequently martyred. Twelve days later, when the dungeon was opened, a bright light and fragrant perfume filled the space, and Catherine came forth even more radiant and beautiful. Soon afterwards, the saint was condemned to die on a spiked wheel, but, at her touch, this instrument of torture was miraculously shattered. The Emperor, enraged beyond control, then had her beheaded. Angels carried her body to Mount Sinai where later a church and monastery were built in her honor.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What would it have been like for Elizabeth and Mary to realize they were a special part of God's plan for salvation?
- × Elizabeth greets Mary with a blessing. What words would you use to greet Mary if she visited your home?
- × Mary responds to Elizabeth with a prayer called the Magnificat. This prayer describes God's power and goodness. What are some qualities of God that are mentioned in this prayer? How would you describe God?
- × Explain how the power of the Holy Spirit moved in young Catherine of Alexandria. What would happen if you opened yourself up to the power of the Holy Spirit?

FAMILY FUN Visit a Marian Statue



Visit a Marian Statue at a local parish or retreat center. Bring a bouquet of flowers and leave them there to honor our Blessed Mother. When there, ask Mary to intercede for any specific intentions. Remind children to turn to their heavenly mother in times of need and ask for her prayers.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Pineapple Rosemary Agua Fresca

The feast of the Assumption is also a harvest feast day. In many Catholic countries today is the day the vineyards, herbs and plants are blessed. This wonderful Pineapple and Rosemary Agua Fresca is perfect for the feast of the Assumption.

- × 3 cups pineapple chunks
- × 4 cups water divided
- × 2 Tbsp. rosemary
- × 3/4 cup water
- × 1/4 cup sugar
- × 2 cups pineapple juice
- × 4 cups ice
- × pineapple chunks and rosemary sprigs for garnish

Combine pineapple chunks, 2 cups water and rosemary in a blender or food processor. Blend until completely liquified. Allow the rosemary to steep in the liquid for about 15 minutes. Strain into a large pitcher. Add remaining water, sugar and pineapple juice and ice to the pitcher. Stir to combine. Portion Agua Fresca in glasses and garnish with chunks of pineapple and rosemary sprigs.

From: <https://mycatholickitchen.com/2018/08/pineapple-and-rosemary-agua-fresca-for-assumption.html>



Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this exile
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

LITURGY LINK

The 2nd Reading is usually from a letter to a community in the early Church. Before the reading is proclaimed, the lector announces who wrote the letter and the community for which it was written. Who wrote today's letter? Which community was it written for?

FUN FACTS!

The Assumption celebrated on August 15th refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed – body and soul – into heaven at the end of her earthly life. As evidenced by the writings of many early Church fathers, Christians have believed for more than a millennium that the Blessed Virgin was assumed into heaven. In 1950, Pope Pius XII issued *Munificentissimus Deus*, which officially defined the Dogma of the Assumption. This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Plan a visit to a family member or friend who is lonely. Bring flowers or baked goods to brighten their day.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

AUGUST 22, 2021

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JOS 24:1-2A, 15-17, 18B

PS 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

EPH 5:21-32 OR 5:2A, 25-32



The Words of Eternal Life

Jn 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,
"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,
he said to them, "Does this shock you?

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before?

It is the spirit that gives life,
while the flesh is of no avail.

The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.
But there are some of you who do not believe."

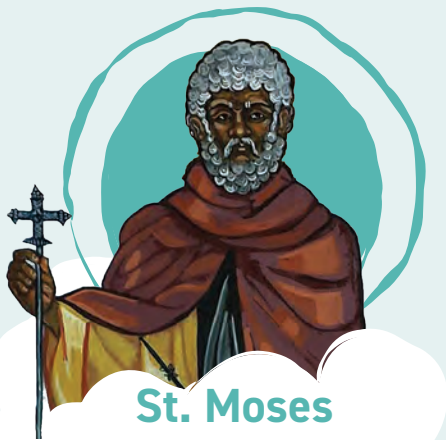
Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe
and the one who would betray him.

And he said,

"For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this,
many of his disciples returned to their former way of life
and no longer accompanied him.
Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”
Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe
and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St. Moses
the Black**

(Feast Day
August 28)
330 – 405

Moses the Black was a slave of a government official in Egypt who dismissed him for theft and suspected murder. He was a large, imposing figure and became the leader of

a gang of bandits who roamed the Nile Valley spreading terror and violence. On one occasion, he took shelter with some monks in a colony in the desert of Scete when attempting to hide from local authorities. Their lifestyle as well as their peace and contentment influenced Moses deeply. He soon gave up his old way of life and joined the monastic community at Scete.

Moses had a rather difficult time adjusting to regular monastic discipline. His flair for adventure remained with him. Attacked by a group of robbers in his desert cell, Moses fought back, overpowered the intruders, and

dragged them to the chapel where the other monks were at prayer. He told the brothers that he didn't think he should hurt the robbers and asked what he should do with them. The overwhelmed robbers repented, were converted, and themselves joined the community.

At one point, Moses became discouraged when he concluded he was not perfect enough to be a monk. Early one morning, St. Isidore, abbot of the community, took Brother Moses to the roof and together they watched the first rays of dawn come over the horizon. Isidore told Moses, "Only slowly do the rays of the sun drive away the night and usher in a new day, and thus, only slowly does one become a perfect contemplative."

Moses proved to be a prophetic and effective leader. He was eventually ordained a priest and became the spiritual leader of a colony of hermits in the desert. At about age 75, the colony was attacked by a group of bandits. Moses forbade the brothers to take up weapons. All but eight were martyred by the bandits.

Today, St. Moses the Black is remembered as one of the Desert Fathers and is honored as an apostle of non-violence.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Today's reading concludes the Bread of Life Discourse which we heard on August 1st and August 8th. The disciples claim that Jesus' teaching is hard. What are some teachings that are hard for you?
- × Why do you think some of the disciples left Jesus and went back to their former way of life? Why do you think the Twelve stayed with Jesus? Which group of disciples do you most identify with . . . those who left Jesus or those who stayed with him?

× What is Jesus saying to you through the Bread of Life Discourse?

× St. Moses the Black struggled with perfectionism and feelings of inadequacy. Have you ever felt like that? St. Isidore helped Moses the Black. Who would you turn to for help with these feelings?

FAMILY FUN Charades



St. Moses lived in a community where silence was important. Today, play a game that requires silence! On slips of paper, write down some places, people, animals, foods, etc. You may want to include the events in Jesus' life. Place the slips of paper in a bowl. Divide into teams or have each player play on their own. One person picks a slip from the bowl. With a timer set for 1 minute (or an appropriate time for the player), the person acts out the event on their slip of paper without talking. The first person/team to guess the correct answer gets a point. Rotate so everyone gets a turn to act and a turn to guess.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Spaghetti Salad

Don't be shocked (as the disciples were in today's Gospel) at how easy and delicious this recipe is!

- × 1 lb. box spaghetti, cooked, drained and rinsed
- × 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- × 1 cup peeled and chopped cucumber
- × 1 cup chopped mushrooms
- × 1 bunch finely chopped green onion
- × 2 Tbsp. salad seasoning
- × 1 bottle Italian dressing
- × Parmesan cheese to taste

Put all ingredients into a large bowl. Mix together (washed hands work best). Serve with bread sticks.

Submitted by: McAfee Family
from St. Francis Cabrini, Allen Park



Praying with Music

As a family, listen to the song *I Will Choose Christ* by Tom Booth. You should be able to find the song on YouTube or wherever you stream music. Reflect on the lyrics and share how they connect to the Gospel.

LITURGY LINK

The Desert Fathers spent a lot of time with God in silence. During Mass, when are you able to spend time with God in silence?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

St. Moses the Black is known as an apostle of non-violence. This week, focus on being a peacemaker in your family and in your friend group. Withhold negative comments and judgements and be a good listener.

FUN FACTS!

The title "Desert Fathers" refer to Christian ascetics, hermits, and monks who lived in Egypt in the 3rd century. There were also Desert Mothers.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

AUGUST 29, 2021

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DT 4:1-2, 6-8

PS 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

JAS 1:17-18, 21B-22, 27



The Tradition of the Elders

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. —For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. — So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

*This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.*

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He summoned the crowd again and said to them,

"Hear me, all of you, and understand.

Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person;
but the things that come out from within are what defile.

"From within people, from their hearts,
come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder,
adultery, greed, malice, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.
All these evils come from within and they defile."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl.
Maria
Mercedes Prat**

(Feast Day
July 24)
March 6, 1880
- July 24, 1936

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Blessed Maria Mercedes Prat showed a great love for her neighbor and tried to inspire that type of love in others. She attended Mass daily and gave herself to God completely as a child. Maria was a devoted student, painter, and excelled in sewing. After her parents' deaths, she helped care for her younger siblings. As an orphan and the eldest daughter, she combined successfully her prayer life, her responsibilities in the home, her artistic talent, and her apostolate as a catechist and a member of the Teresian Arch-confraternity.

Once her siblings were old enough, she entered the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus in Tortosa and eventually went back to Barcelona for her assignment at the motherhouse. There, she taught joyfully in the community school for sixteen years until the sisters were forced to flee due to the unrest from the Spanish Civil War and the persecution of Catholics. She was arrested and shot for being a religious sister. The words of the Our Father were the last words on her lips. The sisters in the order described her as a “true Teresian—a religious according to the heart of God.”

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why does Jesus call the Pharisees and scribes hypocrites?
- × Jesus teaches us that peoples' words and actions can cause evil. In what way do words and actions hurt people today?
- × In what way do people use words and actions on social media for good or for bad?
- × Compare the life of Blessed Maria Mercedes Prat to the Pharisees and scribes in today's Gospel story. In what way does her life exemplify how Jesus is calling us to live?

FAMILY FUN Pictures A to Z



Just as Bl. Maria went back to her hometown of Barcelona, rediscover your hometown with this activity.

Grab a camera and head out to photograph something around town (or around your home or neighborhood) that starts with each letter of the alphabet: A for an apple orchard, B for a basketball hoop, and so on. To make it extra fun, form teams and use old-fashioned, disposable film cameras and get them developed at the end of the day. Compare pictures and have fun. Go out for ice cream to celebrate your accomplishment!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Skewered Sesame Beef

*This meal can be enjoyed without touching
the food with your hands!*

- × 1/4 cup soy sauce
- × 2 Tbsp. sesame oil
- × 1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- × 1 Tbsp. sugar
- × 2 tsp. garlic, minced
- × 8 oz. beef tenderloin,
cut into 1-inch cubes
- × 12 mushrooms, halved
- × 1 large red pepper, seeded
and cut into 1-inch pieces
- × 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds, toasted

Stir first 5 ingredients together to make marinade. Add cubed beef to the marinade and set at room temperature for one hour or refrigerate up to 4 hours. Thread each wooden cocktail skewer with one piece of bell pepper, one beef cube, and one mushroom half. Dip one side of each skewer in the toasted sesame seeds. Arrange on lightly greased baking sheet and bake 5 minutes at 450 F or arrange directly over moderately hot coals for 2 to 3 minutes.



7 Words from Pope Francis

Repeat this phrase from Pope Francis 7 times together:

Jesus, make my heart more like yours.

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us how not to behave, but the Responsorial Psalm (between the first and second readings) guides us on how to behave. What is today's response?

FUN FACTS!

A Teresian is a barefooted Carmelite member of an order founded by St. Teresa of Avila in the 16th century.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

In today's Gospel, Jesus lists things that come into a person's heart that "defile" them. These things enter our minds and hearts and leave little room for the things of God. This week get rid of the "garbage" in your life. Write on a piece of paper any mean or bad things that you hold in your heart. Get a garbage bag and invite each family member to put their garbage in the bag. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation as a family to receive absolution and forgiveness for any offenses against God.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IS 35:4-7A

PS 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

JAS 2:1-5



The Healing of a Deaf Man

Mk 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said,

“He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Bl.
Vilmos Apor

(Feast Day
May 23)
1892 - 1945

Vilmos Apor de Altorja was a Hungarian Roman Catholic bishop, born in Ségessvár, Transylvania (at that time, Hungary, now Romania). He was a baron in the noble Apor Family and served as a bishop during World War II. He became famous for his steadfast commitment to the poor. During the persecution of the Jews, he actively

defended the persecuted and employed all his contacts in favor of those seeking refuge; the episcopal estates, convents and hospitals gave shelter to the needy. He was a gentle and kind person and dedicated himself to opposing both communism and Nazism. He used his sermons as a chance to condemn them, though coming at a great personal risk to himself. On Good Friday 1945, he sacrificed his life for his faithful while defending the women hidden in the cellar of the episcopal palace against abuse from violent Soviet soldiers. The bullets that penetrated his body formed the shape of a cross.

The beatification process opened on 5 March 1991 and culminated after Pope John Paul II presided over the beatification in Saint Peter's Square on November 9, 1997.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Imagine you are the man in the story. What is it like to encounter Jesus so intimately?
- × Consider the people who brought the deaf man to Jesus. How are we called to be like them?
- × Why do you think Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone about the healing?
- × Bl. Vilmos Apor sacrificed his life defending others. Share a time when you defended someone from harm or harsh words.

FAMILY FUN
**Incredible
Accomplishments**



Today, help your family appreciate two people in history who experienced hearing loss and have done great things.

Ludwig van Beethoven is one of the most famous composers that ever lived. He was profoundly deaf, but that didn't stop him from composing his world-renowned music. Beethoven had lost 60% of his hearing by the age of 31 and became completely deaf at 46. Beethoven continued to write music even when deaf. He wrote his famous 5th Symphony as he was losing his hearing. You can listen to a 7-minute excerpt of this piece here: https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=7

Thomas Edison was quite possibly the greatest inventor of all time. Many of his inventions have improved the quality of our modern day lives. During his career Edison's inventions included the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera. Thomas Edison was completely deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other. He believed that his deafness was a benefit to his work, as it would help keep conversations short so that he could have more time for work! Plan a trip to Greenfield Village to see Edison's laboratory and more!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK
Banana Cake

Bananas have lots of potassium and magnesium which promote hearing health. Here's an enjoyable way to add bananas to your diet today.

- × 1 2/3 cups sugar
- × 2/3 cup shortening
- × 3 eggs
- × 1 1/4 cups bananas
(ripe and mashed)
- × 2/3 cups buttermilk
- × 2 1/3 cups all-purpose
flour (sifted)
- × 1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- × 1 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- × 1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 F. Put flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl. Cream shortening & sugar. Add eggs, bananas and buttermilk. Add dry ingredients and mix until just blended.

Pour into a 13x9 or 2 8-inch round pans. Bake for 30 minutes. Check every 5 minutes after that until toothpick comes out clean in middle

Submitted by: *Frederick Family
from St. Colette in Livonia*



5 Finger Prayer

We hear in today's Gospel of Jesus using his finger to heal the deaf man. Pope Francis created a 5-Finger prayer where each finger has a specific intention. Name the intention for that finger and then allow family members to share any intentions they have in that area.

THUMB

Pray for those closest to you.

INDEX FINGER

Pray for those who heal, instruct, and teach you, that God may help them as they direct others.

MIDDLE FINGER

Pray for those in authority, like our government leaders, that God may guide them.

RING FINGER

Pray for the weak among us—the poor, the sick, the excluded, and those facing other difficulties.

PINKIE FINGER

Pray for yourself. It is easier to pray for your needs once you have prayed for the other four areas.

LITURGY LINK

The lectors and the priest or deacon proclaim the Word of God from the ambo. Where is the ambo located in your parish?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Look for opportunities this week to defend someone who is being treated unfairly.

FUN FACTS!

There is a prayer that is said at the Ritual of Baptism shortly after the actual baptism has taken place called the Ephphatha (be opened) prayer. As the celebrant touches the ears and then the mouth of the child, he prays, "May the Lord Jesus who made the deaf hear and the mute speak grant that you may soon receive his word with your ears and profess the faith with your lips to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen."

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IS 50: 4C-9A

PS 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9


JAS 2:14-18



Peter's Confession about Jesus, The First Prediction of the Passion, and The Conditions of Discipleship

Mk 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples set out
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
Along the way he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that I am?”
They said in reply,
“John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others one of the prophets.”
And he asked them,
“But who do you say that I am?”
Peter said to him in reply,
“You are the Christ.”
Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.



He began to teach them
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and rise after three days.
He spoke this openly.
Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,
rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake
and that of the gospel will save it.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian

(Feast Day
September 16)
d. 253, 258

St. Cornelius was elected to succeed St. Fabian as the Bishop of Rome (pope), after Fabian was killed in a persecution in the year 250. The Church faced not only persecution, but also opposition from within. A priest named Novatian denied the Church's authority to forgive apostasy. Novatian and his followers believed that those who renounced the faith could not be accepted back into the Church even if they had repented. Novatian had himself consecrated as a rival Bishop of Rome, thereby becoming an anti-pope. St. Cornelius called a council of bishops together to settle the dispute. The council condemned

Novatian's view. Pope Cornelius, backed by St. Cyprian and other bishops, upheld the Church's teaching, and allowed sinners to do penance and return to the Church. In 253, St. Cornelius was exiled by the authorities, and died a martyr soon afterward.

St. Cyprian was a famous lawyer and orator in North Africa. He didn't become a Christian until age forty-six, then later became a priest and the bishop of Carthage. St. Cyprian went into hiding during the Roman persecution of 250, to allow himself to continue ministering to his people. He, like Cornelius, had to deal with the beliefs of Novatian. During this time another priest took over his position and then forgave all those who renounced the faith without requiring any penance of them at all. This position was too lenient, and Cyprian succeeded in having it condemned by the Church. New persecutions broke out under Emperor Valerian. St. Cyprian was arrested and tried for being a Christian. When he was read his death sentence, he exclaimed "Blessed be God!" He was martyred in 258.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × How would you describe Jesus to someone who does not know him?
- × What was the reaction of the disciples when Jesus told him about his passion, death and resurrection? Do you think they were confused?
- × Why was it important for Peter to not impede God's plan?
- × What strikes you about the story of Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian?

FAMILY FUN 20 Questions Game



In today's Gospel, Jesus asked questions of his disciples. Playing this simple game will not only remind us of the Gospel, but also improves deductive reasoning.

One person thinks of an object and the other players ask up to 20 "yes" or "no" questions to determine, through the process of elimination, what the object is. To narrow down the categories, consider questions such as: Is it living or has it lived? Is it an animal? Does it grow from the ground? Is it a vegetable?

The winner is determined by whether the person who thought of an object is able to successfully answer each of the 20 questions without giving away the object OR whether the person who is asking the questions is able to correctly guess the object in 20 or less questions.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Ancient Appetizers

Serve food that your family’s favorite Bible heroes ate. Make a first century Palestine “charcuterie” board by creating a plate of appetizers that includes rustic loaves of bread or crackers, including those made with ancient grains, such as spelt or millet. Finger foods include dried fruits such as figs, dates or apricots, and sliced olives. Ensure that pits are fully removed for the safety of small teeth. Add some hummus and pita bread and enjoy!

LITURGY LINK

How many crosses and crucifixes do you see at church today?

FUN FACTS!

The first Sunday after Labor Day was designated Grandparents Day in 1979. Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade championed the effort to create Grandparents Day.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

What heavy crosses are you bearing? Share these crosses/situations with your family members. Resolve this week to give your crosses to Jesus so that he can carry them with you.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays



Personalized Prayer Columns

Choose a word in each column. Then read your prayer starting with your circled word in the left column and reading across. You can add a word at the end of the column if you have a specific word you want for your prayer. Have each family member share the prayer they created.

amazing	being	your	blessed	ally	accepts	a mission
beautiful	breath	your	curious	being	asks for	a new idea
caring	creating	your	depressed	child	demands	clarity
demading	father	your	grateful	companion	has received	forgiveness
ever-present	force	your	joyful	creation	is creating	grace
exciting	forgiveness	your	questioning	daughter	knows	healing
forgiving	friend	your	relieved	friend	longs for	help
gracious	maker	your	present	relative	needs	hop
heavenly	mother	your	sad	servant	rejoices in	joy
loving	power	your	scared	son	requires	love
marvelous	presence	your	sorry	student	sees	peace
powerful	savior	your	thankful	teammate	thanks you for	possibilities
transforming	spirit	your	tough	worker	wants	truth
wonderful	transformer	your	uncertain	(your name)	wants to give	you

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WIS 2:12, 17-20

PS 54:3-4, 5, 6 AND 8

JAS 3:16-4:3



The Second Prediction of the Passion and The Greatest in the Kingdom

Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him,

and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”

But they did not understand the saying,

and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,
he began to ask them,
“What were you arguing about on the way?”
But they remained silent.
They had been discussing among themselves on the way
who was the greatest.
Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,
“If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”
Taking a child, he placed it in their midst,
and putting his arms around it, he said to them,
“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;
and whoever receives me,
receives not me but the One who sent me.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl.
Karolina
Kózka**

(Feast Day
November 18)
August 2, 1898
– November 18, 1914

Karolina grew up in a Catholic family in rural Poland in the Diocese of Tarnow. She was one of eleven children. Her family prayed daily and displayed the love of God to her. Often, Karolina would gather neighbors and

relatives, mainly children, and they would read the Scriptures together under a pear tree near her home. She loved praying the rosary, using the beads given to her by her mother. Her prayers often caused her to get less sleep than she needed.

She would pray the rosary constantly, and even though it was a long walk to Mass, she would go during the week, in addition to Sunday. Because of her love for serving, she

helped her uncle in the library, and she also helped organize things at her parish. In addition to serving the Church, she taught her younger siblings and the children of the area their catechism. By age 16, Karolina was a beautiful, enthusiastic girl.

In 1914, World War I broke out in Poland, and in November 1914, the Russian army controlled her city. On November 18, an armed Russian soldier attempted to force himself on her and eventually killed her. Karolina was only 16.

Three thousand people flocked to her funeral and called for her cause for sainthood to be introduced. Pope John Paul II beatified her in Poland.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why was it hard for the disciples to grasp the idea that Jesus would be killed?
- × Share a time when you have welcomed someone "in Jesus' name," that is, for the sake of Jesus.
- × What does Jesus mean when he says, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all"?
- × In what way did Bl. Karolina's family shape her faith?

FAMILY FUN

Camping



As Jesus and his disciples traveled around Galilee, they most likely camped a lot. Turn your backyard into your own personal campsite! It's a fun and easy way to experience the great outdoors in a way that Jesus did. Create a backyard camp by pitching a tent, setting up camping chairs around a fire or a camping stove, and cook up some delicious campfire recipes. Turn off technology and enjoy the great outdoors. If the weather is bad, set-up a campground inside your home. Don't forget to sing your favorite camp songs!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

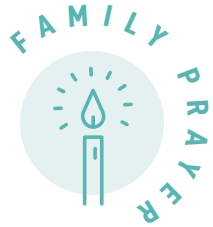
Kielbasa with Veggies

Enjoy this Polish dish in honor of Bl. Karolina Kózka.

- × 4 pieces fresh Kowalski sausage (also can use Italian sausage)
- × 3 bell peppers (any colors)
- × onion
- × 2 small zucchinis
- × 2-3 carrots
- × 1 lb. red or gold potatoes (cut into small pieces)

Slice vegetables and put in a baking pan. Cut kielbasa into 3 or 4 inch slices. Mix vegetables and sausage. Pour over olive oil, add Italian herbs (thyme, basil, oregano, rosemary, garlic, pepper, salt). Mix all together. Bake in oven for 50 min-1 hr at 400 F.

Submitted by: *Malgorzata Purzycka from Our Lady of Czestochowa in Sterling Heights*



Praying with Music

As a family, listen to the *Song of the Cross (Love lifted on the Cross)*. You should be able to find the song on YouTube or wherever you stream music. Reflect on the lyrics what Jesus' death and resurrection mean to you.

LITURGY LINK

Who comes in during the procession at the beginning of Mass? Who is first and who is last?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Look for as many opportunities as possible this week to put someone else's needs before your own.

FUN FACTS!

In ancient society, children were viewed as nonpersons who had no legal rights or status of their own. To receive a little one is to accept, lovingly serve, and care for those who need it and cannot repay it.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NM 11:25-29

PS 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14

JAS 5:1-6



Another Exorcist and Temptations to Sin

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time, John said to Jesus,
"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name,
and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."
Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him.
There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name
who can at the same time speak ill of me.
For whoever is not against us is for us.
Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink
because you belong to Christ,
amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.
"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,
it would be better for him if a great millstone
were put around his neck
and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.
It is better for you to enter into life maimed
than with two hands to go into Gehenna,
into the unquenchable fire.
And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.
It is better for you to enter into life crippled
than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.
And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.
Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye
than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna,
where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. John Nepomucene

(Feast Day
May 16)
1345 - 1393

St. John was born in the town of Pomuk (later Nepomuk) in Bohemia around the year 1340. After being cured of a childhood disease through the prayer of his parents, John studied for the priesthood in Prague and

Padua. After ordination, he was assigned to a parish in Prague where he gained a reputation as a great preacher. King Wenceslaus IV heard of him and invited him to become the confessor for the royal court around the year 1379. In 1393, the king asked what his beautiful wife had confessed, but John would not reveal her confession despite the king's attempted bribes and torture. Finally, the king had him burned, tied to a wheel, and thrown off a bridge into a river. His body was found the next day, and he was immediately revered as a saint. He was canonized in 1729 by Pope Benedict XIII.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Consider the power in invoking the name of Jesus. Where else in the Gospels does Jesus encourage us to invoke his name? (Hint: John 14:14)
- × In what way do my actions lead people toward holiness or lead them toward sin?
- × In today's Gospel, Jesus uses graphic imagery to depict the seriousness of the consequences of sin. Although Jesus is not being literal about cutting off one's body part, he is trying to make clear that sin can have eternal consequences. Do you think people today take the consequences of sin seriously? What is it that we can do to receive forgiveness for sins?
- × St. John Nepomucene was a confessor to the royal court who took seriously the seal of confession. Share a time when you had a powerful moment of grace in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

FAMILY FUN
**Visit a
Cider Mill**



Fall is a beautiful season in Michigan. Enjoy the beauty of the season by visiting a cider mill. While you're there, consider stopping in the bakery, going for a hayride, visiting the petting zoo, and picking some delicious Michigan apples.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK
Baked Apples

Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. There is nothing forbidden about enjoying this recipe using freshly picked apples.

- × 4 large apples
- × 1/4 cup brown sugar
- × 1 tsp. cinnamon
- × 1/4 cup chopped pecans (optional)
- × 1/4 cup currants or chopped raisins
- × butter
- × 3/4 cup boiling water

Preheat your oven to 375 F. Cut out holes in apples for stuffing: Rinse and dry the apples. Use a sharp paring knife to cut out the cores. First cut out the stem area and then use a small metal spoon to scoop out the seeds. Cut the holes so that they are an inch or so wide. Leave the bottom 1/2 inch of the apples intact. Place the brown sugar, cinnamon, currants or chopped raisins, and chopped pecans (if using) in a small bowl and stir to combine. Put the apples in a baking dish and stuff each apple with the sugar stuffing mixture. Place a dot of butter on top of the sugar. Pour the boiling water into the bottom of the baking dish. Bake at 375 F for 30 to 45 minutes, until the apples are cooked through and tender, but not overcooked and mushy. When done, remove the apples from the oven and baste them with the juices from the pan. Serve with a side of vanilla ice cream.



The Confiteor

This prayer, which is often said at the beginning of Mass, helps us to take direct responsibility for our sins and names sin in the areas of thoughts, words, actions, and omissions. It also includes a bodily gesture to show repentance and calls on the Church in heaven and on earth. Pray this as a family, thinking deeply on the words to examine one's conscience.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
(strike your fist over your heart for the bolded lines)
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

LITURGY LINK

At Mass, when we pray the Our Father, we ask God to forgive us our “trespasses.” This word means “offenses” or sins.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

This week, make an extra effort to distance yourself from those things that cause you to sin and focus on living a life of holiness.

FUN FACTS!

Today is Priesthood Sunday! Thank your parish priest today and say a prayer for him!

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

OCTOBER 3, 2021

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GN 2:18-24

PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

HEB 2:9-11



Marriage and Divorce

Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

They were testing him.

He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?"

They replied,

"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce
and dismiss her."

But Jesus told them,

"Because of the hardness of your hearts

he wrote you this commandment.

But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.*

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother

and be joined to his wife,

and the two shall become one flesh.

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together,

no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.

He said to them,

"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her;
and if she divorces her husband and marries another,
she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them,
but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,

"Let the children come to me;
do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these.

Amen, I say to you,

whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child
will not enter it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them,
placing his hands on them.

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Jesús
Emilio
Jaramillo
Monsalve**

(Feast Day
October 3)
February 16, 1916
– October 3, 1989

Jesús Emilio was born in Santo Domingo, Colombia, and entered seminary at the age of 13. He was ordained a priest in 1940 and entered the Xaverian Missionaries. While pursuing doctoral studies in Bogotá, he served as a chaplain in a women's prison, a spiritual director for seminarians, and novice master for his community. Jesús Emilio was consecrated as a bishop in 1971, taking the name Jaramillo. The region entrusted to his care suffered from the ravages of the Colombian civil war where drug trafficking was rampant. Through his efforts, he was able to bring stability and security

to the region, despite the powerful influence of the drug cartels and rebel groups. As bishop, Jaramillo championed the rights of the poor and was known as a dedicated shepherd who tirelessly worked for justice.

Bishop Jaramillo was kidnapped on October 2, 1989, as he and another priest were making parish visits. The rebels eventually released the priest but murdered the bishop in revenge for the constant criticism of the rebels and his work for peace for the people of Colombia. Blessed Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve was beatified by Pope Francis on September 8, 2017. His memory is celebrated on October 3, the anniversary of his martyrdom.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Jesus invited the children to come to him in today's Gospel story. Imagine that you are the child in the story. What is it like to be embraced and blessed by Jesus?
- × In today's Gospel, Jesus confirms that the union of a husband and wife is not a human convention, but a bond made by God himself. Why is it important for a husband and a wife to have God at the center of their relationship?
- × Why does God want men and women to be faithful to each other in their marriage? In what way does this faithfulness strengthen the family?
- × In his lifetime, Bl. Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve tirelessly worked for justice. What are some injustices in the world today? How can you work for justice in your neighborhood, school, and place of work?

FAMILY FUN

Wedding Reception 2.0



Recreate your wedding reception or a special wedding/anniversary reception of a friend or family member. Set the table and use fancy decorations. Have everyone dress up. Try to recreate the menu as best as possible. Play instrumental music during the meal. At dinner, share memories from the special day. Afterward, pull out photo albums and continue the discussion.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Crockpot Italian Wedding Soup

*This delicious and easy recipe is fitting
as we reflect on marriage today.*

- × 12-16 ounces frozen meatballs, regular or mini (or you can use your own meatball recipe)
- × 6 cups chicken broth
- × 1/2 cup carrot, diced (about 3 medium carrots)
- × 1/2 cup celery, diced (about 1 medium stalk)
- × 1/4 of an onion, chopped
- × 1 minced clove of garlic
- × 1 Tbsp. dried parsley
- × 1 tsp. dried oregano
- × salt and pepper to taste
- × 2 cups frozen chopped spinach, defrosted
- × pasta (Acini di pepe, orzo, or shape of your choice)

Place the meatballs in the slow cooker. Then add the chicken broth, seasoning, and vegetables. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours. In the last half-hour of cooking, add the pasta and spinach and cook until tender. Serve with Parmesan cheese if desired.



Nuptial Blessing

The Nuptial Blessing is a beautiful moment in a Catholic wedding ceremony. It takes place after the bride and groom have exchanged their consent and have become husband and wife. In this blessing, the celebrant prays for the married couple and asks that God give them special graces. Invite one person to lead your family in this prayer. Offer the prayer for all the married couples in your immediate and extended family and any future marriages of your children.

O God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might be no longer two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace
abide in your daughters
and let them always follow the example of those holy women
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May husbands entrust their hearts to their wives,
so that, acknowledging them as their equal
and joint heir to the life of grace,
they may show them due honor
and cherish them always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:
may these your servants
hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children.)

And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, people brought children to Jesus so that he could bless them. What are some ways that Jesus blesses us during Mass?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Invite an engaged or newly married couple into your home for dinner and pray over them for a strong faith-filled marriage.

FUN FACTS!

October 5th is National Do Something Nice Day! What are ways you can do something nice as a family?

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

OCTOBER 10, 2021

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WIS 7:7-11

PS 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

HEB 4:12-13



The Rich Man

Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing.

Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor
and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."
At that statement his face fell,
and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
"How hard it is for those who have wealth
to enter the kingdom of God!"
The disciples were amazed at his words.
So Jesus again said to them in reply,
"Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle
than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves,
"Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said,
"For human beings it is impossible, but not for God.
All things are possible for God."
Peter began to say to him,
"We have given up everything and followed you."
Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you,
there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or lands
for my sake and for the sake of the gospel
who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age:
houses and brothers and sisters
and mothers and children and lands,
with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



**Bl. Adílio
Daronch**

(Feast Day May 21)
October 25, 1908
- May 21, 1924

Blessed Adílio Daronch was a Catholic teenager. He was born to Italian immigrants as the third of eight children and lived his entire life in Brazil. He was known to have had a love for football and riding. He became a dedicated altar server following the reception of his First Communion and often accompanied the priest Blessed Manuel Gómez González on his long missions of evangelization to the Kaingang Indians.

In 1924, the Bishop of Santa Maria asked Fr. Manuel to go to the Teutonic colonies in the

forest in the south, so Fr. Manuel decided to take Daronch with him. The pair stopped in Palmeria to administer the sacraments where Fr. Manuel exhorted the local revolutionaries to practice mutual respect and forgiveness. But the extremists took a strong dislike to this and grew incensed when he provided a burial for some of their own. The extremists viewed the pair with suspicion and plotted to kill them for this.

The locals warned the two not to go into the forest for they would be at risk. The pair was ambushed in the morning on May 21 and shot dead. Both were beatified in October of 2007 in Brazil. Daronch was made the co-patron for World Youth Day 2012 and 2013.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Imagine you are the man in today's Gospel story. Close your eyes and imagine Jesus looking at you with love and stay in his gaze for a few moments. Share your experience.
- × Jesus says that it is hard for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God. Sometimes, those whose earthly needs are satisfied become comfortable and self-reliant. Why is this an obstacle to entering the kingdom?
- × The Rich Man was asked to give up his possessions. What are you willing to give up in order to focus more on God?
- × Bl. Adílio Daronch served God as an altar server and a helper to his priest. What are some ways you can serve God today?

FAMILY FUN Puzzles



In today's Gospel, Jesus asked the Rich Man to give up his possessions. Consider giving up technology for the evening and spending time doing a jigsaw puzzle together as a family.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chicken Piccata

This Mediterranean dish is rich in flavor!

- × 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- × 1/4 cup + 1 1/2 Tbsp. flour (divided)
- × 1 1/2 tsp. chicken bouillon
- × 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- × 1/2 cup cooking wine
- × juice of one lemon (or 1/4 cup)
- × 1/2 cup chicken stock
- × 2 Tbsp. capers
- × 2 Tbsp. chopped, fresh parsley
- × 1 lb. cooked pasta

Pound chicken to ¼ inch thickness. Mix ¼ cup flour with salt and pepper to taste. Coat chicken with flour mixture. Cook chicken in olive oil in skillet on med-high about 4 minutes per side until golden brown. Remove chicken. Lower heat to medium and add butter & 1 ½ Tbsp. flour. Stir until smooth. Stir in wine, lemon juice, stock, & bouillon (if granules, dissolve in 2 Tbsp. water). Scrape up the brown bits from skillet. Simmer 2 minutes. Return chicken to skillet and simmer for 5 minutes. Add capers & parsley. Serve over pasta.

Submitted by: *Frederick Family*
from St. Colette in Livonia



Litany of Trust

Pray this prayer as a family to increase your trust in the words of today's Gospel.

The response to each of the following is ***Deliver me, Jesus.***

From the belief that I have to earn your love
From the fear that I am unlovable
From the false security that I have what it takes
From the fear that trusting you will
leave me more destitute
From all suspicion of your words and promises
From the rebellion against childlike dependency
on you
From refusals and reluctances
in accepting your will
From anxiety about the future
From resentment or excessive
preoccupation with the past
From restless self-seeking in
the present moment
From disbelief in your love and presence
From the fear of being asked to give
more than I have
From the belief that my life has
no meaning or worth
From the fear of what love demands
From discouragement

The response to each of the
following is *Jesus, I trust in You.*

That you are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me
That your love goes deeper than my sins and failings and transforms me
That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on you
That you are with me in my suffering
That my suffering, united to your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next
That you will not leave me orphan, that you are present in your Church
That your plan is better than anything else
That you always hear me and in your goodness always respond to me
That you give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others
That you give me all the strength I need for what is asked
That my life is a gift
That you will teach me to trust you
That you are my Lord and my God
That I am Your beloved one

Written by: *Sr. Faustina Maria Pia, SV;*
Sisters of Life (www.sistersoflife.org)

LITURGY LINK

Altar servers assist the priest during Mass. What are some things they do?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

This week clean out your closets and garage and donate gently used items to good will.

FUN FACTS!

Some claim that Jerusalem's city wall had a narrow gate known as the "eye of the needle." The size of the gate made it impossible for a fully loaded camel to pass through it. The animal would have to be fully unloaded or walk on its knees, in a vulnerable position, in order to get through the opening.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

OCTOBER 17, 2021

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IS 53:10-11

PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

HEB 4:14-16



Ambition of James and John

Mk 10:35-45 or Mk 10:42-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him,

"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory

we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the cup that I drink

or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink,

and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;

but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give

but is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them,

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles

lord it over them,

and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.
For the Son of Man did not come to be served
but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Ignatius of Antioch

(Feast Day
October 17)
d. 107

Ignatius was born in Syria and was a convert to Christianity. In the year 107, Emperor Trajan visited Antioch and forced the Christians there to choose between death and apostasy (denying the Christian faith). Ignatius would not deny Christ and thus was condemned to

be put to death in Rome. Ignatius allowed soldiers to bind him in a rickety cart and lead him to Rome for martyrdom. As his cart rolled into towns, local bishops and Christians came to meet and encourage him.

Ignatius is well known for the seven letters he wrote on the long journey from Antioch to Rome. They urge the Christians there to remain faithful to God and to obey their superiors. He was very concerned with unity in the Church; the letters warn against heretical doctrines, providing solid truths of the Christian faith. Ignatius also wrote that Christ was present in the Church, in each member, and in the Blessed Sacrament. He called himself "the bearer of God." Ignatius was devoured by wild beasts in the Roman amphitheater.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Do you think it was wrong for James and John to ask Jesus to do whatever they asked? Why or why not?
- × In the Bible, a “cup” is a metaphor for what God has in store for someone. What do you think Jesus meant when he told James and John that they will drink the cup that he will drink?
- × Jesus is asking leaders to be in the service of their people. In what way is this statement opposite of how people normally behave?
- × What inspires you about St. Ignatius of Antioch?

FAMILY FUN Family Game Night



The apostles James and John were competitive and wanted to be considered the greatest of the disciples. Create a spirit of friendly competition by playing some family games. Parents can pick one game and the kids can pick another. Consider an outdoor game, a card game, or a board game. Hit a discount or dollar store to get fun prizes for winners and losers.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Hummus and Tabbouleh

Serve this dish with one dip on the left and one of the right and some warm pita bread in the middle.

Easy to Make Hummus:

- × 1 lb. canned chickpeas
- × 1/3 cup tahini
- × juice of 1-2 large lemons
- × 1 small clove garlic, minced
- × Kosher salt to taste
- × 1/8 tsp. ground cumin (optional)
- × 2- 3 Tbsp. olive oil

Boil chickpeas in canned juice for five minutes on medium heat. Drain. Place chickpeas, tahini, lemon juice, garlic, cumin, and salt in blender to make an almost smooth thick paste. Place hummus in a shallow bowl and garnish with parsley, radishes, pickles, or toasted pine nuts. Drizzle with olive oil. Serves 4 to 6 people.



Family Rosary

The month of October is the Month of the Rosary. Pray the rosary as a family, reflecting on the Glorious Mysteries.

Visit: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/a-rosary-for-life-the-glorious-mysteries>

Tabbouleh:

- × 1/2 cup fine bulgur wheat
- × 2 large tomatoes, diced
- × 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- × 4 bunches of parsley, chopped
- × 1/2 cup mint chopped or 2 Tbsp. dried mint
- × 1 large cucumber peeled and chopped (optional)
- × 1/2 cup olive oil
- × juice of three lemons
- × 1/2 Tbsp. salt
- × 1/2 tsp. pepper

Wash bulgur wheat. Drain and place in a large bowl. Add all chopped vegetables and mix well. Add oil, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Allow bulgur to soak and absorb the juice about an hour, serve over fresh lettuce or with hummus and pita bread.

LITURGY LINK

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about drinking from a cup. At what point at Mass does the priest first drink from the cup?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Challenge your family members to try to outdo one another in service and random acts of kindness this week.

FUN FACTS!

In the ancient world, to sit at a ruler's right or left hand was a sign of power and prestige.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

OCTOBER 24, 2021

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JER 31:7-9
PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
HEB 5:1-6



The Blind Bartimaeus

Mk 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say,

"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.

But he kept calling out all the more,

"Son of David, have pity on me."

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man, saying to him,

"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."

He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."

Immediately he received his sight

and followed him on the way.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Boniface

(Feast Day June 5)
c. 675 - June 5, 754

St. Boniface was born around the year 675 in Wessex (present-day Devon), England. His birth name was Winfrid. He was a brilliant monk in a Benedictine monastery in England. Although he was the head of a school, he thought God wanted him to be a missionary. He went to Frisia (Northern Netherlands and Germany) to begin his work. A war forced him to return to England for a few years, but he did not give up. Next, he journeyed to Rome to ask the pope to tell him where to serve. Pope Gregory II changed Winfrid's name to Boniface, which means "a man who does good deeds." Then he sent Boniface to eastern Germany to convert pagans to Christianity.

For nearly 35 years, Boniface traveled all over Germany, preaching, teaching, and building schools, monasteries, and convents. He returned to Rome to report to the pope about his work. There, the pope ordained him bishop and told him to return to Germany to continue his missionary work and to reform the German Church. In the kingdom where he lived, he had great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections and the worldliness of the clergy. In order to restore the German Church to its fidelity to Rome and to convert the pagans, Boniface was guided by two principles: 1) to restore the obedience of the clergy to their bishops in union with the pope of Rome, and 2) the establishment of many houses of prayer which took the form of Benedictine monasteries.

As an old man, Boniface returned to Frisia to work among the pagans. One morning, while he was waiting to confirm a group of converts, a band of angry natives rushed into the church and murdered Boniface and about 50 converts. Today St. Boniface is the patron of Germany.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why did Bartimaeus continued to call out to Jesus even though people told him to be quiet? In what way does this inspire your prayer?
- × What would you do if you heard Jesus calling for you?
- × Why is having faith important?
- × St. Boniface's name means "a man who does good deeds." What is the meaning of your name?

FAMILY FUN Leaves and Pumpkins



In today's Gospel, Bartimaeus received his sight. Take in the beautiful sights of Michigan by packing the family car and taking a scenic drive to see the fall colors. You don't have to go far to see majestic trees in their splendor. On your way back, stop by a local farm or market to pick your own pumpkins and stock up on gourds and squash for crafts and cooking.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK Scones

*In honor of our British saint,
enjoy some scones today!*

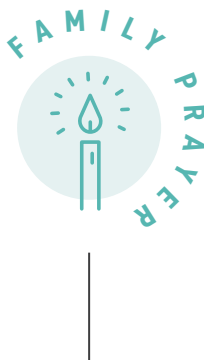
- × 2 cups all-purpose flour
- × 2 tsp. baking powder
- × 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- × 1/2 tsp. salt
- × 2 Tbsp. sugar
- × 1/3 cup cold butter, cut
in chunks
- × 1/2 cup buttermilk
- × 1 large egg beaten into
the buttermilk
- × milk and sugar

Sift together the first 5 ingredients. Cut in butter with pastry blender. Add buttermilk/egg mixture just until it comes together. Knead dough on floured surface a few times (not too much or they will become tough). Divide dough in

half and pat into a 7-inch circle. Cut circle into 8 wedges. Place on parchment lined baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough. Brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 425 F for 12 to 15 minutes.

Submitted by:

*McAfee Family from St. Frances
Cabrini in Allen Park*



As a family, listen to the song *Open My Eyes* by Jesse Manibusan. You should be able to find the song on YouTube or wherever you stream music. Reflect on the lyrics as they relate to the Gospel and to today's family activity. Share with your family what you "see" through this song.

LITURGY LINK

Just as the pope told St. Boniface where to serve, the Archbishop of Detroit tells priests where to serve. The Archbishop picked a priest to serve as your parish priest. What is the name of your parish priest? Ask him how he heard Jesus call him to the priesthood.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

As a family, pick a day to fast or give up something you enjoy for the spiritual benefit of another person (i.e. for an increase in faith, for healing of an illness, etc.).

FUN FACTS!

Scones were a British traditional food at Afternoon Tea, which began right at 4:00pm.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

OCTOBER 31, 2021

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DT 6:2-6

PS 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

HEB 7:23-28



The Greatest Commandment

Mk 12:28B-34

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him,
"Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this:

Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God is Lord alone!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

The second is this:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher.

You are right in saying,

'He is One and there is no other than he.'

And 'to love him with all your heart,

with all your understanding,

with all your strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself
is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."
And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding,
he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St.
Rais**

(Feast Day
September 22)
c. 303

Rais was an Egyptian maiden. According to one account, she was the daughter of a Christian priest living in Alexandria, Egypt. At age twelve, she was sent to live in a women's monastery at Tamman. During a time of widespread persecution of Christians during

the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian, she went to a well to draw water with other nuns. On the way, they saw a ship with a group of nuns, monks, and other Christians in chains on their way to torture and death. By God's grace, Rais was touched by a desire to suffer for the Lord. Rais confessed herself to be a Christian, berated the abusers, and insisted that they kill her as well if they were killing Christians. She was immediately imprisoned with the others. They were all taken to the Egyptian town of Antinopolis, where Rais was the first of the group to be beheaded.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why is it important to love God above all else?
- × Jesus commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. How can I be better at that?
- × Share some examples of what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.
- × St. Rais had a desire to suffer for the Lord. Do you know anyone who is willing to endure hardships for the Lord? Tell a story about this person.

FAMILY FUN Reverse Trick- or-Treating



Start a new family tradition that puts Jesus' command to love our neighbor into action: reverse trick-or-treating. Reverse trick-or-treating is where you dress up and go to friends, neighbors and family knocking on their doors and giving them the treat. Make a list of people you want to visit. Prepare your treats; your treats can include baked goods, candy, holy cards, rosaries, etc. Pile into the car and make your stops. It is sure to leave everyone a little happier and feeling a little more loved.



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Pigs in a Blanket

*This is a quick and easy treat for Halloween.
You may even include a few of these in your
reverse trick-or-treating care package!*

- × 1 package cocktail franks
- × 1 package refrigerated
crescent roll dough
- × mustard

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Cut the dough into strips and wrap around the cocktail franks. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Cook 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with mustard or other dipping sauce.



Litany of the Saints

In the Christian tradition, Halloween is really All Hallows' Eve, which is the eve of All Saints' Day. Pray for the intercession of all these holy men and women with this personalized Litany of the Saints. Include important saints to your family. This could include family member's names, Confirmation names, as well as saints associated with hobbies or specific situations facing your family today. Select one person to lead or rotate leaders. The responses are in bold.



Lord, have mercy on us. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Christ, have mercy on us. **Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Christ, hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

God, the Father of Heaven, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, **pray for us.**

St. Joseph, **pray for us.**

Ste. Anne, **pray for us.**

St. Joachim, **pray for us.**

St. John the Baptist, **pray for us.**

(You can include the saints important to your family here.)

All you Holy Angels and Archangels, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Apostles and Evangelists, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Disciples of the Lord, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Innocents, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Martyrs, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Bishops and Confessors, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Doctors, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Priests and Levites, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Monks and Hermits, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Virgins and Widows, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Saints of God, **pray for us.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

On November 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the All Saints. It is normally a Holy Day of Obligation and requires us to attend Mass. Because it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Practice the virtue of temperance by limiting how much candy you eat after trick-or-treating.

FUN FACTS!

Halloween is over 1,000 years old. Christians originally wore costumes to drive away evil spirits. You can always call on your Guardian Angel and St. Michael the Archangel to protect you.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 KGS 17:10-16

PS 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

HEB 9:24-28



Denunciation of the Scribes and The Poor Widow's Contribution

Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds,
"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes
and accept greetings in the marketplaces,
seats of honor in synagogues,
and places of honor at banquets.
They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext
recite lengthy prayers.
They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury
and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.
Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,
"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more
than all the other contributors to the treasury."

For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Andrew Dung Lac (and the Vietnamese Martyrs)

(Feast Day
November 24)
1795 – December
21, 1839

St. Andrew Dung Lac was born in Vietnam in 1785. He was born with the name Trần An Dũng but took the name Andrew at his baptism. He was a Catholic convert. Desiring to serve the Church and his country by ministering to the Vietnamese people, he became a Catholic priest and then a

missionary for the promulgation of the faith. During persecution, Andrew Dũng changed his name to Lạc to avoid capture, and thus he is memorialized as Andrew Dũng-Lạc. He was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of St. John Paul II.

In the generations that preceded Andrew's missionary work, Christianity did not spread peacefully throughout Vietnam. The first Portuguese missionary arrived in 1533. Many more followed, including the Dominican and Jesuit orders, but they were met with violent resistance at the hands of various political regimes. Waves of terror and torture were inflicted on all those who dared to carry the faith to the people of Vietnam, and thousands of Catholics and other Christians were murdered for their zeal.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What is the difference between how the Scribes behaved vs. how the poor widow behaved in today's Gospel? What can we learn from this?
- × Do you know someone who displays the virtue of humility? Tell a story about that person and why you admire him or her.
- × Why is it important to contribute to the needs of the Church by sharing our time, talent and treasure?
- × In what way did St. Andrew Dung Lac contribute to the Church in Vietnam?

FAMILY FUN Thankful Bunting



Start preparing for Thanksgiving by taking on an attitude of gratitude! Gratitude increases our overall happiness, helps us to be less self-centered, and helps us to be the people God calls us to be. Reflecting on what you are thankful for is a great way for your family to cultivate a generous spirit and a sense of contentment. Collect all of your family's sentiments of gratitude and make a thankful bunting (a string of colorful triangular flags) today.

Here's what you'll need:

- × Sturdy white paper, such as cardstock or watercolor paper
- × Scissors
- × Tape
- × Black permanent markers, such as Sharpies
- × Paint/crayons/markers
- × (Optional) Sewing machine

Instructions: First, cut your paper into triangles big enough to draw and write on. Cover your work surface to protect it from the paint/markers. Next, tape a series of triangles down on your work surface, to hold them in place. Invite family members to draw pictures and/or write words of the things they are thankful for. Then color the images with paint, markers, or crayons. Once finished, remove the tape. Arrange the triangles and sew them together into one long bunting. If you don't have a sewing machine, use a hole punch to punch holes in the top corners of each triangle, then weave yarn through all the holes to string them all together. Finally, hang your new thankful bunting up where everyone can see it!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK
Pumpkin Muffins

In honor of the widow's contribution of two coins, make this simple seasonal two-ingredient recipe.

- × 1 spice cake mix
- × 1 can pure pumpkin (not the pumpkin pie filling)

Mix ingredients well. Preheat oven to 350 F. Put cupcake holders in muffin tin or spray muffin tin to prevent sticking. Fill each muffin well 1/2 to 2/3 full. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clear. Let cool and enjoy!



Prayer for Vocations

Loving and Generous God,
it is you who call us by name
and ask us to follow you.
Help us to grow in the love
and service of our Church
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
of your Spirit
to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's mission
of love and justice.

Bless our domestic Church and larger community
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers
through marriage or the single life.

Inspire us to know you better
and open our hearts
to hear your call.

We ask this through our Lord.
Amen.

Adapted from Prayer #3 found at : <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-for-vocations.cfm>

LITURGY LINK

At what point during Mass do we make contributions to the church? What do we contribute?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Practice the virtue of humility by being mindful not to brag or talk about yourself excessively this week.

FUN FACTS!

The first full week of November is National Vocation Awareness Week. Take time this week to ask God how he is calling you to serve his Church. Also, pray for those discerning the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DN 12:1-3

PS 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

HEB 10:11-14, 18



The Coming of the Son of Man and The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Mk 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples:

"In those days after that tribulation
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'
with great power and glory,
and then he will send out the angels
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree.
When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves,
you know that summer is near.

In the same way, when you see these things happening,
know that he is near, at the gates.

Amen, I say to you,
this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Roque Gonzalez y de Santa Cruz

(Feast Day
November 17)
November 17, 1576
– November 15, 1628

Roque Gonzalez y de Santa-Cruz was born in Paraguay in 1576 as the son of noble Spanish parents. He was an unusually good and religious boy who eventually became a priest. He ministered

to the Natives of Paraguay, seeking them out in remote places to evangelize and instruct them in Christianity. After ten years he joined the Society of Jesus.

These were the days of the beginnings of the famous "reductions" of Paraguay. The "reductions" were settlements of Christian Natives run by the Jesuit missionaries, who served as their guardians and trustees. These settlements remained autonomous and isolated from Spanish colonists and Spanish rule. A major factor attracting the Natives was that they were afforded protection from enslavement and forced labor.

Fr. Roque played an important part in establishing the reductions. He labored for nearly twenty years, grappling patiently with hardships, fierce tribes and with the opposition of the European colonists. He threw himself heart and soul into the work. For three years he was in charge of the Reduction of St. Ignatius, and then spent the rest of his life establishing other reductions, half a dozen in all, east of the Parana and Uruguay rivers. He was the first European known to have penetrated into some districts of South America. In 1628, Fr. Roque was killed by natives in an attack on his mission.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Have you ever thought about Jesus coming back to earth? Why or why not?
- × What would it be like to see Jesus in all his power and glory?
- × In today's Gospel, Jesus helps us to prepare for changes we will experience in our lifetimes and at the end of time. Is change easy or hard for you? Explain your answer.
- × St. Roque Gonzalez was a member of the Society of Jesus and was a peacekeeper. How do you bring peace into your home, school, or workplace?

FAMILY FUN

Cloud Watching



Jesus says he will come back in the clouds. Spend some time today looking at the clouds, sharing what shapes you see, and trying to see what others see. Here is a fun poem:

*This is a game you can play-
oh, what a marvelous thing
wherever you may be or go!
Needing only clouds and a day,
some like to go up in a swing
or lie on the grass below.
Find creatures as they drift away-
Imagination and clouds will bring
your very own circus show!*



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Fig Marmalade and Fig Crostini Appetizer

Large shady fig trees were plentiful in the time of Jesus and are still found in Israel today. This sweet dish is fitting as we reflect on today's Gospel.

Fig Marmalade:

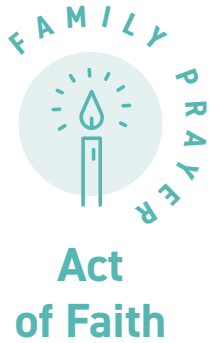
- × 2 lbs dried figs
- × 1 pound of sugar (2 cups)
- × 1/2 Tbsp. anise seeds
- × 3 tsp. unflavored gelatin
- × 3/4 cup of water

Boil sugar and water for 5 minutes. Add dried figs and anise seed. Cover and let simmer on low heat until figs are well cooked. Add Gelatin dissolved in 1 Tbsp of warm water and stir thoroughly to thicken, it will thicken as it cools. Pour while hot into clean glass jars. Seal immediately and refrigerate.

Fig Crostini Appetizer:

- × 1 baguette
- × 1 log of goat cheese
- × 1 small jar of fig marmalade jam

Slice baguette and toast slightly in single layer on baking sheet. Spread a layer of the softened goat cheese on each slice of bread and top with a dollop of the fig marmalade. Simply delicious!



O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.
Amen.

LITURGY LINK

The Memorial Acclamation is said or sung after the priest says, "The mystery of faith." Which of these three options were used at Mass today in your church?

- a) We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.
- b) When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.
- c) Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

St. Roque Gonzalez y de Santa Cruz worked to protect the native people he served from slavery. One of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching is to respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Resolve to learn one new thing about this aspect of Catholic Social Teaching this week.

FUN FACTS!

Figs blossom on the inside of the fruit so you won't see any blossoms on their branches. In Michigan, fresh figs are in season August through October.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

DN 7:13-14

PS 93:1, 1-2, 5

RV 1:5-8



The Trial before Pilate

Jn 18:33B-37

Pilate said to Jesus,

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own
or have others told you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I?

Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.

What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world.

If my kingdom did belong to this world,

my attendants would be fighting

to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.

But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Miguel was born in Guadalupe, Mexico in 1891. From an early age, he was intensely spiritual and equally mischievous, frequently exasperating his family with his humor and practical jokes. As a child, he was daring and sometimes went too far, tossing himself into near-death accidents and illnesses.

Miguel was particularly close to his older sister, and after she entered a cloistered convent, he came

to recognize his own vocation to the priesthood. Although he was popular with the ladies and had prospects of a lucrative career, Miguel renounced everything for Christ his King and entered the Jesuits in 1911.

In 1914, a tidal wave of anti-Catholicism crashed down upon Mexico, forcing him to flee to the United States. He was sent to Europe to finish his seminary formation and was ordained to the priesthood. When he returned to Mexico, his country was facing grave religious persecution. The churches were closed and priests went into hiding. Miguel spent the rest of his life ministering to peoples' spiritual needs and helping the poor, often dressed as a beggar or police officer in order to remain hidden.

Falsely accused in the bombing attempt on a former Mexican president, Fr. Pro became a wanted man. He was sentenced to death without the benefit of any legal process. On the day of his execution, Fr. Pro forgave his executioners, prayed, bravely refused the blindfold, and died proclaiming, "Viva Cristo Rey!" meaning, "Long live Christ the King!"

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Why do we call Jesus the King of the Universe?
- × What does a king do? In what way is Jesus your king?
- × What does Jesus mean when he says, "My kingdom does not belong to this world"?
- × What is the English translation of "Viva Cristo Rey"? What are some things you can do to put your life under the kingship of Jesus Christ?

FAMILY FUN LEGO Kingdom



Today, Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God with Pilate. Find some LEGO or other blocks and build what you think the Kingdom of God looks like. You can have each family member create their own version or you can work together to build one. Talk about what you built.

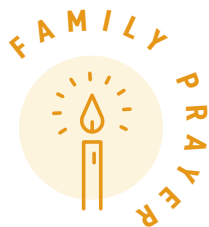


RECIPE OF THE WEEK Fudge Spoon Pie

*On this Feast of Christ the King,
enjoy this rich dessert you could
serve to royalty!*

- × 1/2 cup butter
- × 1 (1-oz) square
unsweetened chocolate
- × 1 cup sugar
- × 1/2 cup flour
- × 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- × 2 large eggs

Melt butter and chocolate in a saucepan over low heat, stir often. Remove from heat, stir in sugar and next 3 ingredients. Pour batter into a greased 8-inch square pan. Bake at 325 F for 22 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream.



Gloria

Take time to listen to the words of the Gloria and reflect on the kingship of Christ by praying it slowly, as a family.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Just like Christ sits on his throne in heaven, the priest sits in the presider's chair in the sanctuary of the church. The chair signifies the teaching, governing, and sanctifying role of the bishop in his diocese as successor of the apostles. By extension, every celebrant's chair in a parish church signifies the priest's headship during the sacred liturgy and his mission to sanctify and govern those in his care. Find the presider's chair in your church and describe its features.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Learn how to say, "Long live Christ the King" in Spanish or another language you don't know.

FUN FACTS!

Christ the King Sunday is the last day of the liturgical year. Next week begins a new Church year with the first week of Advent.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JER 33:14-16

PS 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

1 THES 3:12-4:2



The Coming of the Son of Man and Exhortation to be Vigilant

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,
and on earth nations will be in dismay,
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will die of fright
in anticipation of what is coming upon the world,
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man
coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen,
stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy
from carousing and drunkenness
and the anxieties of daily life,
and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.

For that day will assault everyone
who lives on the face of the earth.
Be vigilant at all times
and pray that you have the strength
to escape the tribulations that are imminent
and to stand before the Son of Man.”

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY

SERVANT
OF GOD
CONSTANCE
HELEN
GLADMAN

December 23, 1922 -
November 30, 1964

Constance Gladman was born in a small rural town in southwestern Australia. At a young age, Connie (as she was called) felt a calling to religious life.

Connie attended a teaching college in Melbourne. She wanted to go into the convent but her dad would not let her. He felt that his oldest daughter needed to be exposed to the world before making such a decision. Heeding her dad’s wishes, Connie taught in regular schools after graduation, but her desire to teach the poor and impoverished never left her.

When she was in her mid-20s, her father, seeing how his daughter had never lost her desire to become a nun, relented and gave her his blessing.

Connie then joined the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Connie took the religious name of Sister Mary Rosina, and, from that point on, she dedicated her life to the missions. She was sent to Papua New Guinea to teach. Sister Mary became highly respected and was elevated to the post of Teacher's Supervisor. The government held her in high regard and, needing qualified people to help train local teachers, she agreed to assist them. Training others to teach was something she came to truly love.

On November 30, 1964, while Sister Mary Rosina was working with a novice teacher, a man quietly moved up behind her and killed her. She was 41 years old. She has been declared a Servant of God, the first step in becoming a saint, and her cause is now before the Congregation for the Causes for Saints.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In today's Gospel, Jesus wants us to be ready when he comes again. We do not know when that will be. What are some ways you can stay vigilant and be ready for Jesus?
- × The word "redemption" means being saved from sin. Does everyone in the world need to be saved from sin? Explain your answer.
- × What does it mean to "stand before the Son of Man" at the end of time? How can we prepare for this now?
- × Constance Gladman had a gift for teaching. Who is/was your favorite teacher? Why is this teacher so special to you?

FAMILY FUN

Create an Advent Wreath



Advent wreaths help us to “prepare the way of the Lord.” Create an Advent wreath for your home or to give as a gift. There are a variety of ways to create an Advent wreath. Here are two ideas:

Option 1

- × 4 toilet paper tubes
- × Purple construction paper and/or marker
- × Pink construction paper and/or marker
- × Green construction paper (or green marker or crayons)
- × 1 piece of yellow paper (construction paper, Post-it notes, highlighted paper, etc.)
- × A round plate (a paper plate is fine)

Cut the green paper into a circle so that it fits on top of the plate. Trace handprints on the green paper to make leaves for on the wreath. Wrap 3 of the toilet paper tubes in purple construction paper or color them purple. Wrap the remaining toilet paper roll in pink. Place the tubes on the plate, spaced evenly around the perimeter. Secure them with tape. Make flames from the yellow paper and tape the flames on the candles as appropriate.

Option 2

- × 12” wire wreath frame
- × Soft greenery garland (if you have a dollar store near you, check them out for this)
- × Purple poinsettia flowers or other purple flowers
- × Advent candle set
- × 4 candle holders
- × white Christmas ribbon
- × greenery ties
- × glue gun

Wrap garland around your wire wreath until it is completely covered. Use hot glue to hold it in place. Next, take the white ribbon and wrap it around until you’ve found your desired placement. Secure it with a small dab of hot glue. Using a little bit of floral wire or greenery ties, space out the candle holders as evenly in place as possible and secure in place. Fill in empty areas of your wreath with purple poinsettia flowers and use a little bit of hot glue to hold them in place. Add the candles and you’re done!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Veggie-Stuffed Holiday Crescent Wreath

*Speaking of wreaths, enjoy this
dish as a first course!*

- × 6 slices bacon
- × 1/2 cup chive-and-onion
cream cheese spread (from
8-oz container)
- × 2 cans (8 oz each) Pillsbury™
refrigerated crescent rolls
- × 2 cups frozen broccoli florets
(from 14-oz bag), thawed, finely
chopped and patted dry with
paper towel
- × 1/3 cup diced red bell pepper
- × 1 egg, beaten
- × 1 tsp. sesame seed
- × fresh rosemary, if desired

Heat oven to 375 F. Cook bacon as desired until crisp. Drain on paper towel; crumble bacon and set aside. Unroll both cans of dough; separate into 16 triangles. On ungreased large cookie sheet, arrange triangles with shortest sides toward center (in the shape of a star),

overlapping in wreath shape and leaving 4-inch round circle open in center. Crescent dough points may overlap edge of cookie sheet. Press overlapping dough to flatten. Spread cream cheese spread on dough to within 1 inch of points. In small bowl, mix crumbled bacon, broccoli and bell pepper; spoon onto widest part of dough. Pull end points of triangles over broccoli mixture and tuck under dough to form ring (filling will be visible). Carefully brush dough with beaten egg; sprinkle with sesame seed. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown. Cool 5 minutes. With broad spatula, carefully loosen wreath from cookie sheet; slide onto serving platter. Serve warm. Store in refrigerator.

From: *Pillsbury.com*



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Begin with the sign of the cross.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: Who made heaven and earth.

[A reader proclaims Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6.]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: This wreath reminds us of God's promise and his never-ending love. What should we pray for tonight?

[Family members share intentions.]

Leader: We lift all of these intentions and those in our hearts up to you as we pray the prayer You taught us. Our Father...

All: Amen

Leader: Let us ask for God's blessing.

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

You can include a verse of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, if desired.

Adapted from: *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

LITURGY LINK

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. What changes do you notice in the décor of the church?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Decide as a family a way that your family can volunteer your time in service to others during the season of Advent.

FUN FACTS!

Advent means "coming" or "arrival" in Latin. We are preparing for the coming of Jesus into our hearts and into the world.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!

#52Sundays

DECEMBER 5, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BAR 5:1-9

PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11



The Preaching of John the Baptist

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

Every valley shall be filled

and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



(Feast Day
December 5)
d. 304

St. Crispina was a wealthy Roman wife and mother of several children in Thagara, Africa. When she found herself in danger of losing her children, her possessions, and her life in the raging persecution, instead of being intimidated, she was filled with a holy joy, because of the Christian education which she had received from her most tender years. Being arrested in her native city of Thagara by order of the proconsul Anulinus, and brought before his tribunal, he inquired of her whether she was aware

of the imperial edicts which commanded that all persons should sacrifice to the gods of the empire. She said that she would not sacrifice to any other God other than the Lord Jesus who suffered for us. As a result, Crispina was tortured and publicly ridiculed. On December 5, she was beheaded. St Crispina was held in high veneration all through Africa and is honored by St. Augustine in various parts of his works, in which he speaks of her martyrdom.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. Why was it important for people to prepare for his coming? What did John ask them to do?
- × If Jesus was coming to your house, what would you do to prepare?
- × The Messiah came to set things right in the world. If Jesus' earthly ministry happened today, what would he "set right" in the world?
- × In a time of trouble, St. Crispina was filled with a holy joy because of the Christian education she received. Share a time when the teachings that were handed on to you became a source of comfort or joy.

FAMILY FUN Celebrating St. Nicholas



The feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated on December 6th. This feast is celebrated around the world in various cultures. In some countries, children put their shoes by the door the night before in hopes of finding a treat in the morning. Consider starting a tradition of sharing the story of St. Nicholas and celebrating the feast day with your family. Consider borrowing or purchasing books about this Catholic saint. (Or visit <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>)



RECIPE OF THE WEEK Homemade Alfredo Sauce

White is often associated with purity, peace, and snow. Enjoy this white sauce as you dream about a white Christmas!

- × 2 cloves garlic minced
- × 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- × 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- × 1 stick butter
- × 3/4 cup Shredded Parmesan cheese
- × 1/4 cup Shredded Asiago cheese

Brown the first two ingredients. Then add remaining ingredients. Stir till thickened over low flame. Serve over pasta.



Lord,

You send prophets as your messengers to help point us back to you.

Thank you for John the Baptist, who reminds us to prepare for your coming. Help us to be like him: proclaiming your goodness and sharing your Word with others, even when it is not an easy or popular thing to do.

Guide our actions and open our eyes so that we may “prepare the way of the Lord” in our home.

We ask this in your all-powerful Name. Amen.

LITURGY LINK

Holy, Holy, Holy is a prayer that we pray or sing with all the angels and saints in heaven. Listen to the words of this prayer. What does it say about God?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Call your local parish and get a list of a few people who are homebound or in nursing care. Make (and send) homemade Christmas cards with words of hope and encouragement.

FUN FACTS!

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates that Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of her life (conception) in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It is celebrated on December 8th and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!

#52Sundays

DECEMBER 12, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

and Feast of Our Lady of
Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego

ZEP 3:14-18A

IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

PHIL 4:4-7



The Preaching of John the Baptist

Lk 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,

“What should we do?”

He said to them in reply,

“Whoever has two cloaks

should share with the person who has none.

And whoever has food should do likewise.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,

“Teacher, what should we do?”

He answered them,

“Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”

Soldiers also asked him,

“And what is it that we should do?”

He told them,

“Do not practice extortion,

do not falsely accuse anyone,

and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
“I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Rene Goupil

(Feast Day October 19)
May 15, 1608
– September 29, 1649

St. Rene was born in 1608 and entered the Jesuit novitiate in Paris, France, but his deafness prevented his joining the order. He then studied medicine, and in 1639, offered

to work as a medic for the Jesuit missionaries in America. He was a missionary to the Huron Indians, working as a layman without pay. After working in a hospital in Quebec for two years, he assisted St. Isaac Jogues on his missionary travels.

He was captured and severely tortured by the Iroquois, enemies of the Huron, for making the sign of the cross over a child's head. This gesture was mistaken for some type of curse. While they were in captivity, Fr. Isaac received

Rene into the Jesuits as a religious brother. He was the first of the order in the Canadian missions to suffer martyrdom. In his letters, Fr. Jogues, called him "an angel of innocence and a martyr of Jesus Christ." He was killed by a blow to the head, and as he died, he invoked the name of Jesus.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds to share food and clothing with those who go without. What are some ways your family can share with those who are less fortunate?
- × The preaching of John the Baptist inspired and filled the people with a feeling of expectation. Share a time when you were inspired or filled with expectation.
- × Why do you think people thought that John the Baptist might be the Christ (Messiah)?
- × St. Rene Goupil had plans to join the Jesuits but he was unable to originally. However, he was open to God's plan and God was able to use his gifts in a different way to build the kingdom of God. Are you open to God's plan for your life? Why or why not?

FAMILY FUN Puppet Show



Puppet shows allow children to use their imagination and really get into a story. Help your family re-live the beautiful stories of Advent by making puppets and putting on a puppet show! You can re-tell the Gospel story of John the Baptist, St. Rene, or Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. Puppets can be made by decorating brown paper bags with construction paper cut outs, markers, or crayons. The puppet show can be presented from behind a couch or loveseat. Let the show begin!



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Easy Mexican Street Tacos

On this Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe it is fitting to celebrate with Mexican Street Tacos.

- × 1 lb. chicken thighs boneless, skinless
- × 1 tsp. cumin
- × 1 tsp. oregano
- × 2 Tbsp. lime juice

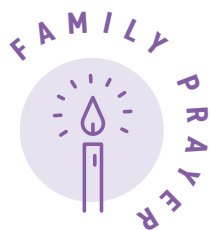
- × 1/4 cup orange juice
- × 2 cloves garlic minced
- × 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- × corn tortillas

Toppings:

- × cilantro
- × pico de gallo
- × chopped avocado
- × shredded queso cheese
- × corn kernels (roasted on grill or in oven and cut off the husks)

Combine chicken, cumin, oregano, lime juice, orange juice, garlic, and olive oil in a bowl. Marinate at least 1 hour or up to 4 hours. Grill or broil chicken over medium heat until no pink remains. Once cooked, remove chicken and rest 3 minutes. Chop into ½ inch cubes. Meanwhile, warm tortillas on a skillet. Top tortillas with chicken and toppings as desired. Serve with a side of rice. Enjoy!

Submitted by: Houghton Family from St. John Vianney Parish, Shelby Township, Michigan



Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec man who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church where she said, “I will show and offer all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to my people.” Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop asked for a sign that this message was really from Our Lady.

Mary granted his request. On December 12, she showed Juan where the most beautiful Castilian roses were and told him to gather them. It was a miracle that the roses were there and in bloom because there was frost on the ground, and the ground was an infertile place where only cactus and thistles grew. After he gathered them, Mary helped arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to show them to the Bishop.

When he brought them to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed at the roses, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful, and the Bishop fell to his knees. He had the church built at her request.

The tilma is still intact after 470 years. The colors have not faded, and the cloth has not deteriorated. It has been on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe all this time.

The image of Our Lady that appeared on the tilma was very significant to the Aztec people. God had her dressed in a way that they would understand who she was. She was dressed in royal clothes; that showed that she was very important, perhaps a queen. She also had the symbol of the cross at her neck which was the same symbol the Spaniards had on their ships and in the churches they built. She had a sash tied around her waist which meant that she was with child, for this was the way the Aztec women dressed when they were pregnant. And on her beautiful dress were all sorts of designs and flowers. But there was one flower on her dress that was very significant. It had only four petals. To the Aztecs, the four-petal flower was the symbol for the true God, the God above all gods. This flower was located on her abdomen, right over the place where Jesus was growing inside of her. The Aztecs immediately understood that this was the mother of the true God!

This appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe was very important to the history of our continent. The Aztecs and the Spaniards were on the brink of war. The Aztec culture and religion were very different from

the Spaniards'. They worshipped gods, to whom they would offer human sacrifices, often killing 50,000 people a year. The Spaniards, who were Catholic, were naturally disgusted by this. But they were cruel to the Aztecs too, treating them like animals and sometimes killing them for no reason. If a war had occurred, it would have been very brutal and the Spaniards and Christianity would have been totally wiped out.

Mary's appearance changed everything. It helped the Aztec people to embrace Christianity, and it helped the Spaniards to treat them with respect and as human beings. In seven years, six million Aztecs converted to the Catholic faith. This was the biggest conversion in the history of the Church! That is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Juan Diego, the humble man to whom she appeared, was canonized in the summer of 2002.

|

*Share this prayer as a family
from St. Pope John Paul II:*

O Virgin of Guadalupe,
Mother of the Americas,
grant to our homes the grace of loving
and respecting life in its beginnings,
with the same love with which
you conceived in your womb
the life of the Son of God.

Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of Fair Love,
protect our families so that
they may always be united
and bless the upbringing of our children.

Our hope, look upon us with pity,
teach us to go continually to Jesus,
and if we fall
help us to rise again and return to Him
through the confession of our faults
and our sins in the Sacrament of penance,
which gives peace to the soul.

We beg you to grant us a great love
of all the holy Sacraments,
which are, as it were,
the signs that your Son left us on earth.
Thus, Most Holy Mother,
with the peace of God in our consciences,
with our hearts free from evil and hatred,
we will be able to bring to all others
true joy and peace,
which come to us from your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

LITURGY LINK

How many times did you hear the Holy Spirit mentioned at Mass today?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Find a YouTube video on the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and a video on the miraculous image of Guadalupe. Watch both videos as a family.

FUN FACTS!

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

DECEMBER 19, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MI 5:1-4A

PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

HEB 10:5-10



Mary Visits Elizabeth

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out

and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,

where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



St. Natalia of Nicodemia

(Feast Day
December 1)
Fourth Century

Adrian and Natalia lived in Nicodemia (modern-day Turkey). She was a Christian, but Adrian was a non-Christian imperial officer. They were married for one year prior to their martyrdom and lived in Nicomedia during the time of Emperor Maximian in the early fourth century. The emperor promised a reward to informants who would bring Christians to trial. The denunciations then began, and twenty-three Christians were captured in a cave near Nicomedia.

They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then brought before the Praetor, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as these people suffered with such

courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, he asked: "What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend." Natalia's husband was so impressed by the witness of the Christian martyrs that he declared himself a Christian, although he had never been baptized.

The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned St. Adrian and tried to persuade him to sacrifice to the gods and ask for forgiveness. Adrian refused, and Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Natalia, hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband. St. Adrian was cruelly tortured and killed. After Adrian's death, an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed St. Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium because she was fearful the Emperor would force her to marry. St. Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. She died on the 1st of December, which is now her feast day. Although she died of natural causes, she is considered a martyr and was buried among other Christian martyrs in Argyropolis.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × When Mary came to visit her cousin Elizabeth, she was pregnant. Who was the child in her womb? What role does Elizabeth's child play in the Christmas story?
- × When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Share a time when you were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- × What does it mean when Elizabeth says to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb"?
- × What inspires you about St. Natalia and her husband Adrian?

FAMILY FUN Make Your Own Ornaments



Create your own salt dough ornaments to hang on your Christmas tree or to give as gifts. You need only three ingredients: flour, salt, and water.

Mix together 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 cup table salt, and 1 cup of warm water to make a dough. Roll the dough between two pieces of parchment or wax paper and then use cookie cutters to cut whatever shape you choose. Put them on a parchment-lined baking sheet and create a small hole somewhere on the ornament for a ribbon or ornament hook so you can hang it on the tree. Bake at 250 F for about 2 hours or until the ornaments are dry. Once cool, you can paint them if you wish. Consider lightly spraying them with a coat of polyurethane spray for the ornament to last for years to come.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Arugula and Pear Salad with Honey Dressing

Modern folklore suggests that the partridge in a pear tree in The Twelve Days of Christmas represents Jesus. Enjoy this light pear salad as we prepare for the first day of Christmas.

Dressing:

- × 1/4 cup honey
- × 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- × 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- × 1 garlic clove, minced finely

Salad:

- × arugula lettuce
- × pears
- × goat or gorgonzola cheese
- × pomegranate seeds
- × candied walnuts or pecans

Whisk all dressing ingredients together. Combine salad ingredients and dressing. Keep extra dressing in fridge as it will keep for several weeks.



Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Recite a rosary together as a family, meditating on the Joyful Mysteries. Offer each decade (set of 10 Hail Marys) for something for which you are grateful.

To find the prayers of the rosary and the joyful mysteries, please visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/how-to-pray-the-rosary.cfm>

LITURGY LINK

Today's Gospel is filled with joy! Which part of Mass was most joyful to you today?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Get together with some other families and go Christmas caroling, sharing the news of Jesus' birth.

FUN FACTS!

Mary traveled around 81 miles from Nazareth to the Judean countryside where Elizabeth lived. She stayed there for three months.

Share how your family celebrated Sunday!
#52Sundays

DECEMBER 25, 2021

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(Christmas)

IS 62:11-12

PS 97:1, 6, 11-12

TI 3:4-7



The Birth of Jesus

Lk 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.

This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,

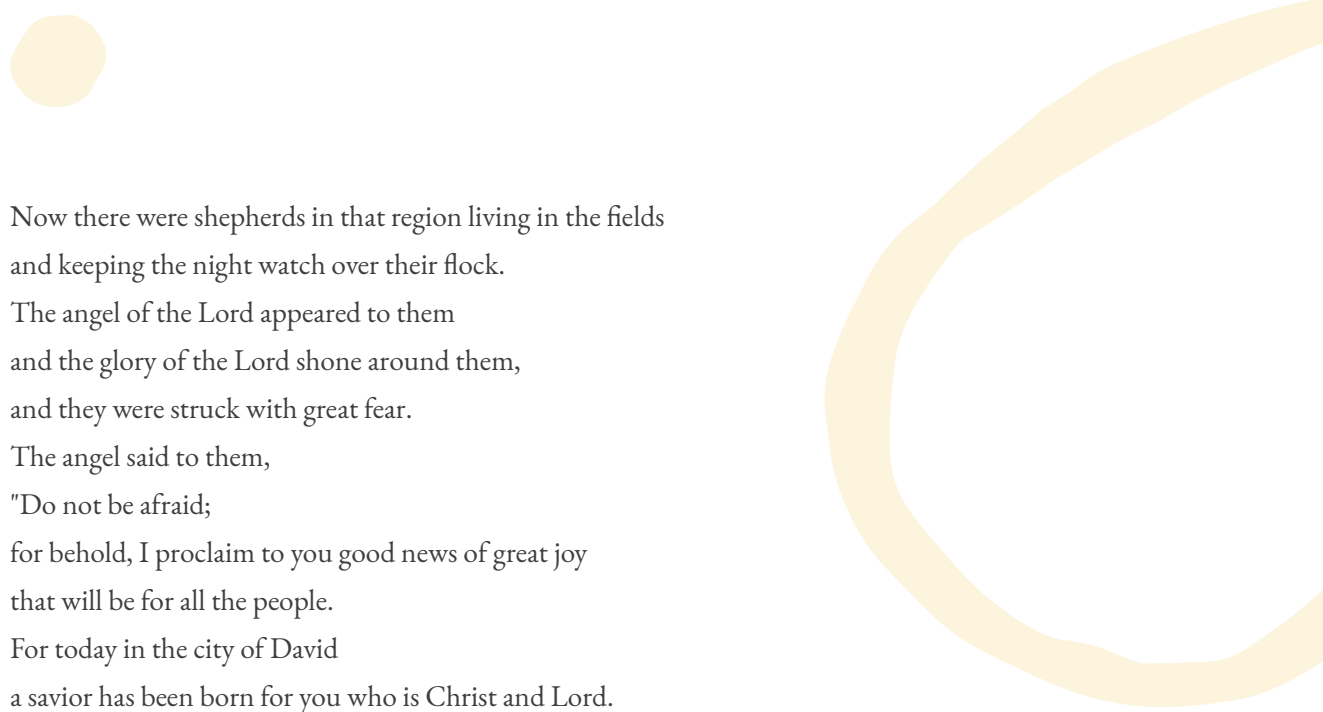
because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there,

the time came for her to have her child,

and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields
and keeping the night watch over their flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid;

for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David

a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.

And this will be a sign for you:

you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

MEET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY



St.
Anastasia

(Feast Day
December 25)
Second Century
– Third Century

St. Anastasia, also known as Anastasia of Sirmium, is a Christian saint and martyr who suffered for Christ during the time of Diocletian's Christian persecutions. She is one of the seven women commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

Legend holds that Anastasia's father was a noble pagan named Praetextatus and her mother was St. Fausta of Sirmium. Because her mother was a Christian, Anastasia was baptized as an infant and secretly raised with Christian values. Following the death of her mother, Anastasia's father gave her in marriage to the pagan Publius, but she preserved her virginity.

During the persecutions of Diocletian, Anastasia secretly visited the prisons and cared for the suffering captives. Anastasia's servant informed Publius, and he locked her up and beat her. Anastasia began secretly corresponding with her adviser, St. Chrysogonus, who had gone to Aquileia. He told her to be brave, be patient and accept the Lord's will. After the death of her husband, Anastasia distributed her property to those less fortunate and suffering.

She then set off to follow Chrysogonus to Aquileia. Chrysogonus was personally interrogated by Diocletian but he never renounced his faith. Chrysogonus was ordered to be beheaded and thrown into the sea. Afterward, Anastasia returned to Sirmium and also gave her life for the faith.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Why do you think God first revealed the birth of Jesus to the shepherds?
- × What is the good news that was announced to the shepherds that night?
- × Why is the birth of Jesus so important to all people?
- × In what way can you share the good news of Jesus to others this Christmas season?

FAMILY FUN Nativity Activity



Take the nativity figures from your nativity display and hide them all over the house. (Before hiding the baby Jesus, wrap the figure in wrapping paper.) Invite family members to search for the figures and then place them in the appropriate place in the nativity set. Ask them to tell the story of the birth of Jesus from the perspective of that figure. The baby Jesus should be unwrapped and placed last in the nativity set. Remind children that Jesus is the best gift we can ever receive!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Cucumber Christmas Tree Appetizers

*Celebrate the Christmas season
with this easy appetizer.*

- × butter and mayonnaise
(or cream cheese)
- × sliced ham (optional)
- × white sandwich bread
- × thinly sliced cucumbers,
cut in half
- × block cheese or yellow pepper

Cut bread and ham into Christmas tree shape with a cookie cutter or with a bread knife. Spread butter and mayonnaise (or cream cheese) on the bread. Place ham on top. Pat dry the cucumbers. Place them over the bread, covering it with green. Cut a small star out of cheese or a yellow bell pepper for an additional decoration at the top of the tree. Serve immediately.



Search YouTube for a video of *The Huron Carol* that includes the lyrics. As a family, watch the video and pay attention to the lyrics. This song was originally written by Jesuit missionary, Jean de Brébeuf for the Huron people in their native language. As you listen, reflect on what Jesus' birth means to you and your family.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

LITURGY LINK

During the Gloria at Mass, we echo the words of the angels in today's Gospel story: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When you sing the Gloria today, imagine being one of the shepherds in the field to whom the angels appeared on the night of Jesus' birth.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Focus on keeping Christ at the center of your Christmas day today. One easy way is set aside any secular Christmas carols and movies and replace them with ones that emphasize the reason for the season. Try to make Mass the focal point of your family Christmas celebration.

FUN FACTS!

The Christmas wreath is a symbol of eternal life. The circle represents the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross, the little red berries symbolize drops of blood, and the evergreen plants represent eternal life.

DECEMBER 26, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 OR 1 SM 1:20-22, 24-28

PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 OR PS 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10


COL 3:12-21 OR COL 3:12-17 OR 1 JN 3:1-2, 21-24



The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.



After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions,
and all who heard him were astounded
at his understanding and his answers.
When his parents saw him,
they were astonished,
and his mother said to him,
“Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”
And he said to them,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”
But they did not understand what he said to them.
He went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them;
and his mother kept all these things in her heart.
And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor
before God and man.

MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



**St.
Reparata**

(Feast Day
October 8)
c. Third Century

St. Reparata was born in the third century in Caesarea, a Roman Province of Palestine. She was baptized at a very young age and arrested and tortured for her faith at the age of eleven during the persecution of Decius. Her persecutors tried to burn her alive, but she was saved by a shower of rain and miraculously emerged unharmed. She was then forced to drink boiling tar. When she again refused to renounce her faith, she was decapitated. Her legend states that immediately upon dying a dove appeared to symbolize the departure of her spirit to heaven. Later elaborations of her legend state that her body was laid in a boat and blown by the breath of angels to the bay now known as the Baie des Anges in Nice.

She is the patron saint of Nice, France and a co-patron saint of Florence (with St. Zenobius). The former Cathedral of Santa Reparata in Florence was dedicated to her. Sainte-Réparate Cathedral, in Nice, is also dedicated to her. The city of Florence holds a celebration in honor of St. Reparata each year on October 8 in commemoration of its deliverance from the Ostrogoths in 406, which they attribute to the intercession of St. Reparata.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What would it have been like for Mary and Joseph to realize that Jesus was missing?
- × Why do you think Jesus called the temple “his Father’s house”?
- × What is your favorite thing to do at church?
- × God worked miracles in the life of St. Reparata. Share a time when you saw God’s hand at work in your life.

FAMILY FUN

Create a Comic Book



In today’s Gospel, we hear how Mary kept memories in her heart. Capture some of your favorite family stories in a creative way by designing a family comic book. Have each family member draw a different family story as if it were in a comic book. Share your stories with one another and assemble them in chronological order into a “book.” Keep the book until next year’s feast of the Holy Family!



RECIPE OF
THE WEEK

Roasted Chickpeas

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were on a long journey for the feast of Passover. Enjoy this protein-packed snack to give you energy during the Christmas season!

- × 2 cans chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
- × 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- × salt
- × any additional spices you want

Preheat oven to 400 F. Drain chickpeas and rinse. Dry on a kitchen towel and remove any loose peels. Cover the chickpeas with the olive oil in a bowl. Spread on a baking sheet and sprinkle generously with salt. Cook for 20 minutes or until crisp. Add any additional spices you would like over the chickpeas. These make a great snack. They can also be used on top of soups or salads.



Prayer for Families

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Taken from: *Catholic Household
Blessings and Prayers*

LITURGY LINK

In what way is your church
“your Father’s house”?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Just as Mary did, reflect
on the past year and share
your most memorable
family moment.

FUN FACTS!

The feast of the Holy Family
was instituted to encourage
Christian families to
model the faithful love and
devotion of the Holy Family.
Although major feast days
dedicated to each member
of the Holy Family—Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph—also
exist, the Feast of the Holy
Family commemorates
their life together, and the
celebration focuses on
religious family life.

**Share how your family
celebrated Sunday!**
#52Sundays

APPENDIX – Scrutiny Gospels and Palm Sunday Passion Reading

MARCH 7, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT— SCRUTINY

EX 17:3-7

PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

ROM 5:1-2, 5-8



The Samaritan Woman

Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

[Short form printed here]

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Jacob's well was there.

Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.

It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her,

"Give me a drink."

His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him,

"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—

Jesus answered and said to her,
"If you knew the gift of God
and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'
you would have asked him
and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him,
"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;
where then can you get this living water?
Are you greater than our father Jacob,
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself
with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her,
"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him,
"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.

"I can see that you are a prophet.
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her,
"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,
because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,

when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.

God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him,

"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything."

Jesus said to her,

"I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him.

When the Samaritans came to him,

they invited him to stay with them;

and he stayed there two days.

Many more began to believe in him because of his word,

and they said to the woman,

"We no longer believe because of your word;

for we have heard for ourselves,

and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × What was it like for the Samaritan woman to meet Jesus?
- × What is the "living water" that Jesus talks about?
- × In what way did Jesus change the Samaritan woman's life?

MARCH 14, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT— SCRUTINY

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

PS 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

EPH 5:8-14



The Man Born Blind

Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

[Short form printed here]

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,

and said to him,

"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —.

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,

"Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is,"

but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am."


They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.

Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.

So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

He said to them,

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."



So some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath."
But others said,
"How can a sinful man do such signs?"
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
"What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?"
He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him,
"You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?"
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
He answered and said,
"Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"
Jesus said to him,
"You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he."
He said,
"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × In the Gospel of John, blindness symbolizes lack of faith. Given that, who is really blind in this story?
- × What can a person do to "see" the things of God more clearly and more deeply?
- × How do our senses help us to experience God?

MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT— SCRUTINY

EZ 37:12-14

PS 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

ROM 8:8-11



The Raising of Lazarus

Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33B-45

[Short form printed here]

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying,

"Master, the one you love is ill."

When Jesus heard this he said,

"This illness is not to end in death,

but is for the glory of God,

that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

So when he heard that he was ill,

he remained for two days in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to his disciples,

"Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus

had already been in the tomb for four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,

she went to meet him;

but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,
God will give you."
Jesus said to her,
"Your brother will rise."
Martha said,
"I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?"
She said to him, "Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,
"Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Sir, come and see."
And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."
But some of them said,
"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,
"Lord, by now there will be a stench;

he has been dead for four days."
Jesus said to her,
"Did I not tell you that if you believe
you will see the glory of God?"
So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
"Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe that you sent me."
And when he had said this,
He cried out in a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out,
tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
"Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary
and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- × Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were really good friends of Jesus. What would it be like to hang out with Jesus?
- × Imagine you were a bystander in this Gospel story, watching the events unfold before your eyes. What would your reaction be?
- × In what way does this story foreshadow what Jesus will accomplish through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection?

MARCH 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

[Short form printed here]

As soon as morning came,
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.
Pilate questioned him,
"Are you the king of the Jews?"
He said to him in reply, "You say so."
The chief priests accused him of many things.
Again Pilate questioned him,
"Have you no answer?"
See how many things they accuse you of."
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them
one prisoner whom they requested.

A man called Barabbas was then in prison

along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion.
The crowd came forward and began to ask him
to do for them as he was accustomed.
Pilate answered,
"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"
For he knew that it was out of envy
that the chief priests had handed him over.
But the chief priests stirred up the crowd
to have him release Barabbas for them instead.
Pilate again said to them in reply,
"Then what do you want me to do
with the man you call the king of the Jews?"
They shouted again, "Crucify him."
Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"
They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him."
So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,
released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged,
handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away inside the palace,
that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort.
They clothed him in purple and,
weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.
They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him.
They knelt before him in homage.
And when they had mocked him,
they stripped him of the purple cloak,
dressed him in his own clothes,
and led him out to crucify him.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon,
a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country,

the father of Alexander and Rufus,
to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha
—which is translated Place of the Skull—
They gave him wine drugged with myrrh,
but he did not take it.

Then they crucified him and divided his garments
by casting lots for them to see what each should take.
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

The inscription of the charge against him read,
"The King of the Jews."

With him they crucified two revolutionaries,
one on his right and one on his left.

Those passing by reviled him,
shaking their heads and saying,
"Aha! You who would destroy the temple
and rebuild it in three days,
save yourself by coming down from the cross."

Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes,
mocked him among themselves and said,
"He saved others; he cannot save himself.

Let the Christ, the King of Israel,
come down now from the cross
that we may see and believe."

Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
which is translated,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

"Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed
and gave it to him to drink saying,

"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him

saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"



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