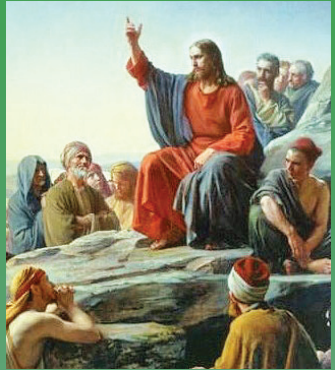




ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

10 Things a Disciple of Jesus Does



Jesus wants you to be His disciple. What does that look like? What are the habits of discipleship? Here are a few noticeable ingredients in the life of a disciple:

1 A relationship rooted in prayer

Disciples have a real relationship with Jesus including genuine, two-way communication with Him. Our Lord speaks in Scripture, Church teaching and several other ways. We reach out to Him, sharing our thoughts and feelings, asking Him to fulfill our needs and the needs of others. Through daily prayer we learn to love Jesus more and more, living as His beloved disciples.

2 Joy for all to see

We all show joy in different ways. Sometimes joy is obvious; other times it underlies an appearance of peace, of happiness with or without many material pleasures. Disciples of Jesus know that the joy of heaven awaits those who persevere in faith; this foretaste of heavenly joy helps disciples rejoice amidst life's ups and downs.

3 Embrace the cross

It might seem like an odd selling point for Jesus to say, "Be my disciple and you will suffer." But Jesus, who suffered and died for us, is very close to us in life's inevitable hardships. We can unite our suffering to His, experiencing His intimate presence while carrying our crosses. Disciples don't just accept a cross; with persevering faith, we embrace whatever sorrow God permits us to experience.

4 "It's about forgiveness"

Loving and respecting everyone aren't optional for disciples of Jesus. When our Lord proclaimed the Kingdom of God, He made clear that God's children make repentance and reconciliation high priorities. Acknowledging our sins, we forgive those who sin against us, echoing the words of our Savior from the cross, "Father, forgive them...."

Over, please.

5 A listening ear

Disciples of Jesus are attentive to each neighbor—in their neighborhood and beyond. We listen both to God and to those He places in our daily path. One of our deepest needs is be acknowledged—to be heard. Like Jesus, who always listens to those He encounters, we focus on those who reach out to us, listening attentively and authentically.

6 Will you let me be your servant?

Our calling from God—our vocation—always involves serving others. Disciples of Jesus engage in works of mercy, living virtuously in service of our fellow women and men. Service doesn't have to be showy; oftentimes it is a little act of love that benefits our neighbor by our small sacrifice and God's boundless grace.

7 Encountering Jesus in the Sacraments

Jesus promises to be with us until the end of time as we know it. A key way that disciples of Jesus spend time with Him is in the sacraments of His body, the Church. Experiencing His mercy in the Sacrament of Penance, encountering Him in the most holy Eucharist—these and other sacramental experiences help draw us ever more deeply in to communion with Jesus.

8 Honoring His Mother

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is also His first disciple. Moms tend to be aware of their child's friends, often caring deeply for them; Mary is just such a mother, praying constantly for all of her Son's disciples. From the cross, Jesus says to us, "Behold your mother." Mary's words that encouraged the first miracle of Jesus, at Cana, echo through the ages: "Do whatever He tells you."

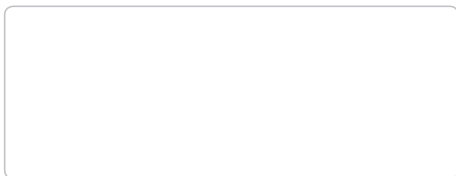
9 Be bold—for the glory of God!

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me," says Jesus. An inner strength is often needed for disciples to proclaim Jesus—to acknowledge what's good, true and beautiful in our culture while striving boldly to purify elements that are contrary to the Gospel. The Holy Spirit gifts us with fortitude—the courage to put God first, for His honor and glory.

10 "I said, 'Make disciples!'"

Good news is hard to contain. Jesus clearly wants us to share what God has done for us—inviting friends, coworkers, relatives, neighbors—to start or deepen a disciple relationship with Him. While the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit inspire discipleship, we have a role to play in growing God's family. One thing disciples of Jesus do for sure is make disciples by God's grace and mercy.

Would you like to start or deepen a relationship with the living Christ—Jesus, the Son of God? Your local parish would love to help you on that journey. Please reach out to a Catholic parish near you.



Information about Catholic parishes in southern and central Indiana is at the webpage archindy.org (Parishes) or just call 1 800 382-9836 ext. 1550.