

These are the Mass Cards for 2018-19. The purpose of the cards is to help your family think about the readings ahead of time so you may more actively participate at Mass and receive every blessing Our Lord offers.

Please cut them on the dotted lines and keep them in the glove compartment of your car.

On the way to Mass, read the front of the card together. Then, on the way home, your family can complete the back of the card.

Be sure to bring the cards when you come to Family Centered Faith Formation and leave them in the Mass Card Box for a chance to win a prize!

Family Name:

September 30, 2018

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

“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...(than) to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.”

-Mark 9:42-43

Sin is a very serious thing. Jesus tells us that those who lead others to be tempted to sin will be accountable to Him. We have choices to make when it comes to what we allow ourselves to be exposed to. What kind of movies and television do we watch? What kind of music do we listen to? Do our choices cause temptation to sin or do they help us grow closer to God?

Dear Lord, I want to grow closer to You every day. Please keep me safe from temptation. Please give me the wisdom to make choices that will help me grow closer to You, rather than closer to sin, which You despise.

Are there certain choices we can make as a family to keep us from being tempted to sin?

What are some choices we can make to help us grow closer to God as a family?

Family Name:

September 23, 2018

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:16-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

“Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder...the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle...the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” - James 3:16-18

Do I find myself living in the wisdom God gives, in peace and gentleness and the other gifts of the Holy Spirit that I received at my baptism, or do I find myself more often wrapped up in my own wants, wanting my way, wanting what others have, etc? Is there peace in my heart when I seek these things? God wants me to find His peace, which comes from *giving* instead of *getting*.

Dear Lord, please show me how to put my own wants and desires aside and learn to ask You for peace. Help me to find that peace through a heart filled with gratitude for what I have. Teach me to put others before myself which will help me to live out the gifts I received in Baptism of patience, joy kindness, love and gentleness.

Am I jealous of others? What can I do to get rid of that jealousy?

What are some ways we can practice using the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Family Name:

October 7, 2018

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

“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.” - Mark 2:14-15

When we approach God, do we do it with joy or with an attitude of duty? We have many rules that the Church asks us to follow, and this can be overwhelming. We may be tempted to pick and choose only certain ones to follow. But Jesus challenges us to always approach Him with the joy and excitement of a child. Children need guidance, and when they have good boundaries they feel the freedom to enjoy life fully. That is what God wants for us too!

Dear Lord, we want to come to You to love, and be loved, without any reservations. We want to laugh and play with you like little children. Help us to surrender our hearts to You in a simple way.

Do we as a family feel like going to Mass and following the rules is something we “have to do”? Why?

What can we do to find the joy in being a part of the Church so that we can grow closer to Jesus? How do children find joy in being members of their family?

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Family Name: _____

October 14, 2018

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30

“Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’” -Mark 10:23

We may not consider ourselves wealthy people. We may think we are only middle class. But to most of the world outside the U.S. we are very wealthy people. We put a lot of value on our “stuff,” so much so that we begin putting our possessions before our desire to love and serve the Lord. Jesus warns us and tells us to sell what we have and give to the poor. Practically speaking, it would be hard to sell everything. However, we could start by looking at what our *needs* are, and what our *wants* are. This can help us *detach* ourselves from our “stuff” and free us to *attach* ourselves to God.

Dear Lord, sometimes we get very caught up in what we want to buy, where we want to eat dinner, where we should go on vacation, etc. Please help us start to be more concerned with keeping our hearts close to You and what you want for our lives.

Have we as a family ever determined what our *needs* are versus our *wants*?

What can we do as a family to practice Jesus’ advice about selling what we have? Examples may include cleaning our house and arranging for a donation pick-up, or having a garage sale and donating the money to a worthwhile charity. What else can we do?

Family Name: _____

October 28, 2018

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

“Jesus told him, ‘Go on your way; your faith has saved you.’” - Mark 10:52

Many times we ask God for things we want and when we don’t get them we get mad or turn our back on God. But have you ever prayed that the Lord would give you the desire to understand His will for your life, even if that meant getting answers that were hard to accept? Have you ever asked God to show you how to live a life pleasing to Him? Ask Him, and He will answer. Then trust that He knows what is best for you. Have faith!!!

Dear Lord, teach me how to pray in a way that doesn’t only ask You for what I want, but in a way that will teach me what You want... because in the end my heart only wants to love and please You.

When I pray, do I find myself praying more for my own concerns or for those around me who have greater needs? (eg. Homeless people, those in nursing homes, etc.)

Have I ever thought about what God’s will may be for my life?

Family Name: _____

October 21, 2018

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-45

“Whoever wishes to great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be slave of all.” -Mark 10:43-44

In our world today everything seems to push you to be the best you can be. But very rarely are we the best we can be. In fact, very often we fall short of our best. It can leave us empty, and never feeling good enough. In contrast, Jesus was an example of someone who was the **best** of humankind and yet He wasn’t considered successful or accomplished. He was looked down upon, wasn’t always admired, and was constantly questioned. Not an easy example to follow.

Dear Lord, we are sorry for the times that we try to be better than those around us. Please help us to be less concerned with ourselves, and learn to put others’ needs before our own.

Are there people we know who we don’t want to talk to or get to know? Why?

What does it mean to “love our neighbor as we love ourselves”? What are some ways we can live out Jesus’ teaching on loving our neighbor as we love ourselves?

Family Name: _____

November 1, 2018

All Saints Day

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12a

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of Me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven...” - Matthew 5:11-12

When Jesus taught us the Beatitudes, He added that we are blessed when we are insulted and persecuted because of our faith in Him. This is hard for us to comprehend because our human nature tells us that we are blessed when we are approved and honored. The Holy Spirit will help us understand Jesus’ words and will help us live for Jesus—if only we ask Him.

Dear Holy Spirit, Light of our soul, help us to live for Jesus. Enlighten our mind and strengthen our will to live according to the Beatitudes and to rejoice when we are humiliated because of our love for Jesus.

Does our family follow the Beatitudes as a way of life—that promises us eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Can we read the Beatitudes today and focus on one or more that we can strive to perfect in our family?

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Family Name:

November 4, 2018

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28b-34

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

The scribe asked Jesus, “Which is the greatest commandment?” Because he understood Jesus’ answer, Our Lord told him that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

Do I understand Jesus’ words? Do I love God with all my soul, mind and strength? More than anyone or anything else in the world? Do I love my neighbor as myself? Is my neighbor’s well-being as important as my own? How far am I from the kingdom of God?

Dear Lord, we want to understand Your words. We want to live Your commandments with all our hearts. Holy Spirit, please enlighten our minds and strengthen our wills to follow Jesus always.

Does our family love God with all our heart, mind and strength? How do we show that love?

Do we care about our neighbor as much as we care about ourselves? How can we do better?

Family Name:

November 11, 2018

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

“Do not be afraid...first, make a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.” -1 Kings 17:13

The poor widow did not refuse the prophet Elijah’s request, even though she had barely enough flour and oil to prepare one meal for her son and herself. She prepared the cake for Elijah, and the Lord blessed her and her son with enough to eat for a full year. Do I trust Our Lord this much—enough to put others’ needs before my own?

Dear Lord, please give us the faith and trust to put the needs of others before our own. Help us to see You in the poor and to care for them as we would care for our own family. Help us remember that everything we have is a gift from You that we are to share. Please give us the grace we need to trust You in all things.

How can our family show our trust in God and our gratitude for all He has given us?

This week, can our family give one item to the poor that we would really rather keep for ourselves?

Family Name:

November 18, 2018

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18

Mark 13: 24-32

“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.” -Mark 13: 31-32

Jesus told us that one day everything as we know it will end, and that we will not know the time when this will happen. It makes one think, doesn’t it? Maybe I should be living every day as if *this* is the day I could face God. What will He say to me about how I have been living? Would He be pleased or disappointed? Are there things Jesus said in His stories and teachings that I should try to apply to my life today?

Dear Lord, we do not know when we will meet You face to face, but we hope that when that day comes, You will be pleased with the way we tried to live our lives for you. Please give us the grace to always make choices that will lead us to heaven to be with You.

Do we try to go to confession more often than once a year as a family?

What would I say to Jesus if I stood in front of Him today? Is there anything I would regret not having resolved before seeing Him?

Family Name:

November 25, 2018

Christ the King

Daniel 7: 13-14

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33b-37

“...Son of Man received dominion, glory and kingship...” -Dan 7:14
“Jesus Christ is the faithful witness...and ruler of the kings of earth.” -Rev 1:5
“...My kingdom does not belong to this world...My kingdom is not here.” -John 18:36

Jesus is the KING OF KINGS! Jesus is the KING OF TRUTH! Jesus is the KING OF HEAVEN AND EARTH! Is Jesus the King of your heart? He wants to be. Think of all the blessings He gives you. Think of the sacrifice He made for you on the cross to forgive your sins. Think of how much He loves you. He is the KING OF KINGS, yet He humbly gave His life for all of us! There will never again be a king as great as He is!

Dear Lord, thank you for being an awesome God. You are the most gentle, loving, just, kind, glorious, powerful king in all of heaven and earth. We love You and invite You into our hearts.

What are some ways that I can live as though Jesus is the king of my heart?

If Jesus came to visit our home today, what kind of “royal treatment” would we give Him to celebrate His presence?

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Family Name:

December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

1st Sunday in Advent

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
-1 Thessalonians 3: 12-13

All of us anticipate this time of year looking forward to all the fun that is to come. But do we stop to think of those around us and how we can share Jesus with them? We are called to prepare for Christmas. This does not just mean getting presents, making plans, decorating or baking. It means sharing His love with those you know and with those who need it most this time of year: shut-ins, widows, people who are ill. Who knows... you might find the real meaning of Christmas in the eyes of someone with whom you share Jesus' love.

Dear Lord, thank you for a chance to prepare our hearts for Your coming each year in Advent. Please help us to share Your love with those who need it most this year.

What are some ways we as a family can reach out those in need this Advent?

How can I prepare my heart for Jesus to enter it this Christmas?

Family Name:

December 9, 2018

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

2nd Sunday in Advent

Luke 3:1-6

“...the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 1:6

What is a “good work” in us? When we were born, we were baptized into the Catholic faith. At that time we received the Holy Spirit in a very special way. God has been present within us from the time we were baptized. At each step of our lives, He has remained with us and tried to help us be all that He created us to be. He will continue to be with us a long the journey of life, always trying to help us be prepared to meet Him one day in His kingdom! Our God loves us so very much!

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and being patient with us as your Holy Spirit continues to help form and mold us into people who are pleasing to you. Please help us to be docile to those promptings and to follow your will.

Do we know when the Holy Spirit is trying to guide us in our decisions?

How can we become more open to God's leading?

Family Name:

December 8, 2018

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Immaculate Conception

Luke 1: 26-38

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.”
-Luke 1:30-31

Mary was very special to God. He found favor with her. What does that mean? He was pleased with the way she lived her life. She loved him, lived her life showing His love to others by her own actions, lived by His teaching and commands. She always said “YES” to God even before He asked her to be Jesus' mother. She is a great example for all of us to model our own lives after. May we too find favor with God.

Dear Lord, please show us how to find favor with You by the way we live our lives. Help us to always say “YES” to all you ask of us, out of our love for You.

How does Mary's example encourage us in our faith?

Is there something God is asking from us now that requires a “YES?”

Family Name:

December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

3rd Sunday in Advent

Luke 3:10-18

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” -Philippians 4:4

During this time just before the holidays, it can be very easy to let our many plans and preparations overwhelm us. Even before Christmas, we may be ready for a break! St. Paul reminds us to find our joy in the Lord, rather than in the plans, parties, or presents that are to come. He is the reason for all these other blessings, and we must focus our rejoicing on the birth of the Christ child.

Dear Lord, help us to simplify our lives this week as we approach Christmas. Give us joy in our hearts for the simple gift of the Christ Child and His mother, and let this joy radiate to our family and friends this Christmas season.

What are some of the anxieties we feel about the upcoming Christmas season?

Can we bring these feelings to Jesus, and spend more time rejoicing in the simple gifts of this season?

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Family Name:

December 23, 2018

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10:5-10

4th Sunday in Advent

Luke 1:39-45

“Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” -Luke 1:43

Are you ready to meet Christ in a new, deep, personal, intimate, life-changing way this Christmas season? How can you know whether you have let the Lord prepare you this Advent for the real Christmas? If you can truthfully say that each day and in each circumstance of life you try to do the Lord’s will rather than your own, then you are ready for Christ’s coming, for Christmas, and for life. If you are habitually doing your “own thing”, then you are not ready. If you are like Mary, visiting others to share Christ and the Holy Spirit, you are ready for Christmas. Sharing Christ can be a most wonderful gift for someone else this year.

Dear Lord, send me your Holy Spirit to make me like Mary, who will help me to bring Jesus to all those I meet.

Who are those I can visit to bring Christ to this Christmas?

What are some ways I can show Jesus I love Him?

Family Name:

December 25, 2018

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

Christmas Day

John 1:1-18

“The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.”

-John 1:10-12

We are God’s children. He created us. He loves us more than we can ever understand. Today we celebrate the most amazing gift any human could ever receive: Jesus, God’s Son. Imagine how many people reject this gift, and how much it must pain God. Even when we do not accept Him, He continues to accept us because we are His little children. He never stops giving us chances to accept and love Him. Let us truly give Him our love and acceptance today as the best gift we could ever give.

Dear Lord, thank you for the abundant love You always have for me. I am sorry for the times I do not return that love. Please Lord, open my heart so that I can make room for You and accept Your true light.

A blessed Christmas to you! Peace and joy!

Family Name:

December 30, 2018

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Holy Family

Luke 2:41-52

*“And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.”
-Luke 2:52*

The Christmas season is a time for us to grow in holiness. Family life is a prime place for growing in holiness. On the first Sunday of Christmas, we celebrate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Because family life is so important in God’s plan for holiness, Satan tries to rob us of the graces of holiness by trying to make family life very difficult. How many parents have sadly asked “Why have you done this to us?” (Lk 2:48) Family members must forgive each other constantly. A family that is able to forgive is able to pray together and strive for holiness together, just like the Holy Family.

Dear Lord, please show us ways we can grow in holiness as a family. If there is a need for forgiveness, please give us the courage and strength to ask for it.

May God bless your family in the New Year!

Family Name:

January 6, 2019

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

“They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasure and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

-Matthew 2:11

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means “manifestation”, the revelation of Christ to the nations of the world, as represented by the wise men. This special day reminds us that we are called to go out and tell the world about Jesus and His coming. It can be very hard to do! Many times we would rather go to church and leave Jesus there. But He longs to come out into the world with us; so all people can come to know Him.

Dear Lord, please help us to bring You with us into the lives we live outside of church. Please give us the courage to share You with all we meet.

Who are the people I could share Jesus with, that I do not share Him with right now?

What are some ways that I can share Jesus with others?

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Family Name:

January 13, 2019

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

"...a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." -Luke 3:22

Baptism is an important sacrament! It is the washing away of original sin. It is a welcoming into the body of Christ. It is a time when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and allows you to receive the gifts of grace God offers. What an important sacrament to receive! In fact, it was so important that even Jesus was baptized. He did not need to have original sin washed away, since He didn't have any. So why was Jesus baptized? He wanted to set the example of being in union with God. He wanted to show us that we should spend our whole life on earth using the graces from our baptism to help us understand what we need to do to achieve heaven. What a special gift!

Father in heaven, thank You for the sacrament of Baptism. We are so blessed to be able to receive Your Holy Spirit to help us live a life that is pleasing to You, so we can live with You in heaven one day.

Do you remember your baptism? Ask your parents to tell you about it.

Family Name:

January 27, 2019

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8: 2-4, 5-6,8-10

1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ...If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy." -1 Corinthians 12: 12,26

This passage from St. Paul helps us understand the body of Christ, the Church, and our interdependency with others. It also applies to family life. The members of a family make up one body. When one person is sick or hurting, all the members feel the distress. If one person is happy or celebrating, all the members join with them in their joy. In a Catholic Christian family, these truths are even more evident because Jesus is present in each family member. He guides our hearts to be loving, compassionate and understanding with one another, making family life all it was designed to be. It is a small "domestic church" within the greater body of Christ.

Father of us all, please help us to be a family that is centered in Jesus. Help us accept His grace and love, so that we can be a positive presence within our family.

Are there obvious differences in us as family members?

How can we work together to be "one body" more consistently?

Family Name:

January 20, 2019

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." -1 Corinthians 12:7

All of us are blessed to be able to receive the Holy Spirit twice in our lives in very special ways: once at Baptism, and then again at our Confirmation. What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? The Scriptures tell us that the Spirit is given to each of us for some benefit, but does not explain exactly what that means. Jesus even received the Holy Spirit when John baptized him. The Holy Spirit is a gift that God gave us to always be able to hear His still, quiet voice in our lives. When we hear and respond to that voice we are receiving His gift.

Dear Lord, teach me how to quiet myself so that I may hear and respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Have I ever felt led by the Holy Spirit? How did I know it was the Spirit?

How can being still and quiet help us hear the Lord?

Family Name:

February 3, 2019

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Luke 4:21-30

"Love is patient, love is kind...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." -1 Corinthians 13: 4,7-8

As St. Valentine's Day approaches, we are reminded to communicate our love to our loved ones by sending them cards, flowers, or candy. Even God has given us ideas for showing our loved ones that they mean a lot to us. By being kind and patient with one another, we are truly sharing in the most important love there is: God's love. That kind of love will see us through happy and sad times, through difficult situations and joyous occasions. This is the kind of love that never goes away, but gets deeper and stronger with time.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the gift of love and for allowing us to share with those in our life that mean the most to us. Please help us to grow closer to You because of the love we share with those around us.

What are some ways I can show those around me that I love them?

What are some ways I can show Jesus I love Him?

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Family Name:

February 10, 2019

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” -Luke 5:8

We are blessed by the Lord all the time. In fact, if we think about it, each day we could count our blessings two and three times over. How do we show the Lord that we are grateful for the blessings He showers on us? Do we try to please Him by spending extra time in prayer with Him to thank Him? Or, do we turn our backs and think that we somehow have earned His blessings? The Lord shows us in today’s Gospel that if we listen to Him and His commands, He will bless us. Let us run into His arms with gratitude for His mercy and grace.

Dear Lord, thank you for loving me so much that you bless me all the time. Please make my heart more grateful for the gifts of Your love and Your blessings that are in my life.

What are some things in my life that I would consider blessings from the Lord?

Are there times I don’t feel grateful for God’s blessings? Why?

Family Name:

February 24, 2019

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 26: 2,7-9,12-13, 22-23

1 Cor. 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

“...love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...do to others as you would have them do to you.”
-Luke 6:27-28,31

In this day and age, this advice does not seem to be popular thinking. These days, we think more along the lines of “An eye for an eye,” “Be justified!”, or “Don’t let anyone get the best of you!” But Jesus challenges us to think in a more heaven-bound manner. Do as He did. When His enemies came against Him, He loved them. When people hated and cursed Him, He did good things for them. We too are called to this. We can also think of this verse as saying: “Do to others as Jesus would do to them.”

Dear Lord, open our hearts to love our enemies and share goodness with those who try to harm us. We ask for humility to see our own sinfulness, so in response we can share mercy with those around us.

Who are the people I could share Jesus with, that I do not share him with right now?

Family Name:

February 17, 2019

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17: 5-8

1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20

Luke 6:17,20-26

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.”
-Luke 6:22-23

The Gospel message today is a tough one. Jesus tells us that in our life we should seek to achieve the position that is not desired: to be poor, hungry, weeping. These are not normally the things we want to achieve in life. In fact, we usually try to attain the opposite. We strive for wealth, being well-fed, and enjoying happiness. When Jesus says ‘*Blessed are you when people hate you*’...isn’t Jesus going too far now? Yet that is the kind of life that He lived. He was poor, sometimes hungry, occasionally sad, and certainly hated by some. Jesus doesn’t want us to be afraid of hardship, for hardship is the very thing that brings us closer to the kingdom of God by forcing us to rely on Him.

Dear Lord, please give me the grace to accept hardships in my life as the very things that will help me to grow closer to You. Help me imitate Your humility and bring the heavenly rewards that You promise.

When hard things happen to me, do I feel close to Jesus or far away from Him? How will we be “rewarded” in heaven?

Family Name:

March 3, 2019

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:5-8

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?”
Luke 6:41

In today’s Gospel, Jesus warned his followers about criticizing others. You might be thinking: But, if they are doing something wrong, shouldn’t we tell them so they can correct their behavior? We do have a responsibility to help others do the right thing. But, it’s often easier to notice when someone else is at fault than to notice when we are at fault.

The best thing we can do to help others stay on the right track is to model it in our own lives. Actions really do speak louder than words!

Lord, help me to be a good example rather than looking for ways to correct others with my words alone.

Do people tend to follow your example?

What is one thing you could do that might help your friends be more like Jesus?

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Family Name:

March 10, 2019

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

1st Sunday in Lent

Luke 4:1-13

*“Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus...was led ...into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil...”
-Luke 4:1-2*

As we begin to journey through Lent, it is important for us to remember that Jesus too was called to fast for 40 days before he began His ministry. In this time, Luke tells us that He was tempted by the devil. Does that mean we too will be tempted during Lent? Most likely, the answer is yes. We will be tempted to stop fasting because it’s “too hard.” We may be tempted to eat meat on Friday, because “everyone else is.” Countless other temptations may arise. In those moments, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God’s grace, that we may overcome the temptation and enter into the spirit of sacrifice to understand how great Jesus’ love for us was by following His example.

Dear Lord, thank you for the fast You made in the desert. Thank you for your example in showing us that we should not listen to the devil’s temptations, but have faith in the Father and show Him our love by the sacrifices we make.

What kind of fast am I going to make for Lent?

What are some ways I can avoid temptations?

Family Name:

March 17, 2019

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

2nd Sunday of Lent

Luke 9:28b-36

“Join with others in being imitators of me...observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us...for many...conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.” Phil. 3:17-18

We are called to live as Christians, not just when we are at “religious” events like church, or religious education, but all of the time. This is not easy. We don’t want to offend others by telling them about Jesus or our faith in Him. But look at what He was willing to go through for us. He gave up **everything**-His friends, His followers, His family. He was unjustly persecuted so that our sins would be *forgiven*. Why then are we afraid to be examples to the world around us?

Dear Lord, please help us to show You our gratitude for all You did for us by not being afraid to show Your love to everyone, everyday, wherever we are.

Who are the role models in my life? Do they lead me to, or away from, Christ?
What are some ways I can be a role model to others that would encourage them to grow closer to Christ?

Family Name:

March 24, 2019

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

3rd Sunday in Lent

Luke 13:1-9

“...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish...” -Luke 13:3

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us twice that if we are not sorry for our sins, we will perish. This can be hard for us to understand. We don’t tend to live for eternity, but rather for the here and now. But Jesus sends us this word, halfway through Lent, that we must be sorry for our sins, confess them to a priest, and then change our hearts. He does not want us to perish. His love for us is so deep, that He gave His life to show us how much we mean to Him. Our loving Father wants us to be with Him for eternity, but we must listen to the guidance Jesus gives us or we risk losing this great gift He offers us.

Dear Lord, please help me to search my heart and find the things there that are not pleasing to you. Give me the grace to confess them and change my life, so that I may spend eternity in your loving embrace.

When was the last time we went to confession? Would we consider going together as a family?

Do I try to live my life with heaven in mind?

Family Name:

March 31, 2019

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

4th Sunday of Lent

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

*“Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”
-2 Corinthians 5:17*

There are many things we enjoy in our lives: music, food, movies. All of these things bring us pleasure and comfort in many ways. Can you imagine if someone told you that you could no longer enjoy these things, that you must give them up? Sometimes God asks us to do such things. It seems unthinkable. It may be hard at first to make different choices, but when your heart is open to His will you will see how God strips away what you think is “good” in your life and brings you in replacement the “best” He has to offer. What a loving, caring heavenly Father we have!

Dear Lord, help me to be less attached to what I want. Please put a desire in my heart to want what You want for me. I know that You know best.

What are some things God might ask me to give up?

Why is it difficult to make changes in our lives?

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Family Name:

April 7, 2019

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

5th Sunday in Lent

John 8:1-11

***“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”
-John 8:7***

How often do we find ourselves throwing our opinions around? Do we find ourselves needing to comment on every event and newsworthy topic that comes up? Does giving your opinion sometimes lead you into judgment or gossip? This is what happened to the people in Jesus’ time when they found this woman committing a grave sin. They wanted to punish her, in this case with physical punishment. They felt justified in bringing her to “justice”, but they were not willing to face that same justice. They did not want to look at themselves, to see their own sin. It was easier to condemn someone else. Jesus reminded them, and us, that we should be careful of what we do with our opinions. We should look first at ourselves and seek forgiveness from the Lord before we use that energy to concentrate on others’ faults.

Dear Lord, we are weak. It is easier to look at others’ faults than our own. Please give us the grace to see our own weaknesses and bring them to the foot of Your cross where You freely gave forgiveness of sins.

What are ways that I can love those around me, instead of judging?
How can I encourage others when I hear them judging?

Family Name:

April 14, 2019

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Palm Sunday

Luke 22:14-23:56

“Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit’; and when He said this He breathed His last.” -Luke 23:46

After much pain, suffering, humiliation and ridicule, Jesus turned over all that He had left to his heavenly Father. While our “sufferings” this Lent of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer cannot compare to the suffering of our Lord, we too are called to give all we have left to our heavenly Father. We are about to walk through Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection. Are you ready? What is left in your life that needs to be given to the Lord to allow you to fully celebrate Easter this year?

Dear Lord, please help me to surrender all that I am and to walk closely by Your side through this very holy week in preparation of Your resurrection.

What are some things I can do this week to be quiet and spend time reflecting on all Jesus did for me?

Did I give my all to this Lenten season? Is it too late to make the effort this week to meet Jesus on his road to Calvary?

Family Name:

April 21, 2019

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

He is Risen!!!! Alleluia!!!

“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.” John 20:6-8

The Lord is risen! It is a miracle! It is the miracle of all miracles! Jesus has overcome death! There is no need for tears, but much rejoicing. His death and resurrection have bought us eternal life! What an awesome God Who never withholds His love from us! Thank you for such a gift, Lord! We praise You!

A Blessed Easter to you and your family!

April 28, 2019

Acts 5:12-16

2nd Sunday of Easter

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

Divine Mercy Sunday

John 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.” -John 20:19

A greeting of peace was probably not the first thing the disciples expected to hear from Jesus. ‘Where were you when I needed you?’ ‘Why did you all run away?’ ‘I’m disappointed in you.’ Those were things the disciples expected to hear. Instead Jesus came in love. He wished them peace. He knew they were afraid. He knew they thought He would be very disappointed in them, and they were ashamed. But He proved to them that His sacrifice was all about forgiveness, even of their sins. It is the same for us. No matter what we have done, no matter how terrible we may think it is, Jesus comes to us with forgiveness, peace and great love.

Dear Lord, thank you for the abundant love You give to me all the time, even when I don’t feel worthy of it. Please help me to accept the forgiveness and peace You offer me.

How do you think you would have felt if you were one of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them?

What are some things I can do to feel worthy of Jesus’ love?

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