

These are the Mass Cards for 2020-21. 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 print them out, cut them on the dotted lines, and keep them in the glove compartment of your car, if we are permitted to attend Mass. Otherwise, keep them near your TV to use before participating in a virtual Mass.

Read the front of the card together. Then after Mass, complete the back of the card.

Family Name:
September 27, 2020 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32

“Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory, rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.”
-Phil. 2:3-4

In my family it is not always easy to think of others before myself. There are many days that I just want to do my own thing, and maybe even be left alone. But today’s scripture tells me not to be selfish, thinking only of myself, but to consider others as more important than my own desires or wants. Jesus taught us the same thing when He gave us the two great commandments. He told us to love God with all our heart, mind and strength. He also taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This sounds easier than it is sometimes, but if we ask the Lord to help us, He always will.

Lord, please teach me how to love those around me in a self-sacrificing kind of way; for if I can, I know I will grow closer to You.

What are some ways I can treat others in my family as more important than myself?

Family Name:
September 20, 2020 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a Matthew 20:1-16a
“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” ***-Matt 20:16***

In the Gospel today, we hear a parable about a landowner who pays all his workers the same amount of money, even though they did not all work the same amount of time. We may wonder why Jesus seems to be ok with that – isn’t it unfair???

I remember when my son made the basketball team in Jr. High. Every day after school he and his teammates practiced for two hours. One day, a new student came to his school. The coach wanted him to feel welcome so he made him the starter for the next game. Without doing all the work the rest of the team had done, he received the same reward. Do you think that was fair? The team DID NOT! The following year my son started high school and his art and music teachers gave him opportunities to shine. He had natural talent in these areas, but so did other students. Was it fair? Perhaps the Gospel message is that instead of measuring our blessings against what others get, we should focus on the fact that we are indeed blessed.

Lord, please help me to trust that your plan is perfect even if things seem unfair at times. Give me the patience to wait and see what generous ways you love me.

Have you ever been jealous of someone else’s success? Remember, God loves us all...in different ways!

Family Name:
October 4, 2020 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43

“...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”
-Phil. 4:8

There are many ways for us to be entertained these days. In fact, there is so much out there in the world by which to be amused - video games, movies, books, television - that it can be difficult to really discern what we should and should not be taking in. Today’s scripture helps us to have a holy focus. If we apply what it is telling us about being true, honorable, just, ***pure***...then the things we use to entertain ourselves will help us grow closer to the Lord, not farther away from Him.

Dear Lord, help me to always be discerning about the things I let into my heart and mind. May they always be things that will cause us to praise You.

Are you aware of any entertainment your family engages in that may not be pleasing to the Lord? What is it? Can you substitute other types that are more in line with today’s scripture?

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October 11, 2020 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25: 6-10a Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22:1-14

“I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” -Phil. 4:13

There are times that a task lies before me that causes me to feel overwhelmed. I talk myself out of being able to even try. I put it off until I get to the point that I am convinced I can not do it. Today’s scripture gives us hope that because we are children of God we can do ANYTHING because it is Christ who gives us what we need to do the task before us. When we feel defeated, we simply need to remind ourselves of the grace we received at Baptism that will help us “do all things in Christ who gives us our strength.”

Dear Lord, thank you for your abundant well of grace from which we can always draw strength when we feel down. Your love and grace are never ending.

Name some times that you felt defeated, then asked God to help you and He did.

Family Name: _____

October 25, 2020 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” -Matt. 22:37

I really *love* watching TV. I also really *love* eating ice cream. I especially *love* getting presents. But this kind of love always leaves me wanting more and never feeling satisfied. Jesus gave us hints of how we could be truly fulfilled, by turning our focus to God and giving Him all the love we have inside ourselves. By giving God all the love we have inside of us, we are able to give Him the credit He deserves for all the good things in our lives, which in turn can also help us appreciate them more. What an awesome God we have, so deserving of ALL our love.

Lord, thank you for loving me more than I could ever understand. Please help me to love you with all the love I have to show you how glad I am to be your child.

What are some things that I “love” that can get in the way of my love for God?

Family Name: _____

October 18, 2020 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b Matthew 22:15-21

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers.” -1Thes. 1:2

It is common that people turn to God in their need, asking for things hoped for and for bad things to change. But today’s scripture encourages us to always give thanks to God in prayer, for the good things and even the bad. Most especially, let us remember to pray for others and their needs. It can be a blessing to others to have someone praying for them, even if they are not aware. They may feel a little happier the day you pray for them, without knowing why. You could consider yourself a ‘secret agent of prayer’ working for the Lord. ☺

Dear Lord, we thank you for all the very special people you have put into our lives. Please bless them in a special way today.

Who are some of the people you can pray for on a regular basis?

Family Name: _____

November 1st, 2020 All Saints Day

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” -Matt. 5:12

Today is a great day of hope in the Church. We remember and celebrate all the men and women who have gone before us that prove today’s scripture... the Saints. Many of them had difficult lives, suffering for their love and faith in Jesus. All of them lived lives of great example. They showed us how to live out the beatitudes (also from today’s Gospel). They taught us how to pray and live lives pleasing to God. May we be inspired by them and strive to also live lives that will be pleasing to God.

Dear Lord, thank you not only for you Son who lived the perfect example in life, but also for all the Saints who continue to reinforce Jesus’ teachings.

As a family, try to find out something new about a Saint you didn’t know much about before. For example, read about St. John Vianney, St. Benedict, St. Rose of Lima, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Lucy, or St. Juan Diego, just to name a few. A great place to find out more about saints is at www.catholic.org/saints/

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November 8, 2020 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

“Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. -Matt.25:13

If you were going to run a marathon, what are some things you would have to do ahead of time? Do you think you would be prepared to run such a long distance if each day for a week before the race you only ran around the block and then took a nap? What if you didn't have good running shoes – do you think your feet would be able to carry you the whole distance?

In the Gospel today, Jesus uses a story to help us understand the importance of being ready to meet God by preparing in advance. If each day we try a little harder to follow Jesus' example of love, we will grow in holiness and look forward to seeing God face to face one day.

Lord, help me to prepare my heart to become more like yours – filled with love.

What is one thing you can do today to become more like Jesus?

Family Name: _____

November 22, 2020 Christ the King
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 Matthew 25:31-46

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers of mine, you did for me.” -Matt. 25:40

Many times in our life we don't see Christ present to us. We hope to see him in a physical way, where we could talk to him and have him talk back. In today's scripture Jesus tells us that He is present in the people it may be the hardest to look at. Who are the 'least of my brothers?' He might be the person at school that isn't popular and doesn't have a lot of friends. She might be the person at work to whom no one reaches out. He may even be the person who lives next door to you. Jesus wants us to find ways to love Him through those who may not be easy to love, just as He did.

Dear Lord, it is not always easy to love those who are different from us. Please give us the grace we need to love as You taught us through your example.

What are some ways I can reach out to those people in my life that are not easy to reach out to?

Family Name: _____

November 15, 2020 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30

“Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” -Proverbs 31:30

Sometimes we become more caught up in what people think of us, and how we look, than we need to. Today's scripture encourages all of us to realize that someone who fears the Lord is to be honored. What does fearing the Lord mean? It means that because we love the Lord so much we want to do all that we can to please Him with the way we live. Fear of the Lord is also a gift of the Holy Spirit, so we can pray for this special need in our lives. It has been said that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. How good is our God to bless us so much!

Lord, please give me the gift of fear of you. I want to please you with all I do, say, think and feel. You are worthy to be loved.

Why does the scripture say that 'charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting?'

Family Name: _____

November 29, 2020 1st Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:2-7 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Watch!’ -Mark 13:37

Whenever something exciting is coming in our lives, we wait for it with great anticipation. If it is a birthday or a holiday, there is a lot to do to prepare for it. We put all our energy into the preparations without hesitation because we know how fun it will be when we get there. Today's scripture reminds us that we are supposed to prepare ourselves with this same excitement and anticipation for Christ's coming. Since it is the season of Advent, we are preparing in part for the celebration of Christ's birth. But we are also called to this preparedness every day of our lives. Jesus wants us to be ready to meet him any day, any time, anywhere.

Dear Lord, show me how I can best prepare my heart and mind to meet you whenever you come.

What are ways I can 'Watch' for the coming of Christ in my own life?

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Family Name: _____

December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

"...prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." -Mark 1:3

Preparing is what everyone seems to be doing this time of the year. People are buying presents, writing cards, making cookies, and decorating homes.

These are very fun ways of preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. But how are we preparing our hearts? There are many special things we can do during Advent, such as a Jesse Tree which reminds us of Jesus' lineage. We could do Advent meditations as a family to help us think about Christ's coming. Or we could just pray together as a family in front of our Christmas tree and ask Jesus to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas. Whatever we choose, let us find a special way our family can 'prepare the way of the Lord.'

Dear Lord, please help us to prepare our hearts in a special way as we prepare to celebrate your birth.

What will we do as a family this Advent to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth?

Family Name: _____

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

"Then the angel said to her 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'" -Luke 1:30

There are times when I do things that I know must disappoint God. There are other times that I've done things that I hope are very pleasing to God. But can you imagine being told directly by an angel that you have found favor with God? That would be amazing. Mary was someone very special to God. He wanted her to carry His Son. She always strived to do everything in her life to please the Lord. During this last week of Advent, we can ask Mary to pray for us to have the same desire she did, to do everything in our life to find favor with God.

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us through Mary such a beautiful example of faith. Please help us to follow her example in following You.

What are some things I do that I know disappoint God? What are some things that I know please Him?

Family Name: _____

December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

1Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

"Rejoice always!"

-1 Thess. 5:16

During this time of year, it is easy to feel happy. We enjoy seeing friends and family. We like looking at Christmas lights decorating people's homes. The festive food that seems to be present everywhere is extra yummy. But today's scripture calls us to venture beyond "happy" into "rejoicing!" There are so many blessings around us that our joy should be abundant and directed to our God who gives us all good things! Let us try to share our great joy with all those around us, so the light of Christ will shine during this Advent season and continue through the upcoming Christmas season.

Lord, thank you for the many blessings You give to me every day of my life. Please allow me to give You praise and thanks every time I feel those blessings.

Are there people you know who are sad at this time of year? Perhaps they are far away from family or they have lost a loved one. What can you do to give them a taste of the joy of this season?

Family Name: _____

December 25, 2020

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." -John 1:1

Today is a day of great rejoicing! Jesus is born! He has come to save us from our sins. He was here when the whole world was created and He is here right now! Let us spend today and the rest of the Christmas season praising Him for His goodness to us.

Dear Jesus, thank you for continuing to love us. Thank you for being the Word of God that speaks to us of your love.

***May the Joy and Peace of the Christmas season
bless you and your family!***

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December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
-Luke 1:30

It's amazing that the Son of God was part of a family here on earth and grew up just like each of us. He was God but He still was a human being and had to learn things just like we do. The favor of God was upon him and the favor of God is upon us. For, just as Jesus was truly a child of God, so are we! We are precious to God and He wants us to become strong so we will be safe from Satan who tempts us to reject God and his teachings. He gives us parents to guide and teach us right from wrong. We need to obey them because they are working for God!

Dear Lord, help me to be filled with wisdom so I will know the right things to do to grow closer to you and to give you honor and glory. Help me to trust and obey my parents in all things.

Take a moment to thank your parents for guiding you each day according to God's plan.

Family Name: _____

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star."
-Matt. 2:10

The Kings were called to find the child that had come into the world as a king. They knew that He was the chosen one. They made many sacrifices in order to find him, and most likely encountered hardships on their journey. They didn't quit. They didn't give up. They persevered. Can you imagine their joy in finally arriving at their destination, the place where the child lay in His mother's arms? It must have been the greatest blessing they'd ever known. May we find that same joy when we seek out Jesus in our lives and find Him.

Lord, teach us to look and search for You in our lives with the same desire that the Kings had when they set out on their journey.

How do you seek Jesus in your life? When you find Him, how does it make you feel?

Family Name: _____

January 1st, 2021

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."
-Luke 2:19

Very often I want to make my opinion known. I want to have something to say or to 'wow' others with. Today's scripture gives us another example of Our Lady. She may have had a lot of things she wanted to say as the shepherds came to see Jesus. Her heart must have been so full of love and wonder at what God had done. But she kept them in a quiet place in her heart, sharing her joy and gratefulness only with God. She let the glory remain with the Lord, instead of focusing it on herself. What a gift she is to us to follow as a beautiful example of love for God.

Dear Lord, please teach me to practice the same self-control Mary did so that You may be glorified instead of me.

What are some things in my life (small achievements or successes?) that I can keep in my heart and give God the glory for, rather than discussing it with others?

Family Name: _____

January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord

Is 55: 1-11/ Is 12: 2-3

1 Jn 5: 1-9

Mk 1: 7-11

"...a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."
-Mark 1:11

Jesus' Baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission on this earth. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners to save us from our sins. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. As his followers, we should reflect on whether we are following the will of God in all that we do. At the end of our life, we hope to hear the same words that were said by the Father to Jesus: "in You I am well pleased".

Dear Lord, show me what you would like me to do to complete the mission you have for me. Help me to be obedient and loving in all things.

Is there a particular commandment that you find most difficult to obey? Remember, these are God's laws given to us for guidance.

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January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20

John 1:35-42

“...speak Lord your servant is listening.”

-1Sam. 3:10

Many times in our life we enter into prayer with many requests. We have lists of things we want God to answer, and answer the way we want. But in today's scripture, God is the one calling out to Samuel. When Samuel realizes that it is the Lord speaking to him, he doesn't make his needs known. Instead, he says that he is ready to hear what God wants of him. As always, the stories in the Bible set examples for us of how we should live our own lives in order to know and grow closer to God. They next time you feel like sitting down with your list for God in prayer, try something new. Sit and listen to what He wants to say to you.

Dear Lord, help me to quiet myself in prayer from time to time to hear what You want to say to me.

What are some places where you like to pray? Are they quiet enough for you to hear God speaking to you?

Family Name: _____

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5,10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.”

-Mark 1:17

This is a little confusing, isn't it? The men that Jesus called to follow him were fishers of fish. What did it mean to be fishers of men? Jesus hoped that these men He chose to follow Him would set such a beautiful example of their faith in God, that it would attract other people to also want to follow Jesus. This is something that we are all called to. If we love Jesus and try to live our lives reflecting His light, then we too will become “fishers of men.”

Lord, help us to love you so much that all we do, say, think and feel will radiate the love we have for you. Please allow that light to touch those we meet each day, so that they too will want to follow you.

What is one thing Jesus' disciples did then, that we can still do today to help people know and follow Jesus?

Family Name: _____

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

“A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”

-Mark 1:27

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt the presence of evil? Maybe a TV show scared you, or you met someone who was really mean. In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us that if we ask anything in Jesus' name, especially against evil, that He has the authority to make that evil go away. What an awesome God! All we have to do is ask!
So the next time you are feeling afraid or hurt, call on the name of Jesus and see what happens.

Dear Lord, your name is above all names. You are Lord, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lamb of God. We love you and praise you for your powerful presence in our lives.

When do you feel most fearful? Remember to call on Jesus and He will help you!

Family Name: _____

February 7, 2021

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-4,6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

“All this I do for the sake of the Gospel, so that I too may have a share in it. -1 Cor.9:23

Do WHAT for the sake of the gospel? In today's scripture verse, we are called to do EVERYTHING for the glory of God. The Gospel tells of Jesus' life and how He tried to please God with everything He did and said, the way He loved, the way He treated others, the way He did everything! We too are called to do everything in our lives to live out the Gospel. If we do, Jesus promised us our share in it, which is eternal life with Him and His Father in heaven forever! All we have to do is live the Gospel in our own lives. So, listen carefully to the scripture readings at Mass. They will guide you to live for God!

Dear Lord, there is nothing we want more than to be with you in heaven someday FOREVER! Please help us to learn what we need to do to have a share in that gift.

What do you think heaven will be like?

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Family Name: _____

February 14, 2021

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

*"...whatever you eat of, drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."
-1 Corinthians 10:31*

How could what I eat or drink glorify God? Sometimes we can give up something we'd really like to eat, like dessert, as a prayer. Other times we might decide to not eat as much as we want, taking a lesser portion, knowing there are a lot of people who are going hungry at that very moment. We offer it as a sacrifice for them. These seem like simple things, but if done in a spirit of prayer and sacrifice can bring glory to God. We can also make choices like holding the door for others, when all we want to do is get into the place we are going. We can choose to be last in line, allowing others to go before us and offering that as a prayer. These are all small ways we can give glory to God in our daily lives.

Dear Lord, I don't always feel like I can do great things to show you my love. Please help me to find small ways every day in my own life to give you glory.

What are some other ways you can show glory to God in your life every day?

Family Name: _____

February 28, 2021

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

*"Then God said: 'Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love...there you shall offer him up as a holocaust...'"
-Genesis 22:2*

Think of the one person you love the most in the world. Is it your mom, dad, a brother or sister? Maybe it's a best friend, or a cousin. Can you imagine if you heard God ask you to give them up forever? That would be the hardest thing you'd ever have to do. Yet, in today's scripture, that is what God asks Abraham to do. Abraham is a great example of faith and trust in God. He didn't understand why God wanted him to give up his only son, whom he loved with all his heart. But he trusted in God. In the end, we learn that God didn't want him to give up his son, He just wanted to test Abraham's faith and trust. I think he passed the test, what about you?

Lord, may we learn to have the same faith and trust in You that Abraham had, even when we don't understand Your ways.

Are there things in your life that God may want you to give up that would help you grow closer to Him?

Family Name: _____

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-15

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

*"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan."
-Mark 1:12*

Many times we are encouraged to follow Jesus' example. The scripture from today's Gospel is another example of that. Even Jesus was called for forty days to fast and pray. It was not easy for Him. Satan was there whispering things in His ear to try to get him to stop the fasting and walk away from the praying. He could have done that. He was God. But He chose the harder way. He chose to offer up His discomfort to glorify God and grow closer to Him. We too are called to forty days of fasting and praying. We may even be tempted as Jesus was to walk away from the sacrifices. But just as the Spirit gave Jesus the strength to persevere, He will give us what we need to also allow us to glorify God and grow closer to Him.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the opportunity to join with You in this time of fasting and praying during Lent. Please give us the grace not to give in to temptation.

What are some ways that you can fight off temptations? What are your favorite ways to pray?

Family Name: _____

March 7, 2021

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

*"Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."
-Jn 2:16*

Today in the Gospel we see that Jesus was not happy with the way the people viewed His Father's house. It makes me think about how we view God's house today. Would Jesus be happy with the way we look at our local church? Do we think of it as someplace to go on Sunday to get our duty done, or to see friends and catch up on the news? Or do we truly prepare ourselves by the way we dress and quiet ourselves before we enter into the church knowing that Jesus, our King, is truly present there in the Eucharist? God hopes that our hearts are longing to honor and worship Him when we enter His house. If the people in today's Gospel would have had that attitude, Jesus probably wouldn't have reacted the way He did.

Dear Lord, we want to honor and worship You when we spend time in Your house. Please give us the grace to fight off temptations of distraction so we may love and glorify You by our presence in church.

What are some ways your family prepares for Mass?

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March 14, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”
-John 3:17

Some people see God as a judge, who is full of wrath. But actually He is a loving Father. He loves each one of us as His own children. Ask your parents how much they love you. It may be hard for them to express all the love they have for you in their hearts. But parents love their children greatly, wanting what is best for them. God wants that for us. He saw that we needed to know His love, and the only way to really show us was to send His son. But He didn't stop there. He allowed His son to show us God's love all the way to the cross and resurrection, the ultimate gift of love. Jesus laid down His life for us, and then gave us the gift of eternity with Him in heaven. Our God really loves us a lot!

Dear Lord, thank you for being a Father who is willing to go to any length to show us, Your children, that you love us.

How do you view God? As an angry judge or a loving Father? Are you afraid of Him or do you run into His arms for love?

Family Name: _____

March 21, 2021

5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.”
-John 12:25

Today's scripture from the Gospel sounds kind of confusing. Most of us like our lives. It is hard to understand why we would lose it just because we like it. But I think that Jesus is looking deeper than what meets the eye. In different words, 'whoever loves his life *more than God* will lose it and whoever *puts God before his own wants and desires* will preserve it for eternal life.' If we live our lives only to please ourselves, we have no guarantee of heaven. But if we learn to put God first in our lives, we take steps closer to being with Him **forever** in heaven.

*Dear Lord, help me to always put my life, my desires, my wants, second to Your presence in my life. Teach us to seek you in **all** we do.*

What are ways I put myself ahead of God? How can I make a change to start putting God before myself?

Family Name: _____

March 28, 2021

Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15, 47

“...every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”
-Philippians 2:11

Today we reflect on Christ's passion. In the midst of the story it is hard to believe that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Most voices at this moment are condemning Him. The few voices that are standing by Him, suffering with Him, are not **every** voice. There are times in our life that we are one of the two voices. We have the choice to be the voice that stands for the Lord, even in the midst of suffering. The other voice is one of confusion, anger, abandonment.

Lord, You suffered all for the sake of my salvation. Your suffering was not in vain. Give me a voice that confesses to everyone I meet that You are Jesus Christ the Lord!

Which voice will you have in the week before Easter? Which side will you be on, Christ's or the world's?

Family Name: _____

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

“...he saw and believed.”
-John 20:8

Those who were able to go to the tomb to see with their own eyes that Jesus was not there, that He had risen, were indeed blessed. But Jesus said 'blessed are those who believe without seeing.' That's us! We believe because of the stories we have been told, the traditions that have been passed down to us, the experiences we have had through Holy Week and Easter. We are blessed indeed to have the gift of faith to hear and believe that

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA!!!

Dear Lord, we praise you and thank you for this Easter Sunday that reminds us of the gift of salvation You bought for us with Your death and resurrection! We are forever grateful for such a gift!

May you and your family be blessed with God's abundant graces on this Easter Sunday! Happy Easter!

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Family Name:

April 11, 2021

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6

Divine Mercy Sunday

John 20:19-31

“Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”-John 20:19

Today in the Church we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a day to remember that God is constantly pouring out His mercy to us at every moment of our lives. He isn't always happy with some of the choices we make, or the way we tend to turn away from Him. Yet He continues to shower us with His love and forgiveness, His mercy, all the time. We are even reminded of that mercy in today's Gospel. Jesus could have returned to the Apostles, after all He had been through in the passion, and been very upset with them for abandoning and denying Him. But instead He returned to them to give them peace. He showers them with love and forgiveness...**mercy**. We have been blessed to have a God who loves us so much and showers us with such gracious gifts as His mercy.

Dear Lord, thank You for loving us more than we could ever understand. Please give us the grace we need to try to live a life worthy of Your gift of mercy.

What are some ways we can show mercy to others? (Hint: Works of Mercy)

Family Name:

April 25, 2021

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

4th Sunday in Easter

John 10:11-18

*“He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.”
-Acts 4:11*

Life has a way of throwing us many curve balls. We think one thing is going to happen, and in the next moment it has gone exactly the opposite way. When we walk with the Lord these things can happen, too. Things look one way on the surface, but underneath God's plan is ultimately bigger than what our own eyes can see. He often takes bad things and makes good out of them, if we allow Him to. Jesus was a great example of this. To the human eye, His life looked like a failure. He came to spread love and forgiveness and was killed for it. But in the end, God took this event and used it for His glory. The very event that ended His life became the foundation of the Church we are a part of over 2000 years later. Our God is amazing!

Lord, thank you for always having the “big picture,” beyond what our eyes can see. Give us the faith to always trust in Your plan for our lives.

Can you remember a time when something seemed to turn out wrong, but later you realized that God's plan was even better than what you had in mind?

Family Name:

April 18, 2021

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

1 John 2:1-5a

3rd Sunday in Easter

Luke 24:35-48

*“...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.”
-Luke 24:38-39*

There are many times in our lives that we feel alone or unable to handle the problems that life sends us. We try to rely on our own strength to get us through these times. Today, Jesus says, 'Return to me with all your hearts and find the strength you need. See the love I have for you in my wounds, know there is nothing I wouldn't do to help you.' It is not easy to rely on Him in such a way. There isn't always instant gratification. Sometimes we must be quiet to hear Him answer us, to give us the love we need to carry us through our burdens. But there is no better place, no more reliable resource for grace and strength than the wounds of our Lord. They always have and always will be one of the greatest signs of love ever known.

Dear Lord, sometimes when I am troubled, it is easier to feel sorry for myself and turn to comforts instead of You. Please give me the desire I need to turn to You in those times to receive Your great love and compassion.

Are there times when you've turned to God and found comfort? Share these times with your family.

Family Name:

May 2, 2021

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

5th Sunday in Easter

John 15:1-8

*“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”
-John 15:8*

The image of the vine was a rich one for the Jews since the land of Israel was covered with many vineyards. But, for us, it may be need a little explanation. When Jesus calls himself the *true vine*, He is telling us that only through Him can we become part of his “vineyard” – his family. But, sometimes, just as a vine needs to be pruned so it will bear fruit, Jesus needs to purify us so we will grow and produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from him. He shows us through our parents and teachers how to stay close to him.

Lord, thank you for helping me to know how to live so I will someday be in heaven with You. Help me to accept the guidance you give me. Help me to obey.

When you are disciplined for doing something wrong, do you trust that your parents and teachers are God's representatives here on earth, helping you to grow closer to Jesus?

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