



Home Rituals — Ideas for your family

May 7, 2021

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Volume 1, Issue 9

Introducing Rituals into your Home.

Reading the Bible & Asking Questions

- * To whom did Jesus appear after the Resurrection?
- * Is every appearance of Jesus recorded?
- * Who do you think Jesus would visit after the Resurrection?

Telling Stories with Pictures and Art.

- * Helping to find ourselves in the paintings of Christian Art.

What do Colors Mean in Religious Art.

Inside this issue:

- Reading the Bible and Asking Questions **1**
- Picturing the Bible **2**

What about us?

What are the stories told in the Stained Glass windows of our church?

What do the colors represent?

Reading the Bible & Asking Questions

*He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

By the time you get this newsletter, the Easter season will be almost over. Too bad because the Easter season is a great time for telling Bible Stories whether that's of the Resurrection or of the early Church in Acts. Now I don't mean simply reading the bible to your children, I mean telling the story. That means helping them to understand different concepts that are different from our own time as well as helping them to piece together meaning from the stories.

This cannot be clearer than some of the meditations that St. Ignatius proposes for the Spiritual Exercises. One has us imagine Jesus appearing to Mary, his mother. Well that never happens in the scriptures yet in real life this event would be a near certainty. So Ignatius leaves open for us the question "Who would Jesus appear to?" And "Why?" These are questions you might just want to ask yourself as well as ask your children.

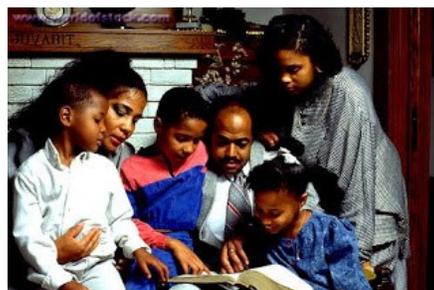
We know that Jesus appears to some of the important people like Peter. Yet we know that Jesus appears to Mary of Magdala and can ask "Why her?" That opens up a lot of opportunities for understanding. "Because she was a great friend for Jesus." "Because

Jesus had healed her." "Because she was one of the women who dared to stand by the cross when Jesus needed someone." See how much more comes from the story when we are able to tell the story rather than just simply reading the story?

Now I'm not one for proof texting but think about the different ways in which bible stories might just be helpful in teaching your children virtues and values. In Acts we hear of how the early church lived together. "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers ." Suppose you



were to do a nice bit of calligraphy and place this saying on the refrigerator asking your children, "How can we be like the early church?" Immediately we can see the lesson on sharing as well as the lesson on saying our prayers together. How might you approach listening to the teaching of the apostles? Would that include listening to bible stories, or maybe even stories from some of Pope Francis' writings—like "Laudato Si". And what about the "breaking of bread"? Is this an opportunity to teach about the Eucharist, how it follows the Passover meal, was celebrated in people's homes, how meals together are a very important part of many different cultures. Gosh, there's a month's worth of discussion coming from just one line of scripture.



St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

St. Ignatius Loyola Church
2309 Gaylord St
Denver, CO 80205

Phone: 303-322-8042
Fax: 303-322-2927
Email: parish@loyoladenver.org

Finding God in All Things

An interesting aside is to search the internet for “Colors in Christian Art”. If you have spent time looking at Christian Art or even Stained Glass in different churches, you may have noticed a bit of a pattern. Seems like there’s always Red and Blue. But did you notice that Mary is almost always dressed in Blue and Jesus almost always has a Red cloak or outer garment? Given that, what colors do you think represent divinity and what humanity? Why? And if Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit is Red, could there be a connection between the Red of the Holy Spirit and the Red of the apostles?

Spend some time with our windows and their colors and see if you can find the meaning of colors as expressed by the artists of our very own church.

Hint: <https://www.cumberlandstainedglass.com/what-does-the-color-in-your-stained-glass-window-represent/>

Picturing the Bible

While reading is one form of teaching the bible and stories another, we can’t pass up the power of art.



Many folks are paying more and more attention to art in the ways in which it teaches values or reinforces cultural stereotypes. This version of Pentecost obviously has Mary as a central figure. Acts 2:1 does not list who was part of the group gathered when the Spirit descends upon them as tongues of fire. You might want to ask yourself—what pictures are helpful in including your family as part of the stories of faith?

Certainly artists from different ethnic traditions will paint/draw/sculpt differently. They will express their understanding and interpretation will be

expressed in native colors, various dress and even the use of ethnic characters. How can art help you and your family realize that the story of salvation is a story that is world wide and includes a great variety of folks.



One of the more interesting church installations of recent times are the tapestries of the Los Angeles Cathedral. The artist, John Nava, was very intentional in using residents of Los Angeles as models for the saints in the tapestries. Included with the 135 saints are a



number of persons, including children, that compel us to imagine ourselves as part of this “Communion of Saints”. <http://www.olacathedral.org/cathedral/art/tapestries.html>

You might want to spend some internet time looking at art and how it might help you tell the story of Jesus.

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/praying-art>