

Questions of the Week

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YEAR C



The Pastoral Center

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ADVENT

The Advent and Christmas seasons are a wonderful time of year, full of expectation, hope, and joy. It is also a time when we see many people who may only come to church at a couple different times of year. There is a special opportunity for them and the whole community of believers to draw closer to Christ and his great message of mercy, love, and peace.



- ▶ Advent & Christmas Family Resources: <http://pastoral.center/advent-family>
- ▶ All Advent-Christmas Resources: <http://pastoral.center/advent-christmas>

NOV 28 • 1st Sunday of Advent **3**

The Habit of Prayer

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)



- ▶ Jeremiah 33:14-16 - Restoration of Jerusalem
- ▶ 1 Thess. 3:12-4:2 - Plea for growth in holiness
- ▶ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 - Coming of the son of man
- ▶ **Adults:** What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?
- ▶ **Kids:** What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?

DEC 5 • 2nd Sunday of Advent **6**

Prayer of Repentance

John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)



- ▶ Baruch 5:1-9 - Jerusalem consoled
- ▶ Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 - Gratitude and hope
- ▶ Luke 3:1-6 - John the Baptist
- ▶ **Adults:** In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?
- ▶ **Kids:** What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you

are sorry?

DEC 12 • 3rd Sunday of Advent **9**

The Joy of Kindness

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (Philippians 4:4-5)



- ▶ Zephaniah 3:14-18a - Promise of a savior
- ▶ Philippians 4:4-7 - Joy and peace
- ▶ Luke 3:10-18 - John calls the people to justice



- ▶ **Adults:** What might John the Baptist challenge you to do differently in your life?
- ▶ **Kids:** Do you have extras that you can share with others this week?

DEC 19 • 4th Sunday of Advent **12**

Obedience to God's Will

Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)



- ▶ Micah 5:1-4a - Restoration through the messiah
- ▶ Hebrews 10:5-10 - The second covenant
- ▶ Luke 1:39-45 - The visit to Elizabeth



- ▶ **Adults:** When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?
- ▶ **Kids:** When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

CHRISTMAS SEASON



- All Christmas Season resources: <http://pastoral.center/christmas>

DEC 25 • Nativity of the Lord 16

His own did not accept him. (John 1:10-11)



- Isaiah 52:7-10 - The one who brings glad tidings
- Hebrews 1:1-6 - God speaks through his Son
- John 1:1-18 - In the beginning was the Word
- **Adults:** If Jesus were to be born today, do you think you would accept him and follow him? Why or why not?
- **Kids:** What could you and your family do for others during the next week to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

DEC 26 • The Holy Family 17 *Respect for Elders*

Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. (Luke 2:51a)



- 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 - Samuel's birth
- 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 - We are children of God
- Luke 2:41-52 - The boy Jesus in the Temple
- **Adults:** How would you have reacted if you were Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the Temple?
- **Kids:** What do you think it was like for Jesus to be in the Temple for three days without his parents?

JAN 2 • Epiphany of the Lord 20

Overcoming Jealousy

Then Herod sent the [magi] to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." (Matthew 2:8)



- Isaiah 60:1-6 - Glory of the new Zion
- Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 - Commission to preach God's plan
- Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the magi



- **Adults:** When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?
- **Kids:** When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

JAN 9 • Baptism of the Lord 21

Pleasing to God

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:2)



- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 - The servant of the lord
- Acts 10:34-38 - Peter's discourse; the good news of peace
- Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 - Baptism of Jesus
- **Adults:** Do you think that God was "well pleased" by your actions in recent weeks? Why?
- **Kids:** What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?

ORDINARY TIME

JAN 16 • 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time **66**

Thinking of Others

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (Jn. 2:3)



- ▶ Isaiah 62:1-5 - Jerusalem the Lord's bride
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - Variety and unity
 - ▶ John 2:1-11 - The wedding at Cana
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* When have you stepped in, as Mary did at Cana, to try and make a difficult situation easier for someone?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What can you do this week to help make someone's job a little easier?

JAN 23 • 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **69**

Time Accepting Responsibility

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." (Luke 4:17b-18a)



- ▶ Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 - Ezra reads the law
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 - Analogy of the body
 - ▶ Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 - Beginning of Jesus' preaching
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* What do you believe that the anointing you received at baptism requires you to do?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What could you do this week for someone who has less than you?

JAN 30 • 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time **72**

Facing Rejection

They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. (Lk. 4:29-30)



- ▶ Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 - Prophet consecrated to god
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 - Love never fails
 - ▶ Luke 4:21-30 - Beginning of preaching; rejection by the townspeople
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* What do you do when a message you are trying to deliver "falls on deaf ears"?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Are there times when you have not listened as well as you could to what someone was telling you? Why didn't you?

FEB 6 • 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **75**

Stretching Our Limits

Simon Peter fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." (Lk. 5:8,10b)



- ▶ Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8 - Call of Isaiah
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - Christ's resurrection
 - ▶ Luke 5:1-11 - Call of the first disciples
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* When have you felt inadequate to a task or role you were given? How did you respond?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When have you been asked to do something you felt might be too hard for you? What did you do?

FEB 13 • 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time **78**

Reaching Out to Others

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Lk. 6:20)



- ▶ Jeremiah 17:5-8 - True wisdom
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 - The resurrection and faith
 - ▶ Luke 6:17, 20-26 - The great discourse
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* In what way are you serving the poor, as Jesus did?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When have you helped bring God's love to someone who was sad, or hungry, or whom others made fun of?

FEB 20 • 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time **81**

In Another's Shoes

Jesus said, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." (Lk. 6:27-28)



- ▶ 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 - Saul's life spared; Saul admits his guilt
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 - The natural and the spiritual body
 - ▶ Luke 6:27-38 - Love of one's enemy
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* What has allowed you to overcome obstacles and forgive someone who has hurt you?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When has it been hard to forgive someone who hurt you? What did you do?

FEB 27 • 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time **84**

Authentic Living

Jesus said, "How can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye?" (Lk. 6:42a)



- ▶ Sirach 27:5-8 - All tested by their speech
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 - Glorification of the body
 - ▶ Luke 6:39-45 - All known by their works
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* When have you most felt like a hypocrite? How did you overcome this feeling?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Is it a good thing or a bad thing to act differently from what you are really feeling? Why?

LENT

The Lenten season is a great opportunity to help families be particularly intentional about their faith journey. During this time, we take concrete steps to pray, fast, and give alms as we follow the way of the cross. Help your families start the season well and decide together how they want to observe it this year.



- ▶ Lenten Family Resources: <http://pastoral.center/lent-families>
- ▶ All Lenten Resources: <http://pastoral.center/lent>

MAR 6 • 1st Sunday of Lent 24

Salvation Through Faith

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13)



- ▶ Deuteronomy 26:4-10 - Thanksgiving for the lord's goodness
- ▶ Romans 10:8-13 - The faith of the Christian
- ▶ Luke 4:1-13 - Temptation in the desert
- ▶ **Adults:** How willing are you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ openly to others?
- ▶ **Kids:** Would you still be able to say that you believe in Jesus if others made fun of you for it?



MAR 13 • 2nd Sunday of Lent

27

Transformed by Christ

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:20)



- ▶ Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 - The covenant with Abram
- ▶ Philippians 3:17-4:1 - Christ our goal
- ▶ Luke 9:28b-36 - Jesus transfigured
- ▶ **Adults:** How are your priorities affected by your faith in Jesus Christ?
- ▶ **Kids:** When you have important choices to make, do you and your family pray to make the right choice?



MAR 20 • 3rd Sunday of Lent 30

Tempered With Humility

The reign of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches. (Lk. 13:19b)



- ▶ Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 - The call of Moses
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 - Against overconfidence
- ▶ Luke 13:1-9 - Calls to penance; parables of the Reign of God
- ▶ **Adults:** What important work could bear fruit in your life right now if you have more confidence in God's loving care?
- ▶ **Kids:** What great work would you like to do as you grow older? What can you do to begin now?



Scrutinies (Year A Readings) 28

Source of Strength

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)



- ▶ Exodus 17:3-7 - Water from the rock
- ▶ Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 - Faith, hope, and love
- ▶ John 4:5-42 - The Samaritan woman at the well
- ▶ **Adults:** Where have you found a source of "living water" for your own journey of faith?
- ▶ **Kids:** Name some times when your belief in Jesus helped make you stronger.



MAR 27 • 4th Sunday of Lent 33

A Generous Spirit

Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:31–32)



- ▶ Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 - Rites at Gilgal
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - A new creation
- ▶ Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 - The prodigal son
- ▶ **Adults:** When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt you deeply?
- ▶ **Kids:** Is there someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness of?

Scrutinies (Year A Readings) 31

Source of Light

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as Children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5:8–9)



- ▶ 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a - Samuel anoints David
- ▶ Ephesians 5:8-14 - Duty to live in the light
- ▶ John 9:1-41 - The man born blind
- ▶ **Adults:** What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?
- ▶ **Kids:** How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see?

APR 3 • 5th Sunday of Lent 36

False Pride

Jesus straightened up and said, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (Jn. 8:7)



- ▶ Isaiah 43:16-21 - Promise of restoration
- ▶ Philippians 3:8-14 - Breaking with the past
- ▶ John 8:1-11 - The adulteress



- ▶ **Adults:** Have you ever been too willing to "cast the first stone" when you disapproved of someone's behavior? How can you resist these feelings?
- ▶ **Kids:** When have you criticized or made fun of someone? What could help you act differently?

Scrutinies (Year A Readings) 34

Life Everlasting

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25–26)



- ▶ Ezekiel 37:12-14 - Prophecy of restoration
- ▶ Romans 8:8-11 - The flesh and the Spirit
- ▶ John 11:1-45 - The raising of Lazarus



- ▶ **Adults:** Christ calls us from death to new life. To what new life are you being called during this Lent?
- ▶ **Kids:** How does Jesus help you do what is good and avoid what is not?

APR 10 • Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 37-38

Love and Betrayal

The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." (Luke 22:61)



- ▶ Luke 19:28-40 - Welcomed with palms
- ▶ Isaiah 50:4-7 - Salvation only through the Lord's servant
- ▶ Philippians 2:6-11 - Jesus, compassionate high priest
- ▶ Luke 22:14-23-23:56 - The passion of Jesus
- ▶ **Adults:** When have you felt that you betrayed the confidence of another, as Peter did when he denied Jesus?
- ▶ **Kids:** When have you let someone down who trusted you? How did you feel?
- ▶ *52 Interactive Bible Stories* • PW100
 - ▶ p. 56: Mary: Offered Her Ointment
 - ▶ p. 58: Holy Week: Day by Day
 - ▶ p. 60: Holy Week: Events and Emotions
- ▶ *Experience the Saints: Volume 2* • PW202
 - ▶ St. Clare: "Palm" Palm Branches
- ▶ *Fun Bible Skits 2* • MM9345
 - ▶ Jesus Enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Lk. 19:28-40)
- ▶ *Teaching Kids to Care* • TT852524
 - ▶ 24: Trustworthiness
- ▶ *Resurrection Eggs: Learning Tool for Holy Week* • IC6512
 - ▶ See also: Holy Thursday, Good Friday



APR 14 • Holy Thursday 39

Called to Serve

Jesus said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (Jn. 13:14-15)



- ▶ Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 - The Passover ritual prescribed
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - The Lord's Supper
- ▶ John 13:1-15 - The washing of the feet
- ▶ **Adults:** What is the most difficult thing you have done as a service to another person?
- ▶ **Kids:** What is the hardest thing you have ever done for another person who needed your help?

APR 15 • Good Friday 40

Perfection through Suffering

When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. (Is. 53:10)



- ▶ Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - Suffering and triumph of the servant of the Lord
- ▶ Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 - Jesus, compassionate high priest
- ▶ John 18:1-19:42 - The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ **Adults:** Can you say that you have grown through your experiences of physical or emotional suffering? Why or why not?
- ▶ **Kids:** How can the story of Jesus' suffering make it easier for you to face something painful or uncomfortable?

EASTER SEASON

As Catholics, we put so much emphasis on the Lenten Season and Triduum that the Easter Season can feel like an after-thought. Help families revel in the stories of the Risen Christ and the early church, and what it all means for them today.



- ▶ Easter Family Resources: <http://pastoral.center/easter-families>
- ▶ All Easter Resources: <http://pastoral.center/easter>

APR 17 • Easter Sunday 29

Made New by Christ

Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. (1 Cor. 5:7)



- ▶ Acts 10:34a, 37-43 - Peter's discourse
- ▶ Colossians 3:1-4 - Mystical death and resurrection
- ▶ John 20:1-9 - Peter and the disciple at the tomb
- ▶ **Adults:** What change could the hope of the resurrection of Christ inspire you to make?
- ▶ **Kids:** What bad habit would you like to "clear out" during the hopeful time of this Easter season?

APR 24 • 2nd Sunday of Easter

45

Living Without Fear

He placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever." (Rev. 1:17b-18a)



- ▶ Acts 5:12-16 - Signs and wonders
- ▶ Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 - First vision
- ▶ John 20:19-31 - Appearance to the disciples; Thomas
- ▶ **Adults:** When has your faith in the living Christ helped you overcome fear?
- ▶ **Kids:** What could you do this Easter season to help someone feel less afraid?

MAY 1 • 3rd Sunday of Easter

48

Feed My Sheep

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15)



- ▶ Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 - Disciples' second trial before the Sanhedrin
- ▶ Revelation 5:11-14 - Praise to the lamb
- ▶ John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14 - Appearance at the Sea of Tiberias
- ▶ **Adults:** In what ways are you answering Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep"?
- ▶ **Kids:** What do you do to take care of others as Jesus asked Peter to do?

MAY 8 • 4th Sunday of Easter 51

Protected by Christ

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28)



- ▶ Acts 13:14, 43-52 - Paul's and Barnabas' address to the gentiles
- ▶ Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 - Rejoicing of the elect of every nation
- ▶ John 10:27-30 - Words at the feast of the dedication of the Temple
- ▶ **Adults:** Whom do you try to protect as Christ protects you?
- ▶ **Kids:** Who helps you feel safe and protected? Whom can you take care of and help feel safe?

Mother's Day



- ▶ Resources for mothers: <http://pastoral.center/moms>
- ▶ Resources for women: <http://pastoral.center/women>

MAY 15 • 5th Sunday of Easter 54

Love One Another

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (Jn. 13:34)



- ▶ Acts 14:21-27 - End of the first mission
 - ▶ Revelation 21:1-5a - New heavens and new earth
 - ▶ John 13:31-33a, 34-35 - A new commandment
-
-
- ▶ *Adults:* When have you seen the power of love overcome a bad situation?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Do you believe love is stronger than hate? Why?

MAY 22 • 6th Sunday of Easter

57

Keeping Jesus' Word

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (Jn. 14:23)



- ▶ Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 - Letter of the apostles to the gentiles
 - ▶ Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 - The new Jerusalem
 - ▶ John 14:23-29 - Last discourse; faithfulness to God's word
-
-
- ▶ *Adults:* What difference has it made in your life when you made a decision in accord with Jesus' teachings?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When will you have to make a decision this week? What will help you make a good decision?

MAY 26 OR 29 • Ascension of the Lord 58

The Gift of Wisdom

[T]hat the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. (Ephesians 1:17)



- ▶ Acts 1:1-11 - The Ascension of Jesus
 - ▶ Ephesians 1:17-23 - A Spirit of wisdom
 - ▶ Luke 24:46-53 - The Ascension
-
-
- ▶ *Adults:* Who in your family has the gift of wisdom? How does he or she use this gift?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Who is the wisest person you know? What has he or she taught you?

MAY 29 • 7th Sunday of Easter

61

Prayer for Others

Jesus prayed, "I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." (Jn. 17:20-21)



- ▶ Acts 7:55-60 - Stephen's martyrdom
- ▶ Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 - Blessed are those who follow the Lamb
- ▶ John 17:20-26 - Prayer for all believers



- ▶ *Adults & Kids:* What are some of the most important things to ask of God?

JUN 5 • Pentecost 63

Gifts for Service

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord. (1 Cor. 12:4-5)



- ▶ Acts 2:1-11 - Descent of the Holy Spirit
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 - Many gifts, one Spirit, and the analogy of the body
 - ▶ John 20:19-23 - Appearance to the disciples
 - ▶ or John 14:15-16, 23b-26 - The Advocate
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* What gift of service have you received from the Holy Spirit and how well are you using it right now?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What gift do you hope to receive from the Holy Spirit? How could you use it to serve others?

ORDINARY TIME

JUN 12 • Holy Trinity 166

The Spirit of Truth

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (Jn. 16:12-13a)



- ▶ Proverbs 8:22-31 - The discourse of wisdom
 - ▶ Romans 5:1-5 - Faith, hope, and love
 - ▶ John 16:12-15 - Coming of the paraclete
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* In what difficult situation has the Holy Spirit helped you see more clearly?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What kind of decision can the Holy Spirit help you with?

Father's Day



- ▶ Resources for fathers: <http://pastoral.center/dads>
- ▶ Resources for men: <http://pastoral.center/men>

JUN 19 • Body and Blood of Christ 169

True Authority

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things... (Mk. 14:22)



- ▶ Genesis 14:18-20 - The priest Melchizedek
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - The Eucharist
 - ▶ Luke 9:11b-17 - Feeding the 5,000
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* Have you had an experience of not having enough of some gift or grace, then receiving more than enough? What happened?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What do you have a little of that you can share with someone who has less?

JUN 26 • 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 99

Don't Look Back

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Lk. 9:61-62)



- ▶ 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21 - Call of Elisha
 - ▶ Galatians 5:1, 13-18 - Proper use of freedom
 - ▶ Luke 9:51-62 - The apostles' requirements
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* When have you faltered or looked back during your journey of faith?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What can you do to be a stronger follower of Jesus this week?

JUL 3 • 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time **102**

Accepting the Christian Message

Jesus said to the disciples, "Whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'" (Lk. 10:10-11)



- ▶ Isaiah 66:10-14c - Mother Zion
 - ▶ Galatians 6:14-18 - The Cross, our true boast
 - ▶ Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 - Mission of the 72
-
-
- ▶ *Adults:* Where do you see the message of Christian faith being rejected in the world today? What is your response to that?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What can you do when you are generous with others, and they do not want what you give them?

JUL 10 • 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time **105**

Acting With Mercy

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Lk. 10:33-34)



- ▶ Deuteronomy 30:10-14 - God's command clear
 - ▶ Colossians 1:15-20 - Christ's fullness and reconciliation
 - ▶ Luke 10:25-37 - The good Samaritan
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- ▶ *Adults:* When have you gone out of your way to help a stranger in need?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Would you help a new student who needed help? Why or why not?

JUL 17 • 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time **108**

Holy Visitors

Jesus said to Martha, "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Lk. 10:42)



- ▶ Genesis 18:1-10a - Abraham's visitors
 - ▶ Colossians 1:24-28 - The mystery: Christ in us
 - ▶ Luke 10:38-42 - Martha and Mary
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- ▶ *Adults:* Which response to God's call is more natural to you—prayer or action? Why?
 - ▶ *Kids:* In the past week, when have you prayed and when have you done good things for others? Which could you do better?

JUL 24 • 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time **111**

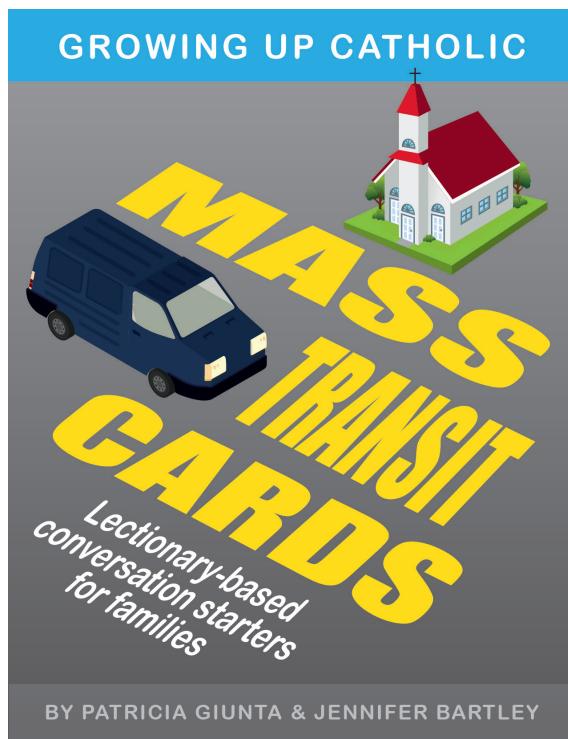
Daily Prayer

Jesus said, "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Lk. 11:9)



- ▶ Genesis 18:20-32 - Abraham intercedes for Sodom
 - ▶ Colossians 2:12-14 - Sovereign role of Christ
 - ▶ Luke 11:1-13 - The Our Father
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- ▶ *Adults:* Have your most recent prayers been prayers of praise, petition, or sorrow? Which kind of prayer do you need to practice more often?
 - ▶ *Kids:* What are you most thankful for right now?

Help Your Families Reflect On Their Way to and from Mass Each Week



Growing Up Catholic Mass Transit Cards

Lectionary-based conversation starters for families

- Includes a card for each Sunday in the catechetical year, with a reflection, questions, and a short prayer.
- Developed and tuned for years at an Illinois parish.
- Hold weekly prize drawings in class to encourage their use. We've tried, and it works!
- Downloadable, reproducible, and affordable.
- Learn more at <http://pastoral.center/mass-transit-cards>

JUL 31 • 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time **114**

Seeking Balance

And Jesus said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15)



- ▶ Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 - On vanity
- ▶ Col 3:1-5, 9-11 - Mystical death and resurrection
- ▶ Luke 12:13-21 - Trust in God, not in possessions

- ▶ **Adults:** When have you felt that possessions were becoming too important in your life?
- ▶ **Kids:** Have you ever received a gift you wanted a lot and then found it didn't make you as happy as you thought it would?



AUG 7 • 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time **117**

Running the Race of Faith

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2a)



- ▶ Wisdom 18:6-9 - On the death of the egyptian first-born
- ▶ Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12 - Faith of the ancients
- ▶ Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40 - We depend on god; prepare for the master's return

- ▶ **Adults:** Other than Jesus, which of the ancestors of Christian faith has served as the greatest example to you? Why?
- ▶ **Kids:** Which person of the Bible has been a good example to you of how to live?



AUG 14 • 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time **120**

An Unsettling Truth

Jesus said, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" (Luke 12:51)



- ▶ Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 - Jeremiah in the miry cistern
- ▶ Hebrews 12:1-4 - God's treatment of his sons and daughters
- ▶ Luke 12:49-53 - Jesus' mission of division

- ▶ **Adults:** When has your taking a strong stand on a moral issue created division rather than healing in the short term?
- ▶ **Kids:** Is it important to do the right thing even if others are angry as a result? Why or why not?



AUG 21 • 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time **123**

The Narrow Door

Jesus answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able." (Luke 13:24)



- ▶ Isaiah 66:18-21 - Gathering of the nations
- ▶ Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 - The discipline of god
- ▶ Luke 13:22-30 - The narrow door

- ▶ **Adults:** What daily choices are you making that will allow you to be recognized at the doorway of the reign of God?
- ▶ **Kids:** What good habits are you practicing in order to be a good Christian?

AUG 28 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 126

Seeking Humility

Jesus said, "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:13-14)



- ▶ Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 - Humility
 - ▶ Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a - God the judge; jesus the mediator
 - ▶ Luke 14:1, 7-14 - A lesson in humility
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- ?
- ▶ Adults: Has the hunger for status and influence in the world around you endangered your life as a Christian?
 - ▶ Kids: Does it make you a better person to be chosen first for a team or some other honor? Why or why not?

SEP 4 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 129

Discerning God's Will

For who can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail. (Wisdom 9:13-14)



- ▶ Wisdom 9:13-18b - Solomon's prayer
 - ▶ Philemon 9-10, 12-17 - Plea for onesimus
 - ▶ Luke 14:25-33 - Sayings on discipleship
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- ?
- ▶ Adults: How do you try to discover what God is asking of you?
 - ▶ Kids: When is it hard for you to know the right thing to do? Who helps you know?

SEP 11 • 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 132

The Courage to Forgive

The servant replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. (Luke 15:27-28)



- ▶ Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 - The golden calf
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 1:12-17 - Paul's gratitude
 - ▶ Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10 - The prodigal son
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- ?
- ▶ Adults: When have you persistently sought after a member of your family who has lost his or her way?
 - ▶ Kids: Have you ever felt you were not getting credit for your good works? What did you do?

SEP 18 • 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 135

The Value of Honesty

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)



- ▶ Amos 8:4-7 - Against greed
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 2:1-8 - Conduct of men and women
 - ▶ Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13 - The dishonest steward
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- ?
- ▶ Adults: Can cheating and deception ever be justified?
 - ▶ Kids: If someone treats you unfairly, do you have the right to do the same to them?

SEP 25 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 138

The Rich and the Poor

There was a rich man and at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table. (Luke 16:19-21)



- ▶ Amos 6:1a, 4-7 - Third woe
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 6:11-16 - The good fight of faith
 - ▶ Luke 16:19-31 - The rich man and Lazarus
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- ?
- ▶ Adults: What are the "rewards" of caring for the needs of the poor?
 - ▶ Kids: What is one thing you and your family could do this week to help those who are poor or sick?

OCT 2 • 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time **141**

Faithful Christians

Jesus said, "So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'" (Luke 17:10)



- ▶ Habb 1:2-3; 2:2-4 - Habakkuk's complaint
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 - Exhortation to faithfulness
 - ▶ Luke 17:5-10 - Sayings on the requirements of faith
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- ▶ *Adults:* When have you done more than was required of you in the service of others?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When have you done something extra for someone in your family without being asked? What did you learn from this?



OCT 9 • 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **144**

Saying Thank You

Then one of the lepers, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. (Luke 17:15-16)



- ▶ 2 Kings 5:14-17 - Elisha's cure of naaman
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 2:8-13 - Paul's faithfulness to the gospel
 - ▶ Luke 17:11-19 - Ten lepers
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- ▶ *Adults:* Whose generosity do you tend to take for granted? How will you change this?
 - ▶ *Kids:* When have you failed to say thank you? Why does this matter?



OCT 16 • 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **147**

Taking Responsibility

For a while the judge refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out..." (Luke 18:4-5)



- ▶ Exodus 17:8-13 - Battle with amalek
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2 - Apostolic charge
 - ▶ Luke 18:1-8 - The corrupt judge
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- ▶ *Adults:* Whose needs might you be failing to listen to right now?
 - ▶ *Kids:* How often do you put off chores until you are forced to do them? Who is hurt by such a decision?



OCT 23 • 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time **150**

The Reward of Humility

"All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)



- ▶ Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 - The god of justice
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 - Reward for fidelity
 - ▶ Luke 18:9-14 - The pharisee and the tax collector
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- ▶ *Adults:* When have you felt self-satisfied in observing the mistakes of others? What should we remember at such times?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Have you ever thought you were better than someone else? What is the problem with such thoughts?

OCT 30 • 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 153

Welcoming the Sinner

And Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." (Luke 19:9-10)



- ▶ Wisdom 11:22—12:2 - Digression on god's mercy
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2 - Exhortation to faithfulness
 - ▶ Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus the tax collector
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* During the next week, what could you do to welcome someone who usually feels excluded?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Is there a child in your class or neighborhood who is left out of games and activities? What can you do?

NOV 6 • 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 156

The Dead Will Rise

"Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive." (Luke 20:37-38)



- ▶ 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 - Martyrdom of a mother and her sons
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5 - The gospel versus empty fables
 - ▶ Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38 - The resurrection of the dead
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* How does your belief in the resurrection of the dead affect the way you live?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Has someone in your family or among your friends died? Do you think about that person in heaven? What do you hope to talk about with this person?

NOV 13 • 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 159

Overcoming Difficulties

Jesus said, "You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls." (Luke 21:17-19)



- ▶ Malachi 3:19-20a - Messenger of the covenant
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 - Qualifications of various ministers
 - ▶ Luke 21:5-19 - The cataclysm to come
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* When bad things happen, how do you deal with them?
 - ▶ *Kids:* Have you ever worried about something that might happen? What can help you worry less?

NOV 20 • Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 162

A King Above All



- ▶ 2 Samuel 5:1-3 - David anointed king
 - ▶ Colossians 1:12-20 - Christ is before and above all things
 - ▶ Luke 23:35-43 - The crucified king
-
- ?
- ▶ *Adults:* In what ways is Jesus the ruler of your life?
 - ▶ *Kids:* How can you show that you honor Jesus as the king of your life?