

NATIONAL WEEK
FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY
MAY 12 - 19, 2019

SUNDAY
May 12

Celebrating as a Family at home

Gather images of sheep (stuffed animals, figurines, pictures, etc.) and display them at the family gathering area.

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 10:27-30)

Jesus said:

"My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.
No one can take them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all,
and no one can take them out of the Father's hand.
The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- What do you think Jesus means when he says "My sheep hear my voice?"
- Who are the sheep?
- Jesus promises eternal life to those who follow him. Any thoughts on that?
- "The Father and I are one". What does that mean (exploring the mystery of the Trinity)?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our family. Open our hearts so that we can see and appreciate each other for who we are. Amen

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.



DIOCESE OF CALGARY
CalgaryDiocese.ca

Celebrating as a Family at home

Find a picture of Jesus, the good shepherd. Print it and display it at the family gathering.

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John10:1-10)

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by the name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- What is a sheepfold?
- Telling the Pharisees this parable, Jesus calls those who enter by another way into the sheepfold than through the gate thieves and bandits. Who does he refer to as the thieves and bandits (the disciples, the Pharisees, the larger crowd)? Pick one!
- Jesus talks about the sheep who recognize the shepherd's voice and follow him. Who is the shepherd?
- Then Jesus calls himself the gate. He says that whoever enters by him will be saved. Let's reflect on that.
- Children's activity: pick a theme from this gospel and draw a picture.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, bestow peace and love within our family and help us to be true witnesses to those around us. Amen

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Celebrating as a Family at home

Prepare a small banner that reads "This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you" and place it in the family gathering area.

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (15:9-17)

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you: abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- Today the gospel focuses on love. God loves us unconditionally. What is unconditional love?
- Whom are we called to love? Make a list and read it out loud at the end of the discussion.
- Jesus wants us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. What does he mean by that?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you said to your disciples to "love one another as I love you". Today we ask you to grant us the capacity to love one another beyond measure. Amen

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Celebrating as a Family at home

Light a candle for the duration of the family gathering!

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 12:44-50)

Although Jesus had performed so many signs in the presence of the people, they did not believe in him. Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness." "I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- Jesus keeps telling the people that he and the Father are one. They don't believe it because they don't understand. Sometimes we don't understand. This is where faith comes in. As a family, make the Profession of Faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed together: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen
- Jesus said that he came as light into the world and everyone who believes in him will not remain in darkness. Can you name situations from the Bible where God's light overcame darkness?
- Jesus said that he came to save the world. What did he mean by that and how did it happen?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world, one with the Father. Help us to grow closer to understanding your will for us as individuals and as a family. Amen.

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Celebrating as a Family at home

Each family member will write on a piece of paper at least one "act of service" (taking out the trash, cleaning a room in the house, doing the dishes, leading the prayer before the meals, etc.) that they will do over the next three days as a contribution to the family. Younger children might need assistance with that.

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 13:16-20)

After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples, he returned to the table and said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

"I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He demonstrates that the servant is not greater than the master and urges them to serve each other. This is an important lesson for all of us. How can each family member contribute to supporting each other?
- How can we as a family make a difference in our community?
- At the same time Jesus gives the first warning that there is one among them to whom these words will not apply. He prepares them for the betrayal by Judas. Jesus' sacrifice will mark the ultimate act of service to all of us. Talk about Jesus' life on earth.

Closing Prayer: Thank you Jesus for reminding us of the importance of serving one another. Amen.

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Celebrating as a Family at home

In my Father's House there are many dwelling places." What could it look like? Create a centre piece for your family gathering that resembles dwelling places (drawing, building blocks, etc.).

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 14:1-6)

Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. During the supper he said to his disciples: "do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- Jesus promised to take care of his disciples just like a father or a mother in a family do because they want to make sure that their children get what they need. What are such needs?
- What is the difference between needs and wants?
- When Jesus said that he would go and prepare a place for the disciples and then come back and get them, did they really listen? How important is it to listen what somebody else says and why?
- When we pray, do we also listen?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach us to listen to each other. Help us to be more attentive to each other, and above all, teach us to listen more closely to you. Amen.

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

NATIONAL WEEK
FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY
MAY 12 - 19, 2019

SATURDAY

May 18

Celebrating as a Family at home

Believe – Create a poster displaying the word BELIEVE..

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 14:7-14)

Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. During the supper he said to his disciples: "If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- The disciples are still puzzled when Jesus talks about the Father and him being one and Philip asks Jesus to show him the Father. In the eyes of the Jewish authorities Jesus' words are blasphemous. How can a man claim to be one with God? However, this statement is a central claim of our Christian faith. Jesus is God. Why did Jesus come down to earth?
- Jesus keeps emphasizing that those who believe in him will do great work. If we believe in something we strive to accelerate in what we do. Looking around our family, can we point to each other and recognize what somebody does very well?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, never cease to believe in us as we promise to believe in you. We don't fully understand with our mind everything about you, but we know in our hearts that you are the Son of God. Amen.

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.



DIOCESE OF CALGARY
CalgaryDiocese.ca

NATIONAL WEEK
FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY
MAY 12 - 19, 2019

SUNDAY

May 19

Celebrating as a Family at home

Lay out a table cloths at your gathering space and place a loaf of bread and some wine (or juice) on top of it..

Leader: Let us begin with the prayer for families.

God our Loving Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may encounter your Son Jesus, the Eternal Word, as we contemplate your saving Gospel message. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Transform our families through the same Gospel so that we may radiate with joy your saving truth and be a sign of your loving presence to a world that is in need of the Good News. Amen.

(After a brief moment of silence, another family member reads the gospel)

Reader: : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 13:1, 31-33a, 34-35)

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. "Little children, I am with you only a little longer. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Family Discussion

- Every year on Holy Thursday we experience the significance of the Last Supper. Recall what actually happens (you might want to distribute the bread and wine or juice among the family members during the discussion).
- Jesus uses the occasion to give his disciples a new commandment – love one another as I have loved you. How much clearer can it be said? Imagine what kind of a world we would live in if we would all follow that commandment!

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, fill us we pray with your love and enable us to love others in the same way you love us. Amen.

Prepared by Gabriele Kalincak, Diocese of Calgary

Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities of the CCCB © 1992, 2009, Concacan Inc. and the Lectionary Weekdays © 1993, Concacan, Inc. The lectionaries are based on the NRSV of the Bible © 1989, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.



DIOCESE OF CALGARY
CalgaryDiocese.ca