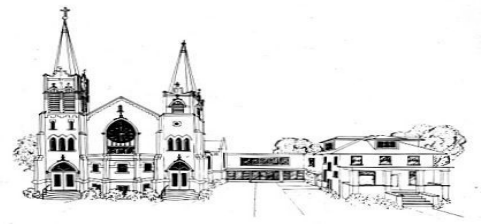


Faith At Home

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday



Remembrance of Baptism

A family practice

Get a small bowl of water.

Read one of these stories:

Genesis 9:8-17

Exodus 14:15-31

Luke 4:21-22

Romans 6:1-11

Dip your finger in the bowl, make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads, and say, "Remember, you are a baptized Child of God."

The Apostles' Creed

Unified in our baptism, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 the life everlasting. Amen

Praying

A family practice

Have every member of the family write a prayer to God, naming one of the following themes:

Creation

Those who are sick

Those dealing with the fears of the pandemic

Those dealing with the loss of loved ones

Those serving in the military

Those serving in positions of leadership

Are there other concerns you need to name?

After you write these prayers share them aloud with one another.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

This Week In God's Word — Easter Sunday

Hearing God's Word

Take time as a family to open the Bible and read these stories together. Take turns reading. Do not be afraid of words, like names, that you are unfamiliar with. Say it like you mean it.

The First Reading Acts 10:34-43

Peter is giving a sermon in the home of Cornelius, he is explaining how Christ's resurrection changes everything we know about how God relates to everyone.

The Psalm Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

The Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Christ resurrection changes our perspective and how we are to think and live.

The Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Two women arrive at the tomb and are startled by the news Jesus is risen. Their testimony to the disciples changes everything.

A time of blessing

When you have spent your time together, praying and listening to God's Word, take a moment to bless one another:

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Family Check-In Time

Give each other time to share

What signs of new life can you see from your home?

What gives you hope in the midst of quarantine?

Insights from Scripture

On the first Easter morning, women came to the tomb to finish the burial process. They had concerns, like how to get into the tomb. They had concerns, like why what to say to the guard. But suddenly an earthquake happened. Suddenly the tomb was open and the guard was so frightened they all fainted. Suddenly the path was open for the women to experience the resurrection of Jesus.

An angel gave them the message to tell the disciples. We are told they ran away feeling both scared and joy. And then they met Jesus, who couldn't wait for the women to go to the men. Jesus had to stop everything and see them first.

How does news that Jesus is alive give us the feelings of fright and joy? Are there other feelings we might experience?

How does Jesus stop everything (ruling the whole universe) to see us and be a personal Lord to us?

Remembering Jesus when we eat

On Sunday, when you gather as a family for a meal, it can be appropriate to remember Jesus as you eat. This is not a replacement of Holy Communion, but telling the story reminds us that Jesus is with the whole Church, even as we are not gathered at the altar in our sanctuary.

Read these verses, say your dinner prayer, then eat in the joy of the Lord's presence.

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."