

Faith At Home

Sunday, May 17, 6th Sunday of Easter



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 — 6th Sunday of Easter

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 17:22-31

Paul preaches in Athens, appealing to their knowledge of an unknown God to proclaim the God of Israel as the one true God.

The Psalm Psalm 66:8-20

The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

Peter encourages faithfulness as a response to God, even when suffering

The Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus promises another Advocate from God, one who will help guide and lead us after Jesus has ascended.

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:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

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

Amen.

Family Check-In Time

The school year is ending. Take a moment to reflect with kids on what it was like to end the school year the way we did. What was the biggest thing they missed?

Insights from Scripture

As we are nearing the end of the Easter season, we are ramping up to the Season of Pentecost. Jesus lets his disciples know that after he is gone, the Father will send another Advocate, someone to help us understand everything Jesus has taught and will continue to teach. We call this Advocate the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us, ending the separation between us and God, opening our hearts to receive forgiveness, and leading us to the holy living. Oh, and the Advocate teaches us to become the Advocate for someone else. See, the Advocate Jesus speaks of is not only the Holy Spirit, but also future disciples—we are advocates today. We are ones who intercede for others, we are the ones who help people see they are not separated from God. We are the ones who can proclaim forgiveness. We are the ones who can help lead others in holy living.

Perhaps you didn't realize that God was calling you to the role of advocate. How do you think God wants you to live as an advocate today?

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."