



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

July & August 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

July and August, are the summer vacation is a good opportunity to take the children out to have fun, while they learn about all the things God, the Father, created for us, by love. Emphasize the importance of prayer.

We have a lot activities for the month of July and August go to our web page. www.fcpeace.com
Have a nice summer.

Enclosed you will find some feast and saints of this month:

July 01	Blessed Junipero Serra	August 4	St John Vianney
July 03	Saint Thomas	August 6	The Transfiguration
July 04	Independence Day	August 12	Saint Claire
July 14	St Katerina Tekakwitha	August 15	The Assumption
July 16	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	August 22	Mary Our Queen
July 25	St James Apostle	August 23	St Rose of Lima
July 26	St Joachim and Anne	August 27	St Monica
July 29	St Martha	August 28	St Augustine
July 31	St Ignatius Loyola		

Enclosed Materials:

- a) Gospel of the Month July & August
- b) July & August calendars
- c) Prayer
- d) Pure Hearts-Joyful Hearts
- e) We are members of the Church
- f) Blessed Virgin Mary
- g) St Monica & Saint Augustine
- h) We can always talk to God

Suggested Videos:

- 1) Creation (SHC)
- 2) The Good Samaritan
- 3) Prayer(SHC)
- 4) Mary Magdalene

We are planning our next VIII Congress of the Friends of Jesus and Mary from June 19 to June 22 2014 in Nicaragua, Central America. We invite all to make plans to attend.

May God bless you.

Friends of Jesus and Mary

FLORIDA

9779 S.W. 72ND St. – Miami, FL 33173 – Tel: (305) 412-1777 – E-mail: amigo_jym_miami@fcpeace.com
Webpage: www.fcpeace.com



July 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Gn 18, 16-33 Psalm 102 Mt 8, 18-22	2 Gn 19, 15-29 Psalm 25 Mt 8, 23-27	3 ST THOMAS APOSTLE Eph 2, 19-22 Psalm 116 Jn 20, 24-29	4 INDPENDE DAY (USA) Gn 22, 1-19 Psalm 114 Mt 9, 1-8	5 FIRST FRIDAY Gn 23, 1-4,19, 24, 1-8 Psalm 105 Mt 9, 9-13	6 FIRST SATURDAY ST. MARIA GORETTI Gn 27, 1-5, 15-29 Psalm 134 Mt 9, 14-17
7 XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 66, 10-14 Psalm 65 Ga 6, 14-18 Lk 10, 1-12.17-20	8 SAINT ISAIAS Gn 28, 10-22a Psalm 90 Mt 9, 18-26	9 Eph 1, 3-6. 11-12 Psalm 112 Lk 11, 27-28	10 Gn 41, 55-57,42 Psalm 32 Mt 10, 1-7	11 ST BENEDICT Gn 55, 18-21 Psalm 104 Mt 10, 7-15	12 Gn 46, 1-7 28-30 Psalm 36 Mt 10, 16-23	13 ST HENRY Gn 49, 29-32,50.15-26 Psalm 104 Mt 10, 24-33
14 XV SUNDAY in Ordinary Time Dt 30, 10-14 Psalm 68 LK 10, 25-37	15 ST BONAVENTURE Ex 1, 8-14.22 Psalm 123 Mt 10, 34-11,1	16 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL Ex 2, 1-15a Psalm 68 Mt 11, 20-24	17 Ex 3, 1-6.9-12 Psalm 102 Mt 11, 25-27	18 Ex 3, 13-20 Psalm 104 Mt 11, 28-30	19 Ex 11, 10-12,14 Psalm 115 Mt 12, 1-8	20 Ex 12, 37-42 Psalm 135 Mt 12, 14-21
21 XVI Sunday in Ordinary time Gn 18, 1-10a Psalm 14 Col 1, 24-28 Lk 10, 38-42	22 ST MARY MAGDALENE Sgs 3, 1-4a Psalm 62 Jn 20, 1-2.11-18	23 ST BRIDGET Ex 14, 21-15,1 Psalm/Ex 15, 8-10 Mt 12, 46-50	24 Ex 16, 1-5. 9-15 Psalm 77 Mt 13, 1-9	25 ST JAMES APOSTLE Acts 4, 33: 5, 12.27-33 Psalm 66 Mt 20, 20-28	26 ST JOAQUIN & ST. ANNE Ex 20, 1-17 Psalm 18 Mt 13, 18-23	27 Ex 24, 3-8 Psalm 49 Mt 13, 24-30
28 XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time Gn 18, 20-32 Psalm 137 Col 2, 12-14 Lk 11, 1-13	29 ST MARTA Ex 32, 15-24.30-34 Psalm 105 Lk 10, 38-42	30 Ex 33, 7-11; 34, 5b-9.28 Psalm 102 Mt 13, 36-43	31 ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA Ex 34, 29-35 Psalm 98 Mt 13, 44-46			
NOTES:						

FLORIDA



August 2013

DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIERCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES	SABADO
				1 S. ALFONSUS LIGUORI Ex 40, 16-21 Psalm 83 Mt 13, 47-53	2 FIRST FRIDAY LV 23, 14-11.15-16 Psalm 80 Mt 13, 54-58	3 FIRST SATURDAY Lv 25, 1.8-17 Psalm 66 Mt 14, 1-12
4 XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time Eclos 1, 2;2,21-23 Psalm 38 Col 3, 1-5 Lk 12, 13-21	5 Nu 11, 4b-15 Psalm 80 Mt 14, 13-21	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Dn 7, 9-10/2p 1, 16-19 Psalm 96 Lk 9, 28b-36	7 Nu 13, 1-2.25-14 Psalm 105 Mt 15, 21-28	8 ST DOMINIC Nu 20, 1-13 Psalm 94 Mt 16, 13-23	9 Dt 4, 32-40 Psalm 76 Mt 16, 24-28	10 ST LAWRENCE 2Co 9, 6-10 Psalm 111 Jn 12, 24-26
11 XIX SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Ws 18, 6-9 Psalm 32 He 11, 1-2 Lk 12, 32-48	12 Dt 10, 12-22 Psalm 147 Mt 17, 22-27	13 Dt 31, 1-8 Psalm/Dt 32,3-4a Mt 18, 1-5.10,12-14	14 ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE Dt 34, 1-12 Psalm 65 Mt 18, 15-20	15 ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Rev 11, 19a;12,1 Psalm 44 1Co 15, 20-27a Lk 1, 39-56	16 ST STEPHEN Jos 24, 1-13 Psalm 135 Mt 19, 3-12	17 Jos 24, 14-29 Psalm 15 Mt 19, 13-15
18 XX SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Jr 38, 4-6 Psalm 39 He 12, 1-4 Lk 12, 49-53	19 Jg 2, 11-19 Psalm 105 Mt 19, 16-22	20 ST BERNARD Jg 6, 11-24a Psalm 84 Mt 19, 23-30	21 POPE ST PIUS X Jg 9, 6-15 Psalm 20 Mt 20, 1-16	22 Jg 11, 29-39a Psalm 39 Mt 22, 1-14	23 ST ROSA OF LIMA 1Co 7, 25-31 Psalm 44 Mt 19, 3-12	24 ST BARTHOLOMEW Rev 21, 9b-14 Psalm 144 Jn 1, 45-51
25 XXI SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 66, 18-21 Psalm 116 Lk 13, 22-30	26 1Ts 1, 1-5.8b-10 Psalm 149 Mt 23, 13-22	27 ST. MONICA 1 Ts 2, 1-8 Psalm 138 Mt 23, 23-26	28 ST AUGUSTINE 1 Ts 2, 9-13 Psalm 138 Mt 23, 27-32	29 MARTIRIO S. JUAN BAUTISTA Jr 1, 17-19 Psalm 70 Mc 6, 17-29	30 1Ts 4, 1-8 Psalm 96 Mt 25, 1-13	31 1Ts 4, 9-11 Psalm 97 Mt 25, 14-30
NOTES:						

FLORIDA



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XIV Sunday of Ordinary Time July 7, 2013

Readings: Isaiah 66, 10-14c; Psalm 65; Galatians 6, 14-18; Luke 10, 1-12.17-20

Jesus sends out the seventy-two

After this the Lord chose another seventy-two to go ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. He said to them, "There is a large harvest, but few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest. Go! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Don't take a purse or a beggar's bag or shoes; don't stop to greet anyone on the road. Whenever you go into a house, first say, 'Peace be with this house.' If someone who is peace-loving lives there let your greeting of peace remain on that person; if not, take back your greeting of peace. Stay in that same house, eating and drinking whatever they offer you, for workers should be given their pay. Don't move around from one house to another. Whenever you go into a town and are made welcome, eat what is set before you, heal the sick in that town, and say to the people there, 'The Kingdom of God has come near you.' But whenever you go into a town and are not welcomed, go out in the streets and say, 'Even the dust from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you.' But remember that the Kingdom of God has come near you! I assure you that on the judgment day God will show more mercy to Sodom than to that town!" The seventy-two men came back in great joy. "Lord," they said, "even the demons obeyed us when we gave them a command in your name!" Jesus answered them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Listen, I have given you authority so that you can walk on snakes and scorpions and overcome all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. But don't be glad because the evil spirits obey you; rather be glad because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10, 1-12. 17-20)

Reflection

Joy and glory for Christians is to proclaim Jesus in their daily life within the family as well as in their commitment to the community or parish. Jesus sends his disciples out with the mission of bringing peace to all. He sends them two by two so that they can assist each other. He advises them to trust in nothing but the power of God. Do they feel protected or are there situations in which they lack peace and harmony in their homes? Jesus speaks to his friends about bringing peace to others. How can you give peace to your home and classmates? Is there anything that takes peace from you? Share.

Activity

Ask the children to share in which way they are going to carry the message of Jesus to others. Example: helping a friend with homework, behaving at school, bringing joy to those that are sad, not fighting, etc. Share what their weekly commitment will be and say: Jesus we want to bring peace to others.

Prayer

Jesus, you have chosen us to announce your message by building peace in our community and family. Help us to be tender, understanding, and affectionate with one another and invite us to work for a better world. **Amen.**





Friends of Jesus and Mary

XV Sunday in Ordinary Time July 14, 2013

Readings: Deuteronomy, 30:10-14; Psalm 68; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A teacher of the law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What do the scriptures say? How do you interpret them?" The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as you love yourself." "You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live." But the teacher of the law wanted to justify himself so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. "Take care of him," he told the innkeeper, "and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him." And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?" The teacher of the law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same." (Luke 10: 25-37)

Reflection

Who do I find easy to help? Whom have I helped this week? Who has helped me? When I am in a hurry and I realize someone needs help, what do I do? Do their families usually help others, even if they are strangers? Do they find it hard to help a new kid in school, or someone who is excluded because he or she is different in some way? Share.

Activity

Dramatize the gospel story. Choose the different characters. After it is finished give out white index cards to each child. Ask them to write how they are going to help someone this week. Bring the cards to the group altar and as they place them in it say: Teach me to see you in my neighbor, Lord.

Prayer

Lord, teach us to be good Samaritans and welcome those others reject. Give us courage and generosity to do it even if we pay a personal price for it. **Amen.**





Friends of Jesus and Mary
XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time July 21, 2013
Readings: Genesis 19:1-10; Psalm 14; Colossians 1, 24-28; Luke 10, 38-42

Jesus visits Martha and Mary

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10, 38-42)

Reflection

In today's gospel, Jesus does not criticize Martha for wanting to please him with the food and details of the home but for not listening to the word of God. Do they like visitors? What do they do to receive guests well? Do they think the adults at home are always too busy to listen to them, or to be with them? Are they themselves too busy sometimes to pray or to listen to and help someone? Do they sometimes quarrel because they feel they work more than their siblings around the house? Jesus says that it is important to receive guests as if they were Jesus himself. How do you receive those who come to your house? Jesus says it is important to listen to him and to know what pleases him. Do you listen to him every day when you pray? Share.

Activity

Briefly explain the children prayer and the importance to speak to Jesus every day. In the next page you will find several activities on prayer.

Prayer

Lord you teach us that when we receive others in our homes, we receive you and that when we listen without anxiety and thinking what we have to do we listen to you. Help us to be silent to listen and together as a family to listen to what you want of us. **Amen.**





Friends of Jesus and Mary

XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 28, 2013

Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 137; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this: Father may your holy name be honored; may your kingdom come. Give us day by day the food we need. Forgive us our sins, for we forgive everyone who does us wrong. And do not bring us to hard testing." And Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you should go to a friend's house at midnight and say, 'Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine who is on a trip has just come to my house, and I don't have any food for him!' And suppose your friend should answer from inside, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' Well what then? I tell you that even if he will not get up and give you the bread because you are his friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking. And so I say to you: ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks. Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:1-13)

Reflection

In the Our Father, we ask for the kingdom of God to come. The kingdom will come when we make the name of God holy, fulfill his will, forgive, share our bread, and struggle against evil in the world. Do you sometimes pray as if God works magic and get disappointed when things you ask for do not happen? Do your parents always give you everything you ask for immediately, or do they seek the best for you? What happens if they don't? When sometimes you ask your parents for something and it is not given, do you understand that is for your own good? In the same way when we think God does not answer our prayer is for our own good. Share.

Activity

Ask the children to draw doors and write on them what they are praying for right now. Then draw and cut loaves of bread where they can write the good things God has given them this week. Then present them in the group altar and say: "I know you always listen, Jesus."

Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray. Pray all together the Our Father.

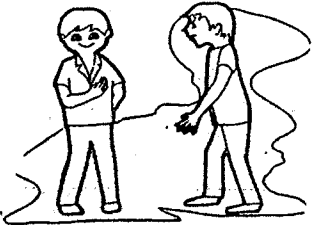
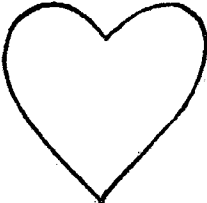





Prayer

Friends talk. Because we can talk to God, we can be His friends. Write in the spaces below what you would share with your friend:

FRIENDS SHARE...

		
THOUGHTS	FEELINGS	ACTIVITIES

Jesus is My Friend

Jesus Loves You? He said: "Let the little children come to me!" He is waiting for you to talk to Him. Write some thoughts, feelings and activities here that you would like to share with Jesus.



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time /August 4, 2013

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1, 2; 2, 21-23; Psalm 89; Colossians 3, 1-5.9-11; Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us." Jesus answered him, "Friend, who gave me the right to judge or to divide the property between you two?" And he went on to say to them all, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be." Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. He began to think to himself. 'I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do,' he told himself; 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!' But God said to him, "You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?" And Jesus concluded, "This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight." (Luke 12:13-21)

Reflection

This week's gospel shows us that those who care too much about things lose them all when they die. Before God the wealthiest one is not the one with the most money and things, but the one who has served others. What do you think about this man? Do you know someone who accumulates things for himself or herself? Why do you think God calls him dumb if everyone seems to think what he did is wise? Isn't it good to have money? Jesus does not say that money is bad, but that what one has is not for keeping. Everything has to be placed for the service of others. Do you have something that you could use for the good of others? Share.



Activity

Ask the children to express the things they will share with their family and friends this week. In the next page you will find an activity to reaffirm the importance of sharing what we have and how we should serve others.

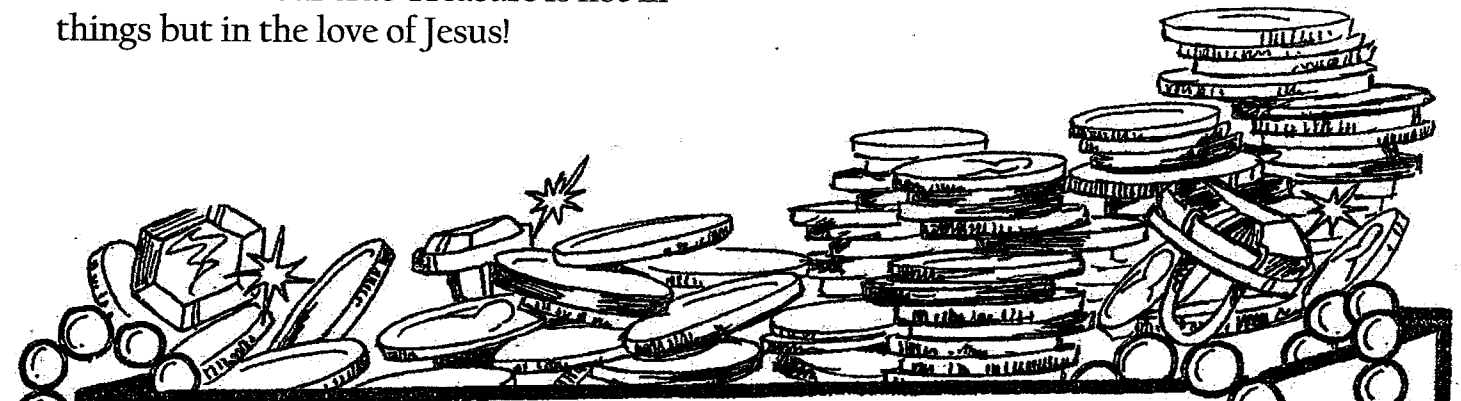
Prayer

Lord, we live and work in this world to make it a better place. We know you bless our efforts. Help us to be rich in acts of service and sharing what we are and have. Amen.



Pure Hearts- Joyful Hearts

True Treasure Word Search
 Find the hidden words with the help of the
 Word Bank. Your true Treasure is not in
 things but in the love of Jesus!

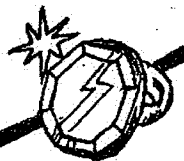


A	B	A	N	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R	I	C	P	A	U	L	Y
P	J	E	F	C	E	L	S	O	S	Q	U	A	L	H	O	M	E	F	I
R	G	N	A	P	C	M	T	U	J	T	O	M	A	O	M	K	L	J	M
E	R	I	T	U	C	H	P	L	O	R	D	B	I	L	V	N	O	E	P
C	U	Z	H	R	T	R	U	L	F	U	N	C	D	Y	J	E	K	W	L
I	M	N	E	E	O	I	P	Q	E	E	R	S	T	S	A	C	R	E	D
O	C	A	R	E	U	F	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	P	H	G	V	L	W
U	X	Y	Z	O	F	A	I	U	W	H	E	J	T	I	K	O	M	F	J
S	D	A	D	D	Y	L	Z	C	L	U	T	T	E	R	E	D	L	H	K
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P	R	A	L	P	I	U	O	W	Y	L
J	M	O	M	P	B	E	C	J	E	S	U	S	H	T	H	E	M	T	V

HOME
 HOLY
 SOUL
 LOVE
 PRECIOUS

WORD BANK

HOLY SPIRIT	TREASURE	FALSE	LORD
FOREVER	CLUTTERED	JEWEL	TRUE
FATHER	FRIENDSHIP	CARE	GOD
SACRED	BEAUTIFUL	TEMPLE	PURE





Friends of Jesus and Mary

XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time / August 11, 2013

Readings: Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 32; Hebrews 11, 1-2.8-19; Luke 12:32-48

Riches in Heaven

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor. Provide for yourselves purses that don’t wear out, and save your riches in heaven where they will never decrease, because no thief can get to them, and no moth can destroy them. For your heart will always be where your riches are. Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants who are waiting for their master to come back from a wedding feast. When he comes and knocks, they will open the door for him at once. How happy are those servants whose master finds them awake and ready when he returns! I tell you, he will take off his coat, have them sit down, and will wait on them. How happy they are if he finds them ready, even if he should come at midnight or even later! And you can be sure that if the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, he would not let the thief break into his house. And you, too, must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.” Peter said, “Lord, does this parable apply to us, or do you mean it for everyone?” The Lord answered, “Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant? He is the one that his master will put in charge, to run the household and give the other servants their share of the food at the proper time. How happy that servant is if his master finds him doing this when he comes home! Indeed, I tell you, the master will put that servant in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself that his master is taking a long time to come back and if he begins to beat the other servants, both the men and the women, and eats and drinks and gets drunk, then the master will come back one day when the servant does not expect him and at a time he does not know. The master will cut him in pieces and make him share the fate of the disobedient. The servant, who knows what his master wants him to do, but does not get himself ready and do it, will be punished with a heavy whipping. But the servant, who does not know what his master wants, and yet does something for which he deserves a whipping, will be punishment with a light whipping. Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given. (Luke 12: 32-48)

Reflection

What did Jesus mean by being ready to go on a trip? What do you do when you are about to go on a trip? Speak to Jesus and tell him about what you do when you go on a trip. Tell him you always want to be with him and do what pleases him. Speak with the children about the things they do when the adults are not around. Do they think adults trust them? If they behave poorly, do they feel worse about what they did or about the scolding they got later? Share.

Activity

Prepare one piece of luggage for each child. You can use the model that is on this page. Ask each child to write on it what their commitment for this week will be (listen better, behave at school, obey your parents, do your homework, be responsible, etc.). Ask each one to place the luggage in the altar of the group making his commitment for the week. At the end of the meeting they take them home to be a remainder of what they have promised.

Prayer

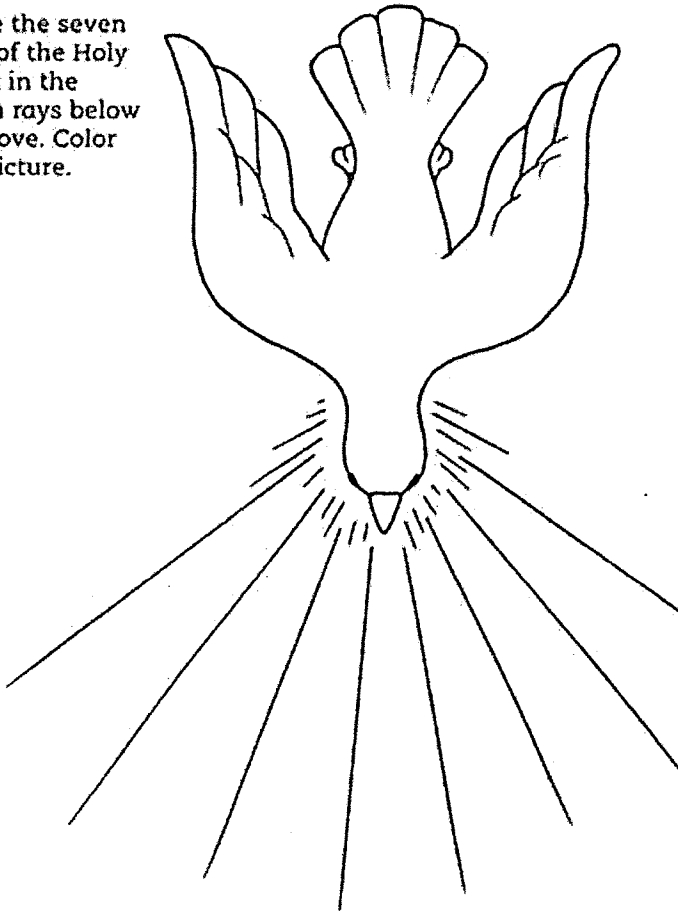
Lord, the people who came before us had a great trust in you and your promises. Give us that same trust that we may live in this world with peace, always prepared and attentive to your coming. Amen.



We Are Members of the Church

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts through the sacraments. These gifts are called the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They help us grow in faith and love.

Write the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in the seven rays below the dove. Color the picture.



What will you do with your time in the summer?

God gives each of us many gifts. Three very special gifts are our time, our talent, and our treasures. Draw a picture of how you can share your time, talent, and treasure with the Church community.

TIME

How can you give your time to someone who needs it?

TALENT

What are your special talents?

TREASURES

What are some things you have to share with others?



Friends of Jesus and Mary ***Assumption of Mary August 15, 2013***

Readings: Revelation 11:19 12:1-6, 10:1; Psalm 44; 1 Corinthians. 15, 20-27; Luke 1, 39-56

Mary Visits Saint Elizabeth

Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!" Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is holy; from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!" Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home. (Luke 1, 39-56)

Reflection

The vision of a woman dressed in the sun announces a new time of salvation. In Mary's acceptance to be the Mother of Jesus, we have the certainty that God's promise will be fulfilled. All Christians are asked for this acceptance, so that Jesus can come into the world. Christ promises resurrection to all those who are incorporated to him through baptism. The first fruit of that promise is the Assumption of Mary. In the gospel of this week Mary appears serving her cousin and praising God for the great things she has experienced. In which ways can children serve others? What are they grateful for? Share.

Activity

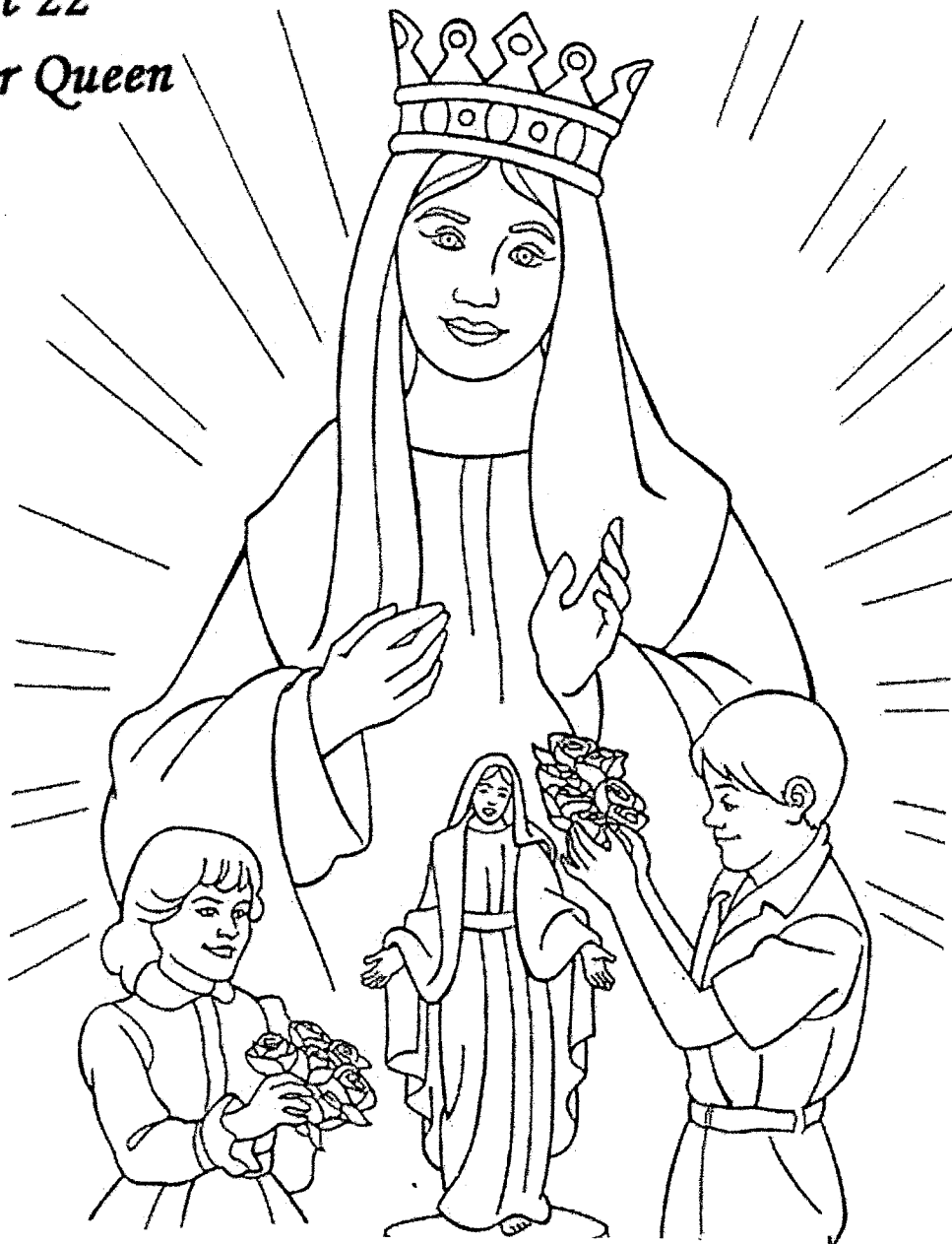
Dramatize the scene of Mary and Elizabeth's meeting. Pray the Magnificat with them. Then ask each child to share the things for which they are thankful, and the good things others have done for them. Finish by praying the Angelus.

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, because in Mary we have the certainty that, like her, we will live with you forever. We ask you to give us the same generosity Mary had to respond to your grace with acts of service to others. **Amen.**



August 22
Mary, Our Queen



THE CROWNING OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
JESUS CROWNS MARY HIS MOTHER, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

We can think of today's feast as connected with Mary's assumption, which we celebrated on August 15.

Today we think of Mary with her Son in heaven. She is there with her body as well as her soul.

We can honor Mary everyday in several ways. We can whisper a Hail Mary when we are walking along or doing chore. We can spend some quiet time in our room and say the Rosary. We can keep a little statue or picture of Mary near our bed to remind us to honor her with prayer.



Friend of Jesus and Mary
XX Sunday in Ordinary Time; August 18, 2013
Readings: Jr. 38, 4-6; Psalm 39. 2-5; He. 12, 1-4; Lk. 12, 49-53

Jesus the Cause of Division

"I came to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism to receive, and how distressed I am until it is over! Do you suppose that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace, but division. From now on a family of five will be divided, three against two and two against three. Fathers will be against their sons, and sons against their fathers; mothers will be against their daughters, and daughters against their mothers, mothers-in-law against their daughters-in-law, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law." (Lk. 12, 49-53)

Reflection

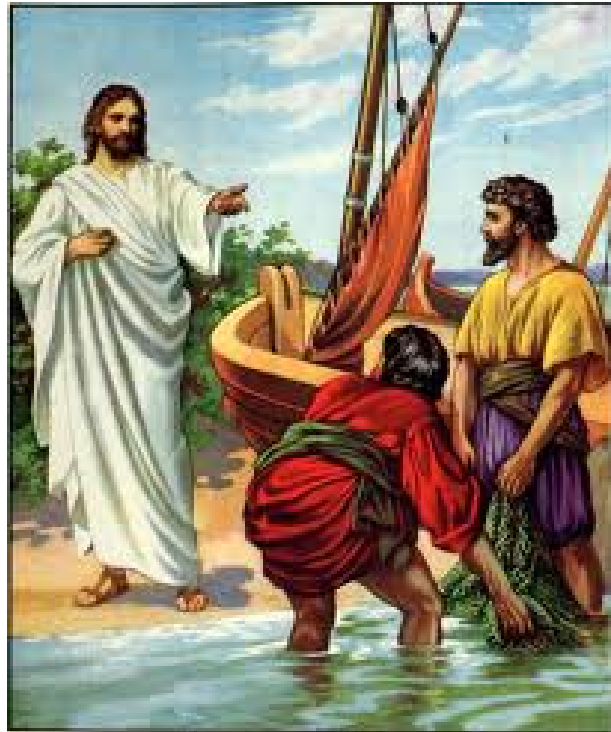
Do you know someone in your community that defends justice (someone that protest the bad immigration laws or school problems)? Talk to them about the martyrs from the old church that suffered for their faith. Comment on more recent cases like the one of the Padre Pro, Oscar Romero or the case of the activist Arnaldo Mireles, of Chicago, who was murdered for fighting for just housing conditions for his neighborhood. Talk about the children's experiences if they had to defend something just.

Activity

Let the children look in the books of saints for examples of martyrs that gave their lives for their faith. Cut paper in the shape of a flame. The children can write on one side the name of the saint they have chosen and on the other their commitment for the week. As they put the flames in a basket to take them to the group altar they all say: "Send your fire, Lord."

Prayer

Lord Jesus, let me know what to do for the Kingdom. That I do not cause division, that I always look for peace. Give me understanding to discern and courage to be your good disciple and attain a better world. **Amen.**



August 27

MONETTE ~ MONIQUE ~ MONCHA ~

SAINT MONICA

was a mother who tried to give her children the best education so that they would use their gifts for God. Her son Augustine turned from God's ways. She made her tears and sadness a prayer for his return to God.



My Prayer

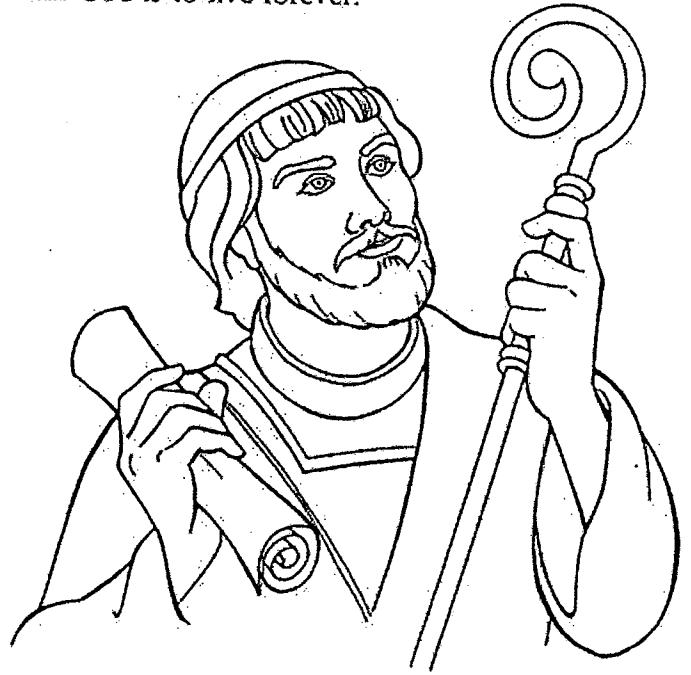
God, sometimes I disappoint my parents and you. Help me to listen to them and to be loyal to you. Amen.

August 28

GUSSIE ~ AUGIE ~ GUS ~ AUSTIN

SAINT AUGUSTINE

turned back to God's ways and discovered how wonderful God is. He wrote and spoke of this goodness and his love for God. He said that to stand with God is to live forever.



My Prayer

Loving God, your ways are good and wonderful. I want to tell of your love and to stand with you forever. Amen.



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time August 25, 2013

Readings: Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 116; Hebrews 12, 5-7.11-13; Luke 13, 22-30

The Narrow Door

Jesus went through towns and villages, teaching the people and making his way toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Sir, will just a few people be saved?" Jesus answered them, "Do your best to go in through the narrow door; because many people will surely try to go in but will not be able. The master of the house will get up and close the door; then when you stand outside and begin to knock on the door and say, 'Open the door for us, Sir!' He will answer you, 'I don't know where you come from!' Then you will answer, 'We ate and drank with you; you taught in our town!' But he will say again, 'I don't know where you come from. Get away from me, all you wicked people!' How you will cry and gnash your teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, while you are thrown out! People will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down at the feast in the kingdom of God. Then those who are now last will be first, and those who are now first will be last." (Luke 13, 22-30)

Reflection

Jesus, in the gospel, warns us that those who believe they should be in first place are not the ones who will be saved, but those who, in spite of difficulties and frustrations in the journey, continue to follow Christ faithfully. Are they easily frustrated? Do their families give them everything without any effort on their part? Do they have a sense of entitlement? Do they strive to help others? Are they generous with their things and their time? Speak with them about what Jesus must have meant about the narrow gate. For what or for whom are they willing to make sacrifices? Share.

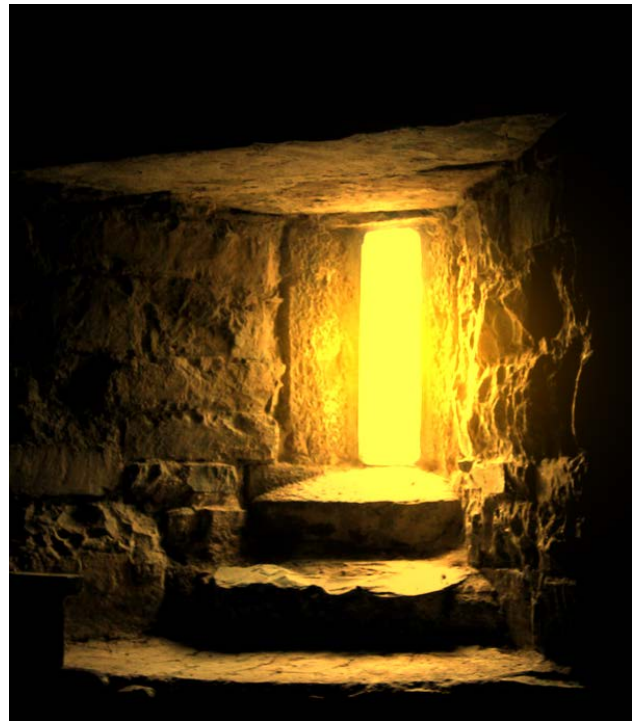
Activity

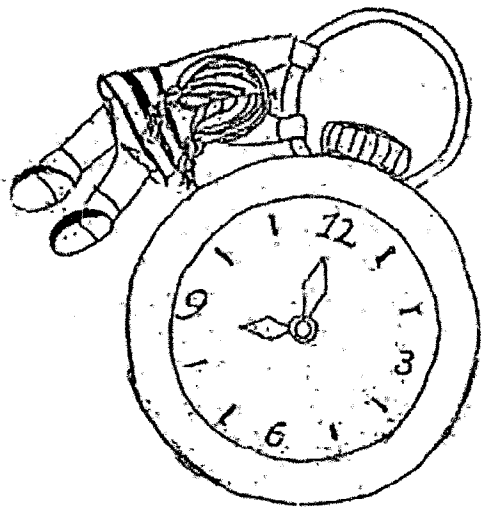
Make a big clock out of poster board with the times of children's regular schedule (time to get up, to go to school, etc.) Pretend that the clock strikes an hour and say: "It's 7 o'clock!" Do I get up fast, pray and get ready, or do I play sick so I don't have to go to school? Go through all the regular times, with options for each time. Who has gone through the narrow gate? Ask the children how many times they have chosen what they thought was correct and how many times they have taken the easy way out or the most comfortable option, even if it was not right. Share.

Prayer

Lord, you see and bless our efforts and sacrifices to achieve a better life for our families. You call us to go through the narrow door and be your servants; generous, helpful, sincere, and affectionate with all because you love us all.

Amen.





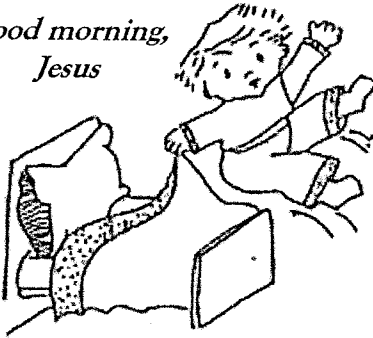
We can always talk to God!

Everyday we have an "appointment" with Jesus

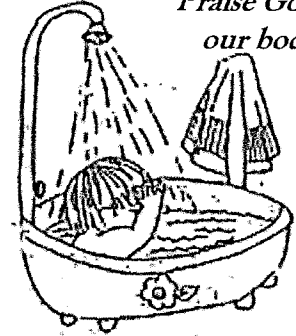
Prayer is like having a TREASURE CHEST



Good morning, Jesus



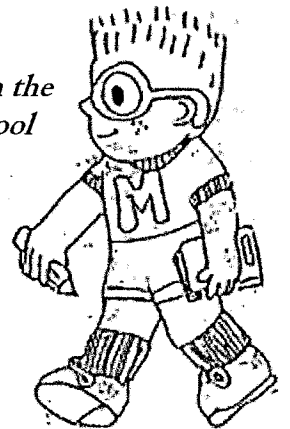
Praise God for our bodies



Prayer on the way school



While I'm walking



Prayer when we play



Prayer when we pass in front of a Church



Prayer before meals



Good night, Jesus!

