

# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Amigos de Jesús y María



July & August 2016

Dear Brothers and Sister:

July & August are the summer vacation. Emphasize the children the importance of enjoy the family to go out and have fun. Don't forget the regular prayers if you have a chance visit the Blessed Sacrament and go to Daily Mass. **HAVE A NICE SUMMER.**

**Enclosed you will find some Feast and Saints of the month:**

July	01	blessed Junipero Serra	August	04	St John Vianney
July	03	Saint Thomas	August	06	Transfiguration
July	04	Independence day (USA)	August	12	Saint Claire
July	14	St Katerina Tekakwitha	August	15	The Assumption
July	16	Our lady of Mount Carmel	August	23	St. Rose of Lima
July	26	St Joachim & Anne	August	27	St. Monica
			August	28	St Augustine

**Enclosed material and activities:**

- 1) Calendar July & August
- 2) Gospel of the month July & August
- 3) Saint Teresa of the Andes
- 4) We Can Talk to God
- 5) Our Father Activity
- 6) Pure Hearts-Joyful Hearts
- 7) The Visitation

**Suggest Videos:**

- 1) Creations
2. The Good Samaritan
3. Prayer

To all leaders thank you for your help, and have a nice summer. Remember to pray for our ministry & the children for the entire world.

May God bless you, Friends of Jesus and Mary



Friends of Jesus and Mary  
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

July 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 FIRST FRIDAY  Amos 8, 4-6.9-12 Psalm 118 Matthew 9, 9-13	2 FIRST SATURDAY  Amos 9, 11-15 Psalm 84 Matthew 9, 14-17
3 14th Sunday In Ordinary Time  Isaiah 66, 10-14C Psalm 65 Ga 6, 14-18 Luke 10, 1-12	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY USA  Obadiah 2, 16.17b-18 Psalm 144 Matthew 9, 18-26	5 ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL  Obadiah 8, 4-7.11-13 Psalm 113b Matthew 9, 32-38	6 ST MARIA GORETTI  Obadiah 10, 1-3.7-8.12 Psalm 104 Matthew 10, 1-7	7  Obadiah 11, 1-4.8c-9 Psalm 50 Matthew 10, 7-15	8  Obadiah 14, 2-10 Psalm 50 Matthew 10, 16-23	9  Eph 1, 3-6.11-12 Psalm 112 Luke 11, 27-28
10 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  Dt 30, 10-14 Psalm 68 Col 1, 15-20 Luke 10, 25-37	11 ST BENEDICT  Isaiah 1, 10-37 Psalm 49 Matthew 10, 34-11, 1	12  Isaiah 7, 1-9 Psalm 47 Matthew 11, 20-24	13 SR. HENRY  Isaiah 10, 5-7.13-16 Psalm 93 Matthew 11, 25-27	14 ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA  Isaiah 26, 7-9.12.16-19 Psalm 101 Matthew 11, 28-30	15 ST. BONAVENTURE  Isaiah 38, 1-6.21-22.7-8 Int: Isaiah 38 Matthew 12, 1-8	16 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL  Zec 2, 14-17 Int: Luke 1,46-55 Matthew 12, 46-50
17 16th Sunday in Ordinary time  Ga 18, 1-10 Psalm 14 Col 1, 24-28 Luke 10, 38-42	18 ST CAMILLUS  Mic 6, 1-4. 6-8 Psalm 49 Matthew 12, 38-42	19  Mic 7, 14-15. 18-20 Psalm 84 Matthew 12, 46-50	20  Jr 1, 1.4-10 Psalm 70 matthew 13, 1-9	21  Jr 2, 1-3. 7-8.12-13 Psalm 35 Matthew 13, 10-17	22 ST MARY MAGDALENE  Sgs 3, 1-4 Psalm 62, 2-6. 8-9 John 20, 1-11-18	23 St Bridget  Jr 7, 1-11 Psalm 83 Matthew 13, 24-30
24 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  Gn 18, 20-32 Psalm 137 Col 2, 12-14 Luke 11, 1-13	25 ST JAMES  Acts 4, 33; 5, 12.27-33 Psalm 66 2 Co 4, 7-15 Matthew 20, 20-28	26 SS JOACHIN & ANNE  Sirach 44, 1.10-15	27	28	29	30
31						

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



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Florida Center for Peace

August 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI</b>  Jr 28, 1-17 Psalm 118 Matthew 14, 13-21	<b>2</b>  Jr 30, 1-2.12-15.18-22 Psalm 101 Matthew 14, 22-36	<b>3</b>  Jr 31, 1-7 Int: Jr 31 Matthew 15, 21-28	<b>4</b> <b>ST JOHN VIANNEY</b>  Jr 31, 31-34 Psalm 50 Matthew 16, 13-23	<b>5</b> <b>FIRST FRIDAY</b>  Nahum 2, 1.3; 3, 1-3. 6-7 Int/Dt 32 Matthew 16, 24-28	<b>6</b> <b>FIRST SATURDAY</b> Transfiguration of the Lord Dn 7, 9-10.13-14 Psalm 96 Luke 9, 28b-36
<b>7</b> 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time  Ws 18, 6-9 Psalm 32 Acts 11, 1-2. 8-19 Luke 12, 32-48	<b>8</b> <b>SAINT DOMINIC</b>  Ez 1, 2-5. 24-28c Psalm 148 Matthew 17, 22-27	<b>9</b>  Ez 2, 8-3 ,4 Psalm 118 Matthew 18, 1-5.10. 12-	<b>10</b> <b>SAINT LAWRENCE</b>  2 Co 9, 6-10 Psalm 111 John 12, 24-26	<b>11</b> <b>ST CLARE</b>  Ez 12, 1-12 Psalm 77 Matthew 18, 21-29	<b>12</b>  Ez 16,1-15.60.63 Int/Isaiah 12 Matthew 19, 3-12	<b>13</b>  Ez 18, 1-10.13b 30-32 Psalm 50 Matthew 19, 13-15
<b>14</b> 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time  Jr 38, 4-6, 8-10 Psalm 39 He 12, 1-4 Luke 12, 49-53	<b>15</b> The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  Rev. 11,19a;12,1-3.6a Psalm 44 1 Co15, 20-27 Luke 1, 39-56	<b>16</b> <b>ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY</b>  Ez 28, 1-10 Int: Dt 32 Matthew 19, 23-30	<b>17</b>  Ez 34, 1-11 Psalm 22 Matthew 20. 1-16	<b>18</b> <b>ST HELENA</b>  Ez 36, 23-28 Psalm 50 Matthew 22, 1-14	<b>19</b>  Ez 37, 1-14 Psalm 106 Matthew 22, 34-40	<b>20</b> <b>SAINT BERNARD</b>  Ez 43, 1-7 Psalm 84 Matthew 23, 1-12
<b>21</b> 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  Isaiah 66, 18-21 Psalm 116 He 12, 5-7.11-13 Luke 13, 22-30	<b>22</b>  2Ts 1, 1-5.11b-12 Psalm 95 Matthew 23, 13-22	<b>23</b> <b>ST ROSE OF LIMA</b>  1 Co 7, 25-31 Psalm 144 Matthew 19, 3-12	<b>24</b> <b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW</b>  Rev 21, 9b-14 Psalm 144 John 1, 45-51	<b>25</b> <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>  1 Cor 1, 1-9 Psalm 144 Matthew 24, 42-51	<b>26</b>  1 Cor 1, 17-25 Psalm 32 Matthew 25, 1-13	<b>27</b> <b>SAINT MONICA</b>  1 Co 1, 26-31 Psalm 32 Matthew 25, 14-30
<b>28</b> 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  Ec 3, 17-18.20 Psalm 67 Hb 12, 18-19 Luke 14, 1.7-14	<b>29</b> <b>THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>  Jr 1, 17-19 Psalm 70 Mark 6, 17-29	<b>30</b>  1 Cor 2, 10b-16 Psalm 144 Luke 4, 31-37	<b>31</b>  1 Cor 3, 1-9 Psalm 32 Luke 4, 38-44			

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 Webpage: www.fcpeace.com



***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XIV Sunday of Ordinary Time July 3, 2016***

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

***Jesus sends out the seventy-two***

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town." The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10, 1-12)

***Reflection***

Joy and glory for Christians is to proclaim Jesus in our daily life within the family as well as in our 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 away 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 10, 2016***

***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***

Whom do I find easy to help? Who 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. Pick up 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.





# SAINT TERESA OF THE ANDES

1

Since she was really little, Saint Teresa of the Andes (at home they called her Juanita) really wanted to receive Jesus in the Eucharist but she had to wait until she was 10 years old to do so.



2

Before making her First Communion she tried to be good so that when Jesus came He would be very happy with her. She stopped getting angry and stopped fighting with her sisters. Day by day she became more responsible and obedient.

3

On the day of her First Communion she wore a beautiful dress. Her friends came to her house and they brought her many gifts, but this wasn't what was most important. What made her the happiest that day was finally being able to receive Jesus inside her heart. Later she said,

*"Jesus, since that first hug, didn't let go of me and he took me for himself. I received Communion every day and I spoke with Jesus for long periods of time. But my particular devotion was to the Virgin. I told her everything and I felt her voice inside of me."*



## SAINT TERESA OF THE ANDES

**NAME:** Juana Enriqueta Josefina of the Sacred Hearts

**LAST NAME:** Fernández Solar

**HER PARENTS:** Miguel Fernández Jaraquemada and Lucía Solar Armstrong.

**BIRTHDAY:** June 13th, 1900 in Santiago, Chile

**STANDS OUT FOR:** her incredible perseverance in overcoming her defects and her complete openness to the will of God.

**DEATH:** April 14th, 1920



**Feast Day:**  
**July 13th**



## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time July 17, 2016***

***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***

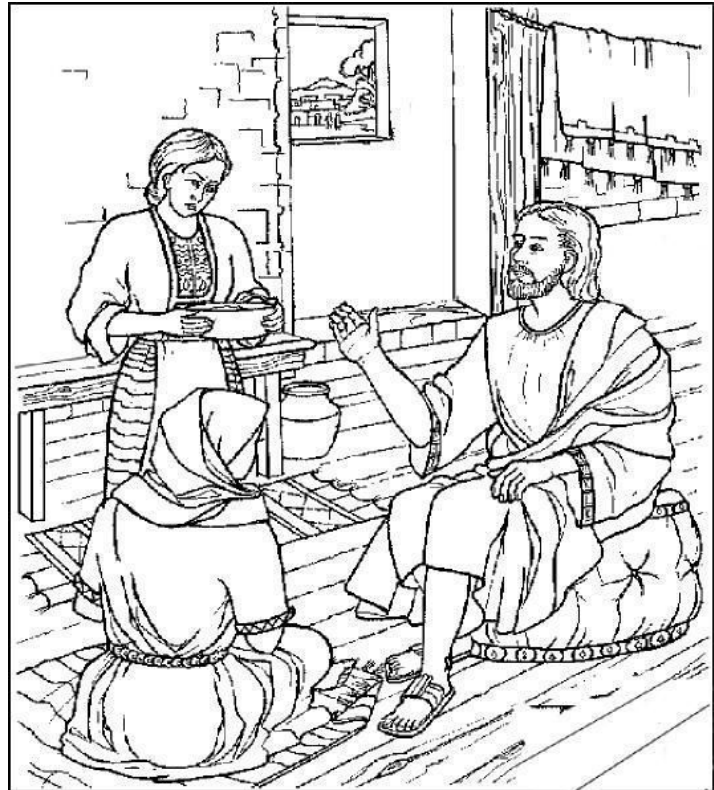
In today's gospel, Jesus does not criticize Martha for wanting to please him with the food and details of the home but for not listening to the word of God. Do they like visitors? What do they do to receive guests well? Do they think the adults at home are always too busy to listen to them, or to be 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. On 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.



# We Can Talk To God Anytime—Anywhere



Write a short prayer for Roger's family members and friends to share their thoughts, feelings and activities with God:

Leon is at Mass. What can he say to God?	
Tina and Roger are fighting. What could Roger ask from God to help him stop fighting?	
Jeremy got a B+ on his test. What can he say to God?	
Mother is worried because Tina has a fever. What can mom say to God?	
Katie is scared in the house because mother is not home yet and it is getting dark. What could she say to God to feel better?	
Sister Jane is worried because club members are late for the meeting. Make up a prayer for Sister Jane.	
Roger's dad just came home tired from work. He wants to be patient with his children. What will he say to God?	





## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 24, 2016***

***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 worked magic and get disappointed when things they ask for don't 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 presented 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.



## *Our Father Activity*

*Purpose:* To help teach the children the Our Father, and to help them pray the Our Father with their hearts.

*Goal:* To make a bracelet with colors that correspond to the different petitions in the Our Father. The colors will remind them of the different petitions and what they mean.

### *Materials:*

- a) String beads with the following colors: Blue, White, Purple, Green, yellow, Red, and Black. The string and beads will be used to make a bracelet.
- b) or, fuzz covered wire with the above colors which can be cut, molded into chain links, and linked together creating a bracelet. A strand of wire can be cut into three equal pieces to create the chain links.

As our make the bracelet with the children, teach them the Our Father and explain how each color relates to each petition:

### *Our Father, who are in heaven:*

*Blue:* the color of Fathers. Jesus shows us what Our Father in Heaven is like. Do we act like children of God? Do we forgive our enemies.

*White:* represent purity and holiness. Are we careful how we treat God's Holy Name?

### *Your Kingdom Come,*

*Purple:* the color of royalty. Is God the King of our lives?

### *Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven*

*Green:* the color of the earth. Do we obey God as the angels and saints in Heaven obey God? When we do we have Heaven here on earth. Jesus shows us how to obey.

### *Give us this day our daily bread*

*Yellow:* Bread is yellow. All good things come from God. We ask for our daily bread to eat which we need to live. We ask for Jesus in the Eucharist which we also need to live. Do we adore Jesus in the Eucharist?

### *And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*Red:* Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Red reminds us of the blood He shed for us. Because He forgave us, He wants us to forgive others. Do we forgive those who hurt us?

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

*Black:* the color of evil. Evil tempts us to disobey God which causes us to sin. Serious sin breaks our relationship with God so His light no longer shines in us. We need Jesus to help us be good. Do we make Jesus our best friend by praying every day?



***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 31, 2016***

***Readings: Ecc. 1:2; 2: 21-23; Psalm 90; Colossians 3:1-5,9-11; Luke 12:13-21***

***The Parable of the Rich Fool***

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, 'Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God." (Luke 12:13-21)

***Reflection***

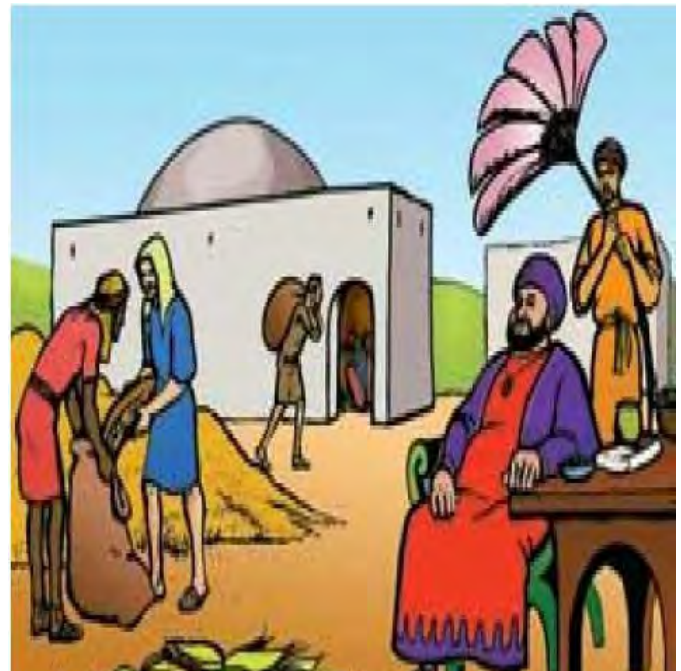
The gospel of this week shows us that those who give all importance to things lose them all when they die. Before God the wealthiest one is not the one with the most money and things, but the one who has served others. What do you think about this man? Do you know someone who accumulates things for himself 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 at 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. On 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 with others. 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

**WORD BANK**

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

HOME  
HOLY  
SOUL  
LOVE  
PRECIOUS



## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time / August 07, 2016***

***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 punished 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? Emphasize that we must ask God for the same trust that Abraham had in Him. 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 reminder 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.





## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

### ***XX Sunday in Ordinary Time August 14, 2016***

***Readings: Jer.38:4-6, 8-10; Psalm 40; Hebrews 12: 1-4; Luke 12, 49-53***

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." (Luke 12, 49-53)

### ***Reflection***

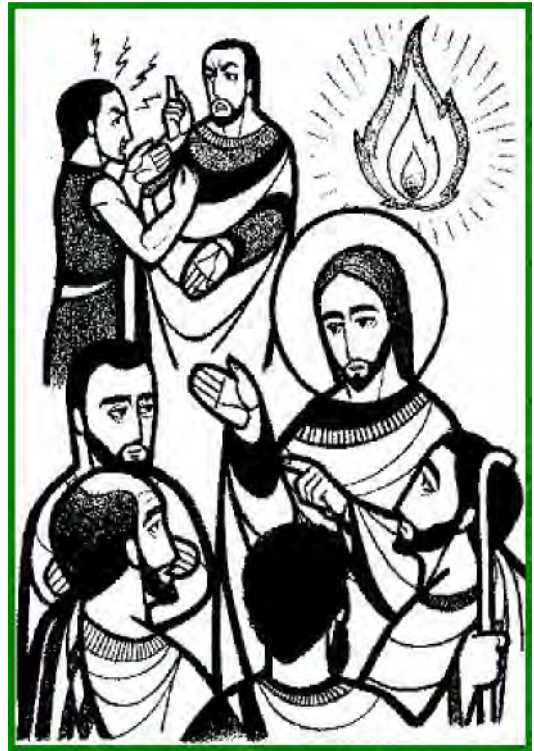
Talk about the story. Talk about the people in their communities who fight for justice (for example, those who protest unfair immigration laws or bad conditions in the schools). Talk about the martyrs, who suffered for their faith. Talk about the activist Arnold Mireles of Chicago, who was assassinated because he fought for decent housing for his community. Discuss the children's experiences defending truth or justice.

### ***Activities***

Ask the children to look through books on the saints and choose a martyr who gave his or her life for the faith. Provide the children with red pieces of paper cut out in the shape of flames. On one side of the flame, each child should write the name of the saint he or she has chosen to follow. On the other side, each child should write his or her commitment for the week. As they deposit the flames in a basket to be presented at the altar of the group all respond: "Send down your fire, Lord".

### ***Prayer***

Lord let us work to give love to all our friends and family members. We want to follow your saint's example who transmit love to others. Send down the fire of the Holy Spirit to show us to serve others with gladness. Amen





## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary*** ***Assumption of Mary August 15, 2016***

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

### ***Mary Visits 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 as bright as 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 is 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 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 praying the Angelus with them.

### ***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.



## 2. THE VISITATION

Mary goes to visit and help her cousin Elizabeth.

◀ Read Luke 1, 39-56 in your Bible.  
**Be kind and helpful like Mary.**



## 2. LA VISITACION

María va a visitar y ayudar a su prima Isabel.

◀ Ver Lucas 1, 39-56 en tu Biblia.  
**Ser bueno y amable con todos como María.**





## ***Friends of Jesus and Mary***

***XXI Sunday in Ordinary Time August 22, 2016***

***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***

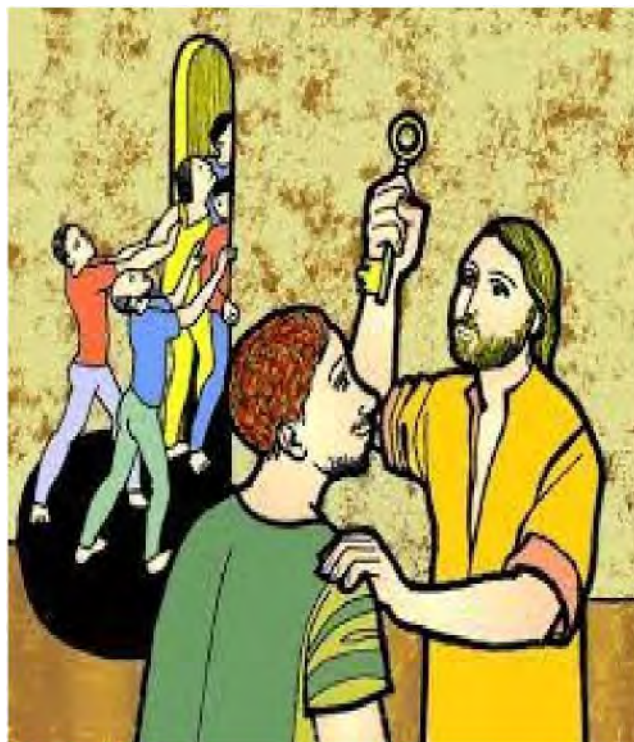
Jesus, in the gospel, warns us that those who believe they should be in the first place are not the ones who will be saved, but those who, in spite of difficulties and frustrations in the journey, continue to follow Christ faithfully. Do they get easily frustrated? Do their families give them everything 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.





***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***XXII Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 28, 2016***

***Readings: Ecclesiastes: 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29; Psalm 67; Hebrews 12: 18-19.22-24; Luke 14: 1, 7-14***

***Humility and Hospitality***

One Sabbath Jesus went to eat a meal at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and people were watching Jesus closely. Jesus noticed how some of the guests were choosing the best places, so he told this parable to all of them: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place. It could happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and your host, who invited both of you, would have to come and say to you, 'Let him have this place.' Then you would be embarrassed and have to sit in the lowest place. Instead, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that your host will come to you and say, 'come on up, my friend, to a better place.' This will bring you honor in the presence of all the other guests. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or relatives or your rich neighbors for they will invite you back, and in this way you will be paid for what you did. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and you will be blessed, because they are not able to pay you back. God will repay you on the day the good people rise from death." (Luke 14, 1.7-14)

***Reflection***

When we do favors or services, we don't have to think of the reward, or even of the recognition. Speak with the children about dinners with guests at home. Where does each person usually sit? Is there any reason why some people always sit at the head of the table? What would happen if the table were round? Do they feel they always want to be praised and recognized for what they do? Do they sometimes do things just because they know it is the right thing to do, even if no one sees it? Share.

***Activity***

Ask the children to imagine and dramatize a dinner where people who are poor, disabled, and blind have been invited. What do they say? Do they give excuses because they will never be able to return the invitation? What can they offer? Ask each child to prepare an invitation for someone who is excluded from games at school. This will be their commitment for the week. Share.

***Prayer***

Lord, we thank you because you see us just as we are and do not reject us. We do not have to buy your love, because you give it to us unconditionally. Give us light and generosity not to do things for reward or praise, but to respond to your great love. Amen.

