



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

February, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In this month let us try to encourage our children to love God and our family, Friends and neighbors, stressing how important it is to ask for forgiveness from any one we had offended.

Important feast and Saints:

February 02 Presentation of the Lord
February 03 St. Blase-blessing of the throats
February 05 St. Agatha
February 06 St. Paul Miki and Companions
February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
February 14 St. Cyril & Methodius
February 14 Valentine Day
February 18 St. Bernadette Soubirois

Enclosed materials and activities:

- 1) Monthly Meditations & Calendar on the Sunday Gospel
- 2) Presentation of the Lord
- 3) The Temple & the Sinagogue
- 4) The Son of God
- 5) God's love is all over Scripture
- 6) Valentine's Card
- 7) Family Coupons
- 8) Guess which saints we are

Suggested Dvd's

- 1) Our Lady of Lourdes
- 2) St. Bernadette
- 3) The Princess of Lourdes

May God bless you always,

Friends of Jesus & Mary

FLORIDA

45 S.W. 71 Ave., Miami, FL 33144 – Tel: (305) 412-1777 – E-mail: amigo_jym_miami@fcpeace.com

Webpage: www.fcpeace.com



February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Hebrews 12. 4-7.11-15 Psalm 102 Mark 6, 1-6	2 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Malachi 3, 1-4 Psalm 23 Luke 2, 22-40	3 Hebrews 13, 1-8 Psalm 26 Mark 6, 14-29	4 Hebrews 13, 15-17.20-21 Psalm 22 Mark 6, 30-34
5 5 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 58, 7-10 Psalm 111 1Co 2, 1-5 Matthew 5, 13-16	6 Gn 1, 1-19 Psalm 103 Mark 6, 53-56	7 Gn 1, 20-2, 4 Psalm 8 Mark 7, 1-13	8 ST. JEROME EMILIANI Gn 2, 4b-9.15-17 Psalm 103 Mark 7, 14-23	9 Gn 2, 18-25 Psalm 127 Mark 7, 24-30	10 Gn 3, 1-8 Psalm 31 Mark 7, 31-37	11 OUR LADY OF LOURDES Gn 3, 9-24 Psalm 89 Mark 8, 1-10
12 6 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sirach 15, 16-21 Psalm 118 1Co 2, 6-10 Matthew 5, 17-37	13 Gn 4, 1-15-25 Psalm 49 Mark 8, 11-13	14 ST. CYRIL & METHODIUS VALENTINE'S DAY Gn 6, 5-8; 7, 1-5 Psalm 28 Mark 8, 14-21	15 ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Gn 8, 6-13.20-22 Psalm 115 Mark 8, 22-26	16 Gn 9, 1-13 Psalm 101 Mark 8, 27-33	17 Gn 11, 1-9 Psalm 32 Mark 8, 34-9.1	18 ST. BERNADETTE Hebrews 11, 1-7 Psalm 144 Mark 9, 2-13
19 7 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Lv 19, 1-2. 17-18 Psalm 102 1Co 3, 16-23 Matthew 5, 38-48	20 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Sirach 1, 1-10 Psalm 92 Mark 9, 14-29	21 ST. PETER DAMIAN Sirach 2, 1-13 Psalm 36 Mark 9, 30-37	22 CHAIR OF ST. PETER GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 1P 5, 1-4 Psalm 22 Mark 16, 13-19	23 ST. POLICARP Sirach 5, 1-10 Psalm 1 Mark 9, 41-50	24 Sirach 6, 5-17 Psalm 118 Mark 10, 1-12	25 SAINT JACINTA Sirach 17, 1-13 Psalm 102 Mark 10, 13-16
26 8 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 49, 14-15 Psalm 61 1Co 4, 1-5 Matthew 6, 24-34	27 Sirach 17, 20-28 Psalm 31 Mark 10, 17-27	28 Sirach 35, 1-15 Psalm 49 Mark 10, 28-31				

FLORIDA

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

February 2

The STORY of the Feast ...

It was a custom among the Jews that when a baby boy was a month old he was brought to the Temple and given to the Lord. So Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem.

A good old man named Simeon was led by the Spirit of God to the Temple. He took Jesus into his arms and praised God. "Now, Lord, I am ready to die, for I have seen the promised Child Who is to be the Savior of the world."

Simeon then said to Mary: "Because of your Child, many in Israel will fall and rise, for He will not be received by all. A sword will pierce your own soul."

THIS IS THE WAY
THE BABIES WERE
WRAPPED IN THE
TIME OF JESUS



The Messiah

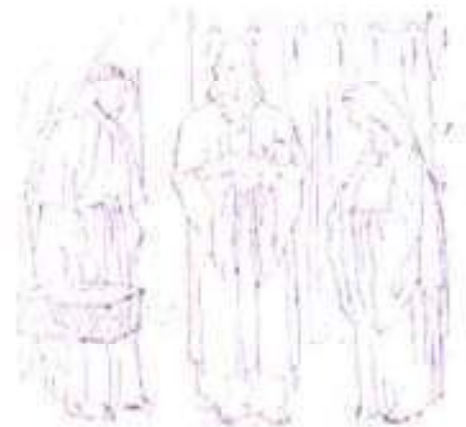
The great hope of the Jewish people. In that time was the coming of a Messiah promised by God.

"Messiah" means the anointed (in the Old Testament the king, prophets, and priest were anointed as a sign of dedication for a special task).

The Jewish Scriptures were filled with predictions about the Messiah, and many Jews thought the Messiah would be a great ruler, equal to the greatest of their kings, King David. However the Messiah would also have to be a priest in order to spread the true teaching of God.

Under this King-Priest, peace and justice would rule and would again become a great nation.

It isn't surprising that the people anxiously awaited the arrival of the "Messiah."



The MEANING of this Feast ...

When only forty days old, Jesus was offering Himself to His heavenly Father as a sacrifice for the salvation of the world in the arms of His Mother.

She now offered her Son to God as she would offer Him standing beneath the cross on Calvary.

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on February 2.

THE TEMPLE AND THE SINAGOGUE

The Jewish services were center in the temple of Jerusalem. It was at the service of the priests. It was a place where God was near his people

There all the big festivities took place, and where thousands of pilgrims, from the entire county came to present their offerings.

Some of these festivities remain them of big events of the Jewish history.

Other festivities celebrate different activities of the countryside like harvest time and the crop gathered. The inner room of the temple was call the "Santus Santorum" it was so holy that only the chief priest was authorized to enter in it once a year, the day of the great purification.

This was the day in which all the nation confesses their sins and asks pardon to God.

It was a new beginning. An animal was sacrificed to obtain the pardon of their sins and the blood was spill over the "Santus Santorum". Then the priest will take a male lamb, place his hands on top of the head and let it go to the desert.

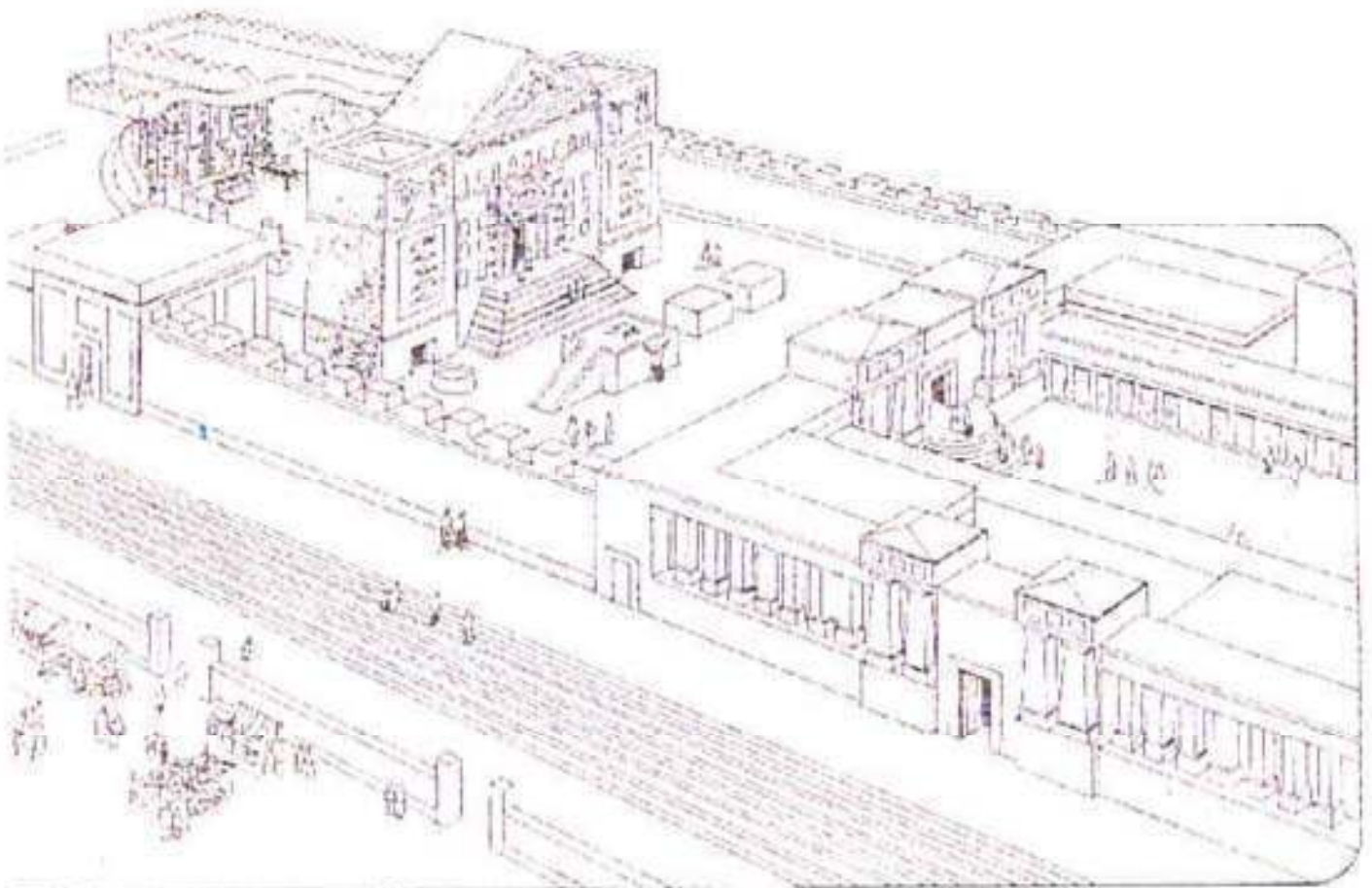
This was the sign that God had taken away all the sins of the people.

The temple functions constantly. The priest read the scriptures, recites prayers and makes daily morning and evenings sacrifices. It also was the place where the religious teachings were giving and where the people gather for the special celebration as the presentation of a child in the temple there was only one temple, but each town had a synagogue.

There the people gather on Saturday (Sabat, the day they did not work) to pray and receive instructions.

It was the school where all the children receive the teachings from the Rabbi and from the local government.

This drawing show the temple of Jerusalem as it was in the time of Jesus.



A GOOD CONFESSION

1

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, CONFESSION IS A SACRAMENT. IT IS ALSO A GREAT GIFT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE BEING HIS FRIENDS.



IT WIPES AWAY THE SINS THAT YOU COMMIT.

2

JESUS FORGETS ABOUT HOW YOU OFFENDED HIM!



SOME SAINTS WENT TO CONFESSION EVERY DAY BECAUSE THEY LOVED GOD VERY MUCH.

3



WITH CONFESSION, IT BECOMES CLEAN AGAIN!

BAPTISM CLEANS ORIGINAL SIN FROM YOUR SOUL. LATER ON IT IS STAINED BY THE SINS YOU HAVE COMMITTED. IT BECOMES CLEAN AGAIN AFTER CONFESSION.

INCREASES GRACE

4

CONFESSION NOT ONLY TAKES AWAY YOUR SINS, BUT ALSO GIVES YOU THE STRENGTH TO NOT COMMIT MORE SINS IN THE FUTURE.



REMEMBER!

JESUS HIMSELF INSTITUTED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he then said to the paralytic: "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." (Matthew 9: 5-6)

"Jesus said to them again: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20: 21-23)

5

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

YOU MUST EXAMINE YOUR SOUL AND SEE HOW MANY SINS YOU HAVE COMMITTED, THEIR SERIOUSNESS AND CIRCUMSTANCES. SINS AGAINST GOD, AGAINST OTHERS AND AGAINST YOURSELF. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WRITE THEM ON A PIECE OF PAPER SO THAT YOU DON'T FORGET THEM IN CONFESSION.



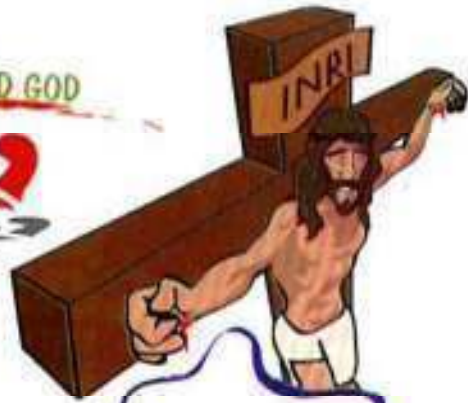
IF YOU MAKE AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE EVERY DAY, IT WILL HELP YOU HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE.



SORROW FOR HAVING OFFENDED GOD



A GOOD EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE LEADS TO A SINCERE SORROW IN YOUR HEART BECAUSE OF THE SINS YOU HAVE COMMITTED, AS THEY ARE OFFENSES AGAINST GOD.



ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU KNOWLEDGE AND SORROW FOR YOUR SINS.



AN ENTIRE CONFESSION

IN CONFESSION YOU SHOULD TELL ALL OF YOUR SINS TO THE PRIEST WITHOUT HOLDING ANY BACK, EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT BE EMBARRASSED. YOUR CONFESSION SHOULD BE:

HUMBLE

Recognizing your miseries and knowing you need God's help to change.

FREQUENT

To avoid losing the habit, just like you wash your hands every day, you also need to wash your sins with confession.

FIRM PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT

You should have a firm purpose to sin no more.



YOU SHOULD DO THE PENANCE THAT THE PRIEST GAVE YOU AS BEST YOU CAN.

WHAT IS PENANCE?

I'll give you an example: you're with your friend playing with a balloon and suddenly you get the idea to explode it. You do it. Afterwards, you repent and apologize to your friend and he forgives you. Then you have to fix what you've done. You have to buy a new balloon or if you have one, give it to him (that is penance).





Friends of Jesus and Mary

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 5, 2017

Readings: Isaiah 58, 7-10; Psalm 111; 1Corinthians 2, 1-5; Matthew 5, 13-16

Salt and Light

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (*Matthew 5, 13-16*)

Reflection

The readings of this week let us know that we are called to be salt and light in our daily acts of service, listening and generosity. What do you think Jesus means by we must be salt? What does salt do for food? How does food without salt taste? What should the friends of Jesus do to give "taste" to the world? Jesus says that we need to give good taste and light to the world by our good works? What types of good works does Jesus like best? What can you do? Share

Activity

Bring a candle for each child to the prayer group. Try to use the ones that use batteries, for security reasons. Ask them to express how they can be salt this week. Then ask them to think of one other child in the class whom they have seen doing something good. Ask each to present his or her candle to that other child and tell the others how he or she has been a light by doing something good. Light each candle. Then all respond: "I want to be salt and light with you Jesus"

In the next page, you will find an activity for the small ones.



Prayer

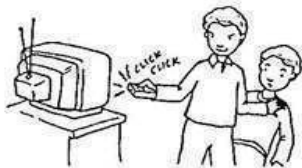
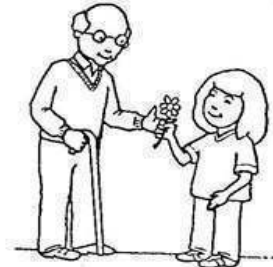
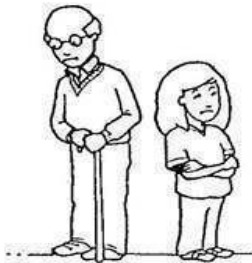
Lord, sometimes we seek to be brilliant, but not to be light that is shared. Come to our home, to our school, to teach us to share with all so that we can become light for the world. Amen



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace





Friends of Jesus and Mary

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 12, 2017

Readings: Sirach 15, 16-21; Psalm 118; 1Corinthians 2, 6-10; Matthew 5, 17-37

Teaching about the law

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *you shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.*

But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raga, 'will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna.

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."

You have heard that it was said, *you shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.

It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. "It was also said, *whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

Reflection

In the bible readings for this week Jesus comes to offer us a better way than just the mere law. He invites us to love God and others, which is what pleases God. Jesus says that his friends go beyond what they supposed to do. They love him so much, that they really want to do things as he likes them. Is it easy for you to ask forgiveness from someone who is angry at you? Is it hard for you to let go of your anger when someone has hurt you? Ask Jesus for help to forgive. Tell him what you want to do.

Activity

Bring to the group flash cards. Ask the children to write on the back of the card a name of a person with whom they have fought and now would like to make up. Ask them to think for a moment about how they are going to approach that person. Direct them to Jesus for help to do it. Bring them to the altar of the group and pray together "I want to be with you, Jesus"

Prayer

Lord teach us to do everything out of love.

Tech us to increase that love each day so that we

may fulfill a higher law-what pleases you must. Amen





Friends of Jesus and Mary

7^o Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2017

Readings: Leviticus 19, 1-2.17-18; Psalm 102; 1Corinthians 3, 16-23; Mathew 5, 38-48

Teaching about Revenge

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. "You have heard that it was said, *you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy*. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
(Mathew 5, 38-48)

Reflection

The readings for this week tells us that Christians are called to make a difference in the world, loving even one's enemies and praying for them as the Father who is holy does.

Do the words of Jesus seem harsh to you? Speak about how moms and dads never want their children to quarrel and they insist that the children reconcile when they have fought. God love is similar, but even bigger and that God does not want his children to be fighting.

Jesus says that all human beings, since they are the children of God are the temples of God and deserve respect.

How do you deal with those who treat you poorly?

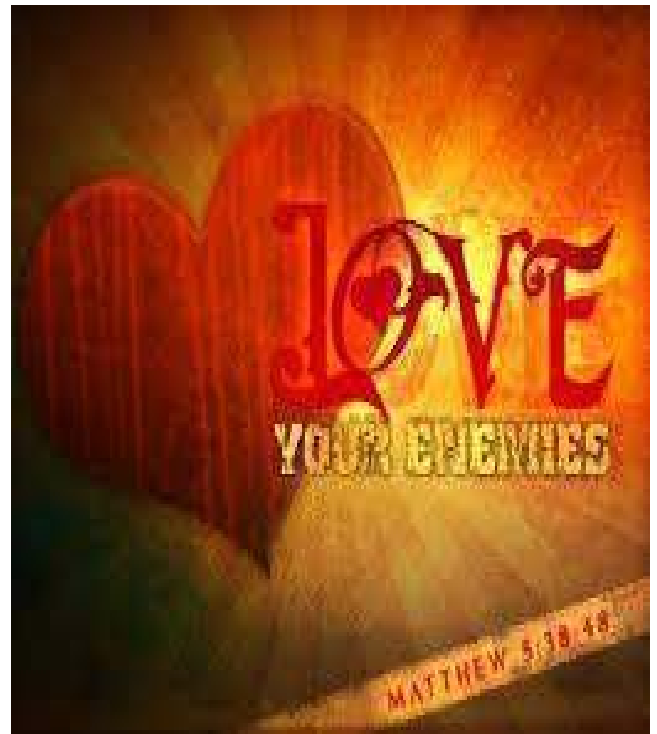
Do you want to take revenge? Share

Activity

Bring news papers to the group with news about how some actions are taken out of a desire of revenge. Cut out those clippings and make a collage. Ask them to write a prayer of healing for each situation. Read all the prayers and make together a healing prayer.

Prayer

Lord forgiving is not easy. Give us your mercy and gentleness to learn how to forgive and start over. Give us strength to recognize when we are wrong and ask for forgiveness and to offer restitution. Amen





Friends of Jesus and Mary

8^o Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 26, 2017

Readings: Isaiah 49, 14-15; Psalm 61; 1Corinthians 4, 1-5; Matthew 6, 24-34

God and Possessions

Jesus said to his disciples: "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So, do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' 'or 'What are we to drink?' 'or 'What are we to wear?' 'All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil." (*Matthew 6, 24-34*)

Reflection

The readings of this week tell us that even if everything human, including the love of a mother, fails, the love of God would never forsake us. Jesus asks for total surrender to his reign and his work, without anything material taking first place. He thus invites us to trust and calmness since the kindness and love of God will be with us always. Do you really believe what Jesus says? What is most important to you? Are the adults in your family too concerned about material things, about making progress and having success in this society? Are they also concerned about their spiritual life and education of their faith? Share with them about the flowers and the birds.

Activity

Bring to the group pictures of flowers and birds. Describe their beauty. Do they do anything to achieve such beauty on their own? Ask them to draw pictures of themselves in a separate paper. Place a picture of a flower or bird beside the drawing. Write on it. "God always takes care of me". Made all together a thanksgiving prayer to God for caring for them.

Prayer

We thank you, God of love, for the merciful care with which you protect, guide, and care for us at all times. Help us to place our concerns in your hands so that we can



Name: _____

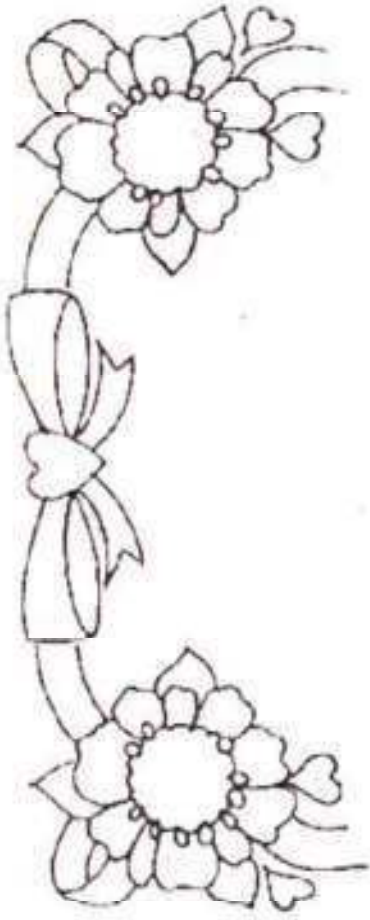
Date: _____

The Son of God

Jesus is God's Son. He is with us always, he loves us very much. Jesus shows us how much God the Father love us.

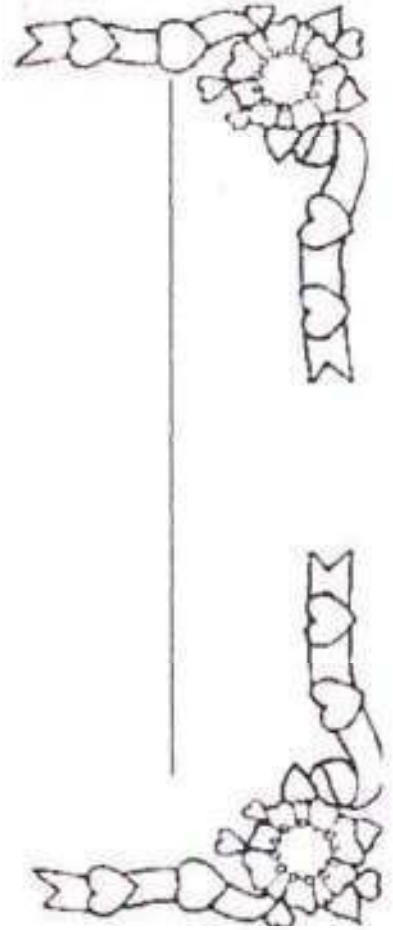
Look at each of the pictures. Is God present? Color the heart by the picture if you think God is present.





**Friends love one another
Happy Valentine's Day
to my friend**

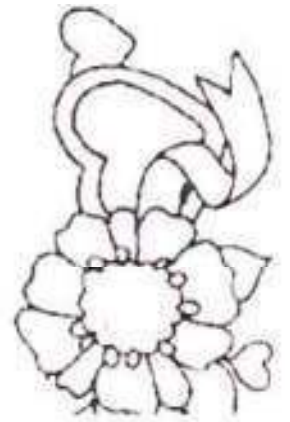
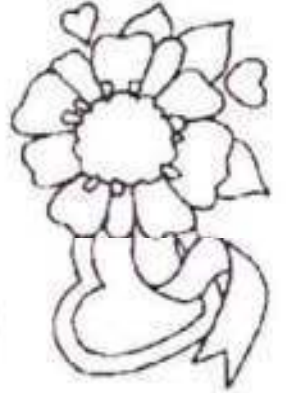
From,




"Dear Friends,

If this is how God loved us,

1 John 4:11




Family Coupons

free SERVICE  TO COUPON

THE BEARER OF THIS COUPON MAY REDEEM IT AT ANY TIME FOR :

SIGNATURE


DATE

CLEAN-UP  TO COUPON

THE BEARER OF THIS COUPON MAY REDEEM IT FOR EXTRA HELP ON CLEAN UP OF ANY KIND.

SIGNATURE


DATE

HOMework  TO COUPON

THE BEARER OF THIS COUPON MAY REDEEM IT FOR EXTRA HELP ON HOMEWORK AT ANY TIME.

SIGNATURE


DATE

ERRAND  TO COUPON

THE BEARER OF THIS COUPON MAY REDEEM IT FOR AN ERRAND OF ANY KIND AT ANY TIME.

SIGNATURE

DATE

CHORE  TO COUPON

THE BEARER OF THIS COUPON MAY REDEEM IT FOR EXTRA HELP ON ANY CHORE AT ANY TIME.

SIGNATURE

DATE

 TO COUPON

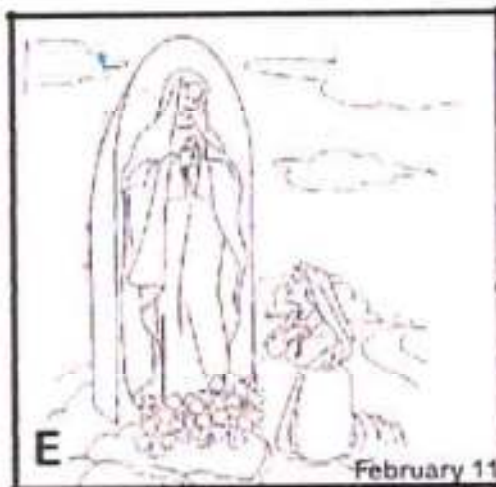
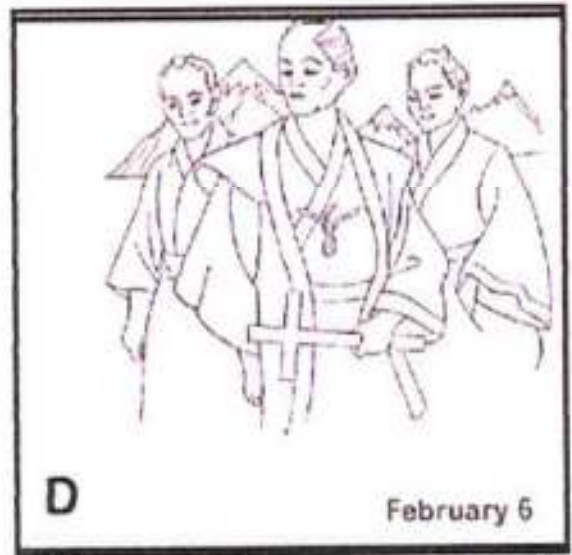
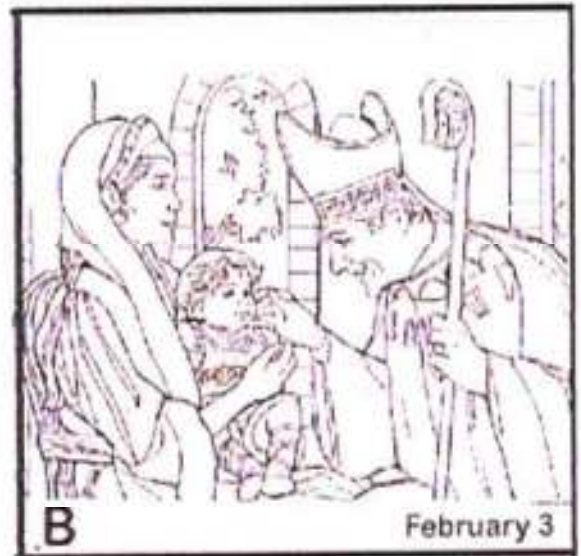
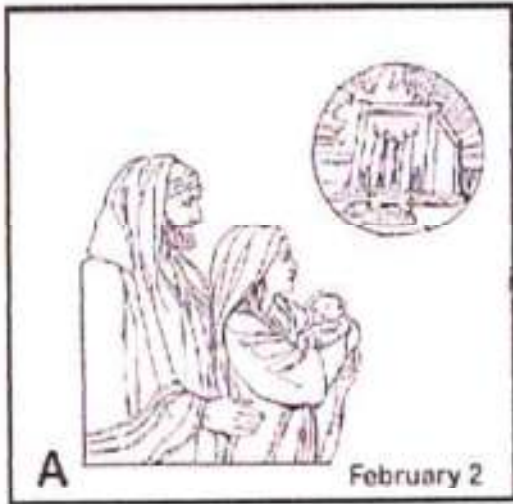
SIGNATURE

DATE

To freely give the gift of loving service at home is not always easy. When you give generously, you give like Jesus gives. Here is a fun way to serve. Fill out these coupons, and give them to your family tonight. (Brothers and sisters, too!)

GUESS WHICH SAINTS WE ARE

Mystery Saints for February



Answer: a) Presentation b) San Blas c) St Bernadette d) St Paul Miki and Companions e) Our Lady of Lourdes f) San Cyril and Methodius