



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

March, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Lent begins on March 01, Lent is the time to grow in the love for Jesus. For this reason we fast and do abstinence. Try to explain the children why is so important to go to Mass on Sundays, Pray the rosary and do little sacrifices.

Important feast and Saints:

March 03 Saint Catherine Drexel
March 08 Saint John of God
March 17 Saint Patrick
March 19 Saint Joseph
March 25 The Annunciation of the Lord

Enclosed materials and activities:

- 1) Monthly Meditations & Calendar on the Sunday Gospel
- 2) Activity for Lent
- 3) The Transfiguration
- 4) The Annunciation
- 5) Calendar for Lent

Suggested Dvd's

- 1) St. Patrick
- 2) Annunciation of the Lord
- 3) Saint Joseph

May God bless you always,

Friends of Jesus & Mary

FLORIDA

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Florida Center for Peace

March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY Joel 2, 12-18 Psalm 50 2Co 5, 20-6.2 Mt 6, 1-6.16	2	3 FIRST FRIDAY ABSTINENCE Is 58, 1-9 Psalm 50 Mt 9, 14-15	4 FIRST SATURDAY Is 58, 9b-14 Psalm 85 Lk 5, 27-32
5 1 SUNDAY OF LENT Gn 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7 Psalm 50 Ro 5, 12-19 Mt 4, 1-11	6 Lv 19, 1-2.11-18 Psalm 18 Mt 25, 31-46	7 Is 55, 10-11 Psalm 33 Mt 6, 7-15	8 ST JOHN OF GOD Jon 3, 1-10 Psalm 50 Lk 11, 29-32	9 Es 14, 1. 3-5 Psalm 137 Mt 7, 7-12	10 ABSTINENCE Ez 18, 21-28 Psalm 129 Mt 5, 20-26	11 Dt 26, 16-19 Psalm 118 Mt 5, 43-48
12 2 SUNDAY OF LENT Gn 12, 1-4 Psalm 32 2 Ti 1, 8-10 Mt 17, 1-9	13 Dn 9, 4b-10 Psalm 78 Lk 6, 36-38	14 Is 1, 10. 16-20 Psalm 49 Mt 23, 1-12	15 Jr 18, 18-20 Psalm 30 Mt 20, 17-28	16 Jr 17, 5-10 Psalm 1 Lk 16, 19-31	17 ST PATRICK ABSTINENCE Gn 37, 3-28 Psalm 104 Mt 21, 33-43. 45-46	18 Mic 7, 14-15-15. 18-20 Psalm 102 Lk 15, 1-3. 11-32
19 3 SUNDAY OF LENT Ex 17, 3-7 Psalm 94 Ro 5, 1-2. 5-8 Jn 4, 5-42	20 ST JOSEPH-HUSBAN OF VIRGIN MARY 2 S 7, 4-5.12-14-16 Psalm 88 Ro 4, 13.16-18.22 Lk 2, 41-51	21 Dn 3, 25. 34-43 Psalm 24 Mt 18, 21-35	22 Dt 4, 1. 5-9 Psalm 147 Mt 5, 17-19	23 Jr 7, 23-28 Psalm 94 Lk 11, 14-23	24 ABSTINENCE Ob 14, 2-10 Psalm 80 Mk 12, 28b-34	25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Is 7, 10-14 Psalm 39 He 10, 4-10 Lk 1, 26-38
26 4 SUNDAY OF LENT 1 S 16, 1. 6-7.10-13 Psalm 22 Eph 5, 8-14 Jn 9, 1-41	27 Is 65, 17-21 Psalm 29 Jn 4, 43-54	28 Ez 47, 1-9.12 Psalm 45 Jn 5, 1-3. 5-16	29 Isaias 49, 8-15 Psalm 144 Jn 5, 17-30	30 Ex 32. 7-14 Psalm 105 Jn 5, 31-47	31 ABSTINENCE Ws 2. 1a.12-22 Psalm 33 Jn 7, 1-2. 10. 25-30	

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Friends of Jesus and Mary
Ash Wednesday – March 1, 2017

Readings: Joel 2, 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5, 20-6, 2; Psalm 50; Matthew 6, 1-6. 16-18

Teaching about Charity and Fasting

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." (Matthew 6, 1-6.16-18).

Reflection

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday before the mass of the Super of the Lord. During this time the Church reminds us of the surrender of Jesus for us and calls us to conversion. Forty days to thank Jesus for his sacrifice and love for us, doing all the things He likes. Do their families and communities celebrate Lent as a time of sacrifice? Jesus says that more important than what people do or give up for Lent is what we do because we love God and God love us. What do you think would please Jesus that you could do this Lent? Share.

Activity

Share with each other what you plan to do this Lent. Write it on a piece of paper and place it on the altar of the group. Ask Jesus' help to accomplish it. You also can do the activity that appears on the next page.

Prayer

Lord, these ashes remind us of our origin on earth and our destiny, which is you. Increase our love for you and for one another; and lead us to a new life of love, affection, compassion, and forgiveness. Amen.





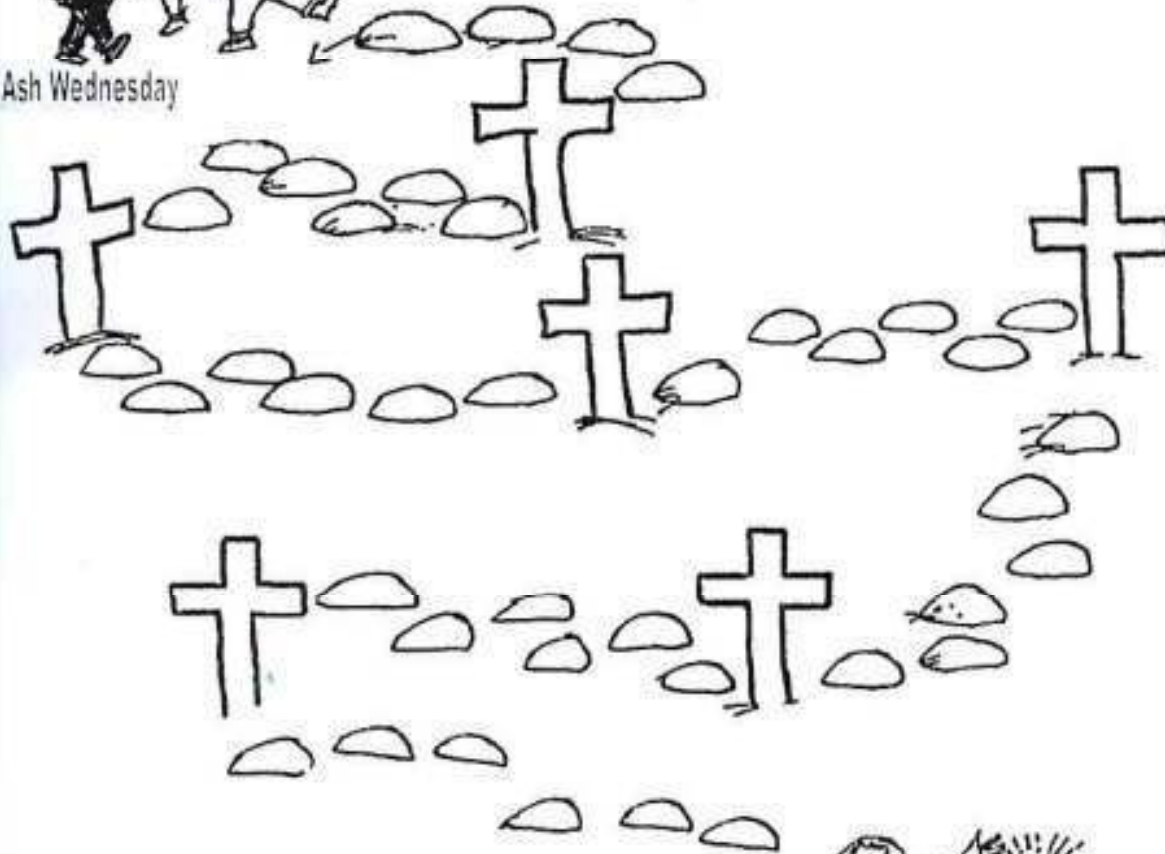
Activity for Ash Wednesday



Lent - The Way to Conversion

*Each cross represents one Sunday.
Color in Purple the first three and the fifth one.
The fourth cross in pink.
Each rock symbolizes one day of the lent.
Each day that you do a sacrifice or a good deed color a rock.
We want that you have lots to offer to Jesus in Easter*

Ash Wednesday



Easter Sunday





Friends of Jesus and Mary

1st Sunday of Lent March 5, 2017

Readings: Genesis 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5, 12-19; Matthew 4, 1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him. (Matthew 4, 1-11)

Reflection

Jesus has gone through every human temptation to break away from God. By overcoming that temptation, Jesus teaches us to be children of God. Are there gangs in the neighborhood who might lure them to easy money or drugs? What ideas about success and power, do we get in our homes and through TV, especially the evenings soaps? Let's ask ourselves, what is most important for the bad characters? Are the good characters sometimes tempted to lie, seek revenge, or do something for money? Let's think about some time when we wanted to do something right but it was easier for us to be lazy, lie or misbehave. How did we feel not doing the right thing? Where were we able to overcome some temptations? Share.

Activity

Prepare different cards for each member of the group. The cards should say: lots of money, good education, big house, lots of fame, sexual activity, elegant clothes, trips, social status, personal talents, beauty, intelligence, computer, digital games, musical instruments, cellular, etc. Seat the group in a circle and give each one 4 cards. Ask them to pick up 2 of them. One will represent what he needs the most. The other will represent what turned him or her away from God. Share the cards they picked up and why they chose those. Explain to them what is necessity and what is temptation. Reflect what they need to do to be better and what help they need.

Prayer

Lord, help us to overcome our temptations and to realize Your great love for us. We want to be better each day. Amen.





Friends of Jesus and Mary
2nd Sunday of Lent - March 12, 2017

Readings: Genesis 12, 1-4; Psalm 32; 2Timothy 1, 8b-10; Matthew 17, 1-9

The Transfiguration

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." (Matthew 17, 1-9)

Reflection

In the transfiguration, Jesus shows himself as He is to his best friends. Jesus is radiant with light to show that he really is the Son of God. This is a call to listen to Jesus as a priority. The Transfiguration gives us a taste of the triumph of Jesus and our reasons to trust in God, always. What obstacles do they find in their own homes and communities? Have they ever been so happy in one place that they didn't want to leave? Why did they have to leave? To whom do they willingly listen to? What are the most difficult tasks or things they have to do? Share.

Activity

Dramatize the gospel story of this week. Explain to them that Moses and Elijah are a sign of the Law and the Prophets, the two pillars of the Judaism. Jesus is the par excellence prophet, who brings to fulfillment the laws of the Old Testament, eliminates the obligations of it and teach us the law of love to God.

Prayer

Lord, you give us light and we trust in you to continue walking with us when things are difficult. You show your splendor in the kindness, the smiles, the generosity, and affection of each member of our group and family. Thank you for making us your beloved children. Amen.





THE TRANSFIGURATION

1. In the time of Jesus, life was like our life today, in several ways. People were busy working and going from one place to another in a hurry. Jesus enjoyed teaching people about God, Our Father, as He really was. Many times, he walked the dusty roads with his friends. They worked lots of hours, without stopping and had very little sleep. He had to stop his activity to find a quiet place, not too far away, where he would come to rest with his friends.

2. One time, Jesus took Peter, James and John (point to each one) with him to Mount Tabor. This is a beautiful mountain, filled with trees, flowers, grass, a blue sky and refreshing pure air. The view from the mountain is beautiful. You can contemplate the entire valley, with fruit trees, ready for the harvest.

3. While they were at Mount Tabor, something spectacular happened. The appearance of Jesus suddenly changed (replace Jesus for the transfigured Jesus). His face was as radiant as the sun and his clothes were as white as snow. His friends can hardly contemplate him. They saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah; the two greatest men among the prophet chosen by God. Peter, James and John knew that those men had died many years ago. The disciples were happy to know that life does not end with the death of our body. They saw with their own eyes that God made men live forever.

4. Peter was excited and said "Lord, how great it is to be here! Let's make three tents; one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was saying this, a big cloud covers them and they heard the voice of God the Father. Referring to Jesus, He said: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

5. Peter, James and John were frightened (take out the pictures of the fallen three) to the ground and Peter covered his eyes; James did not want to look. After a While, they felt the soft hand of Jesus and heard his voice: "Do not be afraid! Get up! Let 's go!" (Replace the figure of Jesus transfigured with the other of his daily life). When they raised their eyes, they saw only Jesus. He looked like always; the radiance had disappeared. His face was as kind as always but did not shine as the sun. His clothes did not radiate light. (Take out the figures).

6. Jesus walked slowly, towards the valley, along with Peter, James and John. He asked them not to tell anyone what they had seen, until his Resurrection. Do you believe that there were many people who realized he was more than a man? Some would say yes, others no, but it was because his appearance was like ours.

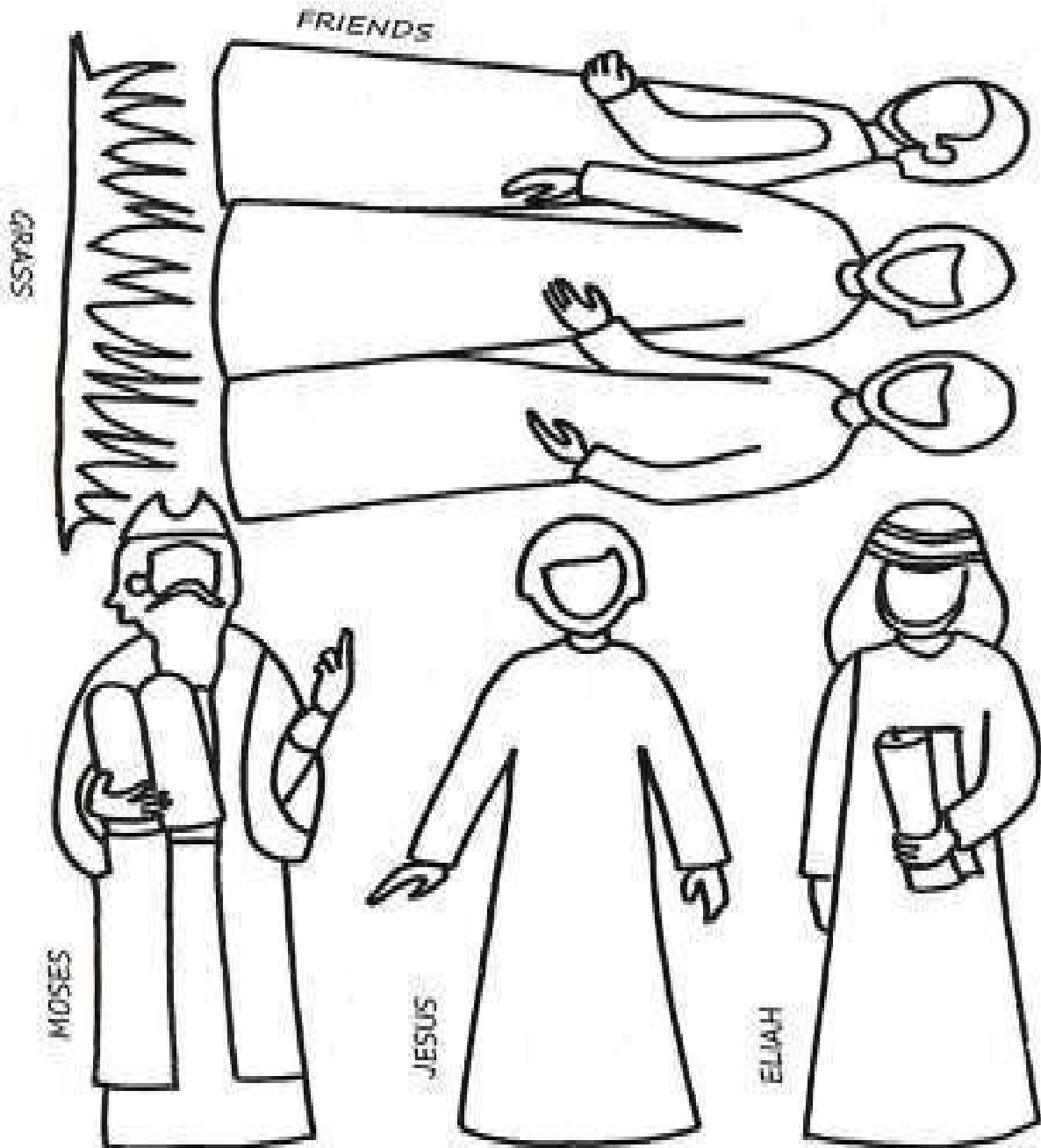
7. When he was nailed to the cross, he seemed helpless. People probably thought he was a loser. But three days after his death on the cross, he resurrected among the dead, and showed himself to his friends. In this way, they showed that He had triumphed over death!

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The Transfiguration, Book 1-A, Unit 4
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The Transfiguration, Book II-6, Unit 4
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Friends of Jesus and Mary

3rd Sunday of Lent – March 19, 2017

Readings: Exodus 17, 3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5, 1-2.5-8; John 4, 5-42

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans. — Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband." "What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done." (John 4, 5-42)

Reflection

Because she was a woman and a Samaritan, Jesus was not supposed to speak to the woman at the well. But Jesus wants to give the waters of salvation to all, without exception. Only God can give the living waters. Jesus does not mind talking to a Samaritan woman, though during those times, they were considered bad. How do you treat those who are not like you? Imagine your conversation with Jesus. What does he tell you about yourself? Are there things you think no one knows about you, but he knows? Jesus says that those who go to him will not be thirsty, will need nothing else to make them happy. Will you go to Jesus to look for what you need? Do you easily follow Jesus? Share.

Activity

Since the gospel of this week is so long we will like that the children act it to understand it better. In the next page, you will find the script.

Prayer

Lord, we want to be the water that
Will help us grow the best of us;
giving love to all our brothers and
sisters. We want to be the water that
refreshes after a hard day's work,
the water of love that give us
motivation for a new day. Amen





Jesus and the Samaritan Woman ***Representation of the Gospel***

Narrator: *So, when Jesus heard what was being said, he left Judea and went back to Galilee; on his way there he had to go through Samaria. In Samaria, he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her.*

Jesus: *"Give me a drink of water." (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)*

Narrator: *The woman answered:*

Samaritan: *"You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan so how can you ask me for a drink?"*

Jesus, *"If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water."*

Narrator: *The woman said:*

Samaritan: *"Sir, you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep: Where would you get that life-giving water? It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?"*

Narrator: *Jesus answered.*

Jesus: *"Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life."*

Narrator: *The woman said:*

Samaritan: *"Sir, give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water."*

Narrator: *Jesus told her:*

Jesus: *"Go and call your husband and come back."*

Narrator: *The woman answered:*

Samaritan: *"I don't have a husband."*

Narrator: *Jesus replied,*

Jesus: *"You are right when you say you don't have a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth."*

Narrator: *The woman said.*

Samaritan: *"Sir, I see you are a prophet. My Samaritan ancestor's worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God."*

Narrator: *Jesus said to her:*

Jesus: *"Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is."*



***Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
Representation of the Gospel Page 2***

Narrator: *The woman said to him:*

Samaritan: *"I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."*

Narrator: *Jesus answered,*

Jesus: *"I am he, I who am talking with you."*

Narrator: *At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there.*

Samaritan: *"Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?"*

Narrator: *So, they left the town and went to Jesus. In the meantime, the disciples were begging Jesus have something to eat!*

Jesus: *"I have food to eat that you know nothing about."*

Narrator: *So, the disciples started asking among themselves, "Could somebody have brought him food?" Jesus said to them.*

Jesus: *"My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do. You have a saying, 'four more months and then the harvest.' But I tell you, take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so, the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together. For the saying is true; 'Someone plants, someone else reaps.' I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work."*

Narrator: *Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I have ever done." So, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message, and they told the woman, "We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know that he really is the Savior of the world." (John 4, 5-42)*



Friends of Jesus and Mary ***March 20 – Solemnity of Saint Joseph***

READINGS: 2 Samuel 7,4-5,12-14,16; Psalm 88; Romans 4,13-18,22; Luke 2,41-51

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. (Luke 2,41-51)

Several times you have drawn the nativity scene or placed it in your house for Christmas. And as you know, there are three important people who must always be part of it.

JESUS JOSEPH MARY

All of them form the holy family, the Family of Nazareth

JOSEPH was a good father.
JOSEPH was a good husband.
JOSEPH took care of Mary and Jesus.
JOSEPH was a faithful man.
JOSEPH was a good worker.
JOSEPH was kind with all people.
JOSEPH always obeyed God.
JOSEPH always believed.
JOSEPH kept secrets from God.
JOSEPH prayed with faith.
JOSEPH was a fair man.
JOSEPH loved and helped Mary.
JOSEPH looked for a house for Jesus' birth.
JOSEPH embraced the stable in Bethlehem.
JOSEPH always said Yes.

¿What do you ask of Saint Joseph today?

Jesus' foster father

Virgin Mary's Husband

Protector of the Church





THE ANNUNCIATION MARCH 25

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,
"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end."

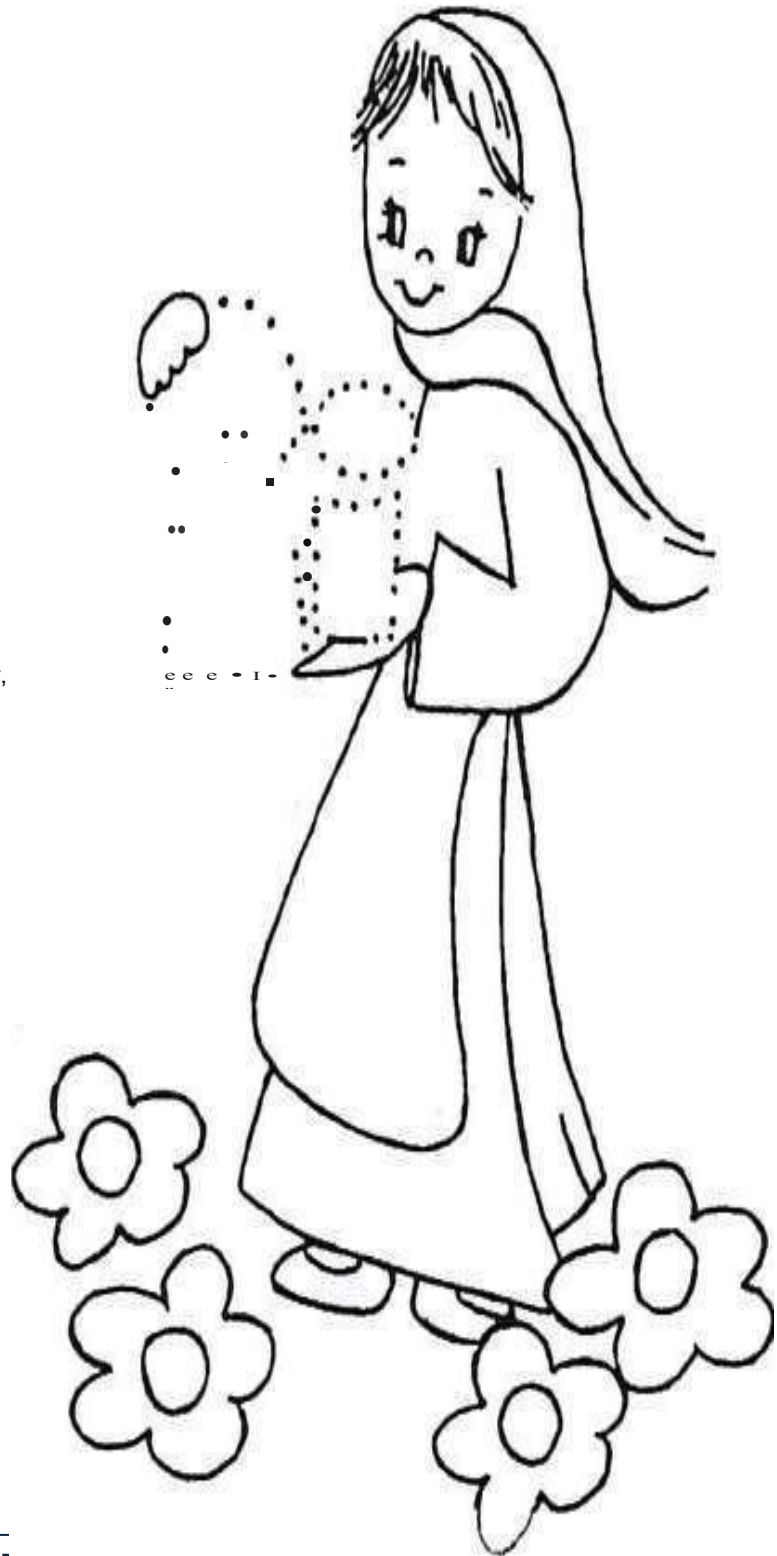
But Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?"
And the angel said to her in reply,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."


Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1, 26-38





Friends of Jesus and Mary ADVENT CALENDAR

<div style="text-align: center;"> 1ST DAY</div> <p>We will pray three Hail Marys specially for sick children, who suffer hunger and war</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> 2ND DAY</div> <p>We will remember all the children who are orphans, who live on the street despised by all and who have nobody who truly loves them. To help them we will eat everything that is given to us without complaining</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> 3RD DAY</div> <p>We will pray an Our Father a Holy Mary and Glory to be the Lord asking Him to put an end to abortion in the world and so that mothers will allow their children to be born.</p>
<div style="text-align: center;"> 4TH DAY</div> <p>We will study and do our homework promptly, offering everything for those boys who will one day be priest, so that people won't try to crush their vocation but will help them to grow in their Christian life</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> 5TH DAY</div> <p>We won't eat any sweet things and we will offer this sacrifice for the children who don't know God</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> 6TH DAY</div> <p>We will console the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary by being more obedient at home and asking her to guard the purity of children</p>
<p>We will like this Lent to organize a rescue group of children. But do not worry we are not going to fight with weapons of war buy of peace.</p> <p>We offering our good deeds and prayers.</p> <p>Do you like the idea?</p> <p>Then follow us!!!</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> 7TH DAY</div> <p>We will go to Mass, offering it for the children who blaspheme and mock God or holy things</p>	<p>Each day of the week made a prayer or a good deed.</p> <p>The day of Easter you will have a wonderful gift to offer Jesus as a thanksgiving gift for his great love for us</p>



Friends of Jesus and Mary
4th Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2017

Readings :1 Samuel 16,1b,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5,8-14; John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So, he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So, then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So, they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. (John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

Reflection

Talk with the children about blindness. Do they know anyone who is blind? What difficulties do blind people encounter? By giving sight to the blind man, Jesus says that he can give light to whomever he wants so that he can help them to see the right way to live. Do you ask Jesus for help to see what you must do? What ideas of guilt do soap operas transmit to them? What blindness or wrong ideas do we find in our families, neighbors and friends? Do they have role models of honesty, justice, and truth around them? Where can they find the guidance to follow the right path? In the readings of this week we can see how Christians are called to be children of the light and to reject the work of darkness. Christ can help us to see the truth about ourselves and to walk in the light with Jesus. Share

Activity

Act the gospel of this week with the children. This way, they can meditate and understand this gospel better, since it is very long. Choose the different characters: Narrator, the disciples, Jesus, the blind man, the Pharisee, and the parents of the blind man. The narrator should be someone who reads well or the leader of the group. On the next page, you can find the script.

Prayer

Lord, we ask your blessing to enlighten our life. Let us see when we wake up the right things and be open to what you want to show us this day. Let me see my world with a positive mind and always remember that Jesus is at my side. May I be light to all my friends and family members. Amen.





Gospel Script to act it (John 9, 1-41)

Narrator: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him:

Disciples: "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him. If it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."

Narrator: After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes and told him,

Jesus: "Go and wash your face in the pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent.")

Narrator: So, the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing. His neighbors, then, and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked,

Neighbors: "Isn't this man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No he isn't; he just looks like him."

Narrator: So, the man himself said,

The blind man: "I am the man."

Narrator: They asked him,

Neighbors: "How is it that you can now see?"

Narrator: He answered:

Blind man: "The man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash my face. So I went, and as soon as I washed I could see."

Narrator: They asked,

Neighbors: "Where is he?"

Narrator: He answered,

Blind man: "I don't know."

Narrator: Then they took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured him of his blindness was a Sabbath. The Pharisees then asked the man again how he had received his sight. He told them,

Blind man: "He put some mud on my eyes; I washed my face, and now I can see."

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said,

Pharisee: "The man who did this cannot be from God, for he does not obey the Sabbath law,"

Narrator: Others, however, said,

Pharisee: "How could a man who is a sinner perform such miracles as these?"

Narrator: And there was a division among them. So, the Pharisees asked the man once more,

Pharisee: "You say he cured you of your blindness?"

Narrator: The man answered:

Blind man: "He is a Prophet."

Narrator: The Jewish authorities, however, were not willing to believe that he had been blind and could now see, until they called his parents and asked them:

Fathers of the Blind man: "Is this your son? You say that he was born blind; how is it, then, that he can now see?"

Narrator: His parents answered,

Fathers of the Blind man: "We know that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. But we do not know how it is that he is not now able to see, nor do we know who cured him of his blindness. Ask him; he is old enough, and he can answer for himself!"



Gospel Script to act it, continues

Narrator: *His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, who had already agreed that anyone who said he believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That is why his parents said, "He is old enough; ask him!" A second time they called back the man who had been born blind, and said to him,*

Pharisees: *"Promise before God that you will tell the truth! We know that this man who cured you is a sinner."*

Narrator: *The man replied.*

Blind man: *"I do not know if he is a sinner or not. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see."*

Narrator: *They asked*

Pharisee: *"What did he do to you? How did he cure you of your blindness?"*

Narrator: *He answered,*

Blind man: *"I have already told you," and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Maybe you, too, would like to be his disciples?"*

Narrator: *They insulted him and said,*

Pharisees: *"You are that fellow's disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for that fellow, however, we do not even know where he comes from!"*

Narrator: *The man answered:*

Blind man: *"What a strange thing that is! You do not know where he comes from, but he cured me of my blindness. We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do. Since the beginning of the world nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing."*

Narrator: *They answered,*

Pharisees: *"You were born and brought up in sin and you are trying to teach us?"*

Narrator: *And they expelled him from the synagogue. When Jesus heard, what had happened, he found the man and asked him,*

Jesus: *"Do you believe in the son of Man?"*

Narrator: *The man answered,*

Blind man: *"Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!"*

Narrator: *Jesus said to him,*

Jesus: *"You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now."*

Narrator: *The man said, and knelt before Jesus.*

Blind man: *"I believe, Lord!"*

Narrator: *Jesus said,*

Jesus: *"I came to this world to Judge, so that the blind should see and those who see should become blind."*

Narrator: *Some Pharisees who were there with him heard him say this and asked him,*

Pharisee: *"Surely you don't mean that we are blind, too?"*

Narrator: *Jesus answered,*

Jesus: *"If you were blind, then you would not be guilty; but since you claim that you can see, this means that you are still guilty." (John 9, 1-41)*

The sign of the CROSS

Have you ever thought about how important it is to make the sign of the cross or ask for a blessing?

A MEMORY FROM THE POPE

I will never forget the devotion and reverence that my father and mother had when they blessed us, as children, with Holy Water.

They made the sign of the cross on our forehead, mouth, and heart whenever we left the house, especially if we were to be gone for a long time.

This blessing would go wherever we went, and we felt guided by it: it was a way of making visible our parents' prayers for us.



**In the name of the
Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

1° I put my right hand

Father



Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit

I put my
hand on my

Holy Spirit



I put my
hand
on my
shoulder

2°

I bring my hand to my

Son



“The Virgin is so beautiful, that once you’ve seen her, you want to die to be able to see her again!”

March 17

Saint Patrick

Missionary Bishop Feast March 17

St. Patrick the great patron of Ireland, was actually born in Britain, the son of a deacon. In his early teens, Patrick was kidnapped and sold as slave in Ireland. There he tended pigs and sheep for his master. He longed for his home and family, but learned to find peace through prayer.

After six years, Patrick escaped. He went to Europe to live in a monastery. There he was ordained a priest and then a missionary bishop. His mission land was Ireland.

Patrick returned to Ireland, this time to preach the Gospel. Patrick's words brought the faith to thousand of people. His holy life inspired even more. Ireland became a center of Catholic faith and culture, a "land of saints and scholars".

Marianne Slattery

