

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, December 27th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

How has my faith in Christ changed the journey that I am on?

First Grade

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus grew strong as he got older. What do you think that means? What are different ways for a person to grow strong? In what ways have you grown strong? In what ways do you want to grow stronger? How can growing in your relationship with Jesus help you to grow stronger in many different ways?

Second Grade

In today's Gospel, it says that Jesus grew and became filled with wisdom. What do you think that means – what is wisdom? How is wisdom different from simply knowing something? Would you say that you have wisdom and are a wise person? Would other people that you are a wise person? How can growing in your relationship with Jesus help you to gain wisdom?

Third and Fourth Grades

Each of us have good times and bad times in our life. Jesus is there with us through it all, and wants us to follow Him so that the journey that we are on includes happiness and joy. When are sometimes that you experience joy and happiness? How was Jesus with you? When are some times you experienced pain and suffering? How did Jesus help you?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Sometimes, when we are with our friends or by ourselves, we can be tempted to do the wrong thing. When was a time that you were tempted to sin? As we continue to make decisions we choose a path or journey to take. How can knowing Jesus help you to make the right decisions and change yourself from a bad path or journey that you are on?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

The older we get, the more we want to do things on our own. This includes our faith. Who helped you to first know about Jesus? Who taught you your first prayers? Do you still rely on them to pray, or are you beginning to pray on your own? What has changed in your life to allow you to have a more mature faith and to grow in your relationship with Jesus?

High School and Adults

As we look back on our lives we can see examples of where the plans that we had did not actually happen. When was an example of this in your life? Did it turn out better or worse from what you had planned? Our faith in Christ can help us to change our lives so that we can follow His path, the one that will make us happy. How are you following Jesus today?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

God is omniscient, which means that He knows everything! He is the one that we should be turning to when we have a question about how to proceed in our life. Today, think about the journey that you are on and how you want to proceed. Then, ask God in prayer about what path He wants you to take. He will answer you in different ways, so pay attention during the day.

Tuesday

In order to hear God speaking to us about what path and journey we should be on, we need to have 'ears of faith'. This means that we need to learn to hear God speaking to us. Today, ask God to help you to have 'ears of faith' and to help you to hear Him throughout your day. He wants you to hear His words and will help you to see and hear Him throughout the day.

Wednesday

God is always guiding us and speaking to us, but it can often be hard to hear Him through all of the other noise and distractions that we have in our day. Silence is necessary to hear God and to develop our 'ears of faith'. If we don't learn to hear His voice in the silence, then we won't be able to hear Him in all of the noise of a busy day. Today, spend ten minutes in silence.

Thursday

Our faith in Christ grows more solid the closer that we are to Him. If we are going to be close to Christ then we need to learn to look for Him throughout our day. You can find Christ whenever you are sharing or experiencing love and joy. However, He is also there in the difficult times as well. Today, stop throughout the day to purposefully look for Christ in your life.

Friday

Our faith in Christ also grows stronger the more that we know about Him. We can do this by reading and praying with the Bible. Do you have a Bible at home? Great if you do, but if not you can find one on the internet. Today, spend time reading the Bible and listening for God's voice. Not sure what to read, start with the Gospel on the other side of this sheet.

Saturday

It is important to stop and look back at how Christ has effected the journey that you are on. It can be easy to think that we are in total control of our lives, and it is only when we think back at all of the times that we received help from God and others that we realize that we are not. Today, think about at least three times in your life that God helped you. Thank Him for His help!



FROM THE CATECHISM...

The Symbol of the faith confesses the greatness of God's gifts to man in his work of creation, and even more in redemption and sanctification. What faith confesses, the sacraments communicate; by the sacraments of rebirth, Christians have become 'children of God,' 'partakers of the divine nature.'

Coming to see in the faith their new dignity, Christians are called to lead henceforth a life 'worthy of the gospel of Christ.' They are made capable of doing so by the grace of Christ and the gifts of his Spirit, which they receive through the sacraments and through prayer.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1692

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13 Ephesians 3:1-3a,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynncatholic.org