

# Saint Boniface Parish

## Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

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## How is God calling me to respond to Him today?

### First Grade

God and is speaking with us every day. How do you show God that you love Him each day? How do you think God wants us to show Him that we love Him? Who are the people that God has put in your life? How can you love them this week? Who are the people that will be more difficult to love? How does God want you to love them more this week?

### Second Grade

God often speaks to us through other people. We can hear God through the voices of our family and friends. How do your family members help you to know what the right thing to do is? Which friends help you to do the right thing most often? Each time that you hear someone helping you to do the right thing, that is God guiding you.

### Third and Fourth Grades

God calls us to respond to Him through our actions. God calls us to love every person that we see and encounter during each day. How did you respond to God's invitation to love someone this week? Who is a person that you need to love better? God calls us to respond to Him by listening to our parents. How well do you listen to and obey your parents?

### Fifth and Sixth Grades

We respond to God by talking with Him and listening to Him in our prayer. What prayers do you know? When do you usually pray? When you are praying, how is that responding to God? There are two main parts to prayer – talking and the listening. Which part are you better at? Why are both parts important to responding to God each day?

### Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus call Simon, Andrew, James, and John. They respond to Him by stopping what they are doing and following Him. How can stopping a certain action help a person to follow Jesus? What is something that you should stop doing to follow Jesus better? Why do you think Jesus is calling you to respond in that way?

### High School and Adults

As we get older God calls us to respond to Him in different and more mature ways. What are some ways that God called you to respond to Him when you were a child? How is He calling you to respond to Him differently now? How are you responding to Him in a more mature way? How can you mature in your relationship with 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

Whether we are sure we know how God wants us to respond to Him or not, one way is to respond with thanksgiving. We have so many blessings in our lives that we take many for granted. Today, start and end your day in thanksgiving. Thank God for as many things as you can think of. Don't stop at one or two things! Keep going!

## Tuesday

Our relationship with God is always growing because we are growing and so interact with Him differently each day. This means that we need to talk with Him every day and ask Him how He wants us to respond to Him. Today, ask God again how He wants you to respond. Don't automatically assume that it is the same way as yesterday.

## Wednesday

God asks us to respond to Him in prayer! He created us to have a relationship with Him, and desires to have a relationship with us. Prayer is not simply listing things that we need help with, but rather how we talk with and listen to God. Today, when you take time to pray, focus on your relationship with God, not only asking for help.

## Thursday

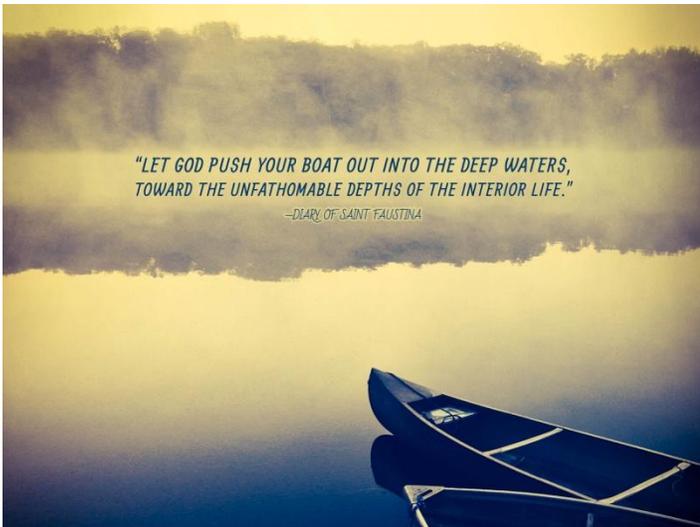
In addition to growing in our relationship with God through prayer, He also calls us to respond to Him in our actions. Those times when you feel that you should talk with someone or help a person that you see, those are when God wants you to respond to Him by loving someone else. Today, be confident and act each time that you feel called to.

## Friday

With our busy lives, we are often in a rush and want to get things done quickly. That will not work with a relationship with God! He wants us to respond to Him with patience – patience with Him and with ourselves. Today, even though you may have many things to do and not enough time to do them all, take time to sit silently, and patiently with God.

## Saturday

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we will be more aware of the blessings in our life and can thank Him for them. This will also lead us to be more aware of our weaknesses and the areas that we can grow in. Today, respond to God by being sorry for your sins. Take time in your prayer to ask for forgiveness and make a plan to go to Confession.



## FROM THE CATECHISM...

Christ stands at the heart of this gathering of men into the "family of God". By his word, through signs that manifest the reign of God, and by sending out his disciples, Jesus calls all people to come together around him. But above all in the great Paschal mystery - his death on the cross and his Resurrection - he would accomplish the coming of his kingdom. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." Into this union with Christ all men are called.

Catechism of the Catholic Family, 542

## 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](http://www.usccb.org).

Deuteronomy 18:15-20    Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,7-9    1 Corinthians 7:32-35    Mark 1:21-28