

Saint Boniface Parish

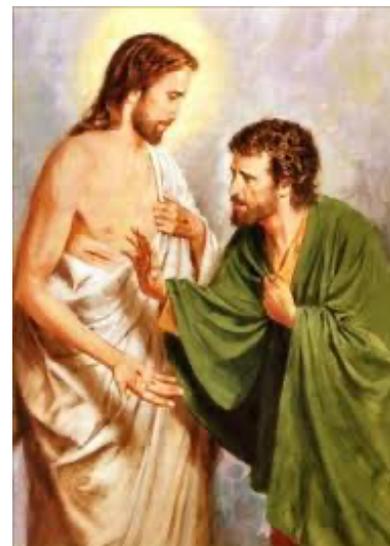
Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, April 11th

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 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." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.



What doubts are keeping me from accepting God's mercy?

First Grade

When we receive God's mercy, we are forgiven for everything that we have done wrong. When was a time that you received God's mercy? What do you think it means to be in a good relationship with God? Are you in a relationship with God? How would you explain it to someone else who wants a relationship with God?

Second Grade

In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus appeared to the disciples after His Resurrection. How do you think they felt when they saw Him? If you had been there would you have believed or would you have doubted that it was really Him? What helps you to believe in God? What questions do you have about God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Third and Fourth Grades

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed!" What do you think Jesus means? Do you believe in God without having seen Him? What helps you to believe and not have doubts in God? What doubts do you have, and how can believing in God help you to overcome them?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

God is all loving, all merciful, and all forgiving! Sometimes we forget or doubt that and feel like we have done something to stop Him from loving us. Have you ever felt like God wasn't there with you? What happened and how did you feel? What can you do next you feel that way to remember that God always loves you, no matter what?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel, we hear how Thomas said that he would not believe that Jesus had appeared until he could touch the wounds on His hands and side. What doubts do you have about God? What would help you to know and believe? Who are the people that you talk with to find answers to your questions about God and the Church?

High School and Adults

There is a difference between doubts and questions. It is a good thing for us to have questions, and a thousand questions does not equal one doubt. What are some of the questions that you have about God and His Church? What have you done to find the answers to these questions, or any doubts? What is something new way you can try?

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

There is a big difference between doubts and questions. A doubt says that you don't think something is true, but a question shows that you are trying to understand. Questions mean that we are thinking about what we believe. Today, think about the beliefs of the Church that you don't understand. Are they doubts or questions?

Tuesday

When we have questions, it is important to work to find the answers, because the answers are out there. Some of the ways that we can find those answers is to ask someone look up the answer, or search for it online (be sure that it is a good website!). Today, spend 10-15 minutes looking for an answer to one of your questions.

Wednesday

When we have doubts, it is important to not let them fester. When we accept doubts and reject truths, it means that we are rejecting something that will bring us joy. We can address our doubts by turning them into questions. Today, think and pray about what makes something difficult to believe? Why are you doubting and saying it isn't true?

Thursday

Prayer is necessary to deal with our doubts and questions. We don't ask God to simply remove the doubt from us, but rather to help us to understand what is true. Today, bring your doubts to God in prayer. Ask Him to help you to find answers to your questions, to bring people into your life that you can ask for help, and for patience to understand.

Friday

When we doubt a truth about God, it causes us to not trust Him when need Him. We miss out on receiving His mercy and grace. Think back to last week, how many times did you struggle more than necessary? How many times could you have asked God for His grace and mercy and had a more amazing day? Today, ask God for help – all day!

Saturday

God's mercy is limitless, meaning that there is nothing that we can do that would prevent His mercy from reaching us. When was a time that you felt that your sin was too horrible or embarrassing, and you doubted God's love for you? Today, talk with God in prayer, or even better in Confession, and give Him all of your sins; receive His mercy.



FROM THE CATECHISM...

“Our moral life has as its source in faith in God who reveals his love to us. St. Paul speaks of the ‘obedience of faith’ as our first obligation. He shows that ‘ignorance of God’ is the principle and explanation of all moral deviations. Our duty toward God is to believe in him and bear witness to him.”

Catechism of the Catholic Faith, 2087

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.

Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Psalm 4:2,4,7-8,9 1 John 2:1-5a Luke 24:35-48