

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, April 25th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Luke 10:11-18

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

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As a child of God, how do I trust in God the Father?

First Grade

We each have many people that we trust. Who are some of the people in your life that you trust? Name at least 10 people. Why do you trust those people? How do you show them that you trust them? Do you trust God? Why or why not? How do you show God that you trust Him? What can you do today and this week to show God that you trust Him?

Second Grade

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He would lay down His life for His sheep. Who are His sheep? How did He lay down His life for them? As a child of God, Jesus is your shepherd and He laid down His life for you when He died on the Cross. In what ways do you thank God for His sacrifice by trusting in Him? What can you do to trust in God more this week?

Third and Fourth Grades

You became a child of God when you were Baptized. What do you think it means to be a child of God? Why do you think we call God 'Our Father'? How is God like a father to you? In what ways does He protect, guide, and love you? What are some ways that God the Father has shown you that you can trust Him?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Sometimes life can be scary, and things can be difficult to do. What are some of the hard parts of your life? God is our Father, and He is here to help you through all of your day. How can you trust in God to help you with difficult moments? What can you do to remind yourself to ask God for help when you need Him? He is always there to help you.

Seventh and Eighth Grades

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, talks about sheep that are not in the same flock that He also will lead. Who do you think those other sheep are? How can you help Him with the other sheep – people who are not Baptized and/or do not believe in God? Who are the people that you invite to Mass or tell about Jesus and God the Father? Trust in Him!

High School and Adults

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus say several times that He is the Good Shepherd. What do you think that means? A shepherd leads the sheep – how is God leading you? When the shepherd leads the sheep, the sheep have to choose to follow him – are you choosing to follow God? How would you describe your trust in God?

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

Trust grows when we acknowledge what someone has done in the past to show that they are trustworthy. God the Father has demonstrated His love for us over and over, especially in sending His Son to die for us. Today, take time to think about and acknowledge what God has done for you in your life. Ask Him for help to remember and to see.

Tuesday

Trust grows when we give someone a chance to be trusted. How often do you ask for help from God and then actually accept His help? This can be difficult to do because His help is not always exactly what we are looking for. Today, choose one thing to ask God for help with and then be open to how He is going to answer you.

Wednesday

We may have heard before that we are a child of God, but what does that mean? With God as our Father, we are always in His care. As a good Father, He cares for each one of us, providing help if we choose to accept it. Today, work throughout the day to be aware of God's presence in your life. Are you able to see and acknowledge His help?

Thursday

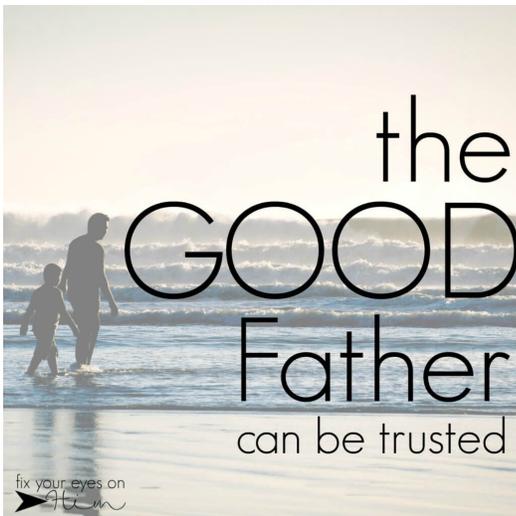
Being a child of God also means that we are in the community of God's family – the Church. The more that we realize this reality, the more we understand that we are never alone and have many people that we can trust in. Today, trust in God the Father by trusting more in His other sons and daughters. Who can you accept help from today? Be humble!

Friday

In the 'Our Father', we pray 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' What do you mean when you say these words each week at Mass? How are you trying to trust in God and follow His will? Today, each time that you are given a choice, trust in God and choose what will follow God's will. Do the right thing, even when it is difficult to do.

Saturday

In the 'Our Father', we pray 'Give us this day our daily bread.' Here, we are asking God to be able to receive Him in the Eucharist, which is truly His Body and His Blood! Do you believe that the Eucharist is His Body and Blood? Today, as you are preparing to go to Mass, think about your level of trust in the Eucharist. Ask God to help you to believe!



FROM THE CATECHISM...

“We can invoke God as 'Father' because he is revealed to us by his Son become man and because his Spirit makes him known to us. The personal relation of the Son to the Father is something that man cannot conceive nor the angelic powers even dimly see: and yet, the Spirit of the Son grants a participation in that very relation to us who believe that Jesus is the Christ and that we are born of God.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2780

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 9:26-31 Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8