

Family Faith at Home



Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt

Divine Mercy Sunday

Mass Readings:

Acts 4: 32-35

Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 John 4: 1-6

John 20: 19-31

[Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.](#)

Discuss

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. The followers of Jesus in the early church, "bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." How can we as a family follow that example today?
2. Thomas was one of the twelve apostles who followed Jesus. Why do you think he questioned the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." What do you think Jesus meant when he said that?
4. How does the Gospel story for this Sunday relate to Divine Mercy?

Share

In the First Letter of John, we hear that Jesus Christ came, "through water and blood." What he is telling us is that we are believers not only through the Sacrament of baptism, signified by water, we are also believers through the Sacrament of the Eucharist (blood). In the Gospel we hear of Thomas who would not believe in the Lord's resurrection until he saw Jesus for himself. While Thomas did see the Risen Lord and believed, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." We are those people, and, in a way, Thomas is a model for each one of us. We come to believe through what is written in the Gospels and what we are taught by the leaders of the Church today. Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy is God's love reaching down to meet the needs of all people and to help each one of us face and overcome the burdens encountered every day. Through praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, we are helped to believe and to serve others.

Watch

For families with younger children, [watch this video.](#)

For families with older children, [watch this video.](#)

Pray and Do

As a family learn and pray the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

"Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for man."
(Pope Benedict XVI, *Regina caeli*, 30 March 2008)



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