



Building Faith@HOME

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
2nd Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6
Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

“Of all the ways Jesus could have greeted the apostles on Easter Sunday, he chose four simple words: “Peace be with you” (John 20:19). Jesus had just died on the Cross and is now risen from the dead and sharing a special moment with his disciples. He did the most divine and miraculous event in all of Salvation history and could have immediately spoke to disciples of their salvation, but instead shared a simple greeting that had profound meaning, “Peace be with you.” Why this greeting? Remember that during this time after seeing Jesus crucified, the disciples were afraid and locked themselves in the upper room. They were experiencing their own weaknesses and lack of faith, worried that authorities would be after them, too. They felt ashamed of their own lack of faith, but Jesus understands and gives them exactly what is needed... a sense of overwhelming peace. Jesus extends this same peace to each of us.

An article from [The Word Among Us](#), shares that there are two kinds of peace, peace for ourselves and peace with each other. The disciples weren't perfect, and neither are we, but Jesus gives us this gift of peace because we are beloved by God. Knowing this love and loving God in return brings the peace we long for and helps us follow Jesus and fulfill his calling for us. Jesus went on to say after his greeting, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” We are called to treat others with the same mercy and love that he has shown us. The Easter Season celebrates this peace as every obstacle to peace has been removed. Jesus is our forgiving Savior! Alleluia! Peace be with you!

Missionary Discipleship: In today's first reading, we can reflect on what a community looks like when it encounters the risen Christ. In this community of believers, Jesus takes the center stage in our lives, not money, or material goods. We are called to hold loosely our possessions so that we can care for those in need.

Family Table Talk

Children: How can you believe in Jesus whom you have never seen?

Youth: Jesus' words of greeting were "Peace be with you," followed by the invitation to forgive sins. How does forgiveness bring peace to you? How does it change the world?

Adults: What strengthens your faith? Why do you believe in Jesus?

Peace be with you!



Catholic Kids Media
Second Sunday
of Easter
Cycle B



Psalm 118:1
bit.ly/CKM-Easter2B

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Note: Since March 25 was Monday of Holy Week this year, the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is moved to Monday, April 8.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”



Family Fun...

April 13 Scrabble Day

Alfred Mosher Butts was born on this day in 1899. In 1938, he invented this iconic board game. Bring the game box out and have a family game night.



APRIL DEVOTION: Holy Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term “Eucharist” originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving. Let us all say, :Thank you God, for the gift of Jesus present with us today.”



Jesus, I Trust in You

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[SYR Google Drive](#) - Finding your Fiat coloring sheet PDF (All ages)

[catholicicing.com](#) - Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday With Kids (Children)

[SYR Google Drive](#) - What is the Eucharist PDF poster (All Ages)

[vaticanobservatory.org](#) - Experiencing God In Totality: Reflections On How The Solar Eclipse Stirred Religious Experience. (Adults)

This resource is meant to be used in a digital format with hyperlinks,

Digital Format can found at:

syracusediocese.org/partnering-with-families



April 7, 2024



Prayer@HOME

2024 - A Year of Prayer

'Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1

Cut & Pray!

From now until Pentecost, practice the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass



Give thanks to the
LORD, for he is
good, his love is
everlasting.

-Psalm 118:1

Liturgy of the Word: It's all NEW Testament!

In the Easter season, our Church reads from the Acts of the Apostles instead of the Old Testament. This tradition goes back to the 4th century and was started by St. Augustine, following earlier practices. The idea is to focus on the time after Jesus' resurrection, showing the early Church's growth and mission. This way, during Easter, the stories from Acts are read almost every day, covering the whole book by the season's end.

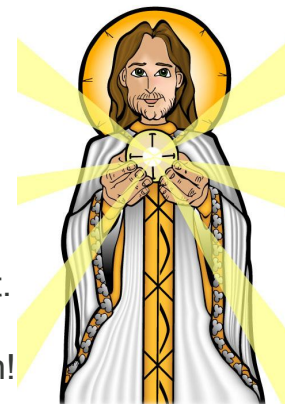
The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, one of the gospel writers. The Gospel of Luke tells of what Jesus began to do and teach. Luke writes the Acts of Apostles to share what Jesus continued to do and teach through the lives of his followers.

The apostles were the first bishops of the Church. Acts of Apostles recounts the early Church from its infancy as faith communities developed.



PRACTICE:

During the month of April as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, pray this Psalm as receive the Eucharist. Give thanks to Jesus for loving us so much!



Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

Mary's Fiat can be your Family's Fiat

"Mary's fiat sets the stage for all of us. It gives us the most perfect example of saying yes to God in everything; to being obedient to His will for our lives. It is heroic because Mary's fiat was not only one of joy – there was fear and uncertainty – but also sorrow. Her yes led her to the foot of the cross where her beloved son and savior died right before her eyes.

But her fiat also led her to the miraculous resurrection, and then to her own assumption into heaven. She has gone before us in perfect unity with the Holy Spirit setting an example for each of us to follow. All it takes is a resounding "Yes, Lord." (Retrieved from catholiconpurpose.com) We can all learn to say "Yes, Lord," to many of the small things that we are called to do for each other.

Say "Yes, Lord!"

Here a few examples of ways we can say "Yes, Lord!" (Be sure to say, "Yes, Lord...")

My child is being clingy and whiny – "Yes, Lord I will be patient."

My parents are tired and need help in the kitchen – "Yes, Lord, I will go."

A classmate is being bullied – "Yes, Lord, I will stand up."

Ask each other, what other ways can you say "Yes, Lord?"