

Family Liturgy – 23th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 6 September 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (the colour for Ordinary time)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Place something you value or treasure or any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/321150.htm>

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we come together to celebrate the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. On this Father's Day, we ask God to help us today to come together as a family whose love overcomes all difficulties. We thank God for the gift of love we receive from each other and ask God for forgiveness for the poor choices we make knowing that we are always loved.

Opening prayer: God of love and forgiveness, help us to listen to you in the Gospel story and to follow you closely. Help us to want to forgive others as I would like to be forgiven. Help us to turn to you for forgiveness knowing that you will always love us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (18:15-17)

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong.
But do it in private, just between the two of you.

If that person listens, you have won back a follower.
But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others.

The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses.
If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church.
Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector'.

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

The gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together of the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus as an example of forgiveness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIQeriw-USs> (3 min)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Jesus tells us to go to another in private if they have done wrong?

I wonder when are the times that we can forgive others?

I wonder when are the times when we need forgiveness?

I wonder what are the ways in which I can make up for my poor choices?

I wonder what the message is for me in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFuHL6lzk6E> (2mins)?

I wonder how I feel when I ask God for forgiveness in prayer and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

I wonder what why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is important for us to grow close to Jesus?
I wonder if you remember any other stories Jesus told about forgiveness?
I wonder what words you hear Jesus speaking to you in your hearts as you prepare to meet him in the Sacraments?

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Pat and all Church and world leaders: that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to lead us as to the God of love and forgiveness.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time especially during this COVID-19 outbreak: that they may feel the love and care of others who help to relieve their suffering and to know that they are deeply loved by God. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that they will celebrate the birthday of Mary, Jesus Mother, this week and turn to her to help us be close to the Heart of Jesus, her Son. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pray for all people, especially for children, who are looking forward to receiving the Sacraments for the first time: that they will prepare well to receive Jesus into their hearts and do all they can to grow closer to God and help to build our faith community. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

5 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for all fathers throughout the world and ask for God's blessing upon them. (pause) Lord, hear us **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now be united in the love and forgiveness of God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God who calls us to be close, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to show us how to live a life of faith. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. Amen.

Closing song: *Forgive One Another* by Phebe Rei Dela Cruz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPPYq7mhEHc> (2mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook) speaking to Jesus of your needs and of how you would like to grow close to Him this week
- Listen to *The Forgiveness Song* and write in your prayer journal the ways you can forgive others and the ways that you would like others to forgive you
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SKlrZpZG0I> Decide what action you need to take.
- Pray the *Our Father* and notice the part of the prayer about forgiveness. Write it down and decorate it or draw a picture showing forgiveness of another and asking for forgiveness
- https://sermons4kids.com/forgiving_and_forgiven_wordsearch.htm
- https://sermons4kids.com/forgiving_and_forgiven_crossword.htm
- https://sermons4kids.com/forgiving_others_colorpg.htm
- Watch the video to relook at what the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* means?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb8pzvnnL20> (4mins) (OBD films)