

Family Liturgy – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 11 October 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (green, for ordinary time). Place a cross, a bible, and a candle on it. 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. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel stories and songs.
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet. Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we hear a story about a great wedding party and the people who were invited. I wonder why Jesus is telling this story... I wonder if Jesus is inviting us too to this big party... We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

Opening prayer: God of families and togetherness, we give you thanks for sending Jesus to us. Help us to hear Jesus' words to us and to understand and believe in them so we may love you more. Help us now to listen to your Word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (22:1-10)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

Jesus used this story to teach people:

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son’
The king sent some servants to tell the invited guests to come to the banquet, but the guests refused.

He sent other servants to say to the guests,
‘The banquet is ready!
My cattle and prize calves have all been prepared.
Everything is ready.
Come to the banquet!’

“But the guests did not pay attention.
Some of them left for their farms, and some went to their places of business.
Others grabbed the servants, beat them up, and killed them.

“This made the king so furious that he sent an army to kill those murderers and burn down their city.
Then he said to the servants,
‘It is time for the wedding, and the invited guests don’t deserve to come.
Go out to the street corners and tell everyone you meet to come to the banquet.’

They went out on the streets and brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike.
And the banquet room was filled with guests.”

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 clip about Jesus telling the Parable of the Great Banquet.

<https://youtu.be/LEbwiQvo5k4> The Parable of the Great Banquet - Matthew 22:1-10 (3.12 mins)



<https://www.biblecartoons.co.uk/free/0104303101.jpg>

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

- I wonder why Jesus told this story...
- I wonder how the king felt while he organised the wedding party...
- I wonder why the invited guests refused to go to the wedding party...
- I wonder how the king felt when the servants told him everyone had refused the invite...
- I wonder who the initial invited guests were...
- I wonder how the people in the streets felt when the servants invited them to the party...
- I wonder who you would invite to your party...
- I wonder who the king in the story that Jesus told is...
- I wonder who the son in the story is...
- I wonder if in this story Jesus is inviting you...
- I wonder if you accept Jesus' invitation or make excuses not to accept...
- I wonder what part of the story is the most important...
- I wonder what Jesus is saying to each one of us with this story today...

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 teach us to accept God's invitation and not make excuses.

(We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for our Church, Pope Francis, and Archbishop Pat: may our Church, be an example of how to welcome and serve others with love, patience, and humility. Lord, hear us.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes: May our communities be places where everyone accepts the invitation to join the Father and the Son in God's heavenly celebration. Lord, hear us.

3 We pray for our world especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic: May people everywhere focus on Jesus and receive the free gift of life which he offers. Lord, hear us.

4 We pray for all the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments for the first time: may their lives be blessed with families and sponsors who show them how to make good choices in their daily lives. Lord, hear us.

5 We pray for our families and friends: May people who have died recently and especially the people we know and love, experience God's mercy and take part in God's heavenly celebration. Lord, hear us.

Closing prayer: God of families and togetherness, we believe in your love – your love created the world. We believe in your love – your love sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – your love sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life through us. Amen.

Closing song: <https://youtu.be/HnUs5s33iqw> Our Father "Brother Francis" (2.34 mins)

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

- Write a prayer or draw a picture thanking God for teaching us how to forgive one another.
- Act out the Gospel story of the banquet
- Decide to think about the choices you make today as a follower of Jesus
- Draw a cartoon story of what happened in this story with captions
- Go to the following links to find crosswords & other children activities on the topic:
 - https://sermons4kids.com/parable_wedding_banquet_maze.htm
 - https://sermons4kids.com/parable_wedding_banquet_decoder.htm
 - https://sermons4kids.com/you_are_invited_group_activities.htm
 - <https://youtu.be/cneSWCxqDRk> Gospel reading and reflection for kids
- **EXCUSES GAME:** Have children sit in a circle with a big ball! A child will toss the ball to another player and give an excuse that they can think of. The child who catches the ball will then give an excuse and roll or toss the ball to someone else, etc. Children will begin to realize how funny excuses sound. Begin to tell the story.