

WE ARE THE CHURCH IN THE HOME

A family is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us and acts in the world. The early Church expressed this truth by calling the Christian family a Domestic Church or Church of the Home. As families, we carry out the mission of the Church of the Home in ordinary ways when:

We believe in God and that God cares about us, in good times and bad.

We love and value others.

We foster intimacy. To share oneself and be accepted within a family is indispensable to forming a close relationship with the Lord.

We evangelize by professing faith in God, acting in accord with the Gospel values and setting an example of Christian living for our children and others.

We educate, especially by example. Sometimes children listen and learn; sometimes they teach us.

We pray together, thanking God for blessings, reaching for strength, asking for guidance in crisis and doubt.

We serve one another, sacrificing our own wants for the other's good.

We forgive and seek reconciliation. When we do so, family members come to believe that no matter what, they are still loved by you & God.

We celebrate life. As we gather for a meal, we break bread and share stories, becoming more fully the community of love Jesus calls us to be.

We act justly in community when we treat others with respect.

We affirm life as a precious gift from God.

We raise up vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
(The above taken from Catholic Update C-1094 –permission granted)

WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED

Home Edition



*The family exists at the heart of all societies. It is the first and most basic community to which every person belongs. There is nothing more fundamental to our vitality as a society and as a Church.—Follow the Way of Love
- A Pastoral Message to Families*

Ordinary Time

August 7, 2011 – September 25, 2011

Nurturing Family Faith
An Archdiocese of Cincinnati Initiative

Gospel Readings:

August 7 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 14:22-33

What is an example of a “storm” in life? Our family’s life? What did Peter do when he began to sink? Can we say this prayer too?

August 14 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 15:21-28

What do you think made Jesus change His attitude toward the woman who felt like an outcast? How can we show Jesus our faith is strong too?

August 21 Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 16:13-20

Who do you think Jesus is? Do you tell others this? What do you think Jesus meant when he said He would build His church on the rock/Peter?

August 28 Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 16:21-27

Why do you suppose Jesus called Peter “Satan?” What did Peter do or say differently from when he was called the “rock” on which Jesus would build His church?

September 4 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 18:15-20

What are we supposed to do if someone has hurt or upset us? Why is it hard to tell someone they have hurt us? What is Jesus’ special promise to us in verse 20?

September 11 Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 18:21-35

How often are we supposed to forgive those who hurt us? Why is it hard to do that? Of what has God forgiven each of us (in this family) this week? Have we ever before asked God to forgive us for that?

September 18 Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 20:1-16a

Why were the workers grumbling? Did Jesus change what He had told them? Were they looking at others’ actions instead of Jesus’ words to them? What have we grumbled and complained about this week?

September 25 Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 21:28-32

Have you ever said and done something like either of the sons in this story? Who was Jesus referring to in these examples? What can we do as a family this week, to be more like Jesus?

INTRODUCTION-

Leader: God, Come to our assistance.

All: Lord make haste to help us

Leader: We light this candle to remind us of God’s presence among us. (*Light a candle*)

All: May we let His light shine through us.

Reader: Read aloud the Gospel Reading for Sunday.

Leader: (Please use the questions under the Gospel Readings for further discussion or come up with your own)

Petitions: For what and for whom shall we pray today?
(Family members can mention their prayer intentions)

Leader: Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us. Our Father.....

Closing Prayer

Sometimes it’s hard, dear Lord, to listen to your voice. So much is going on; we are rushing here and there forgetting to talk to You. Help us to slow down and hear your message of love and be good and loving to all we meet this week.

Leader: (making the sign of the cross)
May the Lord bless our family, our home and our friends and all who are hurting and in need of prayers. In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Amen

Questions and additional resources can be found at:

http://www.faithfirst.com/gospel_reflections.html