

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 call 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 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 for 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 they are still loved by you and 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 C1094-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

January 15, 2012 - February 19, 2012

Nurturing Family Faith
An Archdiocese of Cincinnati Initiative

INTRODUCTION-

Leader: God, Come to our assistance. *(Make the sign of the cross.)*

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.)*

Pause for discussion. *(You may use the questions on the opposite page or come up with your own.)*

Leader: 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...

All: Sometimes it's hard, dear Lord, to listen to your voice. So much is going on and we are rushing here and there. We forget to talk to You. Help us to slow down and hear your message of love. Help us to be kind and loving to all we meet this week.

Leader: May the Lord bless our family, our home, our friends and all who are hurting and in need of prayers.

All: (Make the sign of the cross.) In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gospel Readings & Questions for Reflection

January 15 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jn 1:35-42
What would you ask of Jesus if He asked you what you want of Him? What do you think it means to be the "Lamb of God?"

January 22 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:14-20
Immediately Peter, James and John left their jobs to follow Jesus. Why would this be difficult to do? What are some specific ways our lives would change?

January 29 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:21-28
What does it mean when they say "Jesus taught with authority, not like the scribes?" Pretend you are sitting in church and witnessed this very strange and scary event. How would you feel? What might you think about Jesus? Share some of your thoughts.

February 5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:29-39
These words tell us how Jesus healed many sick people, preached to many people and chased away demons. What was something Jesus did alone? Why do you think He did this? How can we do this too?

February 12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:40-45
How has sin made us all, in a sense, lepers? How are we made clean and healed? This week, what can we do to treat others like Jesus treats us?

February 19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 12:1-12
When we recognize someone's need, do we respond? Who does our family know who needs our help? What one thing can we do together to help them this week? Decide a plan together.