

# Family Faith at Home



## *Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!*

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



## *Third Sunday of Lent*

### **Mass Readings:**

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 19: 8, 9, 10, 11

1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

John 2: 13-25

[Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.](#)

### *Discuss*

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. The Gospel story is often referred to as the "Cleansing of the Temple." What do you think needed to be cleansed from the Temple?
2. Why do you think this event is so important that each of four Gospel authors wrote about it?
3. It has been said our bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit. What are some ways we can spiritually cleanse ourselves in order to be more suitable dwelling places for God?
4. Jesus was angry because proper worship was not taking place in the Temple. What are some ways our family can better prepare in order to fully participate at Sunday Mass?

### *Share*

The scripture passage for this week is often referred to as the "Cleansing of the Temple" and may be found in all four of the Gospels. Passover was approaching, and the Temple had been turned into a marketplace where people could change their money so animals for sacrifice could be purchased. What makes this story memorable for many people is that Jesus became very angry. But what made him so angry? One reason was because the merchants were selling animals at a higher price in the Temple than would be paid outside, and money was changed at a rate that brought more profit to the moneychangers. In short, these people were commercializing religion and religious practice and making a profit from the poor who came to worship. By removing the profiteers from the Temple, Jesus is telling us the Temple, the place of true worship, is where all people, rich and poor, should be able to come together to worship God.

### *Watch*

For families with small children, [watch this video.](#)

For families with older children, [watch this video.](#)

### *Pray*

Below is a shortened version of a prayer that St. Thomas Aquinas would say before receiving the Eucharist.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness ... May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords ... with the purity and faith ... that will help to bring me to salvation. Amen.*

### *Do*

Learn more about the celebration of Passover by reading Exodus 12: 1-28 and Exodus 13: 1-10.

