Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to support you and your whole family during this difficult time in our world. 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 of the Gospel questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night. Formed.org is graciously offering free access to our Archdiocese during this time. If you do not already have access, you can sign up here.
- Pray the prayer each evening.

Discuss
Read the Gospel and then discuss as a family:
1. What happened in this reading?
2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples that their faith in Him would be shaken?
3. What are things in our lives that shake our faith in God?
4. What can we learn about prayer from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?
5. Name ways and by whom in which Jesus was abandoned in this Gospel.
6. Have you ever felt abandoned by those you trust?
7. What would it be like to speak with God in those moments?

Share:
As we enter this Holy Week, know that God has been faithful throughout the bible. Even when Jesus is abandoned by His friends on the cross, He is raised to new life on Easter Sunday. By suffering for us, He pays the price for our sins and offers us a chance for personal relationship with God the Father. In the quiet of your heart, ask Jesus to help you know His Father’s love and mercy that embraces us that no matter what.

Watch
For families with young children, watch a cartoon about Palm Sunday.
For families with older children, watch an explanation of Palm Sunday.
Together, reflect on this song, “Good, Good Father.”

Pray
O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.
Amen. -St. Ignatius of Loyola

Do
This week, take some time to build trust as a family. Get creative with ways you can do this. Here are some ideas. Each night in your prayer, ask God to increase your ability to trust in Him.

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Palm Sunday

Mass Readings:
Procession with Palms: Matthew 21-1-11
Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2: 6-11
Matthew 26: 14-27

Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Other Resources for Your Family

ArchCare
ArchCare, the continuing care community of the Archdiocese, has established a 24-hour hotline to assist with any aspect of the coronavirus. If you have questions or other health-related concerns, call their hotline at 877-239-1998.

Catholic Charities of New York
Catholic Charities of New York provides or directs individuals and families to a variety of services ranging from financial to mental health. Do not hesitate to call them at 888-744-7900.

ADAPP
ADAPP, Archdiocese of New York Drug Abuse Prevention Program, has compiled a list of tools and resources for families, caregivers, and students including mental health and food assistance resources. Click here for a listing of resources.

Sunday Mass
Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral is streamed live at 10:15 on Sunday in English
Mass at St. Anthony of Padua is streamed live on Facebook at 10:30am in Spanish

Department of Youth Faith Formation

The Department of Youth Faith Formation encompasses the Catechetical Office and Office of Youth Ministry. Collaboratively, these offices work with parishes and parish leaders to support their efforts to help young people (grades Pre-K to 12) and their families encounter Christ and grow in their Catholic faith. The Department provides training, resources, consultation, networking and events.

Catechetical Office
Website: NYFaithFormation.org
Facebook: NYFaithFormation

Office of Youth Ministry
Website: OYMNY.org
Facebook: oymny
Instagram: @oymny
Twitter: @oymny