



**St. Ignatius of Loyola Church
Pre-K-5 Family-Based Program**

March 7th - Third Sunday of Lent

Reflection Point: We are invited to think about our places for prayer and worship, and be attentive to Jesus' words and actions.

Reading: John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money changers seated there.
He made a whip out of cords
and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
"Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father's house a
marketplace."
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
"What sign can you show us for doing this?"
Jesus answered and said to them,
"Destroy this temple and in three days I will
raise it up."
The Jews said,
"This temple has been under construction for
forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?"
But he was speaking about the temple of his
body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of
Passover,
many began to believe in his name
when they saw the signs he was doing.
But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,
and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.
He himself understood it well.

Reflecting Together:

1. What did Jesus do in today's Gospel?
Why do you think that he did this?
2. What was Jesus' response to the people
who asked for a sign to show his
authority to do this? What do the
people say in response?

Going Deeper:

1. How do you experience God's presence
in your life?
2. As Christians, we believe that the places
where we gather as a community to
pray—our churches— are holy. As we
experience God in our life in many
different places, how should we treat
our different communities and spaces?

Finding God in Our Week

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again.

At Home

As you gather as a family, talk about places and times when you have experienced God's presence. After his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples understood that Jesus was present with them as they gathered to pray and especially when they gathered to share a meal. Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

An Example of Lived Faith: Saint Katharine Drexel



St. Katharine Drexel, whose feast day is March 3rd, was born in 1858 to a prominently wealthy family in Philadelphia. Her mother believed God gave wealth to the family to aid others, and regularly involved Katharine and her sisters in distributing food, medicine, clothing, and rent money to the poor. These experiences shaped Katharine's future. While she was in her mid-twenties, both of her parents passed away, and she was left with a large estate of money. She was unsure of what to do with her life, and desired to become a contemplative nun.

She eventually founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891. By 1904, 104 sisters helped to build elementary and high schools for African American and Native American populations across the United States and established Xavier University

to train teachers for those schools. During her lifetime she gave away about twenty million dollars, mostly for these causes. In 1935, Katharine suffered a severe heart attack. Two years later she retired and got her heart's desire—eighteen years of quiet contemplation before she died in 1955 at age 97. St. Katharine's compassion for marginalized people led her to set aside her desire for contemplative life for five decades while she engaged in active ministry. May St. Katharine's ministry inspire us to continue building God's Kingdom up here on Earth!