



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

March 21st - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reflection Point: Jesus teaches his disciples that those who want to follow him must serve others, thinking about others' needs before their own.

Reading: John 12:20-33

Narrator: Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him,

Philip: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Narrator: Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them,

Jesus #1: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Jesus #2: Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

Jesus #1: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Narrator: Then a voice came from heaven,

Voice: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

Narrator: The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said,

Jesus #2: "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

Narrator: He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Finding God in Our Week

Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

At Home

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

An Example of Lived Faith: Saint Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas



St. Marie Alphonsine, whose feast day is March 25th, was born in 1843 to a Palestinian family in Jerusalem. When she was 14, Ghattas joined the Congregation of St. Joseph of the Apparition. In 1862 after her vows, she was sent to teach catechism in Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, she claimed several apparitions of Mary directing her to found a Palestine congregation known as the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of Jerusalem. She had a deep devotion to Mary through the Rosary beginning at a young age, and this continued for the rest of her life.

She dedicated her life to parish ministry and the care and education of Palestinian girls, and the community quickly grew. In 1886 she founded a school for girls in Beit Sahour. Then she was sent to

Salt in Transjordan with three sisters, then in Nablus, before returning to Jerusalem because of her health. In 1917, found an orphanage in Ein Karem and died there on the Feast of the Annunciation 25 March 1927. May St. Marie Alphonsine's example of serving others continue to inspire us as we get closer to Easter!

Reflecting Together:

1. According to what we just heard, what is Jesus asking us to do?
2. What happens when we plant a seed in the ground? How is this like what Jesus is teaching his disciples in today's Gospel?

Going Deeper:

1. When was a time that you put another person's needs above your own? What do you think it taught you about your faith?
2. We are approaching the end of Lent. What might you do between now and Easter to show your willingness to follow Jesus by serving others?