



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

April 11th - Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday

Reflection Point: Our call to be faithful disciples challenges us to trust and believe, even if we cannot always see something.

Reading: John 20:19-31

Narrator #1: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,

Jesus: “Peace be with you.”

Narrator #2: When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

Jesus: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

Narrator #3: And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

Jesus: “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Narrator #4: Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them,

Thomas: “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Narrator #1: Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said,

Jesus: “Peace be with you.”

Narrator #2: Then he said to Thomas,

Jesus: “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Narrator #3: Thomas answered and said to him,

Thomas: “My Lord and my God!”

Reflecting Together:

1. What disagreement among the disciples is heard in this Gospel? Who doesn't believe?
2. What are Jesus' words of greeting to the disciples?

Going Deeper:

1. What gift does Jesus give to his disciples? What does Jesus tell his disciples to do?
2. Jesus has given us the power to be people who forgive and reconcile with one another. How can we act in the spirit of Jesus and bring peace and forgiveness to others this week?

Narrator #4: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Narrator #1: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Finding God in Our Week

Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families.

At Home

As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that might be tried in the future. Read together today’s Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

An Example of Lived Faith: Saint Faustina Kowalska



This Sunday is also called Divine Mercy Sunday, as declared by Pope Saint John Paul II. Saint Faustina had a very important role for this. Born to a large peasant family in Poland, she began to sense God’s call as a child, but she was 20 before she found it irresistible. In 1925, Helena entered the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where she took the name Faustina.

On the evening of February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina. He wore a white robe, and two rays, one white and one red, flowed from his breast. In this and subsequent visions, Christ directed Faustina to produce devotion to the Divine Mercy. He instructed her to make a painting of his image, promising that anyone who honored it would be saved. He also told Faustina that he wanted the whole church to celebrate the first Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Mercy. She did not receive great support from this, but soon made slow progress. Faustina died of tuberculosis in 1938. After her death the Divine Mercy devotion has grown steadily, and became popularly established throughout the entire church through Pope Saint John Paul II. May the life of St. Faustina inspire us today to see that God shows mercy and grace through even the most ordinary people!