

A Holy Nation



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
June 18, 2023 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Prayer:

Loving Father, you sent Christ to be our Savior.
As his followers, may we continue to share his
message of salvation with the world. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:36-10:8

Jesus sends the twelve apostles to proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection:

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends his twelve disciples to do his work in the world. Jesus gives his apostles the courage to preach in his name, and the power to work miracles healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, driving out demons, and raising the dead.

Jesus trusted the disciples to continue his mission. The disciples shared Jesus' mission with their words, and with their actions. We are also Jesus' disciples. We don't have to wait to be grown-ups to continue Jesus' mission. We can bring Jesus's love to the people in our lives right now, in our words and our actions.

Every person in the Church is sent by Christ to do the work that he did. This task can seem daunting. Yet when we have learned to work together with others to achieve a common goal, we have learned something of what it means to do the work of Christ. The family is one such place in which we work with others, sharing a common task and a common goal. An important aspect of our mission is to bring about reconciliation among people and reuniting people with God.

Family activities:

* We are sent to bring Jesus' love to our families, our schools, and our neighborhoods. Take a moment to close your eyes and think of some people in your life with whom you will share Jesus' love this week.

***Affirm the gifts of your family members.**
We all have gifts from God. It is nice to hear from other people the gifts they see in us. Have each family member write his or her name with black ink in the center of a piece of white paper. Each family member chooses a marker of a certain color. With that marker, write a word for each family member that describes a gift that you see in the person. Write neatly to make this a keepsake. Do your best not to repeat words that others have written. Help the younger family members with writing. When finished, let each person read their gifts.

Discuss these questions as a family:

* Have you ever been sent on an errand? What are some of the things that you have been sent to do? How did it feel to be given a job to do?

*If you had to choose someone to do an important job, what sort of qualities and strengths would help that person succeed?

*Can you name the twelve disciples of Jesus?
(Refer to the Gospel reading from Matthew 9:36-10:8 for help.)

*What did Jesus give the twelve disciples to prepare them for the mission? (He gave them the courage to preach in his name, the power to work miracles, force out evil spirits and heal every kind of disease and sickness.)

