

The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
January 22, 2023 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Prayer:

Loving Father, help us to follow Christ's call to love as he loves and to forgive as he forgives, so that the world will know that we are God's children. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Follow Christ, the Lord of light and salvation.

Reflection:

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. We hear how Jesus called his first disciples to be his followers. Jesus called four fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and James and John, who were also brothers. They left their boats, their homes and their families in Capernaum, and followed Jesus. Jesus promised that they would bring home more than fish. They would bring people home to God. Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching the good news about God's kingdom and healing the sick.

Jesus calls each and every one of us to turn around our lives and make following him our most important priority. It is not always easy to walk away from the things we want to do in order to do what Jesus wants us to do. We can find comfort in how the apostles walked with Jesus, knowing that following him would be full of ups and downs and even missteps, yet they did not give up.

God does not expect perfection, but he asks us to try our best every day. We can respond generously to Jesus' invitation to follow him by strengthening our prayer life, caring for all of creation, and helping people in need. When we learn how much Jesus love us, we want more than anything to be close to him.

Discuss these questions as a family:

- * What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
- * What does it mean to turn back to God or repent?
- * Can you locate Capernaum on the map?
- * How are you living as disciples of Jesus? As a family, discuss what priorities are reflected in your daily schedule. Does your schedule give evidence that you put God first in your family life? What might you do to better reflect that God is your priority?
- * What gifts has God blessed you with? How is God calling you to use your gifts and talents? Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in recognizing your gifts and sharing them to glorify God and serving others.

Family activities:

To build up the Kingdom of God, pray together at meal time and practice doing small acts of kindness this week. Smile when you see a person, help someone with a task, share a compliment or your time.

Many people throughout history have responded to Jesus' call to follow him and make fishers of men. The saints are wonderful examples to us of this response. Throughout this week read about the lives of a few saints to inspire your family in your journey to follow Jesus. This week is the feast day for six wonderful saints.

January 23 St. Vincent

January 24 St. Francis de Sales – Watch his story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnUd0XTScEY>

January 25 St. Paul the Apostle

January 26 St. Timothy – Watch his story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4GSFluzBSA>

January 27 St. Angela Merici

January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas

