

Lesson for Sunday, November 8, 2020 (The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Families,

Blessings to each of you. I hope that you are having a good week; staying healthy and safe and successfully navigating all that is on your plate. Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. My goal, as always, is to try to streamline lessons and make them as easy to navigate as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- All lessons correspond to the weekly Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that you were given at the October meeting. The date for each week can be found in the top corner. This is our last lesson in the first batch of materials you were given. **If you have not yet stopped by the office to pick up the next 8 weeks of lessons that run from November 15 – January 10, please make plans to do so now.**
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at holyfamilyrockland.org. Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Next, choose your child's grade level, Grade 4-5 Venture. Everything you need for the week is found there: (Remember, I will always give you lots of options – you do what you can get to each week based on your families schedule and your child's abilities.)
 1. Links to the Teaching Guide to help your children each week
 2. A digital copy of their lesson (they have the hard copy)
 3. A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
 4. Prayers: Please review with your child The Act of Contrition. It is in the Student Venture Handbook on page 52. This is a prayer that should be memorized by 4/5th grade. It is the prayer that we say when we go to Confession after spending time examining the choices that we make, particularly those that cause us to be separated from God. (Sin occurs when you know something is wrong, but you choose to do it anyway.)
- **Lesson Background:** (Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 25:1–13) In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the parable (story told to teach a lesson) of the bridegroom and ten girls to tell his disciples to remain vigilant (to be ready). The parable describes some of the girls as foolish and some as wise. Those who were ready for the bridegroom went into the wedding feast. The bridegroom, however, did not even acknowledge those who did not prepare. Jesus teaches us to always be prepared, to make good choices and to do good things. We never know when he will return. This is an opportune time to recognize that when we make good choices, we are preparing for Jesus' coming.
- **Our Venture Gospel Weekly focuses on making good choices.** This week's lesson focuses on being prepared for certain situations, making good choices and to think about the return of Jesus. Have your child describe what happened to Juan during "The Happy Dance" story. Ask how your son or daughter thinks Sonia reacted to Juan's apology. Discuss how Jesus' Parable of the Ten Girls connects with Juan's story, especially the consequences of not being prepared. Discuss how your family can be prepared for Jesus' return. Talk about the importance of the Responsorial Psalm, and together recite Psalm 63:2–8. Have your child host a family game of "Wise and Foolish Choices" found on page 6-7 of their Gospel Weekly. Ask him or her to tell you about Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini.
- **Pray Together:** When you complete your conversation about this Sunday's Gospel lesson, pray with your child to have the strength to remain prepared for Jesus'. Discuss why wisdom is a gift. It was given to them at their Baptism and will be strengthened at their Confirmation. (The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, Wonder and Awe.) In the evening, when you say your prayers at bedtime with your child, help them look at the choices they have made throughout the day. Have them share one or two good choices that they made and then a

choice that they made that was not so good and discuss how they can make a better choice tomorrow. Finish your prayer time by reciting, "Holy Spirit, give me the wisdom to make good choices and to always be prepared."

- **Lastly, and most important:** Please make a point of signing up to attend 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in person (if your family is comfortable with that) or watching Mass together as a family this week (preferably on Sunday). The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. We always want our children to make the connection, like the great Road to Emmaus story in the Bible (Luke 24: 13-35), that we learn the scripture readings and then we celebrate Eucharist in the Mass – even if it is Spiritual Communion during this time of the pandemic.

We miss you! We love you! Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to aid those affected by the Coronavirus.

Yours in Christ,
Liz Davis

PS: The Second Quarter Materials are in for November 15, 2020 – January 10, 2021. Please call or email Bob and I and let us know when you can come by the Religious Ed. Office to pick them up over the next week. You can pull up to our office door, beep your horn and we will run the materials out to your car. We are in the office M, W, F 8-3 and T, Th 10-5. Looking forward to hearing from each of you!