

Lesson for Sunday, January 10, 2021 (The Baptism of the Lord)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Students and Families,

Blessings to each of you. I am praying that you are well and having a good week! Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- We are working this week on the January 10th Pflaum Gospel weekly lesson.
- **This is the last Gospel Weekly in this group. Please call or email the office today to set up a time to pick up the next set of lessons for your child. You will need them for Sunday, January 17! THANK YOU!**
- 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 Parent Teaching Guide pages 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: If your child has mastered the prayers we have been working on (the **Sign of the Cross correctly, the Lord's Prayer (The Our Father), the Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the Act of Contrition**, all found in the **Student Venture Handbook on page 52**) then they can begin working on **the Blessing Before Meals on page 56**. They should know this from memory. Practice it with them before all meals.
- If you ever want to go back to a previous week's lesson for any reason or rewatch a video etc. I always keep previous lessons available on the webpage under the heading: Previous Lessons/Activities.
- **This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:7–11** This Sunday is the last day of the liturgical season of Christmas. It may come as a surprise that the Gospel reading does not tell us a story about Jesus' childhood. Instead, we have fast-forwarded about thirty years in Jesus' life. We hear about how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. This feast confirms that the baby Jesus, born at Christmas is indeed God's "beloved Son." John baptized with water; those baptized in Jesus' name will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 - You and I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized.
 - Our sins are forgiven, and we are made children of God.
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit are strengthened in us through the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - If we read further in Mark's Gospel, we would learn that filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus began the work of his ministry.
 - Our Baptism begins our mission and ministry as Christians.
 - In the sacraments, Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us through the gifts of: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, Wonder and Awe, so that we might be witnesses to Jesus in our world.
- **Venture Grades 4–5:** Lesson Summary: (The complete lesson can be found on your child's webpage.) This week you and your child will learn about Baptism and the responsibilities for parents as well as children. Start the lesson by telling your child about their Baptism. Look at photos or videos you might

have. Talk with your child about how you have undertaken your responsibility of raising them in the faith. Ask your child how they keep God's Commandments. Let them know how you work to keep the Commandments. Ask them what actions show love for God and others. Have your child tell you the story of Jesus' baptism from this week's gospel.

- **Pray Together:** When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson on the Baptism of Jesus and how our Baptism calls us to live like him, make a point as a family to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week (or whatever time works best for your family schedule). The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. Pray together in your own words, that God will help your family to live out the call of Baptism to live as Jesus taught us.

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. **God Bless you and Happy New Year!**

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Liz Davis