

# God Family Friends



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## Dear Parents,

The Coronavirus has impacted your family and so many others around the world. In this time of uncertainty and change, there is much hope and possibility.

There are so many things we can no longer do, like: go on vacation, watch or play sports, or even go to Mass on Sunday. It is our desire that you, as parents, make the very most of the challenges we face -- and we have developed a tool to help you do just that!

You have a great opportunity, and your kids have such a great need, to be drawn more deeply into relationship with: God, your family, and with friends. Make time this Sunday to strengthen these foundational relationships.

## How to use

Announce to your family that this Sunday will be different. Prayerfully enter into the Green section below and invite Jesus into your hearts and into your home. Use the rest of this resource to spark creative ways to engage your whole family. Turn off the TV and set your phones aside. Take advantage of this time and let the light of Christ transform your family like never before!

**"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" - Mk 2:27**



**Fr. Steven Borello**

A life of prayer frees the heart and the mind of fear, anxiety, and concern by allowing God to meet us where we are and speak to us from His Word, the Sacred Scriptures. I encourage you to be patient and try every day to walk with the Lord through these simple steps and I know that it will change your life. God Bless you and set you free from your own tombs.

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## Choose a Livestream...

Know that your priest is offering Mass and praying for your family today. See if your parish is live-streaming Mass!

There will also be a special Mass for Kids offered this weekend by Fr. Andy Davy. As a family, choose which Mass you will attend and, if possible, join in LIVE.

## Make it Special

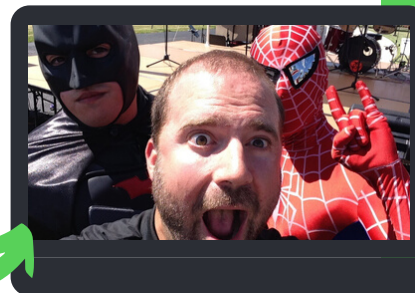
There are so many ways to honor God and to enter more fully into Mass as a family. Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- **Dress Up:** just like you would if you were going to Mass at your parish. This will signal to your kids that you are about to do something important.
- **Make an Altar:** take an end table and spread a white cloth over it. Place around it a crucifix - or pictures of Jesus, Mary, or the saints. Prop your phone or tablet up on your altar as you stream Mass.
- **Opening Hymn:** before the live stream begins, ask your family to be still and to quiet themselves... Play the song below.
- **Sit, Stand, & Kneel:** follow along with Mass. Sit for the readings, stand for the Gospel, and kneel after the "Holy, holy, holy."
- **Plan a Celebration:** every Mass IS a celebration because we get to receive Jesus and his Divine Life within us - but consider planning a big breakfast after Mass or something creative!



Find a  
Mass

Fr. Andy  
will be live  
on Sat. at  
4pm!



## Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Eucharist. I love You above all things and I want to be with you.

Since I am unable to receive you at Mass, please Jesus, come into my heart. Be with me now and never let me be separated from you. Amen.

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OUR LADY of MERCY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

[www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com)

 630.851.3444

Dear Parish Family,

We miss you, Chardonay misses you too. We continue to keep you in prayer every day, especially presenting your prayers to the Father when we celebrate Mass.

We hope you are joining us on our livestream feeds as it is a great way to stay connected! There is a real spiritual connection when we gather together in these difficult times. Connecting virtually helps us to live up to our calling as a people of hope, a people of light in darkness, and a people that together can overcome any trial. Join us as together we Journey to the Heights!

See you online tomorrow,  
Fr Don and Fr Mark

## Opportunities for you

**Daily Mass & Sunday Mass Live Stream\***  
Sunday Mass @ 9:00 am / Daily Mass 8:00 am

### Spiritual Nourishment

Journey to the Heights Lenten Themed Homilies  
7 Deadly Sins Taken Down by 7 Lively Virtues  
Dealing With Fear  
God at Work in the Separation

### Content Yet To Come

Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement  
in a time of Pandemic

*\*All Masses are closed to the public. Go to [Facebook](#) and our [website](#). A recording will be posted after the Live Stream.*



## Share your Sunday!

Share a picture of your Sunday experience on [Facebook](#), we post all pictures on our [website](#), be on the lookout for yours.

## Q&A with the Fathers

Immediately following the Mass is Q&A with the Fathers. Post any questions you may have during the live feed on Facebook or submit your questions to [zara@olmercy.com](mailto:zara@olmercy.com).

## How can we pray for you today?

Our prayer teams are ready and would be honored to pray with you or for your needs now. Just click on this link to [submit your prayer request](#).

## Stay Connected

Look for "[Stay Connected](#)" on the homepage.



# God Family Friends

## A Great Way to Pray

Parents, follow this 4-step process and invite your family to recognize God's presence, to use their imagination, and to enter into the passage of scripture below.

 10min!

### Read

**Read the passage** out loud. Listen to God's spoken word, and then share with your family:

- What do you notice?
- What words, phrases, or images stand out?

### Reflect

**Silently reflect** upon what stood out to you. Start with the first word, image or phrase.

- What comes up?
- What are you experiencing?
- What might God be saying to you?

### Respond

**Share with Jesus** what you were just thinking about and everything you experienced.

- Tell Jesus what is on your heart.
- Ask questions and ask for what you need.

### Rest

**Rest, worship Him,** spend some time receiving what He wants to give, and if there's time, go to another word or phrase.

Take what God has given you, & recall it throughout the day.

### Parent

"As I read this passage, imagine that you are there at the raising of Lazarus. Hear, feel, and see what is going on. Look around and be a part of the story! Open your heart and your mind to wherever your imagination takes you and whatever Jesus wants to share with you. Close your eyes, breathe and try to place yourself in the story."

### Parent or Reader

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

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## Free Family Fun - "Unpack It!"

Create teams. Grab a backpack or gym bag and pack it full of as many clothing items as you can. Each bag must contain the same number of items. Be creative!

### The Challenge

Select one member from each team and swap backpacks. On "Go," selected team members must put on all of the items found in the backpack. First person to do it WINS! Take turns and have fun! What is the time to beat!?

### Unpack It (Each person gets to share)

- What were the challenges in this game?
- What did you like? Not like?
- Was it easy to move with all of those clothes on?
- How did it feel to be 'freed' of all those clothes?
- How does this game remind you of today's Gospel reading about Lazarus?

### Take it to the NEXT LEVEL! (Teens and up)

Now that you have dressed up in these many layers, have your teen or parent do some simple daily tasks like: pour a glass of milk, or text a friend, or brush their teeth, with all those clothes on! And revisit the questions above.

(Hint: the trick is to make sure you put gloves or oven mitts in your bag)



Good for the  
Whole Family!



Gym Bag



Clothes



[oyf@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:oyf@dioceseofjoliet.org)

Email us photos of each person bound up like Lazarus - we would love to share them on Facebook!\*

\*By emailing your photos you consent to and give permission to use these images in parish and Diocesan communications / publications.

# God Family Friends

## Getting Crafty

Act out the Gospel story in your own words using props from around the house or make puppets using these two links:



Family Movie Night



Sign up for FREE!

Click the  
Number

1

## Lazarus Craft & Activity Ideas

2

## Jesus Raising Lazarus Craft

## Dinner Discussion

(As you ask some or all of the following questions, give your family the time to respond. We would recommend you read the parent tips to the right.)

From today's Gospel we heard, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus, Lazarus, Mary and Martha were close friends. Jesus was not physically with them during this important time...

- Which friends have you missed being with this week? Why?
- How have you reached out to your friends? How is this different than being in person with them?
- We can't physically be present at Mass or Adoration with Jesus. As a family, what are some ways we can connect with Jesus this week?
- How will these help us feel Jesus' Presence?
- Which one(s) will we commit to do this week?

## Parent Tip: CARE

Perhaps your children have been invited to share more deeply and there is much going on right now.

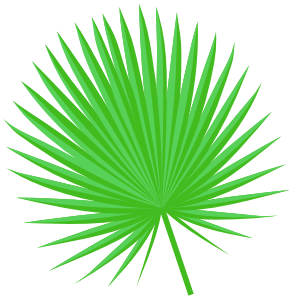
- C:** Create a 'safe place' for teens to share in the home.
- A:** Acknowledge the feelings that your kids are experiencing (hope, sadness, fear, anxiety)
- R:** Remind teens that they are not alone- family members will help one another together.
- E:** Encourage and invite all questions with compassion and care.

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## Till We Come Back Together...

It is so strange to us as a Church to be so distanced from one another. We long for the day when we can gather again with you and your family to celebrate Mass. Know of our prayers for all of you and please let your parish family know how we can assist you.

Make a family plan to prioritize time to reach out to those you miss. Don't just text them, call them. Let them know you care.



## Get Prepared

**Palm Sunday is NEXT Sunday, April 5th!**

We have a couple crafts that you can do with your kids this week in preparation for Palm Sunday: [Making Handprint Palms](#), and you can print and color this [Palm Sunday Coloring Page](#).

More to come next week on getting prepared because the first three days after Palm Sunday (the first three days of Holy Week) are traditionally days of "Spring Cleaning" as Catholic families prepare their hearts and homes for the for Easter Triduum.

## Pull out those Lights!

A primary symbol of our faith is the light of Jesus Christ, given to each of us at baptism. (Remember that candle?)

So, why not be creative and give witness to your hope in Jesus? Find some Christmas lights and decorate your house. Leave Santa and friends in the box for next Christmas, but maybe make an Easter cross & put those candles back in the windows.

We will remind you to light them at sunset on the night before Easter, as we begin the Easter Vigil... and to light them every night until our hopes for renewed life come true.

