



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

Blessed are the Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"

As we discussed in past weeks, living the first set of beatitudes helps us remain at peace with God. Now we are turning to attitudes that help us live at peace with others.

The world wants us to believe that we have enemies. It may tell us to not like someone because their skin is a different color than ours, or because they speak differently than us, or they don't believe in God like us, or maybe they are just plain mean. The world will tell you that it is okay to ignore those people who are different or mean. The world may even say it is okay to be mean in return. But we as children of God know better. We read in the Bible that God wants ALL things and ALL people to be reconciled to him, through Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is also the Prince of Peace. He is our example of how to bring peace. When we follow Jesus by making peace, we are showing that we are children of God, like Jesus is.

You can't make everyone happy. Sometimes people will just want to fight. But don't give in! When this happens, continue to practice the Beatitudes and remain within God's peace. When we, the children of God, are peacemakers, others may want to become peacemakers too.

- How might you bring peace even if someone else doesn't want peace?

Philip and James

St. Philip

The Apostle Philip was one of Christ's first disciples, called soon after his Master's baptism in the Jordan. He is mentioned a few times in the gospel stories and then is known to have preached the good news to the area that is now Turkey, until he was stoned to death for preaching about Jesus.

St James

St. James the Less, a brother of the Apostle Jude, was of Cana of Galilee. He is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament. He was favored by an appearance of the Risen Christ (1 Cor. 15:7). After the dispersion of the Apostles he was made Bishop of Jerusalem. When he refused to deny the Divinity of Christ, he was cast down from the terrace of the temple and yet even as he died he prayed for those who attacked him.

The relics, of St Philip and of St. James were taken to Rome and placed in the Basilica of the Twelve Apostles. on the same day, which is why they share a feast day.

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline.]

- If someone asked what peace is, what would you say?
- When have you experienced peace?
- How is Jesus a peacemaker?

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the additional resource provided by the parish. If you don't have it, you can download it on our website]

Spend some time as a family this week brainstorming what conflicts or troubles you might encounter in your day and how you might be a peacemaker. See the activities on the handout to help your family have a concrete way to discuss bring peacemakers

Be sure to include Philip and James in your prayer by praying "Sts Philip and James - **Pray for us!**"

End by praying the Beatitudes Prayer

Lord, make me poor spirit, so I can receive the kingdom of heaven.

Lord, when I mourn, help me find comfort.

Lord, make me meek, so that I may inherit the land.

Lord, help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, so I may be satisfied.

Lord, make me merciful, so I may obtain your mercy.

Lord, make me pure of heart, so I may see you.

Lord, help me to make peace, so I may be called your child.

Lord, when I am persecuted for righteousness' sake, show me your kingdom.

Extras

Items available on FORMED.org about...
..James the Less:

Talk:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/st-james-the-lesser-catholic-saints>

..Finding and Making Peace:

Talk on Peace in Troubles

Times:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/formed-live-finding-peace-in-troubled-times-with-tim-gray>

Talk on Peace in Motherhood:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/grasping-at-peace-when-all-you-have-is-chaos>

Discussion of a Mind at Peace:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/a-mind-at-peace-with-dr-christopher-blum>

Sacramental Life

This week's confirmation work is:
Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How are they present in your life today?

How will you keep these alive in you after you are confirmed?

To see a list and explanation of the 7 Gifts, of the Holy Spirit visit <https://www.archspm.org/faith-and-discipleship/catholic-faith/what-are-the-seven-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit/>

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, May 10:

- See the parish or website for additional handouts and coloring pages

Upcoming:

- Confirmation will be May 7 at 2:00 at St. Augustine
- We will gather as a parish for our closing COR event: Mass, May Crowning and Picnic on May 17 - details to come!

