



Family Times at OLG



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC PARISH

March 2018

THE EXAMPLE OF SAINT JOHN JOSEPH OF THE CROSS

Feast day: March 5th

John was a rich young man who wanted to live as the poor did, and so unite himself to Jesus.

At age sixteen (just a teenager!), he entered the Franciscan order. He wanted very much to live a self-sacrificing life as Jesus had. He worked hard choosing to do the duties that no one else wanted and making many sacrifices to spread the Good News.

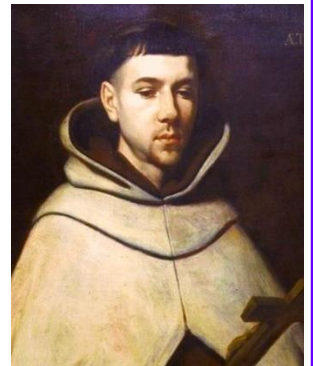
What do you do in the face of difficulty, injustice and calumny?

In his work, the saint suffered much, and became the victim of calumnies. Nevertheless, he bore all with heroic patience and perseverance, and brought about many blessings.

He kept a strict guard over all his senses; he strove constantly to deny his own will in order to do only the will of his superiors and thus fulfill the will of God. His great devotion was to Our Lady and he was urgent with his penitents that they also should cultivate this. He was canonized in 1839.

Self-denial should lead us to charity—not to bitterness; it should help us clarify our priorities and make us more loving.

How do I witness to Jesus' self-giving love in my interactions with others?
How can Saint John Joseph of the Cross inspire me in my difficulties today?



Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent.

-Saint John Joseph of the Cross





Family Faith Sunday in Review

We are all part of “One Human Family”

Praying the Stations of the Cross

From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus was. These sites became important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit.

Family Faith Sunday took this mini pilgrimage in our own Parish. Taking the Via Dolorosa, the Stations of the Cross, we could reflect and let them change us as individuals, as families and as a community.

At each station, we meditate on a specific event from Christ's last day, entering into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. It involves the senses, the experience and the emotions. In knowing and uniting myself to Our Lord and Savior's suffering and death for love of us, the Stations the Cross becomes an experience where we can experience love, solidarity, sacrifice and prepare for the New Life in Christ!

“Your neighbors live across the street and the country, across oceans and hemispheres. As millions of God’s children flee war, persecution and poverty, Pope Francis, Caritas Internationalis, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, and Catholic Relief Services invite all of us to share their journey by walking with them in prayer and support.”

Family Faith Sunday provided an opportunity to participate in the Stations of the Cross to expand the importance of solidarity with neighbor because our unity with Christ:

- Giving families a deeper understanding of the meaning of **“One Human Family,”** offering experiences and activities that unite us to all our brothers and sisters in the world, especially in Ethiopia, El Salvador, Zambia, Mexico and Haiti.
- Giving families a deeper understanding of the issues that the above referenced countries are facing.
- Helping families during Lent to be more intentional with their Rice Bowls in prayer, alms giving and fasting.
- Creating conversations at home about droughts, water conservation, and food waste.
- Praying the Stations of the Cross together as a community during Lent.



This Month's Sunday Readings

March 4, 2018- Third Sunday of Lent: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95)

March 11, 2018- Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23)

March 18, 2018- Fifth Sunday of Lent: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130)

March 25, 2018- Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22)



*Want to listen to the readings on your smart device?
Go to uscgb.org and search daily readings audio*

Journey together to the New Life

Lent is a penitential season in preparation for the very important holy days of our Christian faith, the Triduum -the summit of the Liturgical Year, from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday.

During Lent, are more conscious that we are following Jesus on his way to the Cross, carrying our own crosses along with him. We are trying in these 40 days to share in some of his sufferings. So, we fast and pray, and we make sacrifices and deny ourselves, just as Jesus did.

This is a new opportunity to be more serious about our personal conversion to Christ, about becoming the people that God wants us to be. Fasting, prayer, penance and almsgiving in unity with the whole Catholic Church strengthen us in our identity as children of God and followers of Jesus.

This is a time of solidarity, a time for renewing the bonds that unite us to others -not only in our families and in our parishes, but also with our neighbors. Solidarity is not just a feeling, it has to be lived and shown in practical, real actions of serving others.

How do we understand solidarity? How do we practice solidarity in the name of Christ?

Questions for family discussion

How did people in the Bible show solidarity?

How can families practice solidarity? What can we, as a family, do to practice solidarity?

Create a reminder of your great ideas! Using your gifts and imagination, make a piece that reminds you of this calling and commitment and of the points to ponder, and place in a visible place of your home (AKA the fridge).



Want daily Lent meditations,
recipes and short inspirational videos?
Get the CRS app!



The Activity Corner

Crayon "Stained Glass" Cross

Have your child cut two identical cross shapes from waxed paper. Using old or broken crayons and a dull kitchen knife, scrape the crayons to create shavings of various colors. Spread the crayons on one of the pieces of waxed paper in a desired pattern.

Then place the second waxed paper cross over the top of the first cross and the shavings. An adult should complete the following step: Using a warm iron, press the two pieces of waxed paper together. Find a sunny spot to hang your creation and remember to offer a prayer of love and thanksgiving each time you lay eyes on your beautiful cross.



SAVE THE DATE!

2018 Vacation Bible Camp

June 25-29

Go to our Parish website to
get a sneak preview!

Lent-to-Easter Guessing Jars

What did you give up for Lent?
Candy? Cookies? Chewing Gum?

During Lent, you can put items you gave up in different clear jars and see how the fill up. On Easter Sunday, you can play a family game of guessing how many items a jar has. The closest guess will win the jar of goodies!



Mark your calendar

Next Family Faith Sunday

Sunday, May 6th

9:30-10:45 am

Theme:

Mary, the Mother of God

Come with the family!

Did you know?



All the Church requires of you is .65% of your life. Do the math: if you go to Mass every time you have to, that comes out to about 57 hours a year in the US. So, all you give God is .65%? You can do better than that!