



St. Ignatius of Loyola Church
Pre-K-5 Family-Based Program

January 24th - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection Point: We are called to be followers of Jesus and our faith can help us be faithful disciples.

Reading: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of
God:

“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting
their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of
men.”

Then they abandoned their nets and followed
him.

He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.

Reflecting Together:

1. Whom did Jesus call in today's Gospel?
2. What did you notice about the way in which these four people responded to Jesus' call?

Going Deeper:

1. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?
2. Like the disciples, we are called to drop everything and follow Jesus. What is one way this week that we can show that following Jesus is a top priority in our lives?

Finding God in Our Week

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called his first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow him. We can only begin to imagine what Jesus' presence must have been like to invoke such a response in these first disciples. While a few of us might relate to such a radical conversion, many of us would find such a sudden change in ourselves or in another person unsettling. There are few things for which we would willingly drop everything. And yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. These first disciples were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives.

At Home

Gather as a family and talk about circumstances in which you have had to "drop everything." (the call to pick up a sick child from school, the cry of a hurt or angry child) How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations? How do we feel when someone asks us to drop everything to help him or her? For many of us, it is not easy to drop everything to respond to the needs of another. Invite your family to imagine what Jesus' presence and invitation to these first followers must have been like that they responded by leaving their livelihood to become his disciples. How might our life change if we understood the Kingdom of God to be as important and immediate in our lives? Ask God to help you experience the Kingdom of God with such immediacy.

An Example of Lived Faith: St. John Neumann



St. John Neumann was born in Bohemia, which is now part of Czech Republic, on March 28, 1811. He studied hard, for he wanted to be a missionary priest in America. By the time he was twenty-four, he had learned six languages and had completed his studies for the priesthood. He was not ordained, however, because his bishop thought there were enough priests in his country. So John Neumann decided to leave for America, hoping to be ordained there, and he was in New York! His work began in Buffalo, NY, and he was not liked by many. He remained silent, however, and continued going about teaching religion, visiting the sick, and training teachers.

When Father John was 41 years old, he became the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. Still, some people did not welcome him.

They did not care for his accent and his plain style. John felt he wasn't capable of doing his job, and he asked for a smaller diocese, but he was told to stay. John started Catholic schools in his diocese, for he believed it was very important for children to be educated and taught the ways of Jesus. In eight years Philadelphia's two Catholic schools grew to one hundred schools. John brought many teaching orders to his diocese. He published two catechisms and many articles. Throughout his life, John Neumann went about his work quietly and humbly. Only after his death did people begin to talk about their humble, good bishop who worked so hard for God. Like St. John Neumann, we can follow his example today of humbly spreading the Gospel! St. John Neumann is invoked as a patron of sick children and of immigrants.