



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

February 7th - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection Point: In our busy lives, Jesus shows us the importance of prayer and listening to God.

Reading: Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to him all who were ill or
possessed by demons.
The whole town was gathered at the door.
He cured many who were sick with various
diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they
knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he
prayed.
Simon and those who were with him
pursued him
and on finding him said, "Everyone is
looking for you."
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby
villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come."
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Reflecting Together:

1. What did Jesus need to do before he could go to Galilee?
2. What kinds of things do we need to pray about before we can do them?

Going Deeper:

1. What are ways that you pray to God?
How do you pray?
2. How do we make time to pray in our busy lives? Can we improve our ways and time of praying? Is there anyone that can help us?

Finding God in Our Week

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

At Home

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for? Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

An Example of Lived Faith: Julia Greeley



Servant of God Julia Greeley was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri, sometime between 1833 and 1848. Freed by Missouri's Emancipation Act in 1865, Julia earned money by serving white families in Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico—though mostly in the Denver area. Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880 and was an outstanding supporter of all the parish. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen.

Every month she visited every fire station on-foot in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred Heart League to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. A daily communicant, Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Mary and continued her prayers while working. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it till her death in 1918. As part of the Cause for Canonization, Julia's mortal remains were transferred to Denver's Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 7, 2017. As we celebrate Black History Month, Julia Greeley is a wonderful example of the importance of prayer as we continue working in our daily lives!