

Adult Reflection and Prayer

I. Kingdom of God: Anointed Ones

*"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David." Isaiah 55:3*

The Beginning of the Church

The Church is the People of God. From the time of the first people, humans gathered in community and made efforts to relate to God. After many generations, God called Abraham and Sarah to form a people who would be particularly his own. He made an explicit, everlasting covenant, or promise, between himself and the Israelites, he chose descendants of Abraham.

Even though the Israelites were unfaithful to the covenant at times, God was always faithful to them. Through the prophets, he prepared the people for salvation. Then God sent his Son to establish a new and eternal covenant through his own death and Resurrection. Throughout its long history, God has faithfully protected and guided the Church. He remains faithful to the eternal covenant and continues to be ever-present in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anointed Ones

In the earliest days of the Church, Christians were anointed for mission. Even today, Christians are anointed with sacred chrism after they are baptized. Baptism initiates people into the Christian life. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the faithful are enabled to carry on the ministry of Jesus. Today's Christians stand in a long line with the anointed ones who have gone before them, doing the work of the Church. Together they are the saints, the holy people who are signs of the reign of God.

Reflect

- How have you experienced God's faithfulness?
- What would you most like people to say about you when you die?
- What meaning does being anointed have for you?

Pray

God of compassion and mercy, I thank you for the gift of my life and pray for the grace to live it fully, doing your will. Amen.

II. Kingdom of God: Solidarity

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19

The Reign of God

The Church today is called to participate in the Kingdom of God. Those who live as Jesus did spread his Kingdom through their everyday actions and attitudes when they act uprightly, practice patience, and love genuinely. Relying on God's power and grace, Christians are called to promote justice and speak the truth to help bring about the fullness of his Kingdom in the world.

Solidarity

According to the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (1), "The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well." This statement is a reminder that when Christians work to cooperate with God's Kingdom, they must look not only into their own homes, but also

outward to those who are most in need of the Good News. Aiding those who are poor or in need shows solidarity with all humanity. When the Church works for the care and liberation of those who are poor, she is fulfilling a most important task in its mission. In serving these people, the Church follows the example of Jesus. The virtue of solidarity goes beyond giving material resources. It also involves sharing the gifts of faith.

Reflect

- When you pray "thy Kingdom come" what are you praying for?
- In what ways do you think the Kingdom of God is already here?
- In what ways have you shown solidarity by aiding those who are poor?

Pray

Ever-present God, May your Kingdom come, and may I be an instrument in welcoming it. Amen.

III. Kingdom of God: The Last Things

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'..." Matthew 25:34-35

The Kingdom

Jesus used the parable of The Wedding Feast to show that everyone is invited to God the Father's great feast, a metaphor for eternal life with the Holy Trinity in heaven. Those who are ready to accept his invitation, whenever it comes, are the ones who will be with him at the feast.

Think about the things that fill your day. Are they activities that enable you to respond to God or do they keep you from fulfilling the law of love? Do they help or hinder your willingness to reach out to a neighbor in need or to do a favor for a family member? People in need are always there, and yet, too often, we fail to see them. Ignoring them, we ignore God's outstretched invitation to the Kingdom of heaven. Yet, Jesus continues to invite us, over and over again.

Jesus' Love

God the Father wants everyone to have eternal life. He sent his Son Jesus to show the way, and the way of Jesus is unfailing love. As a follower of Jesus, love of God and love of neighbor are the means by which you show your readiness to accept his invitation to the heavenly banquet. We experience the sign of this heavenly banquet today in the Eucharist. As members of Christ's body, we become one with him in and through the Eucharist, the sacrament of love and unity and the pledge of future glory.

Reflect

- How are you preparing to share in the happiness of heaven?
- How do you bear witness to the Kingdom in your daily life?
- In what ways have you seen signs of the Kingdom in other people?

Pray

Abba, thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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St. Michael - St. Patrick Parish-Family Religious Education Grades 1-5
APRIL DOCTRINAL THEME: The Kingdom of God (Unit Seven - Chapters 19-20-21)
Announcements

Operation Rice Bowl: Donations to our parish lenten almsgiving activity can be brought to the parish office anytime between now and April 19. Checks payable to St. Patrick Parish; cash and coin donations in the rice box containers are also acceptable.

Listening sessions: Please share your experience with the parish-family religious education program OR Home Study option this year as we begin to shape the program for 2010-2011. Your comments will be very helpful in this process. If you cannot attend a session, please share your comments via email (recindy@saintpatrickinlodi.org) or by phone 592-5711 x 3, or in person.

**Listening sessions will be held: Tuesday morning, April 6, 10:15 a.m. at St. Patrick's.
Wednesday afternoon, April 7, 3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's
Wednesday evening, April 7, 8:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's**

PARISH MINISTRY FAIR: The health and vitality of any parish is dependent upon the involvement and commitment of its members. Please stop by our parish ministry table at all church entrances Saturday-Sunday, April 10-11 following mass, to learn more about how you can share your time, gifts and talents with the parish faith community of St. Michael-St. Patrick.

APRIL Religious Education/Sacrament Preparation Sessions: all held at St. Patrick's, Lodi
Tuesday, April 6 - Parent-Child Sacrament Prep session for First Holy Communion, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Apr. 7 - Parent-Child Sacrament Prep session for First Holy Communion, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Apr. 8 - Parent-Child Sacrament Prep session for First Holy Communion, 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13 - Grade 1-8 Parish-Family Gathering, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14 - Grade 1-8 Parish Family Gathering, 3:30 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 20 - ALL Grade 1 children - RE class, 3:15-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21 - ALL children preparing for First Holy Communion - retreat immediately after school; rehearsal following - one parent to join child for rehearsal at 5:00 p.m. in church.
Wednesday, April 21 - Grade 4-5-6 children registered for evening RE session, 6:00-7:25 p.m.
NOTE: Grade 3-4-5 (after school section) and Grade 7-8 do meet May 4/May 5 as registered.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: PARISH PENTECOST PARTY - Sunday, May 23 after 10:00 a.m.
Mass at St. Patrick's featuring: national speaker, author and professional cartoonist JASON KOTECKI

This is a family event you do not want to miss as he speaks on "Life in the Spirit." Childcare will be offered for children under age 5. Refreshments! ALL ARE WELCOME.

NOTE: We'll be hosting another Sinsinawa Dominican Bakery Bread sale on Mother's Day weekend (May 8-9 following masses here at St. Patrick's to help fund our May Pentecost Party and speaker. If your family can help "man" the sale, please contact Mrs. Fischer in the Faith Formation Office. It's about a 15 minute commitment.

Many thanks to those of you who shared your gifts and talents in our Faith Formation program this year. It does indeed take the "whole parish" to support this ministry and mission of the church. Whether you kept our library organized, helped cut out projects for the Sunday Morning preschool-kindergarten program, provided or served snack to hungry children, assisted in a classroom or served as one of our grade level catechists, made a financial donation to the program, or helped in the parish office with phone calls or data entry -- your support and contribution to the program IS recognized and appreciated.

THANK YOU for sharing in the joy and privilege of this vital parish ministry!

APRIL UNIT FOR GRADE 1-5: UNIT SEVEN - THE KINGDOM OF GOD
Chapters 19-20-21 - Unit tests are available to download by grade from folder

Grade One: Jesus is always with us in the Eucharist. God made us so that we might know and love him; and be happy with him forever, here on earth and in heaven. Our work here on earth is to help God's kingdom grow as we follow Jesus and obey God's laws.

Faith Words: Mass, Eucharist, heaven

Grade Two - Preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

The Eucharist unites us with Jesus and with one another, sharing the same mission to love God and others by spreading the news of the kingdom of God to everyone. The Eucharist is a sign of unity and a sign of what heaven will be like -- the eternal banquet; happiness forever with God.

APRIL At-Home Sessions - chapters 5-8 in the Eucharist Preparation Book, CALL TO CELEBRATE supplemental material: chapters 19-20, Unit Seven in the regular text

Note: parent-child session - your choice Tuesday-Thursday, April 6-8 at St. Patrick's - see calendar children's activity day, Wednesday, April 21, immediately after school with rehearsal at 5:00 p.m. in church. Parent asked to join child for rehearsal; First Holy Communion Mass: Noon, April 25

Grade Three: As members of the church we are signs of God's kingdom. We share in the mission of the Church to work for peace and justice. We strive to live lives pleasing to Jesus so that we can die in God's friendship, living forever in his presence. As Catholics, we believe that Christ will judge all people at the end of the world by how they lived their lives.

Faith Words: covenant, Christians, justice, peace, heaven, hell, purgatory, last judgment

Grade Four: Our mission as Christians is to promote the kingdom of God by proclaiming the gospel and being a sign of Christ to others. We are called to be generous stewards of our possessions and to work for the good of all people. How we live our lives now, matters. We try to live justly so that we can live with God forever in heaven.

Faith Words: envy, greed, mission, justice, diversity, heaven, particular and last judgment

Grade Five: As followers of Jesus, we are all called to help build the kingdom of God on earth. For some of us, the Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Matrimony and Holy Orders) are the primary way we answer that call. For all of us, it is ours to pray and work for justice; ours to live out our faith in the Resurrection as people of hope and joy. Our eternal destiny is decided once and for all by the lives we live in this present life. The Church has clear teachings about the last things -- death, judgment, heaven, and hell.

Faith Words: ordained ministers, lay people, religious life, eternal life, viaticum, missionary, evangelization, Corporal Works of Mercy, social justice.

As the opportunity presents itself, all grades are encouraged to use the Easter/Pentecost pages in the front section of the religion textbook (Gr.1: pages 20-23; Gr. 2-5: 32-39)

Please also consider the Catholic Social Teaching Units 1-7 in the back section of the book, Gr. 1: pp. 241-261; Gr. 2-4: pages 251-271. They relate beautifully to our study of the kingdom of God.

NOTE: As you complete the final unit of study using the *CALL TO FAITH* religion textbook, do know that **you may return the textbook for a \$10 credit (per book) toward next year's RE fees provided** the book has all its pages intact and has not been written in. **To return the book(s), please complete the RE CREDIT/BOOK RETURN form on the following page and bring the book(s) and the form to the parish library by May 31, 2010.**

YOU MAY KEEP THE BOOK TO BE USED by another child in your immediate family FOR the 2010-2011 program year and also receive the \$10 credit. To claim that credit on your RE 2010-2011 registration form, please complete the appropriate section on the form below and return that no later than May 31, 2010. You may keep the book at home.

There is no \$10 credit for lending a book to another family; all book returns or re-use must be done thru the RE office.

St. Patrick - St. Michael Faith Formation Office - Religion Text Return/ Credit - 2010

1. Please complete both sections of this form.
2. Keep the top section to return with your 2010-2011 Religious Education Registration form by August 15, 2010.
3. Return the bottom section by May 31, 2010 with your book(s)
OR the form portion only if book kept for use by another immediate family member in '10-'11.
Return books and/or bottom section of form to St. Patrick library/faith formation office by 05-31-10.

NOTE: book must be intact with no pages missing and no writing on pages

Note: The credit is only applicable to those families who were in the St. Patrick-St. Michael grade 1-8 religious education program for 2009-2010 and will be registering in the religious education program for 2010-2011 at St. Patrick's - St. Michael's Church, Lodi-Dane.

There is no \$10 credit for lending a book to another family; all book returns or re-use must be done thru the RE office.

SECTION ONE - return by 08-15-10 with the family's 2010-2011 Religious Education Registration Form.

Family Name: Last _____ Head of Household First _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____ **City:** _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Household e-mail address: _____

Number of CALL TO FAITH books being returned: ____ grade: __1__2__3__4__5__6__7__8
____ Sacrament Prep: __Reconc. __Eucharist

Number of books to be kept by family for use of another child in 2010-2011: ____ **Grade:** ____

Name(s) of child(ren) to use book: _____

Total Amount of textbook credit being requested: _____ (\$10.00 per book)

OFFICE USE ONLY: books returned ____ credit approved ____ 10-11 registration received ____ fee adjusted ____

-----DETACH FORM HERE-----

SECTION TWO - return by 05-31-10 with books / or form only if book(s) kept for use by immediate family in -10-'11.

Family Name: *Last* _____ *Head of Household First* _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Number of CALL TO FAITH books being returned ____ grade: __1 __2 __3 __4 __5 __6 __7 __8
__Sacrament Prep: __Reconc. __Eucharist

Number of books to be kept by family for use of another child in 2010-2011: ____ **Grade:** ____
Name(s) of child(ren) to use book: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: *books returned* ____ *credit approved* ____ *10-11 registration received* ____ *fee adjusted* ____