

# God Family Friends



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## Dear Parents,

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Jesus’ words to his disciples in Sunday’s Gospel are the message we need right now: for everyone who believes, there is a special place prepared in Heaven by Jesus himself, “the way, the truth and the life.” That is major good news! Whatever we are experiencing right now as we remain home, our destiny is not isolation or suffering, but unity with Jesus and his Church on earth and in heaven.

But what about the here and now? How can we be united with others when we are being kept apart? St. Peter, in the second reading, calls us “living stones” who together can be built into a spiritual house whenever we worship. What’s more, we can do this from home. The most important thing we can offer is our “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Doing this, we grow closer to each other and God.

At every Mass, just as Jesus offers his Body and Blood for us, we can offer our own lives on the altar. Ask God to accept all your joy, sorrow, successes and failures and especially any suffering you may have right now. All of this can be made holy. Offer it all to the Father through with and in Jesus, along with the bread and wine that will become the Eucharist. Great news: even when you participate in a Mass via livestream, you can still make this spiritual offering.

This week during Mass, remember the other “living stones” around the world and in heaven – believers like you who are part of the Church. Offer yourself to God the Father with the bread and wine and pray to be made more like Jesus. Then, pray the Eucharistic Prayer along with the priest as he asks the Father to remember everyone in the Church, living and dead, along with the angels and saints. As you pray for them, these “living stones” will pray for you, too.

**"The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross" - St. Thomas Aquinas**

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## Mass this Weekend

We commend you for prioritizing Mass as a family during the stay-at-home order, and we hope that you have been able to attend with regularity. If you have not yet found a Mass, please view this page for Masses across the diocese, and be sure to check your parish website to see if live-streaming is now available. You might like to try Fr. Andy Davy's Mass for kids on Saturday or join Bishop Pates for Mass on Sunday morning.

Often, we enter more deeply into Scripture when we read the passage multiple times. Help your children to better prepare for Mass by watching this video:



**LIVE**

**STREAM**



**4:00 PM**  
Saturday 5/9  
with Fr. Andy



**10:00 AM**  
Sunday 5/10 with  
Bishop Pates

[Daily Readings](#)

## Gospel Reading - John 14:1-12

### Reader

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

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Where I am going you know the way.”  
Thomas said to him,  
“Master, we do not know where you are going;  
how can we know the way?”  
Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, then you will also know my Father.  
From now on you do know him and have seen him.”  
Philip said to him,  
“Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”  
Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time  
and you still do not know me, Philip?  
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.  
How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?  
Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?  
The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.  
The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.  
Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me,  
or else, believe because of the works themselves.  
Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,  
and will do greater ones than these,  
because I am going to the Father.”

Reader

All

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord  
Jesus Christ**

## Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Eucharist. I love You above all things and I want to be with you.

Since I am unable to receive you at Mass, please Jesus, come into my heart. Be with me now and never let me be separated from you. Amen.



**"That Where I Am"  
(Rich Mullins)**



# God Family Friends

The month of May is dedicated to the Mary, the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Consider making this simple act of consecration to Mary as a family on Mother's Day. [Click here to learn more about Marian consecration.](#)

## Dear Jesus and Mary,

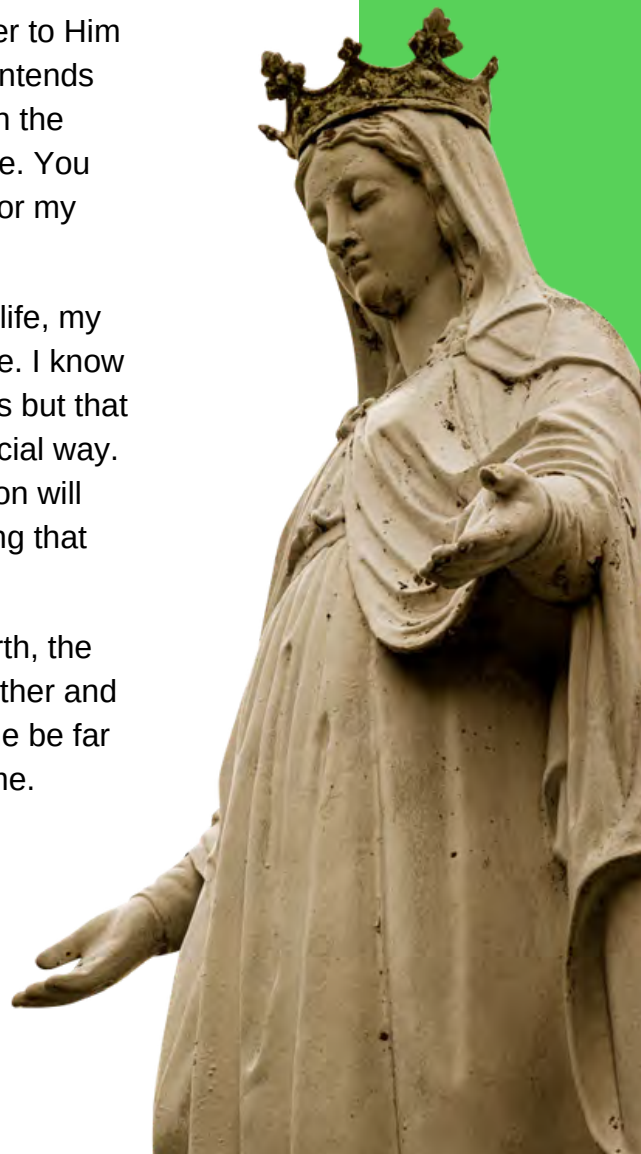
I love you. I offer myself to you this day through the renewal of my baptismal promises, but also by giving everything to you. I know that you love me more than I can ever imagine and that you wish every good thing for my life.

Mary, I know that as the Mother of Jesus, you will bring me closer to Him and as my mother, you will help me to become the person God intends for me to be. You will protect me, guide me, and love me through the good times of my life, but also through the difficult times in my life. You will protect me from the many traps set against me by the devil for my whole life.

In my desire to show my love for you, I offer you everything- my life, my actions, the rewards for any action of mine, my thoughts, my love. I know that as a human being, I can only offer to Jesus very small things but that you will take my little offerings and present them to Him in a special way. Like the Queen Mother of previous ages, you know what your Son will like best and will find a way to make my small offerings something that will please Him.

You are Mary, the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth, the Star of the Sea, and so much more. Today, I take you as my mother and ask you to always remember me as a devoted child. Never let me be far from you. Keep me. Bless me. Protect me. Teach me. Nourish me. Bring me to the Holy Trinity, today and at the hour of my death. Help me to love you and your Son more and more throughout my life. Fill in my weaknesses and give me your humility. Thank you for receiving this little offering from me, Mary, my mother. Amen.

[Rosary  
tips with  
Kids](#)



# God Family Friends

## Happy Mother's Day!

You will never forget "that Mother's Day we spent in quarantine." Enjoy this time with your family and all that they have planned for you. From all of us to you, we would like to wish you a very blessed, happy, and safe Mother's Day!



"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."

- St. Therese of Lisieux

## \*\*Dad's Eyes Only\*\*

Mom... stop right there and hand it over to dad - you'll spoil the surprise!!

Dads: This year you can *actually* forget the flowers - but don't forget Mother's Day! We have included a few things just for dads so that you and the kids can make this a special day without a trip to the store.



Make Paper Roses



Plan Indoor Picnic



DIY Ideas

There's a 50% chance of rain Sunday!

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## Free Family Fun

Here is a fun game that your family can play over and over. It reinforces the Gospel AND it can be played indoors or outdoors.

Start by making one path on the floor/ground or using painters tape, toothpicks, or whatever would make a good path. Give each family member a ball and a straw to blow through to move their ball inside the path.

### You will need:

- A Path
- Straws
- Balls

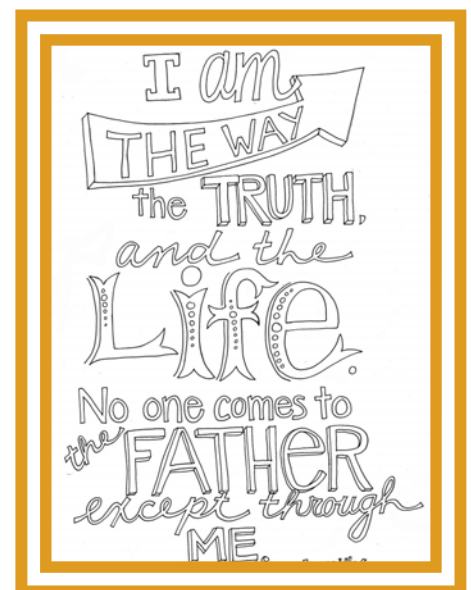
## Only One Way

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth\* and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6). Let each family member navigate the ball through the path. If the ball goes outside the path or touches the edge, you have to start over!

## Take it to the NEXT LEVEL!

Pair up in groups or have everyone go at the same time! It's about getting to the Father, not necessarily getting there first. You could also individually time your contestants to see who can get the fastest time.

Coloring  
Page  
for Kids



***"Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:4-9).***

## Living Stones

[What does it mean for to be living stones in God's spiritual house?](#) In your parish family, who is the person or family you know best? Who else is built firmly upon the one foundation of Jesus?

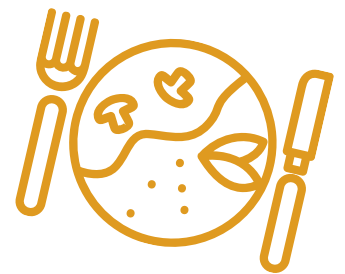
Talk about this idea with your children and help them to understand. While your parish family is made up of many living stones, your job as a parent is to raise up a Domestic Church - a family of living stones - set firm in relationship with God and with one another.

## Bible Story Stones

Check out [this idea from Intentional by Grace](#). Your family can start to learn the stories of the Bible (aka, the stories of ancestors) and your kids will remember them by painting symbols of each Bible story. Start this project this weekend!



## Dinner Conversation Tonight



I am the way and the truth and the life...If you know me, then you will know my Father.

- Why do we visit our family members (grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles)?
- Describe your relationship with those in your family tree...
- Who are you more like (physically, emotionally, characteristically)?
- Why do we go to Mass or attend a virtual Mass?
- What is your relationship like with Jesus?
- How does knowing Jesus provide you with knowing the Father?
- How are you following the ways of Jesus?



# God Family Friends

## Party Animals

Not all friends are human. We share God's beautiful created world with animals. You may even may share your home with a few animals – your pets! Some animals are just downright funny – and right about now we can all use a good laugh. Watch these funny [National Geographic videos](#) with your kids, and share them with friends too - we bet they need a good laugh too.



## Marian May Baskets

[Make these](#) and put them on the doorknobs of your family members, neighbors, or friends. Be sure to ring the doorbell and run to a safe social distance.

This could also be a great Mother's Day gift for those closest to you!

## Love your neighbor

Many families have been hit hard by the economy during this pandemic. You may be one of them.

We encourage you to look with love on your neighbors and close friends in this time. Many parishes are seeking to meet the needs of the local community (& they have needs as well).

Giving alms (donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity) is a great spiritual practice for the whole family.

