

# To Teach As Jesus Did

March 2019

## SACRED SPACE A Lenten Prayer

Lord God,

This Lent, help me to keep my mind fixed on you and your Kingdom.

When I am tempted to worry about anything, help me to trust you.

Give me a new sense of vision to notice your ways.

Renew me with a special sense of your Presence.

Take away my fears, so I can respond to your call in service to others.

Help me to appreciate just how much you have blessed me in so many ways.

When I fail to love others, help me to realize that I've first failed to love You,  
the Source of all love.

This Lent, help me to reach out to someone whose love for you may be fading.

Help me to let go of worldly desires, so I may listen to your Spirit of love.

Help me to realize that I will be restless until my heart rests in you.

May my prayers renew my resolve to make more time in my life for You.

Help me to dwell in Your Presence today,

and in moments of prayer, let me give thanks for the faith you have given me.

Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Teaching As Jesus Did

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did for me." ~ Matthew 25:31-46*

Acts of selfless kindness and mercy toward others are the best way for us to show God's love. Scripture tells us that we must be more than just receivers of God's love and mercy. We also need to share God's love. How can you be a witness of God's love through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and acts of kindness and mercy during this Lenten season?

## HIGHLIGHTING YOUTH MINISTRY CURRICULUM The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery) Objectives #5 & 6

**Theme #4**, "The Mystery of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)" began in January, 2019. This theme focuses on how, by dying, Jesus destroyed our death and how, by rising, he restored our life...the Paschal Mystery.

Participants will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, to which we are called to live.

Objectives #5 & 6:

- \* Explore the parables to discover Christ's teaching on the meaning of sacrificial love
- \* Know Jesus as the ultimate example of love through His life, and His suffering (passion), death, resurrection, and ascension (Paschal Mystery)

For more information, see: <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/adolescent-faith-formation/new-high-school-religious-education-curriculum/>

## FOR YOUR FORMATION Praying with the Stations of the Cross

Use your imagination by engaging in Scripture through the exercise of Lectio Divina as a perfect way to learn more about Jesus' responses to suffering, and your responses as well. Ask yourself such questions as: Why is there suffering? Why am I suffering? How should I respond to suffering? Answers to these questions can be found by looking closely at the Passion of Jesus. Focus your mind and heart on Jesus' anguish and death. Walk through each Station, and notice the ways Jesus responded to suffering, and how you are challenged to react similarly in your own struggles. Pray your way through the Stations when you are weighed down by life's burdens, and you might gradually respond more as Jesus would. Move through pain toward love and hope, toward strength and endurance, toward transformation.

## SAINT OF THE MONTH St. Katharine Drexel – March 3

St. Katharine was born into a wealthy Philadelphia family in 1858. She learned that wealth should be used well, to promote the good of all people. After their father's death, Katharine and her sisters went on a trip where they witnessed the poverty and suffering of the Native Americans. She returned home resolved to help them in some way. When Katharine asked Pope Leo XIII to send missionaries to the Native Americans, the Pope suggested that she become a missionary. Katharine became an advocate for justice and equality at the service of Native Americans and African-Americans throughout the United States. She used her own inheritance to fund nearly 60 institutions at the service of minorities throughout the United States. Katharine financed a variety of educational, health care and social service institutions, including the establishment of the first black Catholic parish in Chicago and the first college for black Catholics in America, Xavier University in New Orleans. Late in her life, Katharine suffered a series of health complications and remained nearly immobile. For the last twenty years of her life she fulfilled her heart's desire for quiet adoration and contemplation. Katharine died peacefully at age 96 in Philadelphia on March 3, 1955. Katharine was declared a saint by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. She is truly a saint for racial justice.



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## TEACHABLE MOMENTS Teaching Kindness and Mercy

In a society of instant gratification, children can have a hard time understanding the purpose of Lenten sacrifice. Lent is a call to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These acts are meant to help us become selfless, to focus on others, and to do good works for those around us. A good Lenten goal may be to get children to think beyond themselves and to focus on kindness and mercy toward others.

Often when we talk about mercy, we are thinking about God's mercy toward us. But if we want God to shower his mercy on us, then we must show mercy to all those around us. We must show mercy to those we love, those we don't love, the rich and the poor, people we know and those we don't know. We need to always look at the situations and feelings of others, and try to be merciful to them, especially during their times of need. Try incorporating these ideas:

- Teach the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Read about the lives of the Saints
- Practice works of mercy – visit the sick, pray for those in prison, etc.
- Encourage children to share their time and talent
- Pray for those who are in trouble or suffering in any way

Lent can be more than just a time to give something up. Teach children the true meaning of mercy and the many ways to be kind and selfless!

<http://www.catholicteacher.com/lenten-lessons-activities-for-teaching-kindness-and-mercy-through-the-lens-of-lent/>

## LOOKING AHEAD Upcoming Opportunities for Teaching the Faith

March 6: Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

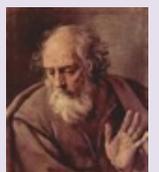
March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 19: Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary  
and Patron of the Universal Church

April 14: Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins

April 21: Easter Sunday

June 9: Pentecost Sunday





## **ENGAGING TEENS** **The Formative Component of Youth Ministry**

This month, we continue our focus on the *Formative* component of Catholic youth ministry:

*Effective Catholic youth ministry seeks to form teens relationally, teaching them how to build friendships, listen to others, make sacrifices, and communicate who they are in face-to-face interactions.*

Friendships are a gift that God gives us to help us stay faithful to Him. Authentic friends build each other up. They respect our choices and accept us for who we are. On the other hand, poor relationships are like junk food: we can eat all we want, but still be hungry for something more. We can have as many friends as we want, but if they are not authentic then we will always want more.

Encourage teens to seek Christ's friendship first through prayer. Doing so will lead them to authentic friendships that bring them closer to God every day. Authentic friends ultimately try to get each other to heaven. They challenge us to be better and hold us accountable in our faith.

*"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter, whoever finds one finds a treasure."*  
Sirach 6:14

Encourage young people to enter into a deeper relationship with God by recognizing God in their authentic friendships.

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Story/TabId/2672/ArtMid/13567/ArticleID/14409/Plugging-teens-into-the-faith-A-how-to-guide.aspx>

## **DISCIPLINE IN THE CLASSROOM** **Discipline Tips from Kathleen Glavich, SND**

As a catechist, you will inevitably encounter discipline problems at some point. Discipline is a necessary part of faith formation. When you maintain discipline in your learning environment, you are acting in the image of God – in whose name you teach. In upcoming editions of *TTAJD*, we will draw from the book *Discipline Tips*, written by Kathleen Glavich, SND, who suggests helpful ideas for providing a positive learning environment while avoiding the distractions a lack of discipline can bring to the classroom.

### ***Why children won't behave: Society's contribution***

*Society complicates our task by teaching and endorsing values contrary to the gospel values we teach. Families are on the move, which leaves little chance for a family or a child to sink root in a faith community, and too many children live in disturbed or broken families. Today's children show less respect to authority figures than they have in the past.*

*Don't get discouraged or give up! Often you have to instill proper behavior by untiringly calling children to it. Clearly, establishing good discipline can have far-reaching repercussions in the lives of those we teach.*

(From *Discipline Tips* by Kathleen Glavich, SND, © 2004, p. 5.)

## **SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES** **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

Each year, March is set aside as Disability Awareness Month, since the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Declaration in 1978 which stated, "There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities. We are one flock that serves a single shepherd." Including persons with disabilities in all aspects of parish life continues to be our guiding principle. Here in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the Office of Disability Inclusion provides valuable education, resources, retreat opportunities, and support to help parishes and Catholic schools live out this goal.

Consult the Education Resource Center at the Archdiocese of Dubuque regarding books, DVDs, games, and other multimedia and online resources helpful for catechesis of persons with special needs.

For additional information and resources for inclusion of persons with diverse abilities, please contact [Mindy Hart](#), Director of the Office of Disability Inclusion.

## **ENGAGING PARENTS AND FAMILIES** **Living Lent as a Family**

Lent is traditionally the season to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Consider the following ideas for inspiring the families in your parish to develop a plan for living out these Lenten practices:

- \* Go to Eucharistic Adoration as a family
- \* Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- \* Read the Daily Scriptures as a family
- \* Add prayer petitions to your calendar
- \* Unplug from electronics for one night per week
- \* Declutter – Clean out a closet and donate to the needy in your area



How do you reach out to the families of children in your faith formation program?

How do you encourage parents as the primary catechists of their children?

Learn more at:

<https://aleteia.org/2018/02/11/40-practical-ideas-for-living-lent-as-parents/>

## **EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT:**

You know the story of salvation and God's great love, but have you ever actually shared it with those in your formation sessions? Have you ever shared the story of YOUR salvation and God's great love for YOU? (FYI--We sometimes call that the "Kerygma" -- the proclamation of our personal experience of the Good News of Jesus.) Have you ever asked those in your sessions to share THEIR story? The resources below can help facilitate the sharing of THE story, YOUR story, and THEIR story. For more ideas, contact the ERC staff:

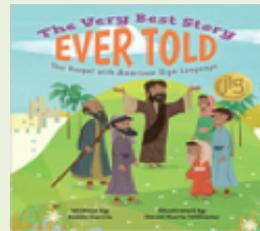
**Kim** – 563.556.2580 X210 or [dbqmed@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqmed@dbqarch.org)

**Tricia** – 563.556.2580 X214 or [dbqmed1@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqmed1@dbqarch.org)

BK #201486

### ***The Very Best Story: The Gospel With American Sign Language***

The repetition of the words and signs help children learn the story of salvation and share it with others. This is also a great resource for meeting multiple learning styles! A guide in the book helps children make this "Very Best Story" their own story!



KA #04749

### ***StoryBag: Proclaiming the Good News with the Gospel of the Hand (Kerygma)***

This bag turns inside out over and over revealing a new fabric color with each turn. Each color tells a piece of the story of salvation, beginning with our need for a



Savior and ending with our mission to go out and spread the love of God we have experienced. A guide is included for a lesson and examples to help you tell your own personal story of salvation and invite children/youth to do the same.



DV #31202 or <https://safeshare.tv/x/biYrkGnAKw>  
**Outside Da Box: Video Collection 2011**

Choose segment titled: **Palm Sunday**

Two brothers agree to a wager with one another over who can shout, "crucify him" the loudest at Palm Sunday Mass. When the younger brother mysteriously finds himself present at the Sacrifice

of Jesus on the Cross, he understands his own personal need for a Savior and surrenders himself to the love of God. Use the following link (copy and paste) for a guide to help youth consider how they can make this story of transformation-

into-the-likeness-of-Christ their own story:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DtDVsh7zyywgKzHLRg9wgpVyxUpNyqyE5PeTORbah5c/edit?usp=sharing>.