A Family of Believers:

Called & Sent By Jesus

2020-2021

**September—In the Beginning 2.0**

We begin our focus on domestic church, drawing upon stories of household churches in the New Testament. In this time of pandemic, we must meet families where they are, checking in and acknowledging their challenges. Our households are figuring this out as we go along, as our ancestors in faith did.

**October—Return to our Roots**

We continue to draw parallels to early Church experience of figuring things out as they went along. We look for clues and encouragement in the epistles to inspire households to function like early church: regular prayer, including a meal ritual, encountering God’s love, and reaching out in love.

**November—Thanks be to God**

Even when times are tough, we explore what we have to be thankful for. We will draw parallels between the Thanksgiving holiday table and Eucharistic table and check in with them as to how their meal ritual (last month’s challenge) is working. We continue to discover joy and hope, even amidst difficult circumstances.

**December—Waiting in Joyful Hope**

We wait as people of hope…. for a vaccine, for a safer time, for opportunities to gather. We wait as Mary waited; how is she a model for us? We wait for the transformation of the world; what is God pointing us toward? How do we need to surrender control to God as we wait?

**January—Holy Families, Imperfect Families**

Our focus is on the Christmas season and incarnation; God’s love made flesh for us. What do we carry to the Lord to be healed, made whole? We will continue to emphasize domestic church, with all our imperfections.

**February—Jesus Proclaiming in Word and Deed**

Jesus preaches of the great transformation we’ve been waiting and praying for – the Kingdom. We draw on the stories of our catechumens as we reflect on the baptismal focus of Lent. Lent is a time for building toward something new – how can our households be better by the end of Lent? How can our parishes be better?

**March—The Kingdom of God is Like…**

Jesus continues to preach the Kingdom. How do we lean into the Reign of God in this season? How are our Lenten observances preparing us to go out to build the Kingdom?

**April—From Chaos to Mission**

Immediately after Jesus’ death, the disciples hid in fear and despair. How have we had our own hopes dashed? Just as with the resurrection, what does God have in mind for us that is even bigger and better than we’d dared to hope? What is the new life to be named in this Easter season? Where is God leading our households – our parish?

**May—Living the Mission**

Leading up to Pentecost, the lectionary is focusing on the disciples being sent. How are we being sent? As we are all called to use our gifts for the Kingdom, how do we name the mission for our parish and for our households? We continue to look to the New Testament for guidance in equipping individuals and households for mission.