

FAMILY NIGHT

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Third Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2010



Sunday Readings:

Acts 5:27b-32,40b-41
The Apostles proclaim the Resurrection of Christ.

Revelation 5:11-14
The angels and all creature on earth and in heaven worship the Lamb.

John 21:1-19
Jesus commissions Peter to feed His sheep.

Feed My Sheep

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Peter denied Jesus three times during His Passion. After the Resurrection, Jesus asks Peter three times of his love for him. This happened during the third appearance of Jesus to Peter. Peter had returned to Galilee to take up fishing again with some of the other Apostles, but after this appearance, it was clear to Peter what he was to do. He was to be in charge of Jesus' flock on earth. Jesus commissioned him to "Feed my sheep." Because of Peter's love for Christ, he was asked to love Christ's body on earth. As the first Pope of the Church, Peter took the responsibility to care for her and to pass on to us what he learned from Our Lord.

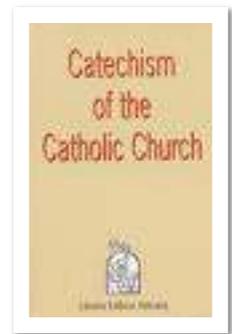
Opening Prayer: Our Father or Prayer for the Pope

Family Activity

1. Read Psalm 23 and compare how Jesus the Good Shepherd cares for us to how priests care for the flock. Smaller children can play with stuffed lambs or plastic barn animal toys.
2. Play bean bag toss or ball toss into a plastic milk jug with its top cut off. Glue cotton balls to the outside to look like a sheep. Put a heavy object in the bottom to keep it from tipping over.

Catechism Connection

No. 1551 “The Lord said clearly that concern for his flock was proof of love for him.””



Which disciple jumped out of the boat to see Jesus?



St. Irenaeus

Saintly Examples

St. Irenaeus was born in Asia Minor around 125 AD. He was well educated and had the privilege of learning directly from men who had known the Apostles or their disciples. Surely he was strongly aware of Jesus' commission to Peter to feed the sheep. St. Irenaeus served as a priest under the bishop of Lyon. There was a persecution against the Christians and when the bishop was martyred, St. Irenaeus took his place. Besides pastoring those in Lyon, St. Irenaeus evangelized nearby lands and stood up against the spread of Gnosticism. He wrote five books exposing the errors of various sects and compared their beliefs to the teachings of the Apostles.

Let's Talk About It

Discussion Questions

1. How do priests feed Jesus' flock? How does the Pope feed the flock?
2. Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved him?
3. The Church is a wonderful gift to us handed down through thousands and thousands of faithful followers of Christ. Name some of these followers.
4. What can you do to help support you local priest?

Family Commitment

(Fill in your commitment here)



Snack

Tint flaked coconut in a plastic bag with a drop of green food coloring. Shake bag until evenly colored. Sprinkle coconut onto a buttered graham cracker. The green coconut will look like grass which sheep like to eat.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, we pray for all those who are discerning their vocation. Please guide them in Your holy will and may many men be added to the priesthood to serve You and Your Church. Amen.



Quiz Answer

Peter. (John 21:7)