



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF FAMILY/RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

TO: Parish Secretaries, Bulletin Editors, and Parish Webmasters
FROM: Lisa Hall
DATE: November 4, 2020
SUBJECT: Family Perspective Articles for Lectionary CYCLE B, 2020-2021

Listed below are the *Family Perspective* articles for inclusion in your weekly bulletin and your parish website and/or social media.

ADVENT

November 29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful." This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today's gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful," the Lord is already with you.

December 6, 2020: Second Sunday of Advent

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings, which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift, which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel reports, "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that do not start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

December 20, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

QUESTION: What do you call a family, which began with an unmarried pregnant teen, and had a twelve-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

ANSWER: **HOLY!** Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."





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CHRISTMAS TIME

December 25, 2020: Christmas

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

December 27, 2020: Holy Family Sunday

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph were not "perfect" parents. If you have ever been "amazed" and "astonished" at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you "didn't understand" your children or felt "anxious" about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

January 3, 2021: Epiphany Sunday

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Do not let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

ORDINARY TIME

January 10, 2021: The Baptism of the Lord (Mark 1:7-11) **A Family Perspective**

by Bud Ozar

The gospel today points to Jesus' humanity; like us He needed RECOGNITION ("You are my Son"), AFFECTION ("My Beloved Son") and AFFIRMATION ("With you I am well pleased."). In our families it is easy to focus on irritating behaviors and take for granted all the positives. This New Year take a lesson from God the Father, be an AFFIRMER and not a BLAMER.

January 17, 2021: Second Sunday (John 1: 35-42)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Jesus' question in today's gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

January 24, 2021: Third Sunday (Mark 1:14-20)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

It must have been difficult for Zebedee to watch his sons walk away and follow Jesus. It was the end of "Zebedee and Sons Fishing, Inc." Our children were never ours. They are only on loan to us. We raise them to let them go.

January 31, 2021: Fourth Sunday (Mark 1:21-28)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel reminds us "unclean spirits" still haunt our families. These "spirits" thrive inside our grudges, punishing silence, impatience and abruptness. Today Jesus offers you the "authority" to cast out these spirits from your life and your family.





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February 7, 2021: Fifth Sunday (Mark 1:29-39)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus went to the "house of Andrew and Simon" to relax but discovered that "Simon's mother-in-law was very ill. Like Jesus, we come home to relax but are confronted with problems. Take a tip from Andrew and Simon who "told Jesus about it at once."

February 14, 2021: Sixth Sunday (Mark 1:40-45)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Family life is about decisions. The leper in today's gospel knew this when he said to Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus knew this when He said, "I do will it." Love is not an emotion. It is a decision to be with and for another person in "good times and bad," even when we don't feel like it.

LENT

February 21, 2021: First Sunday of Lent (Mark 1:12-15)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors "bug" you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

February 28, 2021: Second Sunday of Lent (Mark 9:2-10)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families, we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

March 7, 2021: Third Sunday of Lent (John 2:13-25)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel says Jesus chased the merchants out of the temple, it does not say He was angry. Jesus teaches us to act from conviction and not from anger. He did not condemn the merchants, only their business practice. Attack the behavior and not the person.

March 14, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Lent (John 3:14-21)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately "left in the dark." Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to act. Parents walk a delicate balance of when to "sit in the dark" and when to "turn on the lights."

March 21, 2021: Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 12:20-33)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our autonomy and die to our independence. It is in dying to our independence that we find interdependence with others.





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March 28, 2021: Passion (Palm) Sunday (Mark 14:1-15:47) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.

EASTER TIME

April 4, 2021: Easter Sunday (John 20:1-9) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John “did not know” what to do. In family life, there are confusing moments when “we don’t know” what to do. Like the apostles, we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other even when all seems lost.

April 11, 2021: Divine Mercy Sunday (John 20:19-31) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
In today’s gospel Jesus teaches, “Blessed are those who have not seen and believe.” Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Without acceptance, a home is only a house and a family is just a group of housemates.

April 18, 2021: Third Sunday of Easter (Luke 24: 35-48) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
The apostles were afraid of Jesus until he ate with them and they touched him. In your family, the ordinary acts of eating together, touching, embracing not only confirm our love for each other, but also celebrate God’s presence in your family. These “ordinary” moments contain the “Extraordinary.”

April 25, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Easter (John 10:11-18) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Today’s gospel is a job description for Christian parents. For most people the most influential shepherds in their lives are their PARENTS. Every parent is called to be a “good shepherd” to “freely lay down their life” for their children, to “love” and “know” their children and to “lead” them so “they know your voice.”

May 2, 2021: Fifth Sunday of Easter (John 15:1-8) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Like the vine grower in today’s gospel, parents must “prune and cleanse” the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and “bear fruit.”

May 9, 2021: Sixth Sunday of Easter (John 15: 9-17) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Today’s gospel challenges us to “love one another as I have loved you.” Jesus is our model and he asks us to “lay down our life” (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

May 9, 2021: Mother’s Day Sunday *Extra -A Family Perspective* **by Bud Ozar**
The words of Jesus in today’s gospel, “Abide in me,” are appropriate on a day we honor mothers because there is a special bond connecting mothers and their children, extending beyond birth and death. They will always “abide” in each other. It’s a lasting presence.





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May 13, 2021: The Ascension of the Lord (Mark 16:15-20) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
As Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the family; “make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don’t worry, I am with you always.”

May 16, 2021: Seventh Sunday of Easter (John 17:11-19) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Jesus was worried about His disciples and He turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent trying to “guard and protect” our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.

May 23, 2021: Pentecost Sunday (John 15:26-27; 16:12-15) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family and he expects us to use this personal gift. Let us turn-off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives and let the Holy Spirit “guide us to the truth.”

ORDINARY TIME

May 30, 2021: Trinity Sunday (Matthew 28: 16-20) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
In today’s gospel Jesus commands, “Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you.” This command is meant for every Christian. In light of this command, parenting is not only the most difficult task a person can take on, it is also one of the most apostolic and missionary tasks. Jesus commands all parents to teach their children “all that I have commanded you.”

June 6, 2021: Body & Blood of Christ Sunday (Mark 14: 12-16: 22-26) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
One gets the impression there was always a lot of sharing, discussion and learning during the many meals Jesus and the disciples ate together. How does this compare to the meals in your home? Today’s gospel challenges us to make our meals more than physical functions and more a time for sharing.

June 13, 2021: 11th Sunday (Mark 4:26-34) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Parenting is a lot like the story of the farmer in the gospel parable today. All growth is the Lord’s work. We have no control over the process. In fact the farmer doesn’t even understand it, for the seed grows even when he sleeps. As parents we can influence our children but nothing we do can guarantee results.

June 20, 2021: 12th Sunday (Mk 4:35-41) **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
Just as the apostles in today’s gospel were amazed at the power of Jesus so our children are amazed at our lack of fear of dark rooms or monsters in closets or under beds. As the apostles depended on Jesus, children depend on us to restore quiet to their lives. Getting out of bed at night to quiet a child’s fears is the stuff of holiness

June 20, 2021: Father’s Day Sunday **Extra -A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**
It is interesting we call the first person of the Trinity, Father. Our dads help us understand God as Father in the way they love, protect, teach, discipline and spend time with us. What an awesome responsibility, to be the window through which children view God.





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June 27, 2021: 13th Sunday (Mark 5:21-34)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The healing of the woman and the child in today's gospel is a reminder we are all wounded. We retreat to those we love looking for acceptance, listening, understanding and support. Families must be healing communities where Jesus is present in our care for one another.

July 4, 2021: 14th Sunday (Mark 6:1-6)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel is so familiar, it hurts! The hometown folks could not accept the presence of God in Jesus. After all, they had watched him grow up. We can easily make the same mistake if we do not see God present in the ordinary routines of our family. "The Lord be with you" is a statement of fact. Believe it. Live it.

July 11, 2021: 15th Sunday (Mark 6:7-13)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Jesus sent out His apostles without many "things" because THINGS distract. We collect, argue about and protect our "things." Garage sales only transfer "things." We even ignore each other because we have "things" to do. What "things" are separating you from your family?

July 18, 2021: 16th Sunday (Mark 6:30-34)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel, "the apostles gathered around and told Jesus all they had done." Listening allows the other person to express, understand and appreciate their experiences. Whether it is the excited chatter of a young child or the repetitious stories of an aging grandparent, listening is important. It is not just time well spent, it is sacred time.

July 25, 2021: 17th Sunday (John 6:1-5)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel, Phillip worried about "enough food" for the crowd. What is ENOUGH? When does our ENOUGH deprive another family of their fair share? Jesus performed today's miracle because one child was willing to share and risk living with less. Can your family live more simply so that other families can simple live?

August 1, 2021: 18th Sunday (John 6:24-35)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel, Jesus tells us: "Do not work for what perishes." Give your life to what endures such as the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect, which bonds you together, the memories you share and the forgiveness generously given. These true treasures are worth working and dying for.

August 8, 2021: 19th Sunday (John 6:41-51)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

"Stop murmuring" Jesus told the disciples in today's gospel. Complaining is a dead-end and constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Do not make them personal attacks.

August 15, 2021: Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:39-56)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

"Blessed is the fruit of your womb" can be said of all mothers, because every child is "blessed" and a child of God upon whom God "looks with favor." This is our deepest identity and destiny. We do not earn this blessing. God's love is a free gift to each of us.





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August 22, 2021: 21st Sunday (John 6: 60-69)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Even though many found the teachings of Jesus “difficult”, He did not back down. In our families, it is important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love and guide with understanding.

August 29, 2021: 22nd Sunday (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel, Jesus warns, “what comes from within can defile” a person. Families need to worry about “outside influences” but also about “inside influences.” The values our children carry for a lifetime are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That is the good news! That can also be the bad news!

September 5, 2021: 23rd Sunday (Mark 7:31-37)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Because the deaf man in today’s gospel recognized his disability, he could seek help from Jesus. Deafness abounds in families: in our children (“Oh dad, not that again”), in parents (“It is just a stage”), and in spouses (“Are you listening?”). Before Jesus can enter your home and heal, you must first recognize your deafness.

September 12, 2021: 24th Sunday (Mark 8: 27-35)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

If we want to be happy at home, we must commit (“lose ourselves”) to our family. If we try to be independent from others (“save ourselves”), we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

September 19, 2021: 25th Sunday (Mark 9:30-37)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Disagreements are common in families. However, what would you say if Jesus posed the same question “What are you arguing about?” Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another? Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

September 26, 2021: 26th Sunday (Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The words in today’s gospel, “Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their reward” hits us at home. As parents, we gain our “reward” when we bring water to a frightened child in the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five-year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes, we give until it hurts “in the name of Christ.”

October 3, 2021: 27th Sunday (Mark 10:2-16)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel, Jesus encourages married couples to throw away the marriage rulebook. Rules are for those with “hardened hearts.” Married couples are called to be a sacramental reflection of God’s faithful and selfless love...a place where people live and love beyond rules and formulas.

October 10, 2021: 28th Sunday (Mark 10:17-30)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Having possessions is an illusion. In today’s gospel, Jesus told the young man to give up his need to control and put his trust in God. He could not let go! In families, our need to control destroys relationships. We can lead, teach and encourage, but we cannot control anyone but ourselves.





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October 17, 2021: 29th Sunday (Mark 10:35-45)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

“Advice” books abound on marriage and parenting. Jesus tells us in today’s gospel the real secret: satisfying relationships depend on how well we sacrifice our needs to serve others. It is not about “getting,” it is about “giving” ourselves. If you feel like you are a servant to your children and spouse, then you are doing it right.

October 24, 2021: 30th Sunday (Mark 10:46-52)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

When Jesus asked the blind man, “What do you want from me?” he asked for sight. If Jesus asked you the same question, what would you say? Okay, that is your prayer.

October 31, 2021: 31st Sunday (Mark 12: 28b-34)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In a family children are taught to be respectful if they want to be respected, to share, if they want their fair share and to listen if they want to be heard. Family life rescues us from arrogance by teaching us to love others as we love ourselves.

November 1, 2021: Feast of All Saints

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Anyone can be a “saint” in front of strangers but the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness, listening, and dying to oneself within the family are religious acts. Family life is the turf of sanctity.

November 7, 2021: 32nd Sunday (Mark 12:38-44)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The widow in today’s gospel gave only a little, but it counted for a lot. In our homes, there are many LITTLE MOMENTS, which can have great significance and glue the family together. Seize the moments.

November 14, 2021: 33rd Sunday (Mark 13:24-32)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel teaches us UNCERTAINTY is normal. There are some things in life, which “no one knows... only the Father.” Marriage and parenting are full of uncertainty for like the fig tree in the gospel; the people we love grow and change.

November 21, 2021: Christ the King Sunday (John 18:33-37)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

When we are young, our parents “tell us about Jesus” and we believe what our parents believe. At some point, we must leave our parents faith and ask Pilate’s question: “are you the King?” Pilate is just asking these questions on our behalf.

November 25, 2021: Thanksgiving

Extra -A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

As you prepare for Thanksgiving, look back on this year to all the moments God visited your family in unexpected blessings, or disasters avoided, or kindness and compassion received. Realize and give thanks for “The Lord is with you.”

