

# FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

**April 2, 2017**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

In today's gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus came out of the tomb, Jesus instructed his family and friends to untie the bandages that bound him. God still depends on us to free others so they might live. Who in your family is tied up by pride or entombed by grief or resentment? Hear Jesus' call to "unbind him," with care and compassion.

**April 9, 2017**

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

The story of Christ's passion recalls the betrayal and indifference of others that led to his crucifixion. In our homes, family members sometimes feel betrayed or ignored by those who should love them best. Through Christ's passion and death we have been given new life. We too, can give new life to our family relationships whenever we act with compassion and forgiveness.

**April 16, 2017**

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Easter is a time for families to gather for a special meal and to worship together at Church. Home rituals can also make this feast the most important faith event of the year. Make an effort this year to bring Easter into your home. Try special decorations, a home Easter candle, a special meal and prayer together, sing "Alleluia" or "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" each day of Easter week to proclaim the Risen Lord!

**April 23, 2017**

**Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday**

The Spirit of the Risen Jesus is present in the midst of families locked behind doors of hurt, pain, and resentment. Have the courage to believe His promise of peace. Choose to reach out and ask Him for help if your marriage is strained. Take the first step toward forgiving the person who has hurt you the most. "Do not be unbelieving but believe."

**April 30, 2017**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Too many families take too little time to talk about their faith. Try an Emmaus family journey. Talk about Jesus and your faith on the ride to church. Or, make time this week to meet with a trusted friend with whom you can talk and pray and even share a meal. Where two or more are gathered in His Name, Jesus is present in their midst.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- April 2, 2017** For those who mourn, especially those who have lost a spouse or child, may they experience the healing compassion of friends and family. Let us pray to the Lord.
- April 9, 2017** That children, parents and families suffering from the pain of divorce will find deep, healing hope and compassionate love through Jesus' saving cross and suffering. Let us pray to the Lord.
- April 16, 2017** For family gatherings that are full of Easter joy, reunion and hope. Let us pray to the Lord.
- April 23, 2017** That God's mercy may move our hearts to be merciful and take the first step toward forgiveness and reconciliation, especially between estranged fathers and their children. Let us pray to the Lord.
- April 30, 2017** May families hurting from divorce know the healing presence and peace of the Risen Jesus. We pray to the Lord.