

# Family Perspectives



Marriage and Family  
Ministry

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Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

## Eastertide (Year B) 2021

11 April 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter

18 April 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter

25 April 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

2 May 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9 May 2021 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

16 May 2021 – Ascension of the Lord

23 May 2021 – Pentecost



## 11 April 2021 - Second Sunday of Easter

Aptly, on this Second Sunday of Easter, today's responsorial psalm repeats three times, "His mercy endures forever." In the gospel reading Jesus embodies the mercy of God, drawing near to those who had abandoned him in his greatest suffering with the words, "peace be with you." How do you exhibit peace in your family? God's eternal mercy also calls us to joy. How do you express this joy in your family life?



### Universal Prayer

For nations at war, may politicians and diplomats work tirelessly to end violence and promote justice and goodwill . . .

## 18 April 2021 - Third Sunday of Easter

Jesus's work is not complete even after he has risen from the dead. At the time of his dying and rising, his disciples had scattered, their faith crushed and their spirits despairing. In Jesus's resurrection, he conquered death in his own being, but his great desire was not to keep this life for himself but to share it with all. This past year, in the middle of COVID-19, it has been easy for us to have "faith crushed and our spirits shattered," due to the hardships our family life may have experienced. How have you as a family continued to be a "witness of the Good News" in the midst of hardship during the pandemic?



Universal Prayer:

For all gathered here, in the light of the resurrection may we be renewed in joy and hope . . .

### 25 April 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

In today's passage from the parable of the Good Shepherd, we find another insight into Jesus's dream of how the world might be. While "the wolf" attacks the flock in order to "catch and scatter," Jesus is the shepherd who leads not only the flock he is currently tending, but also "other sheep that do not belong to this fold." In the gospel parable Jesus says, "A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Who are the sheep in your family life that you are called to shepherd and how do you give of your life for them?



Universal Prayer:

For all who serve as shepherds to the people of God, emulating the life of Christ may they serve with humility, gathering the scattered and protecting the weak . . .

### 2 May 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Last week we pondered the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who tenderly cares for his sheep. This week we are given a new image in order to explore our relationship with the Lord, that of a vine and branches. In today's gospel, the command to "remain" in Jesus is issued more than the exhortation to "bear fruit." What spiritual practices help you to "remain" rooted on the true vine in your family life?



Universal Prayer:

For health care workers around the world, may they receive the support necessary to care for the sick and the ailing with skill and compassion . . .

### 9 May 2021 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's gospel comes from Jesus's discourse at the Last Supper in John's gospel. Last Sunday we pondered the first half of the parable of the True Vine, and this week we contemplate the second part. In the gospel, Jesus expresses his desire that "may joy may be in you / and your joy might be complete." Where do you find your greatest joy at this moment in your family life?



Universal Prayer:

For Christians throughout the world, may they dwell in peace with each other and with members of other faiths . . .

### 16 May 2021 - The Ascension of the Lord

The wonders of the risen Lord continue to astonish and amaze the apostles. Not only has Jesus overcome the finality of death, now he is “taken up into heaven” where he “[takes] his seat at the right hand of God.” Today’s psalm is an apt response for those first apostles, and also for us modern-day disciples, as we reflect on the mystery of the ascension. In the gospel we hear that Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, continues to “work within” the disciples as they preach and do good works. How do you experience Jesus’s presence working within your family life?



Universal Prayer:

For indigenous peoples are the world, may their cultures, languages, and human rights be safeguarded . . .

### 23 May 2021 - Pentecost Sunday

Jesus, the risen Lord, enters the room in which the disciples had barricaded themselves out of fear and offers them two gifts: his peace and the breath of the Holy Spirit. This scene and these words are familiar to us, having pondered them only a few weeks ago on the Second Sunday of Easter. Today, on the feast of Pentecost, we focus on the sharing of the Holy Spirit. Today's psalm lifts up another aspect of the Holy Spirit as an agent of renewal in the world. Commissioning the disciples to carry on his ministry, Jesus says, "As the father has sent me, so I send you." How do these words reverberate with your own faith journey in your family life?



Universal Prayer

For those who live in fear, may the peace of the Lord free them from all anxieties and grant them the courage to use their talents and gifts for the glory of God.