

SEASON FIVE

Summer Road Trip

SMALL GROUP CONTENT



DIOCESE OF DALLAS YOUNG ADULTS



YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUPS

— DIOCESE OF DALLAS —

PACK YOUR BAGS, PEOPLE!

We're going on a Summer Road Trip! Welcome to both our new and returning small group participants! We are very excited for the unique content you will get to experience this Summer. We will be visiting 12 different Dallas-area landmarks across our diocese (plus 2 bonus stops!) over the course of the next 14 weeks, and it's going to be a blast.

HERE ARE OUR HOPES FOR THIS SUMMER

- To continue supporting young adult small groups, believing they are a true pillar of Catholic and parish community
- To shake up the format of the small group Summer season—the vehicle for content, the tone, the formatting—to provide a new platform and multi-media experience
- To retain the quality of our past small group material including its connection to Scripture, Liturgy, and its relevance to the Dallas Catholic young adult
- To inspire pride in a Dallas Catholic identity by educating about Dallas Catholic history
- To encourage young adults to “pilgrimage” and journey to locations important to their faith
- To answer the expressed desire of many young adults to “get back out in the world” by offering them places they can safely visit around the local area
- To continue supporting young adults in growing closer to Jesus.

Jump in with both feet! Commit to your small group community and commit to giving it your all during your small group gathering time. We're convinced you won't regret it.

HOW TO USE OUR CONTENT

1 Follow The 635 on Social Media: The 635 is the diocesan Young Adult community. It is here that you will find teasers for the upcoming landmarks, Dallas Catholic highlights, and additional content that you don't want to miss.

2 Become familiar with the Road Trip web page: <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>. It is here that you will find access to the weekly episodes and content for the series. The page will remain available even after the Summer season has concluded.

3 Opening Prayer: This season, we are encouraging you to become more comfortable with extemporaneous prayer (praying off the top of your head instead of reading pre-written words) and praying aloud. The facilitator or a volunteer is welcome to lead prayer each week. Extemporaneous prayer is not intended to create pressure or anxiety, but is meant to help build the skills needed to pray out loud with one another if we find ourselves in a situation that calls us to pray.

4 The Episode: The episodes are available in video form and podcast form. You can get access on the Road Trip web page. Your facilitator will determine if the group should listen to the episode before or during the small group time.

5 Gospel: Read this prayerfully, together. Your facilitator will decide what method is best: reading aloud as a group once; reading aloud as a group once, followed by a second individual reading, etc.

6 Reflection Questions for Journaling and Discussion: The facilitator should allow the group a determined amount of time to silently journal responses to the questions and prompts. After journal time has concluded, the facilitator can lead a discussion, allowing participants the opportunity to share their responses.

7 Closing Prayer: We're keeping it simple with some of our Catholic staple prayers. We are hoping the opportunity to share intentions will allow your group to grow closer to one another and see the power of intercessory prayer over your time spent together.

8 Prepare for Special Weeks: There are two special weeks, week 5 and week 10, that provide the opportunity to take a break or shake things up, if groups choose to do so. Only the Gospels are provided those weeks, but we do have a list of suggested activities you can do as a group in lieu of your typical gatherings. It is here that we will highlight our bonus stops!

JUNE 6, 2021

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The first stop on the Summer Road Trip is, well, a road! Or more accurately, a highway. Associated with traffic jams and accidents, highways may not be your favorite. Yet, it is our hope that when you find yourself traversing on The 635 or perhaps pass a 635 sign, your mind will be transported to thoughts of (get ready for it...) the Eucharist. The Eucharist has been called the “source and summit” or “font and apex” of the Christian life, and we must ask ourselves where the Eucharist falls in priority in our own lives.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #1: THE 635

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”’ Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.” The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Reflect upon your upbringing and journey with Celebrating the Eucharist at Mass. Did you grow up attending Mass? Or perhaps a service with a different faith? During what periods of your life did you attend Mass more or less frequently, and why?
- What is your general disposition toward the obligation of going to Mass on Sunday (or Saturday Vigil)? For example, do you feel excited going to Mass? Do you enjoy your time? Does it feel like a burden? Do you consider it important to attend Mass every weekend?
- How has your Celebration of the Eucharist and Mass looked since the beginning of Covid until now? How has (or hasn't) your perspective or understanding of the Eucharist changed during this time?
- What practices would make your Celebration of the Eucharist and experience with Mass more fruitful?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

JUNE 13, 2021

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The history of the Catholic Community in Dallas truly is a “mustard seed” story; where there are now over a billion Catholics, there once were just a few families, upholding the faith and celebrating the sacraments whenever able. Jesus employs “harvest” language frequently in the Gospels and often refers to the product of His presence and action as “fruitfulness”. We are reminded this week that the Spirit of God is always at work, and where we have sown seeds, He can bear great fruit.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #2: THE OLD CHURCHES OF DALLAS

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.” He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” With many such parables, he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- What is an example of a project or effort to which you gave significantly and generously of your time, talent, or treasure? Is there any sort of project or effort that the Holy Spirit may be inspiring you to give to within the Church?
- What is an example of an area of your life where you demonstrated tiny faith, “a mustard seed” worth of faith, and God used that faith to grow something mighty?
- The large branches of the mustard tree allow birds to dwell in its shade. How do you see (or not see) our Catholic Church reflecting the care of Jesus by providing refuge for Catholics, non-Catholics, and the community at large?
- The man in the parable scattered the seed that the land grew of its own accord. God’s grace operates on our elbow grease. What action(s) do you feel God is calling you to do, in order that He may bear fruit in your life?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

JUNE 20, 2021

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

Catholic Theology speaks of the event of “The Fall” at which point humankind sinned against God. At this time, the original harmony that existed in four areas of relationship was lost: 1) the harmony between humankind and God, 2) the harmony between humankind and its members, 3) the harmony between humankind and nature, 4) and the interior harmony within oneself. We can see the effects of the Fall very clearly in our relationship with nature: how we pollute and deplete the resources we need, or, as in the Gospel, how natural events can be very dangerous for humankind. Jesus shows us in this Gospel that He is Lord over all of creation.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #3: THE TRINITY RIVER DALLAS

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY’S GOSPEL

Mk 4:35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Humanity and nature live in a contentious state; though we benefit one another, we can also harm. Blessed Pope Paul VI said in Pacem in Terris, “Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation”. Where do you feel called by God in your life to make changes in order to better care for His creation?
- Particularly before modern irrigation, all major cities were built near a water source. Imagine the life that came from the Sea of Galilee where the disciples fished. What are the “water sources” that God has given you in your life - the activities, relationships, resources that enhance your well-being?
- When have you felt that Jesus was asleep in the midst of a storm or not responding to a situation of suffering? How did you make (or not make) sense of that situation?
- In this story, the disciples take Jesus into their boat “just as He was”. What does it mean to you to take Jesus, just as He is?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

JUNE 27, 2021

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

Jesus reveals the Father to us, and one of the ways Jesus reveals the love of the Father is through healing. Jesus healed both individual people and nations of people. Today, Jesus still works in our world as a healer. Sometimes we pursue the healing ourselves, and sometimes another acts as an advocate or an intercessor of healing for us.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #4: ST. ANTHONY, DALLAS

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well

and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to Jesus, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why

this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Name some areas of Catholic history of which you feel ashamed. Name some areas of Catholic history of which you are proud.
- The woman in the Gospel suffered for twelve years. Some may have thought it crazy that she believed she would be healed after so long. Consider your personal life and society at large. What are some wounds that you are tempted to doubt Jesus could ever heal?
- What do you think of Jesus’ words “Do not be afraid; just have faith.”? Do they encourage or frustrate you?
- Name a situation in which God “brought you back to life” and told you to “arise” from a condition or circumstance from which you were unsure you could bounce back.

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

JULY 4, 2021

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SPECIAL WEEK

Various groups around the diocese will determine how to use this special week. Please use it in the way that best fits your group.

THIS WEEK YOU MAY:

- Read and pray together with the week's Gospel, and participate in organic discussion. Sunday's Gospel is provided below.
- Plan to visit one of the landmarks that has been covered in the content (or this week's bonus stop!).
- Organize a fun outing, community building activity, or share a meal together.
- Participate in a service activity together that gives back to the community at-large.
- Participate in a parish activity together.
- Participate in a time of extended prayer together. Attend Mass, pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, attend Eucharist Adoration, etc. Other ideas for prayer are located on the Young Adult Small Group Page: <https://catholicdallas.org/yasmallgroups2021/>.

THIS WEEK'S BONUS STOP: JIMMY'S FOODSTORE IN DALLAS

Check out the Road Trip web page to learn about Jimmy's history as a family-run business, its famous

Italian sausage, and its connection with the Catholic Church! You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

JULY 11, 2021

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

Before he was known as a Saint and before he had founded a religious order, Francis of Assisi heard the Gospel passage that you are going to pray with today and it greatly inspired the ministry that he was to lead. The Franciscans are well known for their vow to poverty, which, when accepted willingly, is a statement of utter trust in the provision of God.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #5: ST. PATRICK IN DENISON

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick— no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Many times in the Gospels, Jesus condemns attachment to riches. Where in your life do you model simplicity and material detachment? Where could God be asking you to detach more?
- While not inherently evil, our material possessions and acquisitions are often a source of pride for us; we want to have new and fashionable clothes, picture-perfect home decorations, flashy cars or advanced technology. What pressures do you feel from society to be more materialistic than necessary?
- Important in this passage is Jesus sending the Twelve out with a companion. Where is an area of your life in which you could use a companion to help you better live your relationship with Jesus? Who do you have in your life that has been a strong companion in the faith?
- The Franciscans are missionary; they exist to model and preach the Gospel and to invite others to join them in a relationship with Jesus. Without exception, all Christians are called to be missionaries. Where is your “missionary territory”? What are your next steps in bringing the Gospel to this place?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

JULY 18, 2021

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House offers people the opportunity to respond to Jesus' invitation to come away and rest. It is in the silence of a deserted place that we are often able to hear the Spirit speak to our hearts in ways we cannot always hear among the noise and chaos, or simple routine of our everyday lives. The Spirit calls us into a balance of solitary prayer and action.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #6: MONTSERRAT

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- This passage begins with the apostles reporting their good works to Jesus. Take a moment to reflect upon and note the good work that you have been doing in your everyday life for the Kingdom.
- There is almost a humorous chain of events taking place, where it seems like the apostles and Jesus are unable to get away from the pursuing crowds, despite their best attempts. Rather than resent the crowds, Jesus is moved with pity for them. Who are the individuals in your life that you are tempted to resent because of how much they require from you? How is God calling you to respond to their needs, while also protecting yours?
- Jesus models the necessity of going off by oneself to pray. In your daily life, where do you have the opportunity to be alone and to pray? If you don't have this opportunity, how can you create it? If the demands of your vocation, such as raising kids, prevents you from having this time, is there anything that can be set up to allow you to have periodic, restorative time with the Spirit?
- Through one lens, the crowd's pursuit of Jesus is quite admirable. Where in your life are you in need of shepherding? Are there situations in your past, present, or future where you feel you need Jesus' guidance to handle?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

JULY 25, 2021

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

Over the next couple weeks, we will be praying with John 6 and the Bread of Life Discourse. It is our belief that no detail of Scripture is without importance. Scripture scholars have found allegorical meaning in the twelve wicker baskets, considering them to represent the scattered Twelve Tribes of Israel (the Jewish people) that were displaced from their home during the Exile of the Old Testament. It was God's promise, through the prophets, that He would bring His people back together. In continuing this mission of God, St. Jude Chapel in Dallas city offers a location for the Catholic faithful and spiritual alike to come together to find respite for prayer and meditation.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #7: ST. JUDE CHAPEL

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Barley was considered the food of the poor, so we can assume that the boy who offered his loaves and fish didn't have much. What do you have to offer God? Be specific and consider physical resources, skill sets, interior dispositions, etc.
- It is noted that the Feast of the Passover was near. This is significant because at the Last Supper, while celebrating the Passover, Jesus fulfills the meaning of the Passover when he institutes the Eucharist. What does this passage say to you about the Eucharist?
- The disciples here "had their fill". Does your relationship with Jesus leave you full or hungry? Satisfied or disappointed? Complete or devoid? Explain your answer.
- The witness of Jesus' miracle made the people believe that he was The Prophet, the one who was to be made king. What situations have been responsible for you having faith in Jesus as God?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

AUGUST 1, 2021

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The Benedictans live by a famous motto: “ora et labora”, meaning “pray and work”. It was their belief that sanctity and a life pleasing to God was accomplished by holding these two tasks in tension with one another. Jesus puts work into two categories: the work that will receive its temporary reward on earth and the work that receives its eternal reward in heaven. While other “earthly” bread decays or leaves one to hunger again, The Bread of Life, fully and forever satisfies.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #8: BENEDICTAN MONASTERY OF THIEN TAM

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jn 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.” So they said to him, “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- What rhythms of prayer and work do you have in your life? How might the Spirit be asking you to balance or integrate prayer and work differently?
- Though the crowd pursued Jesus, Jesus suspected they were only following him because they were interested in more food. What consolations do you receive by following Jesus? What are some instances when you find yourself more interested in the consolations than Jesus, Himself?
- The miracle of the manna in the desert is referenced, where God provided for the newly freed Hebrew people by giving them fresh manna (bread) every morning. Any excess manna melted away and the manna was unable to be stored without spoiling. What do you think God may have been trying to communicate to the Hebrews through the gift of the manna?
- Belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a supernatural gift, as it requires of us to assent to a mystery beyond, though not contrary to, human comprehension. Tangible Eucharistic miracles have been a great aid to faith for Catholics throughout the centuries. Have you ever experienced a moment of great confidence in Jesus' Presence in the Eucharist? How about doubt?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

AUGUST 8, 2021

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SPECIAL WEEK

Various groups around the diocese will determine how to use this special week. Please use it in the way that best fits your group.

THIS WEEK YOU MAY:

- Read and pray with the week's Gospel together and participate in organic discussion. Sunday's Gospel is provided below.
- Plan to visit one of the landmarks that has been covered in the content (or this week's bonus stop!).
- Organize a fun outing, community building activity, or share a meal together.
- Participate in a service activity together that gives back to the community at-large.
- Participate in a parish activity together.
- Participate in a time of extended prayer together. Attend Mass, pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, attend Eucharist Adoration, etc. Other ideas for prayer are located on the Young Adult Small Group Page: <https://catholicdallas.org/yasmallgroups2021/>.

THIS WEEK'S BONUS STOP: HOLLEMAN FARMS IN GREENVILLE

Check out the Road Trip web page to learn about the Holleman Farm family-owned business, its commitment to sustainability, and connection with the Catholic Church! You can access the

episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jn 6:41-51

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: They shall all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

AUGUST 15, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

As the Mother of Jesus, Mary holds a place of honor in the Catholic faith. In today's passage, we remember how Mary brought Jesus to Elizabeth before Jesus was even born and how she continues to bring Jesus to people to this day. It is only appropriate that the Cathedral of Dallas be named after Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is called the Star of the New Evangelization.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #9: CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the

house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- In the Marian apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary’s appearance employs symbolism that was familiar to the native peoples at the time. In a sense, she used their language to share her message. The unaltered Gospel needs to be shared with others in a way that it can be understood. When is a moment when you have shared the Gospel, a word from God, or a truth about the faith, in a way that it was readily received by another? How did you know what “language” to use?
- Elizabeth’s baby (John the Baptist) leapt for joy in the womb when in the Presence of Jesus. Consider Mass. What do our collective actions and behavior throughout Mass indicate about our feelings and beliefs toward Jesus? Where do you find joy expressed (or not expressed)?
- Mary glorifies the Lord for all that He has done in her life. Take a moment to make a gratitude list. Which of the items on your list have you shared/could you share with someone as a means of glorifying God?
- Prayerfully consider one person in your life to whom you would like to bring the Presence of Jesus. Why do you feel the Spirit has put this person on your heart?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

AUGUST 22, 2021

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The Catholic Church has a strong intellectual tradition that is upheld by the University of Dallas. Faith and reason are two pillars upon which our tradition stands. It is important that Catholics use their human faculties, endowed by God, to question, to think critically, and to come to a personal conclusion on their own beliefs. In today's passage, we remember the individuals grappling with the message shared by Jesus during the Bread of Life Discourse and how they responded to the message.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #10: UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jn 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?"

It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."



REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- We are constantly under the influence of various schools of thought, both outside and within the Church. Name some people or groups that influence the way you relate with Jesus and view the Catholic faith. Have you invited or welcomed their influence?
- Consider an area of Catholic teaching with which you struggle to comprehend or to assent. Have you ever expressed this struggle to another Catholic? If yes, what was the reaction you received?
- This passage, specifically the line, “Master, to whom shall we go?” has been used in recent times to express the sentiment behind individuals’ decisions to remain in the Church, despite scandal. At times, it has been used with good intentions and at times, this passage has been misused to shame those who have chosen to leave. Have you ever considered leaving the Church? Were you able to share about this and receive support from other Catholics? Have you had the opportunity to be a support for another person considering leaving the Church?
- This passage states that Jesus already knew the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray Him. Consider the love He poured upon Judas, despite this knowledge. How do you believe Jesus intends for us to interact with non-believers, those who have left the Catholic Church because of scandal, or those within our Church who do not align exactly with our preferences?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

AUGUST 29, 2021

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The Catholic Charities of Dallas is committed to the Works of Mercy and to social justice within our diocese. We are reminded in today's passage that the Lord is concerned with the state of our heart, rather than the adherence of empty practices that we do not allow to transform us. Jesus reminds us to regard God's commandment. We know from Matthew 22 that the greatest commandments are to love the Lord and to love one another as ourselves.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #11: CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF DALLAS

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. —For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. —So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition.” He summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. “From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- Jesus condemns teaching human precepts (man-made laws) as doctrine (God-made laws). The “tradition of the elders” refers to man-made religious customs that were added to the Mosaic Law given by God. Where in your religious practice have you created “laws”— expectations, standards, additional pressure—for yourself that distract from God’s hopes for you, rather than enable you to better attain them?
- The act of purification after going to the market was a ritual to cleanse one from contact with “defiled commonfolk.” Catholic Charities, rather than divide people with titles, unites people under the banner of solidarity during suffering from poverty, homelessness, and hunger. What is one body of suffering people with whom you feel a particular calling from God to be in solidarity? How can this practically be realized?
- Consider a person within your immediate circle of close family, friends, co-workers, etc., that is experiencing suffering. How is the Lord calling you to be in solidarity with that person?
- The list of things that defile, found at the end of this passage, can serve as an “Examination of Conscience” of sorts during your prayer time. How does your practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation look? Is there anything that has prevented you from having a fruitful experience in the past? Are there any preparations on your end that could help you have a more fruitful experience in the future?

CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING PRAYER

Free form, led by Facilitator or Participant Volunteer

CONTENT CONNECT

The downtown Dallas community of St. Ann and the former parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe has a proud voice; they cherish their community's history and want to share it with anyone who is interested to listen. So often, we do not listen to the stories of those around us and give other people the opportunity to have a voice. In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and mute. Imagine how this healing changed the man's ability to communicate! We are reminded of the beauty and necessity of both speaking and listening to one another in the process of healing.

ROAD TRIP EPISODE #12: ST. ANN COMMUNITY

You can access the episodes and accompanying materials at <https://catholicdallas.org/roadtrip/>.

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mk 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING & DISCUSSION

- Note any general reactions or insights from either the episode or the Gospel.
- The Summer Road Trip has been an adventure in learning your own Dallas Catholic history through the landmarks of our diocese. How has this series contributed to your identity as a Dallas Catholic? How has this series contributed to your relationship with Jesus?
- What message would you like to make sure those in your Catholic community hear from you? Consider the same question, but specifically for the leaders of the Catholic community.
- What steps can you take to better ensure that those around you are able to tell their story? What can you do to ensure that your loved ones feel like they can actually talk to you about important stuff such as their relationship with Jesus and the Church?
- What is one important way that Jesus may be inspiring you to contribute to the Dallas Catholic legacy?

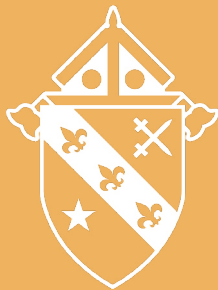
CLOSING PRAYER

Facilitator:

Ask for Intentions from the group

Group Prays Together:

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...



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