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The Family Catechesis Corner



Department of Faith Formation
Diocese of Ogdensburg

E-book Brings Scripture Lessons to the Home

By: Jessica Hargrave, *Secretary, Department of Faith Formation*

Sunday Scripture can be tricky to explain to children. Now, a new e-book is available to help parents teach children the meaning of Scripture as churches and religious education programs continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Praying the Scripture, Year A” from publisher, RCL Benziger, allows families who are continuing to watch Mass online keep religious education going in their home. The e-book contains scriptures from liturgical year A along with scripture teachings to which children can relate. Also included are questions of the week, designed to be discussion starters, and Sunday celebrations that focus on the Gospel of the day while encouraging singing, praying and sharing. Subscribers will also receive a liturgical year calendar to use as a reference.

The Church has a three-year cycles of Sunday readings. We are currently in cycle A, which will end on the first Sunday of Advent, when cycle B readings will begin. The following year will be cycle C. If you went to church every day for three years, you will take a full tour through the bible!

Anita Soltero, Eastern Regional director for Faith Formation for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, has spent 20 years as a catechist. She encourages everyone, not just children, to learn the Scriptures.

“We learn who God is and what he wants for us,” said Soltero. “We hear from both the Old and New Testament and the Gospel, which are stories about all kinds of people and how they listened to God or not, and what happened to them.”

Through storytelling, children, like adults, share passions, fears, and joys and find common ground with the characters in the stories they hear. Hearing the Scriptures is no different. Children can relate them to their own life.

“Jesus was always telling stories to the crowds. Just like Jesus told the crowds stories to teach them, our children can learn to recognize how God works in their life by learning Jesus’ stories too,” said Soltero.

“Praying the Scriptures, Year A” is available at store.rclbenziger.com for \$19.00.