

MARCH 13, 2016
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking+ faith home

Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | John 12:1-8 | Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany |
| Monday | Luke 23:50-56 | Women prepare perfumes |
| Tuesday | Philippians 3:4b-14 | The value of knowing Christ |
| Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 | The fragrance of life |
| Thursday | Ephesians 1:15-18 | Knowing Christ better |
| Friday | 2 Peter 1:3-11 | Knowledge of Christ |
| Saturday | Psalms 20 | The Lord saves his anointed |
| Sunday | Luke 19:28-40 | Blessed is the King who comes |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless. Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Philippians 3:7-8 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us to let go of all that stands in the way of knowing and following you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, bless our bodies with this food, our home with your love, and the world by our hands. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus take hold of you with his love. May you know Christ and the power that raised him to new life. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is the best gift you have ever given? Ever received?
- Mary anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume (read John 12:1-8). Why do you think she did this?
- If you could see and touch Jesus today, what gift would you give him? Why?

DEVOTIONS



In Sunday's Gospel reading, we hear that Mary (sister of Martha and Lazarus) anointed Jesus' feet with nard, a very expensive perfume imported from the Himalayas. Nard was used to prepare bodies for burial. By anointing Jesus, Mary was pointing forward to his sufferings and death soon thereafter. As part of your home devotions this week, use perfume or scented oil and "anoint" one another's hands with it. Say this prayer together:

"Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for us. Make our lives like a sweet perfume, attracting others to you. Amen."

SERVICE



Mary surprised Jesus with a special gift of love. Prepare a special gift of love for a friend, neighbor, or relative (money need not be spent).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When the Apostle Paul wrote, "Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8), he is stating that faith in Christ is at the center of our lives. Take time during the week to say or send a message using social media to family and friends, **"Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."** Let this be a time of reflection as you prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. As part of your devotions, light a candle and meditate on this passage in silence.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org