

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION: THE GIFT OF PEACE

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) • Year B • April 7, 2024

**Risen Lord,  
you greeted your disciples  
with words of peace.**

**Peace was your gift to them.**

**May your peace be in my  
thoughts,  
in my words,  
and in my actions.**

**Help me give to others  
your gift of peace.**

**Amen.**



### Sunday Word

**Acts 4:32-35**

**Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24**

**1 John 5:1-6**

**John 20:19-31**

The above readings are available at  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings).

### To Help You Remember



1. The Risen Lord Jesus appeared to his disciples and greeted them with words of peace.
2. Peace is the first gift given to the community of believers as a result of the Resurrection.
3. We are reminded of this gift of peace in the Communion Rite of the Mass, when we share with one another the sign of peace.

## Key Teachings



### The Meaning of Peace

Peace is not merely the absence of war, conflict, or violence. It is an attitude, a way of life where human beings are in total harmony with nature, God, self, and others.

### Steps to Peace

We must change behaviors such as putting down others, bullying others, hurting others, being prejudiced against others, and ignoring others' needs. These changes in attitude and behavior are small steps to peace and will lead to ever-widening circles of peace breaking out in the world.

## Faith Words



### peace

Peace is also one of the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Peace on earth is a reflection of the peace of Christ. Christ has reconciled humanity with God and made the Church the sacrament of unity and peace. Disciples of Jesus are called to be peacemakers.

## Peace



## With My Family



### We Listen

The story of Doubting Thomas teaches us a great deal about peace, faith, doubt, and mercy. That is a lot to pack into one story! The Gospel starts with a greeting of peace and then we see Thomas doubt. His unbelief leads him to belief once he sees the Risen Lord. And then, even though Thomas showed an initial lack of faith, Jesus shows mercy to Thomas.

### We Believe

Peace is one of the major teachings of the Catholic Church. The Church's teaching on peace is rooted in the Covenant of the Old Testament and perfected when Jesus gives the gift of peace to the Church. Peace is part of our Catholic Social Teaching.

### We Live As Disciples

Jesus gives the gift of peace to his disciples. Use your own words to describe a person of peace. What does a person of peace do? What does a person of peace say? What can you do this week to be a person of peace?

### We Pray

Saint Francis of Assisi promoted peace and harmony with all God's creatures. Pray the Prayer of Saint Francis, sometimes called the Peace Prayer. The words are on this week's activity page.



## **The Prayer of Saint Francis**

Saint Francis was a true and faithful follower of Jesus who lived the ways of peace. His is an amazing life story. You can learn more about him by going to [saintsresource.com](http://saintsresource.com).

This week, pray often the Prayer of Saint Francis. Pray it by yourself or pray it together with your family, with each person praying one of the lines.

## **Prayer of Saint Francis**

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that

I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.