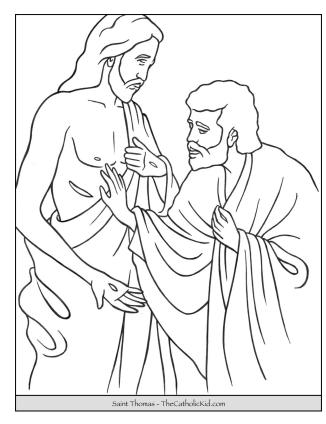
**Sunday, July 2, 2023** 

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

Saint Thomas the Apostle was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He is sometimes referred to as "Doubting Thomas" because he doubted the resurrection of the Lord until he was able to see and feel the wounds from Jesus' death on the cross. When he saw the wounds, he believed, and he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" After Jesus' ascension into Heaven, Saint Thomas traveled to India to preach the Gospel and to build up God's kingdom there. Saint Thomas is the patron saint of judges and architects. We celebrate the feast of Saint Thomas on July 3. Saint Thomas, pray for us!

## "My Lord and my God!"

- Saint Thomas (John 20:28)



## **FAMILY TIME**

At the dinner table, in the car, we talk about our faith, wherever we are!



In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells us to love Him even more than those who are most precious to us. He explains, too, that when we take care of others, we are showing our love for Him.

**LITTLE ONES:** How might loving Jesus the most help us to better love the people around us?

**BIGGER ONES:** Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow him. How can loving and serving others sometimes be a cross to bear? How will you bear your crosses and serve God's people?

**FAMILY CHALLENGE:** Jesus says, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Have each member of the family think of someone who gives their lives selflessly to others or serves without counting the cost. See how many people you can name. Close by praying, "Lord, grant us the grace we need to live in loving service to your people. Amen."

Psalm 89: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

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SING
HEAVEN
JOYFUL
PROCLAIM
GENERATIONS
EXALTED
PROMISES
FOREVER
KINDNESS
FAITHFULNESS
JUSTICE
REJOICE



## Let us believe!

You read about St. Thomas, the apostle who doubted the resurrection of Jesus until he touched Jesus' wounds. It's important to note how patient Jesus was with Thomas. Jesus didn't get angry. He understands how hard it can be to have faith. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." Remember that faith is a gift. Do you believe without seeing? Pray the Act of Faith using the link below:





Saint Maria Goretti was a young girl living on a farm in Italy in the early 1900s when she was attacked and killed by Alessandro, a young man she knew. Before she died, she forgave her attacker and said she would like to see him in Heaven one day. Alessandro was captured and imprisoned for nearly 30 years. For a long time, he was hardhearted and not sorry for what he did. Maria appeared to him in a dream, giving him lilies as a sign of purity, and he woke up very sorry about what he had done. He asked forgiveness from Maria's mother, and she forgave him. He became a lay Capuchin brother and lived in a monastery until he died. Saint Maria Goretti is the patron saint of many things, including purity, forgiveness, and young people. especially girls. We celebrate the feast of Saint Maria Goretti on July 6. Saint Maria Goretti, pray for us!

"...for the love of Jesus, forgive..."

-Saint Maria Goretti