

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Saint Joachim and Saint Anne are the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. We know very little about them, but we do know they represent the generations that faithfully lived their lives awaiting the Messiah. Saints Joachim and Anne lived and passed on their Jewish faith to their daughter, conceived without sin, so that she might say yes to God's will and bear His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We celebrate Saints Joachim and Anne on July 26. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us!

"O blessed couple, all the world is indebted to you, for it is by your means that it can offer to its Creator the most excellent gift possible, her who is worthy to be Mother of His only Son."

- St. John Damascene

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43



FAMILY TIME

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



In this week's Gospel, we are reminded that God is a just judge who will allow those who do His will and those who don't to live together on Earth. We shouldn't worry about the "weeds" but rather continue to try to be "good wheat," knowing the Lord will judge all hearts in the end.

LITTLE ONES: Have your parents ever told you to worry about your own actions and not someone else's? How is this like what God asks of us?

BIGGER ONES: Sometimes when we try to take justice into our own hands, things get worse instead of better. Can you think of an example of this?

FAMILY CHALLENGE: Reread the first reading from today (Wisdom 12:13, 16–19). Parents are called to model God's kindness *and* justice to their children. Talk about ways parents may need to be both kind *and* just when helping children learn from mistakes and poor choices. Parents, reflect in prayer on kindness and justice. Could you use extra grace in showing one or the other? Ask the Lord for help!

Psalm 86: "Lord, you are good and forgiving."

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Let us learn!

It can be a little hard to understand the parables Jesus taught us, but it helps to hear them over and over. Listen to the message again using the link below. Remember that we should always pray for all souls to turn back to the Lord it's never too late! Below is a prayer you can say each morning that will help you give each day to the Lord *and* pray for the salvation of all souls.



MERCIFUL WONDROUS

DEEDS

WORSHIP PLEADING

SERVANT

ABOUNDING

NATIONS

GRACIOUS GLORIFY

FIDELITY

PRAYER

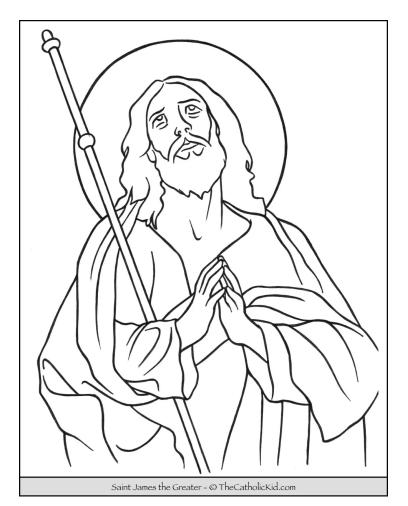
KINDNESS

STRENGTH FORGIVING



Matthew 13:24-43

Morning Offering



Saint James the Greater is one of the Apostles, the brother of Saint John the Beloved, and son of Zebedee and Salome. He was working as a fisherman until Jesus called him to be a disciple. He was one of disciples called to witness the the Transfiguration of the Lord. After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, James spread the Gospel in Israel and then Spain. He was martyred by King Herod, the first apostle to die. His remains were taken to Spain and can be found today in the Cathedral of Santiago. We celebrate Saint James on July 26. Saint James, pray for us!

"Obtain for us strength and consolation in the upending struggles of this life. Help us to follow Christ constantly and generously, to be victors over all our difficulties, and to receive the crown of glory in heaven."

- Ave Maria Press