



# BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

*Living the Faith at Home*

## SEPTEMBER'S THEME: THE HOLY CROSS

### About "The Domestic Church"!

"Building the Domestic Church" is a weekly newsletter from your Faith Formation staff at Holy Rosary (Sr. Stella Abellon in Children's Ministry and Bridget Bicek in Youth Ministry, with help from Fr. Oakland, Deyette Swegle, and Sarah Goins). We'll provide resources to live out your Catholic faith at home, especially when many of us are spending more time than normal at home.

We hope this weekly newsletter will help you to encounter Christ in your own homes, receive his love in your own hearts, and share his love with your family.

In Christ,  
Bridget and Sr. Stella

### How Does it Work?

We recommend taking some time together as a household, although you can benefit from reflecting individually as well. You can take as little as ten minutes, or set aside a full hour, or anything in between.

1. Read the Scriptures together. Take turns reading out loud, if you can.
2. Read the reflection on the readings
3. Discuss the reflection and the Scriptures, either as a household or in groups according to your age. You can use the Breakout Questions as starting points for your discussion

### Monthly Themes: The Holy Cross / The Holy Rosary

September's theme is the Holy Cross, and there's still time to celebrate as a household! See our website for ideas (<https://holyroaryseattle.org/domestic-church>)! September resources include:

- How to make a cross for your home
- Ways to "take up your cross" as individuals and as a family
- How to address the cross of loneliness, especially with teens

But we can also prepare for October. October's Theme is the Holy Rosary, and we'll present activities for October in next week's newsletter!

### Readings for October 4, the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

- **Isaiah 5:1–7** — *God has planted and cultivated us like a vineyard; why do we bring forth wild grapes?*
- **Psalms 80** — *The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel*
- **Philippians 4:6–9** — *Think on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, excellent*
- **Matthew 21:33–43** — *What will the vineyard's owner do to the tenants who killed his son?*

The full text of the readings can be found at: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100420.cfm>

# THE DOMESTIC CHURCH—SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

## Reflection on the Readings by Robert King

This time of year, the readings get all judgy. God is portrayed as breaking down walls, making his vineyard a ruin, taking away his kingdom, and putting people to death. Darkness, gnashing of teeth, fire, and brimstone are just around the corner.

Maybe this feels appropriate. 2020 has been a hard year that shows no signs of letting up. Wildfires still rage, the hurricane season is ongoing, injustice regarding race and class and sex pervades society, COVID-19 still dominates our lives, and closest to home the future of the bridge remains “undetermined” (says West Seattle Blog).

But the Gospel is always Good News. How can we find Good News in this Sunday’s readings?

There are (at least) three items of Good News. First, God is Just. His threats are not random or arbitrary, but are directed at restoring justice and correcting sinners. God will ultimately prevail over injustice. Second, Jesus’s “threats” are actually warnings, opportunities to return to him. The Psalm says, “God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.” Christ always calls us back to his love. And third, God gives peace to those who dwell in his love. St. Paul promises God’s peace “will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

All this takes faith, the trust in God that looks beyond the present moment with its darkness and suffering, and relies on the promises of Christ. This week, maybe start your prayers with, “Jesus, I trust in you.”

## September’s Theme: The Holy Cross

This week, we transition from September to October. September’s theme is the Holy Cross, and there’s still time to celebrate as a household! See our website for ideas! But it’s also a chance to prepare for October. We’ll present October’s activities next week!



## October’s Theme: The Holy Rosary

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### Questions for Parents:

- Have your kids ever ignored or rejected your help? How did you feel? What should they have done? What consequences did they face?
- Have you ever ignored or rejected the help that God has given you? How can you turn back to God, and accept the help he is offering you?

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### Questions for Children:

- What blessings do you receive from God? Write a prayer telling God how you will take care of these blessings and how you will share them with others.
- How do you respond when you are being corrected? For example, when a friend reminds you to be quiet while the teacher is talking? Or when your parent asks you to do dishes?

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### Questions for Adults:

- How much do you trust God? What stands in the way of trusting God? Could you maybe entrust one of those difficulties to his care more than you have in the past?
- How can others warn you and call you back when you are wrong? How can you warn them?

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### Questions for Teens:

- What does it mean that God is just and merciful? How do you see God’s justice and mercy working together in Sunday’s Gospel?
- Where in your life are you experiencing peace now? Where is there an absence of peace?
- Imagine Jesus standing in front of you. Tell him where you are experiencing anxiety, stress, loneliness, etc. How does Jesus respond?