



Scripture Passages

Vocation Inspiration

These Cycle C readings are selected to highlight the different dimensions of God's call to each person, emphasizing the diversity of vocations—priesthood, consecrated life, and marriage. They explore how God's voice invites us to respond to His plan with faith and trust. Each reading also addresses the critical role of families and communities in nurturing and supporting individuals as they discern their calling. Through themes of listening, service, humility, and perseverance, these passages encourage a deeper understanding of how everyone is called to contribute to the mission of the Church in unique and meaningful ways.

3rd Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Date: December 15, 2024

Theme: *Anointed for a Mission*

Audience: Discerners

Message: This passage, often associated with the mission of Christ, speaks of being anointed by the Spirit to bring good news to the poor and bind up the brokenhearted. It parallels the call to priesthood and religious life, emphasizing that God equips those He calls for the mission they are to undertake.

Feast of the Holy Family - Luke 2:41-52

Date: December 29, 2024

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Nurturing a Call within the Family*

Message: The story of Jesus in the Temple illustrates His awareness of His mission and the role of Mary and Joseph in supporting Him. It emphasizes how parents can recognize and nurture their children's spiritual growth, creating an environment where a vocation can flourish.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Date: January 19, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Listening to God's Call*

Message: The story of the young Samuel hearing God's call in the night serves as a reminder of the importance of listening and discernment. It emphasizes the value of spiritual guidance (like Eli's role) and encourages families and communities to help those discerning their vocation recognize God's voice.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Date: January 19, 2025

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Gifts for the Common Good*

Message: This passage speaks about the diversity of spiritual gifts given by the Spirit for the building up of the Church. It can encourage individuals to recognize that their unique talents and calling are meant to serve the Church, whether through marriage, priesthood, or religious life.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 2:1-11

Date: January 19, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *The Gift of Marriage as a Vocation*

Message: The Wedding at Cana reveals the beauty of marriage as a vocation and the role of family in encouraging it. It reflects the importance of supporting one's spouse and children on their journey toward holiness, demonstrating the sacrament's role in fostering a response to God's call.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 4:18-21

Date: January 26, 2025

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Empowered by the Spirit: A Call to Serve*

Message: Jesus proclaims His mission to preach the good news, heal, and liberate. This serves as a model for those called to priesthood or religious life, showing how their vocation involves being an instrument of God's love and mercy in the world.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Date: February 2, 2025 (World Day for Consecrated Life)

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Called from the Womb*

Message: God's words to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," highlight the idea that each person has a unique calling from God. It can be used to inspire reflections on how vocations are a part of God's plan from the beginning and encourage families to support their children's discernment of this calling.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 5:1-11

Date: February 9, 2025 (World Marriage Day)

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Leaving Everything to Follow Christ*

Message: The miraculous catch of fish and the call of Peter illustrate God's ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. It highlights the courage needed to follow a vocation and how families can encourage and support this willingness to follow Christ's call.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Date: February 9, 2025 (World Marriage Day)

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Here I Am, Send Me*

Message: This passage recounts the call of the prophet Isaiah, who experiences a vision of God's holiness and responds to the call with the words, "Here I am; send me." It's a powerful reading for encouraging openness to God's call and embracing the courage needed to follow a vocation, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or other forms of service.

Palm Sunday- Philippians 2:5-11

Date: April 13, 2025

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *The Call to Self-Giving*

Message: This hymn of Christ's humility and self-emptying serves as a profound example of the attitude needed for those called to serve in the priesthood, religious life, or as lay ministers. It's a reminder that all vocations involve a willingness to sacrifice and serve others.

Holy Thursday – John 13:1-15

Date: April 17, 2025

Audience: Discerners, Laity, and Parents

Theme: *Servant Leadership in Vocation*

Message: On this sacred night, Jesus humbly washes the disciples' feet and institutes the Eucharist and the priesthood—two gifts that sustain the Church. His actions remind us that true leadership is rooted in service. Whether discerning a call, supporting vocations, or raising children in the faith, we are all called to reflect Christ's love by serving others and fostering a culture where vocations can grow.

Divine Mercy Sunday – John 20:19-31

Date: April 27, 2025

Audience: Discerners, Laity, and Parents

Theme: Trusting in God's Mercy in Our Vocation

Message: When Jesus appears to the disciples after the resurrection, He offers peace and mercy, dispelling their fears. Trusting in God's mercy allows us to move forward in our vocational journey, even when doubts arise. By surrendering our fears and trusting in His plan, we open ourselves to discern His call more clearly and support others in doing the same.

4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) - John 10:27-30

Date: May 11, 2025 (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Following the Shepherd's Call*

Message: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls each person to follow Him. This reading emphasizes listening to God's voice and responding to the unique path He calls us to, whether to priesthood, religious life, or marriage. It's an opportunity to remind families of their role in fostering a listening heart in their children.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima – Luke 11:27-28

Date: May 13, 2025

Audience: Parents and Families

Theme: Mary's Role in Guiding Vocations

Message: Our Lady of Fatima calls us to prayer, sacrifice, and trust in God's plan. Mary's "yes" to God paved the way for the salvation of the world, reminding us that openness to God's will bears great fruit. Families who cultivate devotion to Mary can create an atmosphere where vocations flourish.

Solemnity of the Ascension – Mark 16:15-20

Date: May 29, 2025 (Transferred to Sunday in many dioceses: June 1, 2025)

Audience: Discerners and Laity

Theme: Responding to the Call to Evangelize

Message: Before ascending to heaven, Jesus commissions His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations.” This call to mission echoes the vocational call to bring Christ to the world, whether through priesthood, consecrated life, or marriage. Responding to this commission requires trust and openness to where God may lead.

Father’s Day – Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)

Date: June 15, 2025

Audience: Fathers and Families

Theme: Fathers as Spiritual Leaders in the Family

Message: Like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, fathers are called to guide their families with compassion, patience, and love. A father’s witness of faith and trust in God helps cultivate an environment where vocations can grow and thrive.

Feast of Corpus Christi – John 6:51-58

Date: June 22, 2025

Audience: Everyone (Discerners, Laity, and Families)

Theme: The Eucharist Sustains Vocations

Message: The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, giving strength to those discerning and living out their vocations. Just as the body and blood of Christ nourish the faithful, it strengthens priests, married couples, and those discerning consecrated life to live their vocations with fidelity.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Date: July 6, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Sent on Mission: Responding to God’s Call*

Message: Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples to proclaim the Kingdom, reflecting the missionary nature of every vocation. This passage can inspire families to cultivate a spirit of service and encourage their children to consider how God may be calling them to bring His message to others.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 10:38-42

Date: July 20, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Called to Serve and to Listen*

Message: The story of Martha and Mary reflects the balance between active service and contemplative listening. It emphasizes that vocations take different forms and that families should encourage both active service and the quiet reflection necessary for discerning God’s will.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 12:32-48

Date: August 10, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Ready and Willing: Preparing for God's Call*

Message: Jesus' parable of the faithful servant emphasizes readiness and vigilance in following God's call. This is a great opportunity to encourage families to prepare their children for whatever vocation God may be calling them to, stressing the importance of living in readiness for God's invitation.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 14:1, 7-14

Date: August 31, 2025

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Humility and Service in Our Vocation*

Message: Jesus teaches about humility and the importance of serving others without seeking reward. This message is especially relevant to those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life and highlights how parents can cultivate humility and a servant's heart in their children.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Romans 12:4-8

Date: September 14, 2025 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Audience: Parents

Theme: *One Body, Many Parts*

Message: St. Paul's teaching on the Church as the Body of Christ emphasizes the diversity of vocations and roles within the community. This reading is ideal for inspiring reflections on how every vocation is essential and how families can encourage each member to find and embrace their unique role in God's plan.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Date: October 5, 2025 (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Fan into Flame the Gift of God*

Message: Paul encourages Timothy to be bold in using the gifts he has received from God. It speaks to the courage and commitment needed to follow a vocation and can be used to encourage those discerning a call to trust in God's strength and grace.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 18:1-8

Date: October 19, 2025

Audience: Parents

Theme: *Perseverance in Prayer and Discernment*

Message: The parable of the persistent widow encourages perseverance in prayer, a key element of vocational discernment. It can inspire families and parish communities to support those discerning their vocation with consistent prayer and encouragement.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Luke 21:5-19

Date: November 16, 2025

Audience: Discerners

Theme: *Endurance in the Face of Challenges*

Message: Jesus speaks about the trials His followers will face but promises endurance. This passage encourages those considering a vocation to remain steadfast despite difficulties and challenges, with the support of their families and community in their journey of faith.

Each of these readings, fitting within the Cycle C liturgical calendar, can help bring out the message of vocations and the supportive role of families, offering a meaningful reflection on how God calls and equips each person for their unique role in the Church.