

Family Chat:

Imagine if you met Jesus today – if he suddenly arrived at your home and rang the doorbell. You answer the door and realize who the “stranger” is at your door. What would you do? What would you say to welcome him? Would you treat him any differently than anyone else who came to your door? Those are some good things to think about as you read through today’s readings.

The readings for today are: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
 Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19
 Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
 Matthew 10:37-42

Hospitality is the theme today. An extraordinary blessing is promised for the hospitality shown to Elisha. And in the Gospel Jesus promises an eternal reward to those who extend hospitality, even the smallest act, to those around them. How do you practice hospitality in your home?

Hospitality is not just extended to people we know, but to strangers as well. One of the best examples of hospitality I have experienced was while volunteering at a place called Luke House in Madison. We didn’t feed the poor, we ate with them. The dining room had round tables so we could carry on a conversation and the food was served family style. No one was to be left out of conversation and no one was left out of food being passed to him or her. It tested my ability to talk with strangers and not hide in the kitchen doing dishes. It was a wonderful way to be hospitable to each other.

What to Do Next:

Learn more about a great saint of hospitality, St. Benedict of Nursia. His feast day is coming up on July 11 and he wrote extensively about hospitality. Encourage your family members to find out some facts about St. Benedict and think of ways to share your hospitality with others. Think of ways to be hospitable at work, at school, and other places where time is spent.

Have a great Sunday!

