



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Jesus never let his disciples fall prey to the division in the world around them. Instead, he gave them his peace so they could offer it to others. Let's commit to sharing this peace with the country we love.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

When Jesus sends the disciples on mission, he tells them, "I am sending you like lambs among wolves." (Luke 10:3) He was sending them into a divided and dangerous environment where Romans, Zealots, Pharisees and Sadducees fought for political and cultural control. Rather than equip them with weapons, money or political alliances, Jesus sends them with the Good News of the peace he offers.

We are called to do the same thing. The more we are connected to the peace Jesus offers us through prayer, study, good decisions and the sacraments, the more ready we are to share that peace with others. As Independence Day approaches, let's strengthen our nation by sharing this peace with friends, family, and community.

Isaiah 66:10-14

Rejoice at the renewal of Jerusalem.

Psalms 66

Blessed is God who heard my prayer.

Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast except in the cross of Jesus.

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Behold I am sending you as lambs among wolves.

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Share gratitude for our nation:

- **Remind our children that Jesus appreciated the nation and culture around him.** Jesus spoke with affection about Jerusalem, temple and the people around him. He lived in a time of enormous political and cultural conflict and sinful behavior, but he never let the need to correct the abuses of power that he saw blind him to his love for the people around him or prevent him from participating in the celebrations of the Jewish faith. Also, he sent the disciples as lambs among wolves, calling them to rise above the divisions of their day.
- **Ask your children what they love about their community and country.** Encourage them to focus on the good things they see around them. You might point to the way we provide each person the dignity to freely choose faith rather than forcing one belief on everyone. Or you might point to a time when we gathered together to help one another maybe during the pandemic or through our parish food bank. Let them know all this is a response to God's call to love our neighbor.
- **Encourage them to preserve peace in their hearts.** Jesus sent the disciples out as lambs among wolves. This means that he commanded them to have peace in their hearts rather than approach others looking for conflict and division. Let them know that, when we work to improve our nation and community, whether things go well or poorly, we need to always stay grounded in our relationship with Jesus so we have peace in our hearts that we can share with others.

SHARING THE
PEACE OF CHRIST

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is a teaching document created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to offer guidance on the political responsibility of Catholics. Visit the website above to download the document in English or Spanish.

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCSWW)

<https://ccsww.org/>

<https://ccsww.org/get-help/child-youth-family-services/prepares/>

Check out the many ministries of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington to serve those in need such as Prepares, which “walks the journey” supporting pregnant women, mothers and families.

Catholic Charities USA

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Catholic Charities USA helps people, regardless of their faith, who are struggling with poverty and other issues. Their programs include a wide variety of services, including affordable housing, disaster relief, support for immigrants and refugees, and more.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>