



GIFT – February 2021

Theme: Love Your Neighbor

Recap of February GIFT:

During this month's session we continued looking at our theme of God is Love, through focusing on the story of the Good Samaritan, the call to love our neighbor, and how we can put that love into action.

During the session we:

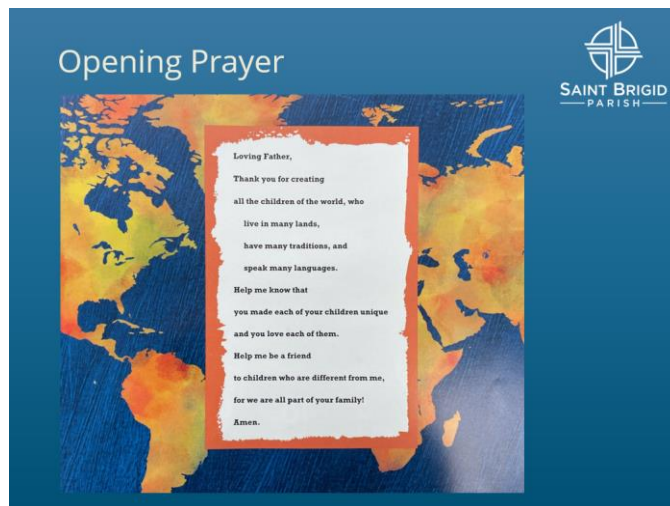
- Read through the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37
- Heard a reflection about what it means "Love Your Neighbor"
- Broke out into small groups to discuss the parable and how we can put the theme of love your neighbor into action
- Played a trivia game about Black Catholic Americans in honor of Black History Month
- Learned about the process of becoming a Saint and Saint of the Month: Fr. Augustus Tolton
- Talked about preparing for Lent and Ash Wednesday

If your family was unable to attend the session, or you would like to revisit what this month's session was about, please go through the following pages to experience some of our activities from the February session.

[Click here](#) to get the PDF of all the slides from the session.

Opening Prayer:

Taken from the [Children's Prayer](#) adapted from the USCCB's [Open Wide Our Hearts](#), the enduring call to love: a pastoral letter against racism document. Prayer Image taken from the opening pages of [Everyone Belongs](#), the book from the USCCB and Loyola press on addressing racism from a child's perspective.*



*See the [February home kit](#) for more info or [click here to watch/listen](#) to Ms. Gayle read the story.

Reading of the Good Samaritan:

We started the session by reading through the story of the Good Samaritan twice. It is found in [Luke 10:25-37](#). Take your time reading through this passage. The first time just listen to the story and get familiar with what is being asked of Jesus, his reply, and the details of the parable. The second time, image yourself in the story as one of the characters and think about what you would have said or done as the story is read.

Reflection on the Good Samaritan and Loving our Neighbor:

Deacon Chris shares his reflection on the parable, who is our neighbor, and how can we live out the call to love our neighbor. Watch his video: <https://vimeo.com/511269919/2e7b711721>



Putting Love your Neighbor in action:

In our breakout rooms, we discussed how we could put our love into action and also wrote that into a prayer. Take some time with your family to talk about how you can live out the call to love your neighbor, both individually and as a family. Here are a couple samples of prayers that were written during the Tuesday session:

Dear God, please help me to be a good neighbor by saying good morning to people, sharing with others, and being a good listener. Amen.

Dear Mary, Joseph and Jesus, thank you for the story of the good Samaritan. Help us to share with others, help us to help others who fell down and help us to do chores without asking. Amen.

Black American Catholics Trivia:

In honor of Black History month, we highlighted a few famous Black American Catholics by saying a few statements about them and having everyone trying to guess. You can view the [Google Slides here](#) and test your knowledge!



Process of Becoming a Saint and Saint of the Month:

We learned more about the process of how the Catholic Church declares someone a Saint and heard about the journey of our Saint of the Month – Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton. While not a saint yet, he is in the process of being declared one. Watch Mr. Bob's video to learn more:

<https://vimeo.com/513534392/64a98a502e>

Saint of the Month:
Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton

***Could you become a saint?** Augustus Tolton overcame a lot of struggles in his life to achieve his goal of becoming a priest. He knew becoming a priest was what God wanted for him, but he had to be patient in seeing that play out in his life. Trusting in God played a major role throughout his life.*

- Born: April 1, 1854 (Ralls County, MO)
- Died: July 9, 1897 (Chicago, IL)
- Feast Day: Not yet determined – was declared Servant of God on February 13, 2012
- Became a priest in 1886
- Known as the 1st Black Priest in America and 1st Black Priest to start the process for Sainthood





Want to learn more about the process of becoming a saint and Fr. Tolton's life? The video mentioned by Mr. Bob from the Archdiocese of Chicago about making a saint and the life of Fr. Tolton is available here:

<https://tolton.archchicago.org/about/making-of-a-saint>



Preparing for Lent:

Lent begins this year on February 17 – Ash Wednesday. There are a number of resources available on our [parish Lent webpage](#) to help you on your Lenten journey this year. Some highlights include joining us for Friday Stations of the Cross (in the church at 5pm or via livestream/recording anytime after 5pm on Friday) and the Knights of Columbus [Friday Fish Dinners](#) via contact-less pick-up orders.



Closing Prayer:

As we learned in the process of becoming a saint, a holy person must have at least 2 miracles attributed to their intercession. Our closing prayer is the prayer for Ven. Fr. Tolton's intercession. If you have a physical or spiritual miracle/favor you'd like to ask his intercession for, mention it in the appropriate place.

Closing Prayer

Prayer for the Canonization of Ven. Fr. Augustus Tolton

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen.

<https://tolton.archchicago.org/prayer>

A black and white portrait of Father Augustus Tolton, an African American man wearing a clerical cap and a dark suit, looking slightly to the right.The Saint Brigid Parish logo, featuring a stylized cross-like symbol and the text "SAINT BRIGID PARISH".

For a PDF of all slides from the session – [click here!](#)