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If you are a parent, it is likely that you have had a time or two (or six thousand!?!?) when no matter what you tried, you could not calm your crying child. You changed his diaper. You fed her. You burped the baby. You rocked him, walked with him, or even took him for a car ride. You ran the vacuum. You put her in water. You sang, you prayed, you cried. Eventually, the baby finally passed out from exhaustion (or was that you???) and you both survived. As difficult as these times were, they were probably responses to the child’s physical needs. And being able to satisfy those are of great importance. But what is even more important, is someone’s spiritual needs. We all need to feel loved, supported, and of value. We need hope to carry us through our times of trouble or despair. We need to be able to recognize our unity with our fellow man, yet be able to maintain our individual uniqueness. Meeting these spiritual needs can be even more difficult to appease than gratifying a non-verbal baby’s physical needs. But luckily we are not as lost as new parents dealing with a colicky baby. Jesus has gone before us in every way, and has set an example for us in everything He asks us to do. He calls us to love and sacrifice for others. He shows us the meaning of life and the path to ultimate happiness, which is eternal communion with God in Heaven.

Through Jesus’ example, we can read the Bible to see how to relate to God, how to treat our parents, families, and others, how to care for the poor and attend to the afflicted. Jesus has given us the two Great Commandments: Love God with your whole being, and Treat others as you want to be treated. In addition, He gave us the New Commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34-35) Other teachings of Christ help us to know what doing this looks like. We have the eight Beatitudes, the Corporal Works of Mercy, and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. We are called to treat each and every person we encounter as we would Christ. Jesus said, “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) These teachings will be the focus of this month’s Faith Formation programming. It is divine that they coincide with Lent. What better time to learn about and institute these ideals?

Please feel free to join us. We are a very inviting, casual group who are trying to learn more about our faith and acquire the skills needed to share our learning with others, especially our families. We have resource materials for you to refer to and use to support your learning and teaching. Our classes include a combination of direct instruction (lecture), small group discussion, videos, and snacks! And if you have a little one who seems inconsolable, please feel free to bring him or her. Childcare is provided, but if that doesn’t work, there are lots of people ready to hold your baby and give you a break.

 Blessings,

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