**Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

**CYCLE A**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus advises: “Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground”

when “fearful and bewildering signs” appear threatening your family. Resist being “fearful;” fear

cripples! Instead “pray for the strength” to be courageous.

**Second Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Like John the Baptist, every parent “prepares the way of the Lord” in the hearts of their children.

Advent is a good time to ask; “Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?”

**Third Sunday of Advent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The question put to Jesus in today’s gospel is also put to us today: “Are you the one?” Are you the one

who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and

music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Every child is

EMMANUEL, reminding us “God is with us.” Children are signs of God’s continuing presence in our lives.

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Holy Family** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel says Joseph “made his home in Nazareth.” A “home” is built on the foundation of love,

commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and

mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don’t live ‘anyplace’, live at HOME!

**Epiphany**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel tells us “all Jerusalem” was upset because “King Herod was deeply troubled.” A similar

ripple effect happens in families; one person’s negative attitude can affect the whole family. If you want

a peaceful and joyful home, it must start with you. Be peaceful and joyful!

**Baptism of the Lord / First Sunday of Ordinary Time** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words in today’s gospel, “This is my beloved, with Him I am pleased,” are words every child needs to

hear often. Affirmation is important to raise happy and confident children.

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus cautions it is not enough to provide food for our children; “one does not live on

bread alone.” Let Lent 2011 be a time when you are “led by the Spirit” to explore new ways to be a

moral guide to your children.

**Second Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Transfiguration is a common occurrence in families. When we commit to another, such as a spouse in

marriage or a child in parenting, we are not committing to them only as they are today, but to the

person they are becoming.

**Third Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our children are like the Samaritan woman in today’s gospel. They need more than material things. They

need the ‘living water” only the adults can give. It will teach them how to make decisions, take

responsibility, respect themselves and others and live their commitments. With this “living water” they

will “never thirst.”

**Fourth Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Failure to forgive blinds us to another’s goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind-

spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today’s gospel: “Go wash and see.”

**Fifth Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our families can become wrapped up chasing things we perceive will make us happy. Jesus’ words to

Lazarus, He says to us: “Come out” from what entombs you. In this fifth week of Lent “untie” yourself

and be free from unnecessary possessions.

**Passion (Palm) Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The cruel death of Jesus tells us bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also tells us God

is present during the suffering. Bad things happen but God does not abandon us.

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel instructs us Jesus “had to rise from the dead.” The dying we experience with unmet

expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above

disappointments and be Easter people all year long

**Baptism of the Lord / First Sunday of Ordinary Time** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

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**ORDINARY TIME**
**First Sunday / Baptism of our Lord** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
The words in today’s gospel, “This is my beloved, with Him I am pleased” are words every child needs to
hear often. Affirmation is important to raise happy and confident children.

**Second Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Can you say “I have testified Jesus is the Son of God?” If you aren’t talking about Jesus in your family,
you aren’t testifying. If you are not walking your talk, your children will see your words as meaningless.

**Third Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
When Jesus called his disciples, they came “immediately.” Parents wish their children would respond as
quickly, but they don’t. Children grow slowly into responsibility. It is a process like walking, not done
“immediately”, but in small steps. Parenting demands patient encouragement.

 **Fourth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
It is in our family where we learn to be merciful and comforting to others. The Beatitudes of the
Kingdom of God begin at home and depend on you. Parents lead the way.

**Fifth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Today’s gospel challenges us to be a “light” to our family. Parents shine their guiding light, not in front
but behind them, inviting their children to follow their “good deeds.”

**Sixth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
To experience the peace which Christ promises we must shed our grudges, jealousy and feelings of
being misunderstood, unappreciated or ignored. Peace and anger don’t mix. Today’s gospel warns, if
you want peace in your heart and home, get rid of your anger. Anger is too costly.

 **Seventh Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Giving the shirt off your back, turning the other cheek or walking / driving the extra mile is normal stuff
in families. We do that for one another. Today’s gospel reminds us all people, even those we don’t like,
are our brothers and sisters. Our family should prepare us to be FAMILY to others.

**Eighth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Because we believe we can control and create our own world, we attempt to juggle multiple agendas
and we pay a price of neglecting those closest to us. Too late we reach the point of asking “Was it worth
it?” We really can’t serve two masters.

 **Ninth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Today’s gospel challenges you to build your home on the foundation of fidelity to God, your family and
yourself. Fidelity is the key to withstand the “rains, floods and winds” of life?

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

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bread alone.” Let Lent 2011 be a time when you are “led by the Spirit” to explore new ways to be a

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expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above

disappointments and be Easter people all year long

**Second Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
“Whose sins you forgive, are forgiven” means the grudges we carry only make us miserable. The
Kingdom of God begins in your home where children learn the paths to peace promised in today’s
gospel through merciful and forgiving demonstrated by their parents.

**Third Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
In today’s gospel the disciples were returning home so “downcast” they did not recognize Jesus walking
with them. In our homes we can be so overwhelmed with responsibilities we don’t see God with us.
Today’s gospel tells us to stop and open our eyes to the blessings we are to one another.

 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
In today’s gospel Jesus tells us, HE IS THE WAY and warns anyone who offers “another way” to
happiness is “a thief and a bandit.” Strong words! Don’t listen to the sales pitch of society for happiness.
Look to yourself where God is present and “calls you by name and leads you to abundant life.”

**Fifth Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Jesus tells us in the gospel: “I am in the Father and the Father is in me!” The point is: God is in each one
of us, in our relationships and in our homes. The vocation of the Christian family is to live the divine gift
which is already in and around us.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
In today’s gospel Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures. As
we mature and grow older we constantly transition from the familiar to the new unknown. Today Jesus
assures us we are not alone in these transitions. “I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.”

**Seventh Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
As Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the family; “make disciples of
your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don’t worry, I am with you always.”

**Pentecost Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Like the disciples in today’s gospel, there are times we shut the doors of our hearts to people or events.
It’s how we create emotional distance. Permanent distancing is lethal and prevents the PEACE Jesus
offers you today.

**First Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Trinity Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
As the Father “sent his son into the world” so parents send their children into the world “so that the
world might be saved.” This is the missionary role of the Christian family. Your family is a school where
your children develop convictions which enable them to make a difference in the world.

 **Body and Blood of Christ** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar
Parenting is a Eucharistic activity because from the first moment of conception children consume us, our
flesh, blood, energy, time and resources. If we don’t sacrifice ourselves, our children would not have
life. This is the priesthood of parenting. Christ is present in this self sacrifice.

**ORDINARY TIME**

**Tenth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Every family is imperfect. We fail ourselves and those we love. In today’s gospel Jesus tells us, “I did not

come for the righteous, but for sinners.” By showing “mercy” we avoid the shame and blame game and

discover love and acceptance in our family.

**11th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The “troubled and abandoned” children in our world are “sheep without a shepherd.” Today Jesus asks

our “hearts be moved to pity for these children” and reminds us. Without cost you received, without

cost you must give. Go to the lost sheep.

**12th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus says “Do not be afraid” three times in today’s gospel and reminds us “all concealed secrets will be

revealed.” Do not be afraid to acknowledge problems in your family. If they remain “hidden in

darkness” they will “destroy body and soul.” Healing, understanding and hope are found only “in the

light” of openness. “Do not be afraid.”

**13th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel challenges us to resist the individualism of our culture. Everything we are and have is

pure gift which we are expected to share especially to the “lowly ones.” What has been freely given

needs to be shared freely. No strings attached.

**14th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel is about missionaries. As Jesus received a mission today, parents accept the mission of

raising a family. Parents are not alone in this exhausting and difficult mission. Today Jesus tells us

“Come to me and I will give your rest.”

**15th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The stress and anxieties of family life are like “thorns which choke off” any opportunity to reflect on

God’s presence in our lives. Notice in today’s gospel Jesus “left the house” so He could connect with His

Father. Grasp five minutes each day to appreciate God walking with you.

**16th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Parents plant values in their children anticipating the tiny seeds of honesty, respect, commitment and

fidelity will grow with their child and one day become “a safe haven” to many.

**17th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The man in today’s gospel “sold all he had” for the treasure he found. Family relationships are

“treasures” and demand our total personal investment. Invest yourself in the “treasure” of your family.

**18th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The apostles were just being practical when they asked Jesus to “dismiss the crowds to go buy food.”

Jesus knew there is always enough when we place our trust in the Father, even with just 5 loaves and

fishes. Trust is the bridge to miracles.

**19th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The demands of family can be so overwhelming we feel walking on water would be easier. When Jesus

was pressured, He dismissed everyone, so he could be “by himself and pray.” When overwhelmed and

stressed, go to a quiet place and surrender your pressured feelings to the Lord using Peter’s prayer in

today’s gospel: “Lord, save me.”

**20th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The mother in today’s gospel persisted, even when she was ignored and insulted. She would do

whatever was necessary to bring relief to her child. Parenting is more than bringing life into the world;

it is also about sacrificing daily for your children.

**21st Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Like Jesus in today’s gospel, we are seen by others in different ways. Perhaps the name our family gives

us is closest to our true identity. They know us best. Who do they say you are?

**22nd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Relationships live in a careful balance. If a person changes, the balance is altered requiring a shift in the

relationship. In today’s gospel Jesus announced a change and Peter resisted. Sometimes, those we

count on for support may actually get in the way. Jesus told Peter: “You are an obstacle to me.”

**23rd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The key word in today’s gospel is “listen.” We cannot change another person; not alone, not with others

and not with a whole Church. All we can do is state our position and “if he listens to you” then he / she

can take the steps necessary to change themselves. Change comes from within.

**24th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Unable to forgive another, means we are holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is

not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated and it will

not be corrected. We aren’t condoning the injustice. We just don’t let it control our lives any longer.

Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

**25th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus is saying to us: “Why are you idle? Go into my vineyard.” Family, where “the last will be

first,” is the “vineyard” entrusted to us in today’s gospel. Successful families are constructed by

“laborers,” who work hard on family relationships, and not by couch potatoes.

**26th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus asked, “What is your opinion?” Why do we think our opinion is dogma or fact?

An opinion is only how we perceive a situation or how we feel comfortable doing something. Don’t

argue over or become divided by “your opinion.”

**27th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Every family is visited by difficult times which can unite or divide. These hardships, which we would

quickly reject, hold the potential to be the unifying “cornerstone” where we drop our pettiness and

defenses and pull together, linked by a common bond and love for one another.

**28th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel speaks about “unworthy wedding guests.” What makes a “worthy” guest? Presence and

presents are not enough. The greatest gift we can give is support to the couple as they voyage through

life together because marriage naturally contains within it the fields of disappointment. Think of the

weddings you have attended. Have you been a “worthy guest?”

**29th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus was exasperated when he scolded: “Why do you put me to the test?” It is natural for children to

test parents; this is how they learn and how we teach limits, rules and values. Be like Jesus in today’s

gospel; He was firm, honest and direct.

**30th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel the Pharisee was talking about commandments (Something we are forced to obey by

external pressure) and Jesus was talking about love (an internal exhortation to give our heart, soul and

mind to another). One demands allegiance, the other requires personal commitment. In our families we

daily lay down our lives for each other not because we ‘gotta’ but because love compels us.

**31st Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus describes the vocation of parents: “The greatest among you will be your

servant.” Children take our blood, genes, strength, name, patience and resources. A parent’s servitude

begins at the moment of conception. The Lord is present in each of our acts of selfless service.

**32nd Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The bridesmaids in today’s gospel were considered ‘foolish’ because they let their lamps go out. Don’t

be foolish. Pay attention to the small acts necessary to keep the flame alive in all your relationships.

**33rd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

As the man in today’s gospel entrusted his servants with his money, so God has ‘entrusted’ our family to

us. Like the good servants we are expected, not to play it safe, but to selflessly and totally invest

ourselves in each other.

**RELIGIOUS FEAST DAYS**

**Christ the King** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Families feed the hungry, give drinks to thirsty toddlers and welcome strangers and even

estranged relatives into our homes. We clothe children and visit family members who are

sick and imprisoned. The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make

Christ present in what we do. Family life is Beatitude life.

**Feast of All Saints** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Anyone can be “saint” in front of strangers but the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness,

listening, and dying to oneself within the family are religious acts. Family life is the turf of sanctity.

**Feast of All Souls** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our loved ones, who have stepped through the door of death, are now at rest, free of all burdens. In

going home to the Lord they brought their love and concern for us with them. Death cannot totally

separate families; our love binds us together forever.

**National Holidays**

**If these holidays fall on or near a weekend, then the following articles might be used**

**on that weekend.**

**Mother’s Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mothers are instruments of Christ’s presence in the home. A mother’s love reveals the attentive,

thoughtful, serving, forgiving and concerned side of God’s love. Thanks to all mothers for showing us the

tender and loving face of God.

**Memorial Day**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our decisions create our style of living and also what kind of person we are. That’s the awesome power

of free will. As we celebrate Memorial Day it is a good time to ask ourselves; “How do I want to be

remembered?” The power is in your hands, or rather in your decisions.

**Father’s Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Fathering is an awesome responsibility and not for the weak or transient. Today we humbly recognize

our need for courageous fathers to stand boldly in the face of the powerful cultural forces which

threaten our children. Today we ask fathers to be the courageous leaders we need.

**Halloween** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

It is cute when children pretend and dress in costumes but it is sad when adults hide behind false

identities. In our families we don’t need to pretend because we are loved, accepted, affirmed,

appreciated for whom we are, and not for whom we want to be!

**Thanksgiving** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

As we gather to give thanks this week, we must also ask how well we share with “the least.” Happiness is secured not by having, but by sharing.

**CYCLE B**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel tells us to “Be watchful.” This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their

children’s health, grades and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today’s gospel

encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love and forgiveness of

your family. “Be watchful,” the Lord is already with you.

**Second Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today’s gospel and

repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which

makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

**Third Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel reports “there is one among you whom you do not recognize.” It is hard to believe Christ

is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don’t

start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets.

The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, “The Lord is with you,” are not a hope, they are a fact.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

QUESTION: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve

year old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

ANSWER: HOLY! Two lessons in today’s gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, “The

Lord is with you.” (2) “Do not be afraid” for “nothing is impossible with God.

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary’s: We must not let our doubts, fears

and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

**Holy Family**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren’t ‘perfect’ parents. If you have ever been ‘amazed’ and

‘astonished’ at what came out of your child’s mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times

you ‘didn’t understand’ your children or felt ‘anxious’ about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph.

Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

**Epiphany**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Magi in today’s gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don’t

let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

**Baptism of our Lord 1st Sunday of Ordinary Time**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The gospel today points to Jesus’ humanity; like us He needed RECOGNITION (“You are my Son”),

AFFFECTION (“My Beloved Son”) and AFFIRMANTION (“With you I am well pleased.”). In our families it is

easy to focus on irritating behaviors and take for granted all the positives. This New Year take a lesson

from God the Father, be an AFFIRMER and not a BLAMER.

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This lent, take a fresh look at a difficult

relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try

to understand why their behaviors ‘bug’ you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without

attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

**Second Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration,

they were “afraid.” In families we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are

inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us

and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

**Third Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel says Jesus chased the merchants out of the temple, it doesn’t say He was angry. Jesus

teaches us to act from conviction and not from anger. He didn’t condemn the merchants, only their

business practice. Attack the behavior and not the person.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately “left in the dark.” Darkness

can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to take action.

Parents walk a delicate balance of when to “sit in the dark” and when to “turn on the lights.”

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our

autonomy and die to our independence. It is in dying to our independence that we find

interdependence with others.

**Passion (Palm) Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should

suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in

suffering.

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John “did

not know” what to do. In family life there are confusing moments when “we don’t know” what to do.

Like the apostles we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other even when all seems

lost.

**Second Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus teaches, “Blessed are those who have not seen and believe.” Accepting someone

as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich

relationship. Without acceptance a home is only a house and a family is just a group of house mates.

**Third Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The apostles were afraid of Jesus until He ate with them and they touched Him. In your family the

ordinary acts of eating together, touching, embracing not only confirm our love for each other, but also

celebrate God’s presence in your family. These ‘ordinary’ moments contain the ‘Extraordinary.”

**Fourth Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel is a job description for Christian parents. For most people the most influential shepherds

in their lives are their PARENTS. Every parent is called to be a “good shepherd” to “freely lay down their

life” for their children, to “love” and “know” their children and to “lead” them so “they know your

voice.”

**Fifth Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Like the vine grower in today’s gospel, parents must “prune and cleanse” the branches in their family if

their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of

parenting so our children will grow and “bear fruit.”

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel challenges us to “love one another as I have loved you.” Jesus is our model and he asks

us to “lay down our life” (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament

of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

**Seventh Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus was worried about His disciples and He turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent

trying to “guard and protect” our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let

go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.

**Pentecost Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family

and He expects us to use this personal gift. Let’s turn-off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives

and let the Holy Spirit “guide us to the truth.”

**First Sunday after Pentecost** **Trinity Sunday**  Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus commands, “Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you.” This

command is meant for every Christian. In light of this command, parenting is not only the most difficult

task a person can take on, it is also one of the most apostolic and missionary tasks. Jesus commands all

parents to teach their children “all that I have commanded you.”

**Body & Blood of Christ**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

One gets the impression there was always a lot of sharing, discussion and learning during the many

meals Jesus and the disciples ate together. How does this compare to the meals in your home? Today’s

gospel challenges us to make our meals more than physical functions and more a time for sharing.

**ORDINARY TIME**

**First Sunday** **Baptism of Our Lord**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Even Jesus needed RECOGNITION (“You are my Son”), AFFECTION (“My beloved”) and AFFIRMATION (“I

am pleased.”) It is too easy to focus on irritating behaviors in our family and take for granted all the

positives. In this New Year take a lesson from Our Father and be an AFFIRMER, not a BLAMER.

**Second Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus’ question in today’s gospel is still valid today: “What are you looking for?” What do you want from

your spouse, children or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is

unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

**Third Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

It must have been difficult for Zebedee to watch his sons walk away and follow Jesus. It was the end of

‘Zebedee and Sons Fishing, Inc.’ Our children were never ours. They are only on loan to us. We raise

them to let them go.

**Fourth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel reminds us “unclean spirits” still haunt our families. These “spirits” thrive inside our

grudges, punishing silence, impatience and abruptness. Today Jesus offers you the “authority” to cast

out these spirits from your life and your family.

**Fifth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus went to the “house of Andrew and Simon” to relax but discovered that “Simon’s

mother-in-law was very ill. Like Jesus we come home to relax but are confronted with problems. Take a

tip from Andrew and Simon who “told Jesus about it at once.”

**Sixth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Family life is about decisions. The leper in today’s gospel knew this when he said to Jesus. “If you will,

you can make me clean.” Jesus knew this when He said, “I do will it.” Love is not an emotion. It is a

decision to be with and for another person in “good times and bad,” even when we don’t feel like it.

**Seventh Sunday**  Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The friends in today’s gospel climbed onto the roof, took it apart and lowered the “paralyzed man.” If

friends would do this, how much more should we expect of family? Everyone is “paralyzed” in some

way. In families we are called to carry one another and to make up for each other’s deficiencies.

**Eighth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Over time a family changes because needs change. Old routines and traditions must give way to new

ways because “No one puts new wine into old wine skins.” We must release the old ways to cherished

memories of times spent together and delight in the new ways to express our love and commitment to

one another.

**Ninth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

“The Sabbath was made for man.” These words of Jesus in today’s gospel are addressed to our culture

where the GNP is the carrot on the stick pulling us to longer working days and fewer family hours.

“Sabbath Time” is any time you can pry free to deliberately relax, recharge and recreate your soul and

body. Jesus reminds us today, you are “the master of the Sabbath.”

**Tenth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus reminds us in today’s gospel “a house divided against itself will not stand.” Are the tensions and

issues which divide your home worth the struggle? Even if you win an argument you lose a relationship.

Don’t let pride and pettiness divide your home.

**11th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Parenting is a lot like the story of the farmer in the gospel parable today. All growth is the Lord’s work.

We have no control over the process. In fact the farmer doesn’t even understand it, for the seed grows

even when he sleeps. As parents we can influence our children but nothing we do can guarantee results.

**12th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Just as the apostles in today’s gospel were amazed at the power of Jesus so our children are amazed at

our lack of fear of dark rooms or monsters in closets or under beds. As the apostles depended on Jesus,

children depend on us to restore quiet to their lives. Getting out of bed at night to quiet a child’s fears is

the stuff of holiness.

**13th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The healing of the woman and the child in today’s gospel is a reminder we are all wounded. We retreat

to those we love looking for acceptance, listening, understanding and support. Families must be healing

communities where Jesus is present in our care for one another.

**14th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel is so familiar, it hurts! The home town folks couldn’t accept the presence of God in

Jesus. After all, they had watched Him grow up. We can easily make the same mistake if we don’t see

God present in the ordinary routines of our family. “The Lord be with you” is a statement of fact.

Believe it. Live it.

**15th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus sent out His apostles without a lot of “things” because THINGS distract. We collect, argue about

and protect our “things.” Garage sales only transfer “things. ”We even ignore each other because we

have “things” to do. What “things” are separating you from your family?

**16th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel “the apostles gathered around and told Jesus all they had done.” Listening allows the

other person to express, understand and appreciate their experiences. Whether it is the excited chatter

of young child or the repetitious stories of an aging grandparent, listening is important. It is not just time

well spent, it is sacred time.

**17th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Phillip worried about “enough food” for the crowd. What is ENOUGH? When does our

ENOUGH deprive another family of their fair share? Jesus performed today’s miracle because one child

was willing to share and risk living with less. Can your family live more simply so that other families can

simple live?

**18th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus tells us: “Do not work for what perishes.” Give your life to what endures such as

the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect which bonds you together, the

memories you share and the forgiveness generously given. These are the true treasures that are worth

working and dying for.

**19th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

“Stop murmuring” Jesus told the disciples in today’s gospel. Complaining is a dead-end and constant

complaining is nagging. We might feel better but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve

the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Don’t make them personal attacks.

**20th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s Gospel Jesus speaks of eating His flesh and blood. Parents can identify with this, for they often

feel devoured by all the demands of family life. This is unavoidable for children grow in the soil of

sacrificial love. Parenting is not part time work. It is a consuming lifetime commitment.

**21st Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Even though many found the teachings of Jesus “difficult”, He did not back down. In our families it is

important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love and

guide with understanding.

**22nd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus warns “what comes from within can defile” a person. Families need to worry

about “outside influences” but also about “inside influences.” The values our children carry for a life

time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That’s the

good news! That can also be the bad news!

**23rd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Because the deaf man in today’s gospel recognized his disability, he could seek help from Jesus.

Deafness abounds in families: in our children (Oh dad, not that again”) in parents (“It is just a stage”)

and in spouses (“Are you listening?”). Before Jesus can enter your home and heal, you must first

recognize your deafness.

**24th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

If we want to be happy at home we must commit (“lose ourselves”) to our family. If we try to be

independent from others (“save ourselves”) we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in

commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

**25th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question “What

are you arguing about?” Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another.

Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

**26th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words in today’s gospel, “Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their

reward” hits us at home. As parents we gain our “reward” when we bring water to a frightened child in

the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five-year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a

spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes we give until it hurts “in the name of Christ.’

**27th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus encourages married couples to throw away the marriage rule book. Rules are for

those with “hardened hearts.” Married couples are called to be a sacramental reflection of God’s faithful

and selfless love ….. a place where people live and love beyond rules and formulas.

**28th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Having possessions is an illusion. In today’s gospel Jesus told the young man to give up his need to

control and put his trust in God. He couldn’t let go! In families our need to control destroys

relationships. We can lead, teach and encourage, but we can’t control anyone but ourselves.

**29th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

“Advice” books abound on marriage and parenting. Jesus tells us in today’s gospel the real secret:

satisfying relationships depend on how well we sacrifice our needs to serve others. It is not about

“getting,” it’s about “giving” ourselves. If you feel like you are a servant to your children and spouse,

then you are doing it right.

**30th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

When Jesus asked the blind man “What do you want from me?” he asked for sight. If Jesus asked you

the same question, what would you say? Okay, that is your prayer.

**31st Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In a family children are taught to be respectful if they want to be respected, to share, if they want their

fair share and to listen if they want to be heard. Family life rescues us from arrogance by teaching us to

love others as we love ourselves.

**32nd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The widow in today’s gospel gave only a little, but it counted for a lot. In our homes there are many

LITTLE MOMENTS which can have great significance and glue the family together. Seize the moments.

**33rd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel teaches us UNCERTAINTY is normal. There are some things in life which “no one knows …

only the Father.” Marriage and parenting are full of uncertainty for like the fig tree in the gospel, the

people we love grow and change.

**RELIGIOUS FEAST DAYS**

**Transfiguration**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The apostles were “afraid” when Jesus was transfigured in front of them. CHANGE is often frightening,

especially in relationships, but inevitable. The child grows up, a parent ages and people mature. The only

constant is our commitment to one another.

**Christ the King** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

When we are young, our parents “tell us about Jesus” and we believe what our parents believe. At some

point we must leave our parents faith and ask Pilate’s question: “Are you the King?’ Pilate is just asking

these questions on our behalf.

**NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:**

**If these holidays fall on or near a weekend, then the following articles might be used on that weekend.**

**Mother’s Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words of Jesus in today’s gospel, “Abide in me,” are appropriate on a day we honor mothers

because there is a special bond connecting mothers and their children, extending beyond birth and

death. They will always “abide” in each other. It’s a lasting presence.

**Memorial Day**  A Family Perspective b y Bud Ozar

Memorial Day is a good time to remember family members who have gone home to the Lord. These

memories are sacred for they rekindle our faith and hope for a future reunion. We were born from their

love and will return to their love.

**Father’s Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

It is interesting we call the first person of the Trinity, Father. Our dads help us understand God as Father

in the way they love, protect, teach, discipline and spend time with us. What an awesome responsibility,

to be the window through which children view God.

**July 4th** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Prophets are not popular because they tell us things which are true but we don’t want to hear. That is

why we treat prophets so poorly. This week we celebrate our national independence. Who are the

National Prophets we are trying to ignore? What message are we trying to ignore?

**Labor Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Labor Day is a good time to examine our work life. Are your work, career and projects so consuming that

you are “deaf” to those around you?

**Halloween** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Masks are common at Halloween. Is your family hiding behind the mask of The Conforming Family and

quietly blending into the culture? A Christian family is baptized to be different and to make a difference.

**Thanksgiving** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

As you prepare for Thanksgiving, look back on this year to all the moments God visited your family in

unexpected blessings, or disasters avoided, or kindness and compassion received. Realize and give

thanks for “The Lord is with you.”

**CYCLE C**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas.

Today’s gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift

of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

**Second Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are

asked to make “rough ways smooth” and to “prepare the way of the Lord” for their families. This Advent

ask: “Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?”

**Third Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use

those funds to give NESSITITIES to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift

list, we’ve missed the point of Christmas.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen

as a liability, “another mouth to feed” or an “obstacle to my career.” It is said “Christmas is for children.”

It is more accurate to say “Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!”

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Todays’ gospel reminds us God chose to enter human history in a family. By Divine design the salvation

of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for his Beloved Son. Jesus

was our first Christmas gift.

**Holy Family**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel contains this truth about parenting: “but his parents did not know.” One of the reasons

parenting is so difficult is because our children don’t tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble

with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

**Mary, Mother of God**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The gospel tells us “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” We would do well to

imitate Mary in our New Year’s resolution. Instead of criticizing let’s “keep it in our hearts.” Criticism

isn’t productive or well received anyway!

**Epiphany**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done

“another way?” Do you need “another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection?

This is a new year, time to change what isn’t working. Take a tip from some wise men, there’s always

“another way.”

**Baptism of our Lord/1st Sunday of Ordinary Time** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: “You are my beloved son, with you I am

very pleased.” As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors.

Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus “was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.” What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy

Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family

relationships. Spend this Lent in your “wilderness” with God work. Where is the Spirit leading you this

Lent?

**Second Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus “went up the mountain to pray” and he was “changed.” Prayer has the power to change us. This

Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family. Pray before each meal and if

you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.

**Third Sunday of Lent**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families

there are those who don’t live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time

and help. Don’t cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving and

understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness

and acceptance this Lent?

**Fifth Sunday of Lent** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule,

criticism, name-calling and put-downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today’s gospel: “Whoever is

without sin can throw the first stone.” Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!

**Passion (Palm) Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus tells us “I am among you as one who serves.” In accepting the palm branch today you

publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as “one who serves.” Selfless service defines a

family as Christian.

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Millions of Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection today. It all began simply on the first

Easter with one person telling another: “Mary told Peter” and “they believed.” Faith is passed one

person to another; it is caught, not taught and parents are the most effective persons to pass faith to

their children.

**Second Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus connects PEACE and FORGIVENESS in today’s gospel. In our families we will only experience peace

to the extent we forgive one another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we

allow our anger and pride to lock out others, we also lock out peace and harmony.

**Third Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus invited the disciples to “Come and have breakfast.” At this beach breakfast and the Last Supper

Jesus teaches us meals should be more than eating. Family meals are opportunities to share prayer,

listen to each other’s stories, understand and support one another.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel reminds us to be shepherds for our children who depend on us to be their guides and

role models. Where are we leading them? When they “hear our voice” what message do they hear?

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus tells us: “Love one another.” Love holds a family together. It is not what a family

does which makes it outstanding, rather it is what is has, love for one another.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus gives this advice: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Worry and anxiety can consume our

lives preventing us from seeing the love which surrounds us and binds us to one another. Don’t miss the

forest for the trees. We are living today what we worried about yesterday.

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus speaks of unity, not uniformity. With uniformity everything is the same. Unity

requires recognition and reconciliation of differences. How do you reconcile differences in your home?

Do you listen respectfully or do you try to manipulate or impose your opinion? The seeds of unity and

division are in every family. What we sow, we reap. What is your family harvest?

**Pentecost Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel tells us God actually wants to take up residence in your family, “We will come and make

our home with you.” Every family is called to be a tabernacle where God dwells. Is Jesus a permanent

member of your family or a temporary guest? Today the promise is given. The choice is ours.

**First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words of Jesus in today’s gospel, “I have many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now.”

could have been said by any parent. It can be frustrating because our desire to guide is often

misinterpreted or poorly received. We cannot program our children. We can only teach, lead and trust

the Spirit of truth will guide them.

**Body & Blood of Christ**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus teaches we will find abundance by sharing the little we have. No matter how

little time, money or food we have, it is enough to share.

**ORDINARY TIME**

Baptism of our Lord/1st Sunday of Ordinary Time A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus was a young man and his Father affirmed him in front of a huge crowd saying “You are my beloved

son; with you I am very pleased.” Our children are never too old to appreciate our praise.

**Second Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

At Cana we get a good insight into Mary’s parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand or

manipulate. She merely pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the best decision.

**Third Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus was “praised by all” except at home in Nazareth where the “eyes of all were

intently on him.” Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal EXPECTATIONS. Jesus

challenges us to “proclaim liberty” to anyone “oppressed” or “captive’ by our EXPECTATIONS.

**Fourth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mary and Joseph must have been proud when their village “all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at

his words.” But they probably felt shame when the same people drove him out of town. Like Mary and

Joseph, the highs and lows of parenting are our path to being a Holy Family.

**Fifth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus asked Simon to start by “gong a short distance.” Later he asked Simon to “go

into deeper water.” The first step toward reconciliation is usually a “short distance” which gives us the

courage to further “into deeper water.” Reconciliation starts with the first short step!

**Sixth Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Don’t look very far when you hear today’s gospel speak of poverty, hunger, sorrow or exclusion. These

things happen in families. Children feel “insulted” when they are constantly criticized. Spouses “hunger”

for affection. Grandparents feel “excluded” by divorce and custody decisions. Parents “weep” because

they feel alienated from their children.

**Seventh Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In studying the effects of religion upon family relationships, researchers inform us hostility and prayer

can’t coexist. You cannot be hostile toward someone for whom you are praying. Today’s gospel

encourages us: “Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who treat you badly.”

**Eighth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus tells us: “Why do you see the speck in someone else’s eye but miss the log in your own

eye?” It’s always easier to try to change someone else than face the things in ourselves which need

change. What a waste of time for we can’t change anyone but ourselves.

**Ninth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our Catholic Tradition is full of stories of miraculous cures and the story in today’s gospel is one of the

first. In the cure of the servant Jesus wasn’t even physically present. The faith in Jesus by the centurion

bridged that gap and the servant was healed. Healing continues and still depends on our faith.

**Tenth Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The widow in today’s gospel was in deep trouble. Her husband and her only son were dead. In that

male dominated society woman owned nothing and were totally dependent on men for their livelihood.

She would be reduced to begging. Restoring her son to life, Jesus also restored the woman to life.

**11th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus sat down for a meal and was caught between the weeping woman and the indignant Pharisee.

Why is it tough issues always pop up at meals? No wonder we need antacids. Jesus focused on the

positives, offering forgiveness to the woman and understanding to the Pharisee.

**12th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel teaches personal sacrifice is the key to successful parenting. If we try to “save your life

you will lose it.” The more we give of our self, the more rewarding is our relationship with our children.

That’s the secret: the more you give, the more you get.

**13th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel reminds us once we set our “hand to the plow” of parenting and marriage, “we cannot

look back.” This is what commitment means: we have said YES to what was, what is and to what can be.

**14th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Just like the seventy-two disciples sent out by Jesus in today’s gospel, families are expected to be

MISSIONARIES. By our lives, words and lifestyle we proclaim peace, commitment, fidelity and respect to

a culture caught up with violence and gratification.

**15th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Children learn by watching us. Do they see you helping others like the Good Samaritan, or do they see

you avoiding others like the Levite in today’s gospel. Worry more about what your children see in YOUR

LIFE than what they see on TV.

**16th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Cell phones, emails, faxes, texts and voice mails can reduce our lives to a continual series of interrupted

moments. Listen to Jesus in today’s gospel: “You are anxious about many things” robbing us of the

precious time needed to BE with others. Quality time is QUANTITY time.

**17th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel guarantees if we “ask” we will “receive,” perhaps not what we wanted but what our

Heavenly Father knows is best for us, His children. All the love we have for our children, God has for us

and more. As our children trust us, we must trust “Our Father.”

**18th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus teaches us: “One’s life does not consist of possessions.” We spend so much time

working to obtain more stuff; we don’t have time for the people in our lives. What is enough? Are the

words of Jesus, “You fool”, meant for us?

**19th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel a servant WAITED for the master to return. Waiting is a normal part of family life. We

wait for a child’s birth, then for small legs to catch up. Later we wait for teenagers to return home safely.

Finally we wait alone anticipating a call or visit from an adult child. Waiting is sacred time, for even in

the waiting we are connected.

**20th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus warns us his Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society

which advocates individualism and consumerism, parents must continue to teach and live the gospel

values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity and compassion. A Christian family is a

countercultural family.

**21st Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The phrase in today’s gospel, “I don’t know where you come from,” is often used by parents about

children and children about parents. Change is so rapid one generation has little in common with

another We depend on love, trust, and mutual respect to bridge this gap.

**22nd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Family life well lived confirms the words of Jesus in today’s gospel, “Those who humble themselves will

be exalted.” Commitment, intimacy, loyalty and love are the rewards of humble service and care for one

another.

**23rd Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept a commitment such

as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully like the king in today’s gospel. These are serious

commitments which demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint hearted or selfish.

**24th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Parents are like that shepherd in today’s gospel for they don’t give up and can’t rest if one of their

children has wandered away. A parent’s persistent love provides a glimpse of the unconditional love for

each of us by God, Our Father. A parent is a window to the Divine.

**25th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Despite all our time saving gadgets, we still have less leisure and family time. To solve this we created

the Myth of Quality Time. Don’t be fooled: Quality Time is Quantity Time. Jesus counsels us today, we

“cannot serve two masters” and expect to be happy. Dedicate time to your family. No one in their final

hours regretted not spending more time at work.

**26th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel the rich man died and was condemned to “a place of torment” because he ignored the

poor. He asked Lazarus to go and warn his five brothers to change their ways. Evidently ignoring the

poor was a family pattern. Is your family sensitive to the poor?

**27th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Faith is one of those things we just can’t get enough of! In today’s gospel the apostles asked Jesus to

“Increase our faith.” It is faith in ourselves, our spouse, our children and our parents which equips us to

overlook annoyances helps us to forgive and urges us to ask forgiveness. “Lord, increase our faith!”

**28th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Everyone needs “A Round Tuit.” The lepers in today’s gospel probably meant to thank Jesus. Excited

about being cured they didn’t get ‘around-to-it.’ We get caught up in our own interests and fail to

appreciate what we have or to say what is in our hearts. This week get yourself a “Round Tuit.”

**29th Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The widow in today’s gospel is praised for her PERSEVERANCE. In our homes perseverance is a critical

ingredient to resolving differences and teaching lessons and skills to children. Perseverance is always an

act of faith in the goodness of the other person.

**30th Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Listen to Jesus in today’s gospel: “who humbles himself will be exalted.” It is not the occasional big

events, but the daily humble routine of family life which creates bonds and relationships which last a

lifetime.

**31st Sunday** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus is saying to you what he said to Zacchaeus, “I must stay at your house today.” It doesn’t matter if

In today’s gospel Jesus “intended to pass through Jericho to another town.” In families we sometimes

stop at the wrong places. It is wisdom to “pass through” annoying family situations so we can enjoy the

goodness of each other.

**32nd Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The question of the Sadducees to Jesus is framed in a story about a family with seven brothers and their

sister-in-law. Through story telling families remember their shared past and expose the companionship

of God in your family from generation to generation.

**33rd Sunday**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

So many conflicting voices and influences make parenting difficult. In today’s gospel Jesus encourages

parents to bravely “give testimony” and trust He will give us the “wisdom” to be good parents. You are

not alone in parenting; a loving Father is standing with you.

**RELIGIOUS FEAST DAYS**

**Transfiguration**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

At the Transfiguration the disciples saw a different side of Jesus. All of us have ‘another side’ which we

reveal only to those we trust. A family is the sacred place where we can be transfigured to be our truest

self.

**Christ the King** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel reminds us the Kingdom of Heaven is not like Disney’s Magic Kingdom. Admission to

Christ’s Kingdom is paid with the currency of acceptance, forgiveness, attention to the poor and love of

one’s enemy.

**Ascension**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Jesus tells us today, “you are my witnesses” and guarantees the “promise of the Father” to “clothe us

with the power to accomplish this mission. It is not worldly power which dominates and manipulates. It

is the power of the Kingdom of God to live in peace, forgiveness, compassion, service to others, love of

enemies and care for the poor and defenseless.

**The Assumption** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

“Blessed is the fruit of your womb” can be said of all mothers, because every child is “blessed” and a

child of God upon whom God “looks with favor.” This is our deepest identity and destiny. We do not

earn this blessing. God’s love is a free gift to each of us.

**NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

**If these holidays fall on or near a weekend, then the following articles might be used on that weekend.**

**Mother’s Day**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mother’s Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate the unconditional love of mothers. Whether living

or dead, a mother’s love always invites us to follow her example by loving generously and selflessly.

**Memorial Day** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

On this Memorial Day Weekend we remember those who have died. Will you be remembered as

someone who was aware of God’ presence and shared this insight with others? In families our greatest

possessions are the beliefs we share from one generation to the next.

**Father’s Day**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today we give thanks for our dads. In teaching us, healing our wounds and providing for us, our dads

participate in the teaching, healing and feeding ministry of Jesus. In their generosity, God is made

present.

**July 4th**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our nation is blessed with so many opportunities our lives are often frenzied as we try to take advantage

of all the possibilities. As we celebrate our Independence this weekend, perhaps we need to be aware

of our dependence on fashion, fad and cultural pressure to consume.

**Labor Day**  A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Labor Day we celebrate our ability to respond to the challenge of Genesis. Our labor an opportunity to

enter into partnership with The Creator, unfolding the possibilities within ourselves and within our

world through the creative skills planted within us.

**Halloween** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Halloween is a time for wearing masks. Because the perfect family does not exist, you do not need to

hide behind the mask of being a perfect family. Recognizing and admitting this is the first step to being

real. Shed the mask and celebrate the family you are.

**Thanksgiving** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Because the Kingdom of God already began Jesus could promise the thief at Calvary “today you will be

with me in Paradise.” We only need to look at the love and forgiveness in families to see signs of this

Kingdom unfolding in your life. This Thanksgiving give thanks for the signs of the Kingdom in your

family.