

"Come, Follow Me"

Welcome to our Fall Session of SCC groups, 2018 General overview:

Thank you for your willingness to join a small group. As we pray and share in these gatherings, we help each other to see the amazing things that God is doing for each of us.

*"One of the greatest graces of faith sharing comes with seeing God's activity in other people. And often it's easier to see God's work in others than in yourself. Likewise, others can often point out God's activity in **your** life when you aren't able to notice it. All of this reminds you that even if you don't feel God's presence, God is always at work in you."*

Fr. James Martin, S.J. (In All Seasons, For All Reasons, a *Give Us This Day* Book)

The readings for the next few weeks invite us to experience God's great mercy and God's tender care for each of us as his "children" who are joined in one big family. This concept of living as children in God's Kingdom starts with the more intimate relationship of marriage and family (Oct. 4) and moves outward, to help us reflect on how we accompany one another in the larger community – in God's Kingdom here on earth (Nov. 18).

Throughout these interconnected Gospel passages, we see Jesus asking us to ponder what it means to follow him, knowing that it looks different for each of us. However, Jesus shows us that being a follower is about humility. We must live simply and honestly as "children," knowing that the one who wants to be great must first be a "servant." (Oct. 21). This isn't easy, but we don't do it on our own. God makes everything possible.

Ignatian values: With our parish's emphasis on the teachings of St. Ignatius, we can ask ourselves a few questions as we share and study scripture together. Some questions to consider:

- "Where did you find God in this?"
- "What intuition have I had of God at work in my life? Do I respond in gratitude to the many gifts that God has given me, especially his great love for me?"

When looking at scripture, a good approach is to ask, "Can you see yourself in this story? What sights can you imagine as you read the passage? What can you hear or smell?"

- Did anything stand out for me – a particular word or phrase? Is this something that I should spend more time and reflection on?
- Is it stirring something in me? Is there a reason this may have stood out? Perhaps God may be trying to say something to me here? What might that be? What is God calling me to do?