

**EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW**

Faith is not just knowing and believing lots of doctrines. As today's Gospel makes plain, faith is **going to Jesus**, asking and receiving from God whatever it is we need. This is the faith which makes us well.

**FUN FACT**

Bar means "son" in Aramaic. Mark does not give the blind man's personal name, but he is the only Gospel writer who identifies the blind man. Bartimaeus is the only person Jesus healed that St. Mark names in his Gospel. Some Bible scholars suggest this is because Bartimeaus was still alive and known in the Church when St. Mark wrote his Gospel.



**SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION**

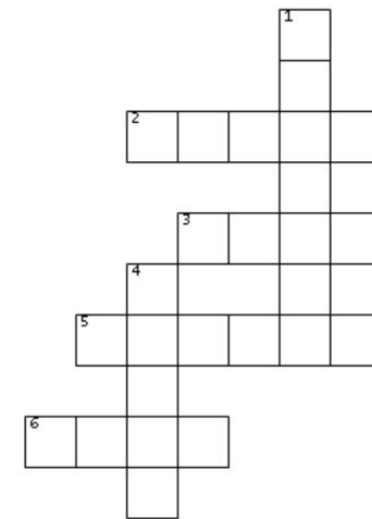
Grow in understanding of this Sunday's reading by discussing it together.

- What is the biggest obstacle in your life that you wish were removed?
- Are there any obstacles related to your faith?
- Are there any people in your life who might help you remove these obstacles?
- Are there any people in your life (like the people around Bartimaeus) who are holding you back?
- How could Jesus help you remove these obstacles?
- Have you asked? If so, why not?

If your straightforward requests to Jesus don't get the same immediate response that Bartimaeus' did - what does that mean?  
 If the obstacles were removed, what would following Jesus "on the way" be like for you?

**PUZZLE TIME**

S	L	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	D	JERICO	BLIND	BEGGAR	ROAD
I	U	Q	U	I	T	R	U	Q	I	BARTIMAEUS	QUIET	PITY	COURAGE
G	J	E	R	I	C	H	O	U	V	JUMPED	RABBUNI	MASTER	FAITH
H	U	D	A	E	Y	L	D	A	A				
T	M	E	S	M	T	N	O	N	D				
T	P	P	H	T	I	A	F	A	I				
E	E	M	S	L	P	T	N	I	K				
I	N	U	B	B	A	R	R	A	B				
U	N	J	O	R	E	T	S	A	M				
Q	C	O	U	R	A	G	G	E	B				



- ACROSS**  
 2. God's Son  
 3. make well  
 5. what the blind man called Jesus  
 6. feel sorry for
- DOWN**  
 1. to not be afraid  
 4. to believe

Use the clues to fill in the words above. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect.



**Keep Hallow in Halloween**

"Hallow" means holy. "een" is a slurred version of "evening". Halloween is the evening before (vigil) of All Saint's Day.

**Pumpkin Carving Prayer**

Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you and the world you created. (As you take off the top of the pumpkin.)

Remove the things in my life that don't please you, including my seeds of doubt. (As you pull out the seeds.)

Open my eyes and help me to see your ways. (As you carve the eyes.)

Let everything I say please you, and help me spread your Word to others. (As you remove the mouth.)

Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do. (Place a candle inside and light it. Turn out the lights!)



## THE PUMPKIN GOSPEL

**Preparations:** You will need a medium sized, prepared pumpkin.

To prepare the pumpkin:

Cut out a hole in the top and clean out the majority of the goo, but save it.

Next, cut out a face with eyes, nose and a smiling mouth, but save the pieces you remove.

Then, put the removed pieces back into place so that the pumpkin looks uncut. Then, put the rest of the gooey seeds and pulp back in the middle of the pumpkin and replace the top.

The idea is to have the majority of the work done ahead of time so that you don't have long pauses in your story. You will also need a cookie sheet or tablecloth to contain the pumpkin mess during your story, and a candle

### **Pumpkin Gospel Story:**

*There was a gardener who planted seeds in His garden (show pumpkin seeds). Each day the Gardener cared for the seeds. He watered them, pulled weeds from around them, and sheltered them from the heat of the sun. The seeds grew into seedlings, which developed into plants, until one day, they produced fruit – pumpkins! The pleased Gardener looked out at His garden and said, "It is good!"*

*We are like pumpkins and God is the Gardener. God creates us and cares for us. He "chooses" us from all of the other pumpkins, but inside we all have the yucky stuff– sin. (Open the pumpkin and grab a handful of the gooey seeds.) In Romans 3:23 we read: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

*Just like a Gardener cleaned out his pumpkin's goo, God wants to clean out all our sin, too. So, He sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins, to take the punishment we deserve. He gave us the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Clean out the slimy seeds.) In 1 John 1:9 God tells us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

*Just like a Gardener gives the pumpkin a new face, God makes us a new creation! (Take out the eyes, nose and mouth that you cut out ahead of time.) In 2 Cor. 5:17 the Bible says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

*Just like a we put a light into the pumpkin to make it shine, God gives us His light to shine through us! (Light your candle, or turn on the battery operated candle and place it inside the jack o'lantern.) In Matthew 5:16 we read, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." So, when we let God clean out our sin, He turns us into new creations that can shine for Him! And when others see our light, then they might want to learn how to have a light of their own, too!*

This is the "fancy" way to tell the story. It also works if you just talk about the images as you carve your pumpkins - or afterward.

# GROWING CATHOLICS

Leaflet 

## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Gospel • October 24, 2021 Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd,  
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,  
sat by the roadside begging.  
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,  
he began to cry out and say,  
"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."  
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.  
But he kept calling out all the more,  
"Son of David, have pity on me."  
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."  
So they called the blind man, saying to him,  
"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."  
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.  
Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"  
The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."  
Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."  
Immediately he received his sight  
and followed him on the way.

