

CCE meets Sunday, 12/1, Tues, 12/3, and Wed, 12/4.

We conclude Big Idea Two: Getting to Know and Love Jesus Christ with a lesson on prayer (Kindergarten) or the Mass (1st through 5th grades). *Next week*, we'll have a special lesson on the Season of Advent with ideas of how to celebrate this season of preparing our hearts to receive the Lord Jesus when He comes on Christmas.

****On December 15, 17, and 18**, we cover the lesson entitled "Circle of Grace" which teaches students about appropriate personal boundaries, safe and unsafe behavior, and trusted adults.

Parents are invited to preview this lesson at www.st-mm.com/cce-class-schedule.**



Breaking Open the Word for Families for [The First Sunday of Advent](#)

By Ginger Herrington



Reading 1: *Let us walk in the light of the Lord!* The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when the Word and the Light issued forth from Jerusalem. Who is this Light of the World? Who is this Word of everlasting Life? Our dear Lord Jesus, of course! Jesus came to shed light upon our souls, darkened by sin, to show us the Way to the Father. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He instructs us in God's way so that we can walk the path to eternal life with Him. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord – here on Earth, that is the Catholic Church, but the ultimate house of the Lord is Heaven. Live today and every day in the light of the Lord. Keep that Advent candle burning in your heart as you prepare room in the inn of your heart for the King of Kings.

Reading 2: *Awake from sleep; throw off the darkness and put on the armor of light.* St. Paul tells us plainly: the day of salvation is at hand. Prepare to enter the Kingdom by throwing off the darkness of sin and walking in the Light of the Lord. This Advent, commit to ridding yourself of a vice and building up a virtue. The Holy Spirit infused us with the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love; when we cooperate with these virtues, they grow and strengthen within us. We ourselves work on the moral virtues of prudence (helps us to do good and to avoid evil), justice (being fair to God and our neighbor), temperance (using the goods of this world wisely and strengthens us against temptations), and fortitude (keeps us firm in our Faith in hard times and helps us to do the right thing). With the help of God's grace, get rid of the vices, the seven deadly sins: pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony, and sloth.

Gospel: *Jesus advises us to stay awake, for we do not know when the Son of Man will come.* Jesus will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. Those who have prepared their hearts for His coming will enjoy eternal happiness in Heaven with Him. Those who have turned away from the Lord, ignored Him, acted as if He did not exist, and chose to do evil rather than doing good will spend their eternity without the Lord: this is "hell." Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord: listen carefully to His words in Scripture, and cooperate with the graces He pours out to us in the sacraments. At the end of our lives here on Earth, may we hear those beautiful words: "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise."



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