

CCE classes meet February 16, 18, 19 with a lesson on Lent.

Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time By Ginger Herrington



Reading 1: *If you choose, you can keep the commandments.* Sirach places before the people the choice of fire or water, good or evil, life and death. Whichever you choose shall be given to you. God forces no one's hand. You can choose to love Him or you can choose to abandon Him. We each choose between these options every time a temptation besets us. Every moment of every day, we choose to tread the path of righteousness or to veer off the narrow path to the wide path which leads to destruction. In the words of the Our Father, we pray that He not lead us into temptation; we also affirm, with Sirach, that God leads no one astray, nor does He give license to anyone to sin. We can choose to sin, but we do not have the "right" to sin. Keep the Ten Commandments, obey Jesus' Great Commandment to "love one another," and follow Jesus to Heaven.

Reading 2: *Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the wonders God has in store for us.* St. Paul sings of the wisdom and power of the Almighty and Ever-Living God. The rulers of this age do not have the wisdom or the power of God, and this age will pass away as so many others have. Cling to the unchanging God in this world, keeping your eyes on the prize of Eternal Beatitude in the world to come. Live now in His love, doing His Will, and you will live forever with Him in His love. This is His Will for us all.

Gospel: *Jesus said: whoever breaks the commandments and teaches others to do so is the lowest.* Jesus clarifies and intensifies the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not kill" encompasses not only murder, but harboring anger against another or speaking poorly about them – gossip, rumors, trash talking, or calling them names. That's something to consider when you examine your conscience. Killing someone's reputation or harboring anger in your heart is as bad as killing them. Re-read this Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 prayerfully, asking the Holy Spirit for inspiration. He will enlighten your mind and heart so that you know if you have fallen into sin and need the sacrament of Confession to restore a right relationship with God. Thank God for the beautiful sacrament of Confession! We can unburden our hearts, receive advice, and have our sins forgiven. We can start over in our relationship with God, trying our best to avoid sin and to do good things. Come to the confessional where our Lord Jesus waits to forgive you and to embrace you with His love.



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