

CCE classes are in session today, Jan. 19, Tues., Jan. 21, and Wed., Jan. 23. We continue Big Idea 3, the moral life. We'll study the Commandments, formation of conscience, the Beatitudes, the Virtues, caring for others, the dignity of human life, and Jesus' Commandment to Love.



Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Ginger Herrington

Reading 1: *I will make you a light to the nations.* The prophet Isaiah sings: My God is now my strength! God is always with us, in good times and in bad, in prosperity and in poverty, when we are virtuous and when we sin. He sent His only Son in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might be His adopted children. As His children, we reflect His light into the darkness of the world: thus, we should be a light to the nations. This means that we show people the Way, the Truth, and the Light: Jesus Christ. We stand with God and against sin. This may make us unpopular, but we have a mandate from God to speak the Truth in Charity. Remember the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy **Discipleship Project**. Some of the Spiritual Works of Mercy include *instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, and counseling the doubtful*. All of this falls within the meaning of today's First Reading: be a light to the nations.

Reading 2: *Here I am, Lord: I come to do Your Will.* St. Paul greets the people of Corinth as “*an apostle of Christ Jesus by the Will of God.*” Paul knows that his mandate to spread the Good News came to him not because he was strong, well educated, and smart (which he was), but simply by the Will of God. Each of us is called to spread the Good News by the Will of God and by virtue of our baptism. See how many toes you can check off this week in your **Discipleship Project** as you spread the Good News – tell about Jesus – in words and deeds.

Gospel: *I have testified that He is the Son of God.* John the Baptist testifies by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the Son of God. We, too, are called to testify that Jesus Christ is Lord. Our baptism gives us the graces we need to carry out this calling. Each of us was baptized as priest, prophet, and king. As (unordained, non-clerical) priests, we offer sacrifices to God: praying for people, forgiving those who have hurt us, and bearing wrongs patiently (three of the Spiritual Works of Mercy). As prophets, we are called to share the Word of God with people by *instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, and counseling the doubtful* (more Spiritual Works of Mercy). As kings, we are called to help the poor and defend the helpless in some of the Corporal Works of Mercy: feeding the hungry; giving drink to the thirsty; clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless. Your baptism brought you into the family of God and imbued you with the powerful graces you would need as you exercise your ministries as priest, prophet, and king. As an added benefit, you can check off more toes as you follow Jesus as His disciple in your **Discipleship Project**.



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