

*CCE classes* are in session today, Jan. 26, Tues., Jan. 28, and Wed., Jan. 29. We continue Big Idea 3, the moral life. We'll study good moral choices, Prudence, the Virtues, formation of conscience, and Jesus' Commandment to Love.



## **Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

By Ginger Herrington

**Reading 1:** *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.* The prophet Isaiah rejoices that the people on the seaward road, the District of the Gentiles, will see the saving power of God. Knowledge of God will bring them abundant joy. This joy is infectious and we are called to share it. As God's 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:** *I urge you to be united.* St. Paul reminds the people of Corinth that we are all baptized into Christ Jesus. In baptism, we die with Him and rise to new life in Him. This new life is not to be lived selfishly, but our lives should help to build up the Body of Christ. 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:** *Jesus went to live in the District of the Gentiles, on the seaward road.* John the Baptist's testimony to God's Truth and God's Son landed him in Herod's prison. Jesus retired to the land of Zebulun and Naphtali in accordance with the Scripture of Isaiah in our First Reading. Here Jesus calls two sets of brothers who were fishing for a living, and they responded to His call. Let us follow the example of James, John, Simon, and Andrew: follow Jesus and be His disciple. Offer sacrifices to God: praying for people, forgiving those who have hurt us, and bearing wrongs patiently (three of the Spiritual Works of Mercy). Share the Word of God with people by instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, and counseling the doubtful (more Spiritual Works of Mercy). 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. Heed Jesus' call and His Holy Spirit will imbue you with the powerful graces you need to follow faithfully in His footsteps. 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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