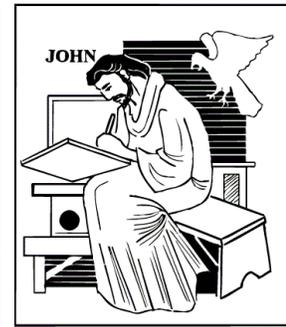
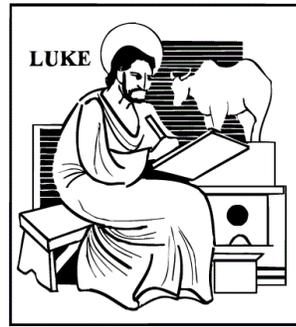
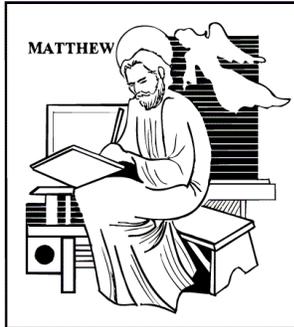


Breaking Open the Word



September 13, 2015 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 131 Gospel [Mk 8:27-35](#)
Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Spiritual Reflection: A boy watches an NFL quarterback and dreams of being a star quarterback himself someday. What he does not see on game day are the years of hard work that it takes to play in the NFL: the hours of grueling practice on the field, of breaking down film, of studying the complicated play book. The boy does not realize the long, frustrating hours of playing high school and college ball. It's a long road of hard work and maturity to play pro football. One cannot be great disciple/Christian without a lot of hard work. We were made for excellence.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Name something that you became good at over time?
2. How have you proclaimed Christ to be the Son of God?
3. How have you disappointed yourself because you did not put in the hard work?
4. Why do you think God wanted hard work to be a part of our lives?
5. Who is a good role model for you as a disciple? What type of workout do they follow?