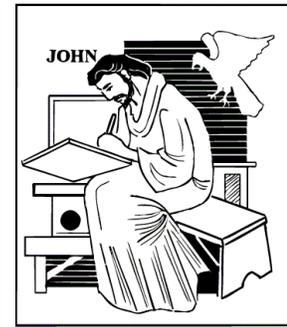
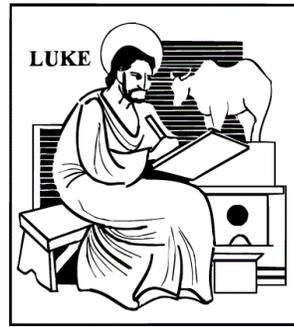
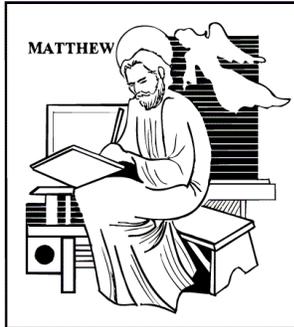


## Breaking Open the Word



**September 20, 2015 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 134 Gospel [Mk 9:30-37](#)**

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** The child represents for the disciple of Jesus the vulnerabilities, the fears, the doubts we all experience in our lives - and the child reminds us of Jesus' call to us as his disciples to take up his work of reaching out to others paralyzed by such anxiety and despair. In the service we give and respect we afford to others as sons and daughters of God, Jesus says, we welcome into our midst the very presence of God. Our empathy and care for the child and child-like in our midst mirrors the love of God for us despite our own failings and fears. Only in putting ourselves in the humble service of the lowly child can we hope to claim a place in the kingdom of God.

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### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Why do you think that the disciples argued over who was the most important so many times?
2. What was the status of children in the time of Christ?
3. What is your opinion of children at Church?
4. What attitudes of children do you think Christ would want us to most imitate?
5. What was the view of the world towards children during the time of Christ?