

Dear Parents,

This weekend we are celebrating the third week of Advent! Our goal this week is to concentrate on being joyful. This is not always easy at the best of times, but it is especially challenging in the midst of a pandemic. Life for us and our children is different in very significant ways and these changes are felt among all age groups. But even amongst these challenges, God asks us to find things to be thankful for.

Let's pray together this week for:

- The Church, helping us find the light of Christ
- For our leaders, that they may use their position to lead us to an appreciation of life
- For people who need help and support to feel hopeful for the days ahead
- For us, as we bring the Good News to others

The lesson plan this week is to complete the exercise in their duo tang and cover the chapter in their work book.

The chapter to cover in their "Be My Disciples" book this week is:

- Level One – Chapter 6
- Level Two – Chapter 3
- Level Three – Chapter 18
- Level Four – Chapter 13
- Level Five – Chapter 13
- Level Six – Chapter 13

You will find below the duo tang masters that show different questions than those you received in your duo tang. Remember, the questions to be answered are those in the duo-tang you received at book pick-up, not the questions on the masters below. I encourage you to use the questions below to open a dialogue with your child. Children in Pre-K and K will also enjoy the Interactive Bible Story of the week.

The prayer service this week can be found at <https://worship.pastoral.center/day/2020-12-13>

Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Have a Blessed week!

Beverley

Beverley Wiltsie

Director of Family Faith Education
St. Veronica's Parish



TWO BLIND MEN

Follow in Faith

Matthew 20:29-34 ♦ ECHO STORY

LEADER As Jesus and his friends were leaving Jericho, the crowd said:
“Let’s follow Jesus!”

ALL “Let’s follow Jesus!” *[whisper]*
“Let’s follow Jesus!” *[speak]*
“Let’s follow Jesus!” *[shout]*

LEADER Two blind men sitting by the side of the road, pleaded:
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”

ALL “Jesus, have mercy on us!” *[whisper]*
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”
[speak]
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”
[shout]

LEADER The crowd told the blind men:
“Be Quiet!”

ALL “Be quiet!” *[whisper]*
“Be quiet!” *[speak]*
“Be quiet!” *[shout]*

LEADER The blind men shouted:
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”

ALL “Jesus, have mercy on us!”
[whisper]
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”
[speak]
“Jesus, have mercy on us!”
[shout]

LEADER Jesus stopped and listened to the blind men. He asked: “What do you want me to do for you?”

ALL “What do you want me to do for you?” *[whisper]*
“What do you want me to do for you?” *[speak]*
“What do you want me to do for you?” *[shout]*

LEADER The blind men answered:
“Jesus, let our eyes be opened.”

ALL “Jesus, let our eyes be opened.”
[whisper]
“Jesus, let our eyes be opened.”
[speak]
“Jesus, let our eyes be opened.”
[shout]

LEADER Jesus touched their eyes and the blind men exclaimed:
“We can see! Let’s follow Jesus!”

ALL “We can see! Let’s follow Jesus!”
[whisper]
“We can see! Let’s follow Jesus!”
[speak]
“We can see! Let’s follow Jesus!”
[shout]

It's Not about Me... It's About *Him*

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 - The mission to the afflicted
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 - Christian conduct; blessing
- John 1:6-8, 19-28 - John as witness to the light

We live in a time and culture in which personal success and individualism are honored. As people strive to be known or have their product recognized, marketing and branding is everything. We are proud to see our name in print, to be recognized in our trade, or to get attention and fame for our achievements. John the Baptist reminds us of another way of being in this week's Gospel.

The Jewish authorities are obsessed with trying to understand John's real identity, but John doesn't want the recognition or fame for himself. They want to see if he will identify himself as a great and long-awaited figure: the Messiah, Elijah, or another prophet. When he refuses to put himself on that level the priests and Levites become exasperated.

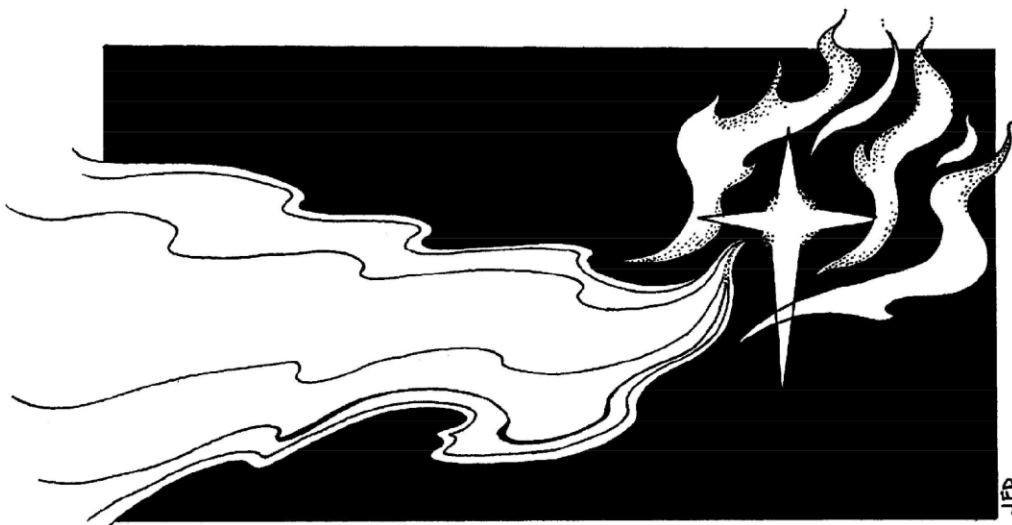
John the Baptist doesn't want to dwell on himself; he points toward Jesus. He seems to know that his job is not to draw attention to himself but to point the attention to Jesus, who will do more than baptize with



water. John is a perfect example of knowing that his calling is not about him, but is all about God.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How does our society and culture celebrate personal success and individualism over community and service?
- 2 Which individuals in your life help to build the Kingdom of God quietly, never trying to draw attention to themselves? In what ways?



Word of the Week •
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