

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I wish you and your family a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

I hope you had a good holiday, albeit different. Hopefully you were able to make some happy memories.

Let's pray together this week for:

- For all of us, who became children of God through our Baptism
- For peace and forgiveness throughout the world
- For people who are lonely and struggling
- For our parish community and all children of God

Please make sure that you work regularly on the lesson plans. 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 7
- Level Two – Chapter 7
- Level Three – Chapter 6
- Level Four – Chapter 7
- Level Five – Chapter 11
- Level Six – Chapter 7

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/2021-01-10>

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



SIMEON AND ANNA

Dedicated and Devoted

Luke 2:21-40 ♦ RHYTHM STORY

Eight days after Jesus' birth
Mary and Joseph brought their son
to the temple in Jerusalem
to present the Holy One.

Eighty-four-year-old Anna
trusted God enough to know
the Savior of the world had come.
God's glory He would show.

A righteous man named Simeon
waited for the Savior's birth.
He trusted God to send the one
Who would bring peace to all the earth.

Mary and Joseph left the temple
and the child grew and grew.
He was the Savior of the world
just as Simeon and Anna knew.

When Simeon saw the Christ Child
he held him close and praised:
"My eyes have seen salvation."
Mary and Joseph were amazed.

Come! Listen!

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 55:1-11 - Invitation to abundance
- ▶ 1 John 5:1-9 - God's testimony of love
- ▶ Mark 1:7-11 - The baptism of Jesus

Although baptism as Christians know it didn't exist in the time before Jesus, Jews did - and still do - practice cleansing and purification rituals. If we think about how the Israelites lived so much of their history in a dry and dusty region, it's not a surprise that there is a lot of emphasis on water in their culture and religion. There are some places in the Middle East that are lush and fertile, but for the nomadic tribes who made up the early Jewish people, lush and fertile weren't the norm.

In the first reading from Isaiah today, Isaiah wrote to people who lived in a land where water was extremely precious - for basic survival and cleanliness. His ringing invitation, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters" could be read literally, as in "We've found a source of water! Come and get a drink! Wash yourselves!" Or we can read it metaphorically, as we do at the Easter Vigil when the catechumens who have been preparing for baptism are finally called to the baptismal font. As an RCIA Director, I see every year how the catechumens' spiritual thirst grows as they realize that the "stuff" of our culture can't slake their spiritual thirst. They are learning to seek out "living water" that will satisfy them in a way that physical necessities can't.

Isaiah's proclamation reminds us that God offers us all we need for our spiritual food. It's all free and available to everyone; we just need to know where to look. Hint: our spiritual food won't be found scrolling through social media, or on the news, or in watching how the Joneses next door are living. Maybe it's heartening, or maybe it's discouraging, but the people Isaiah was writing to over 2,000 years ago struggled with the same things we do today — spending money "for that which is not bread" and working for



"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

Sheepish Question:
Although we are baptized in water— not birdseed—how does my baptism with Christ empower me to live in a way that pleases God?

"that which does not satisfy." Just like them, Isaiah is calling us to reevaluate our lives and our priorities.

Isaiah tells us we have to make an effort to listen to God and to "seek the Lord." How do we do that? It will look different for every person. It might be waking up 15 minutes before family members to have quiet time with God while sipping coffee. Maybe it's journaling at the end of the day. Perhaps it's joining a prayer group to connect with others who are seeking God too. Perhaps it's going for a walk at lunchtime to clear your mind, or calling a loved one to ask for advice or support. However it is that you can make time to open some space, "incline your ear" to hear what God is speaking.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What are you thirsting or hungering for that money can't buy?
- 2 What do you spend your money on that does not satisfy? What do you consume (physically or otherwise) that is not nourishing?

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