

Dear Parents,

I am enjoying the ability to see you and speak to you as you have been picking up the next set of lesson plans. I am so happy to hear the positive feedback and the silver lining in that a lot of you are mentioning that your children are enjoying the lessons and that they are also enjoying learning more about their faith from you through the home program. It has been very heartening.

This weekend we are celebrating the first week of Advent! Now we embark on the countdown towards the Birth of Jesus and the anticipation of Christ returning as king. If you don't have an advent wreath but would like to purchase one, please let me know.

Let's pray together this week for:

- The Church, as we await fulfillment of all that God has promised us.
- For the world longing for salvation.
- For people around us who are missing the basic comforts of a warm home, good food and a loving family.
- For us, working together as we await the Lord's return.

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 13
- Level Two – Chapter 15
- Level Three – Chapter 9
- Level Four – Chapter 9
- Level Five – Chapter 3
- Level Six – Chapter 9

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/2020-11-29>

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is the first Sunday of Advent! So, what is Advent?

Advent is the time when we get ourselves ready for the birth of Jesus. We start getting excited for Christmas, with all the decorating, and baking and shopping. But there is much, much more to Christmas than the excitement of Christmas day!

We have to remember that the BIG celebration of Christmas is because it was the day the Jesus was born. Jesus was born to save the world. That is HUGE! So we have to get our hearts ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. How do we do that?

We can start by marking each week of Advent by lighting an Advent Candle. This helps us realize how close we are to the big day. Ask your mom or dad if you have an Advent wreath in your home. If not, I have attached an advent wreath that you can color. But each week, the candle is a special color and gives us something special to think about that week. So let's talk about the Advent wreath.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath has four candles.

Week One: This week you color the first candle PURPLE. This candle reminds us to be **HOPEFUL** and trust that God is with us and will guide us.

Week Two: This week you will light two candles PURPLE. This week we will pray for **PEACE** and ask Jesus to help us bring peace to others.

Week Three: This week you will light two PURPLE candles and one PINK candle. This week we think about the **JOY** we feel we think about Jesus' arrival.

Week Four: This week like three PURPLE candles and one PINK candle. The theme this week is **LOVE**. We tell Jesus how much we love him and ask for his help in loving others.



PRAYER *Ask for Answers*

Luke 11:9-13 ♦ ACTION STORY

The disciples wanted to learn to pray.

[Hold up praying hands]

Jesus said we must seek God's way

[Put one hand above eyes and look left and right]

But prayer is more than the words we say.

[Cup hands to mouth]

The door of God's love isn't locked away.

[Cross hands over chest]

Jesus said we must ask each day

[Hold up hand like asking a question]

We can knock and receive today

[Mime knocking on a door]

and keep on asking when we pray.

[Support arm with other hand while continuing to ask]

the gift of God's Spirit. Hip! Hip! Hooray!

[Open arms upward, then cheer!]

In order to know how to live each day,

[Shrug shoulders; extend arms at sides]

Don't Miss Your Chance

This Week's Readings at Mass

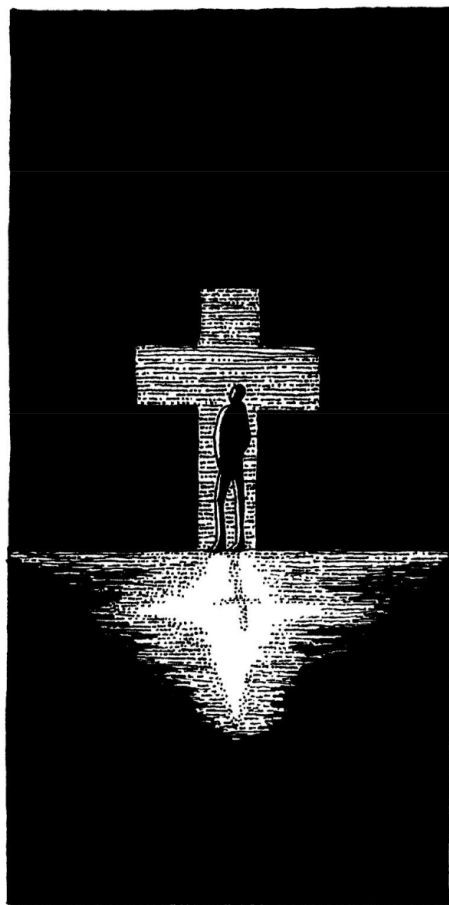
- Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 - Prayer for the return of God's favor
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Thanksgiving
- Mark 13:33-37 - Need for watchfulness

As Advent begins, we hear Jesus warn his listeners—and us—to be alert and watchful. What are we to be watching and waiting for? In the Gospels, Jesus was referring to his Second Coming and the end of the world as we know it. In fact, the apostles and his early friends and followers were so certain that Jesus was returning soon that they believed it would happen in their lifetimes.

Now, 2,000 years later, we sometimes take for granted that the world probably isn't about to end anytime soon, despite the COVID pandemic, natural disasters, and racial tensions of 2020. Yet maybe Jesus is still calling us to be alert to all of the opportunities we have to love and be loved right now, today, because we don't know how much time we have left on this earth.

It is common to hear victims of natural disasters or tragic violence say, "I never imagined this would happen to us. I never imagined this would happen here." Maybe part of what they are saying is that they were sleepwalking through life, taking their lives and the lives of their loved ones for granted.

If we knew we only had a short time left to live, how would we want to spend our remaining time? What



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"Would that you might meet us doing right."

Sheepish Question:

How will I present myself when Jesus comes to me this Advent?

if we knew our child or spouse or parent would be taken from us soon? How might our priorities change? Even if we aren't motivated to stay watchful for the end of this world, Jesus is still calling us to be alert so that we don't miss the opportunities to love and serve the people of this world while we have the chance. What is passing us by because we are too busy and distracted to notice?

Questions of the Week

- 1 Every few years a small Christian group predicts that the end of the world is in sight. We might not pay much attention, but how would you live life differently if you only had a few weeks or days to live? What would you change? What concrete actions would you take?
- 2 In what particular area(s) of your life do you take things for granted? How could you change?

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