

CCE meets Sunday, 12/15, Tues, 12/17, and Wed, 12/18.

****THIS WEEK** we cover the lesson entitled “Circle of Grace” which teaches students about appropriate personal boundaries, safe and unsafe behavior, and trusted adults. **Parents are invited to view this lesson at www.st-mm.com/cce-class-schedule.****

CCE Christmas break: December 19, 2019 through January 4, 2020.

Breaking Open the Word for Families for [The Third Sunday of Advent](#)

By Ginger Herrington



Reading 1: *See the splendor of our God; He comes to save us.* Isaiah foretells a time of great joy when the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, and the mute will speak – foretelling some of the miracles of Jesus. Our Lord heals the blindness of our souls today. Allow the Divine Healer to cure you of your ills. Come to Him in Confession where He waits to absolve you of your sins. When you examine your conscience, ask the Holy Spirit to help you *to see* where you’ve gone wrong; *to hear* His voice clearly so that you can *speak* from your heart and make a good confession. When Our Lord absolves you through the priest, your spirit will *leap* for joy. Thank God for the healing sacrament of Confession!

Reading 2: *Be patient, make your heart firm, do not complain as we wait for the Lord.* St. James warns that the coming of the Lord is at hand. No one knows the hour of their death, and no one knows when the world will end. We do know that we will die and will come face to face with Jesus, the just Judge. Be ready, therefore, to meet Him. Come to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation; listen carefully to the Word of God; repent of your sins and frequent the sacrament of Confession; come, receive the Lord joyfully in the Eucharist. Know your Faith, love it, and live it to the best of your ability, and be therefore ready to meet Jesus.

Gospel: *Jesus challenges us to judge for ourselves if He is our Savior.* John the Baptist, imprisoned for speaking the truth to Herod, sends his disciples to Jesus with the question: *are you the One who is to come?* Jesus answered by quoting Isaiah from our First Reading today. In other words, believe what you see – the miracles prophesied are happening at My hand. John knew that Jesus was the Lamb of God; he sent his disciples to question Jesus for their benefit, so that they would accept Jesus as the Savior. If you wonder if Jesus is “the One,” consider how He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies; the miracles He performed; and the love He showed to everyone, even those who betrayed, abandoned, and tortured Him, and put Him to death. Consider how Jesus Christ, and none other, rose from the dead, appeared to many witnesses, and founded His Church which survives today. Search your heart and ask yourself: although incredible and seemingly impossible, is Jesus “the One”? I pray that we can all answer, Amen! So be it – I believe. Answer with St. Peter: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. Answer with St. Thomas: My Lord and my God!

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