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**At Home Program**

**Week # 12 December 3, 2023**

*“Keep a clear eye toward life’s end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God’s creature. What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received…but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”
-* ***St. Barbara***

**Gospel…Mark 1:1-8…** **Jesus is the Good News**

1The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the Son of God]

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way.

3A voice of one crying out in the desert:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths.’”

4 John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

6 John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist.[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/mark/1#49001006-1) He fed on locusts and wild honey.

7 And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

8 I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

God created us *very good.*  However, from the time in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve decided to trust Satan over God, we have battled sin. We have the tendency toward sinfulness. We have out intellect and free will which give us the freedom to choose right from wrong. The more we practice choosing the right path, the easier it becomes.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Luckily, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation to bring us back into full communion with God when we sin. When was the last time you received this Sacrament?
2. What draws you to this Sacrament of healing or keeps you away? Make a plan to go during the Advent season.

**Gifted WithThe Spirit Lesson # 4 Recognizing the Holy Spirit in Your Life (THIS IS THE LAST WEEK USING LESSON # 4…) … (pages 7 - 8 are being used this week)**

1. Read Luke 7:36-50 (see below) and answer the questions on page 7.
2. Read page 8 “Called to Be Priest, Prophet, and King.” If you are currently preparing for Confirmation, who is your sponsor and why did you choose them. If you will be preparing for Confirmation in the future, who might you ask to be your sponsor and why?
3. Do the closing prayer on page 8 with someone in your family.

Luke 7:36-50

36A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table.

37 Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee.Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment,

38 she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner.”

40 Jesus said to him in reply, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said.

41 “Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days’ wages and the other owed fifty.

42 Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon said in reply, “The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven.” He said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

45 You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered.

46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment.

47 So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love.But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

48 He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The others at table said to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”