

Getting Ready for Chapter 18

Take Home



We Are Called to Serve

We are faithful to the mission Jesus entrusted to the Apostles to make disciples of all the nations. The Church is called to go out and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Blessings are signs of our belief, our faith that God is within our everyday life. We live in an era in which there are so many communication tools available for our use. They empower us with a greater ability to help spread the Gospel of Christ.

ACTIVITY

Mark Your Door At Passover, Jews were told to mark their door so that their household might be identified as one of faith. Make a sign for your door to mark your house as a place where believers live.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

When the priest blesses you at the end of Mass, bow your head and ask that the blessing stay with you during the week.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Benedict the Black (1526–1589)

Benedict was the child of African slaves in Sicily. He joined Franciscan hermits near Palermo, Italy. Many went to him for spiritual help and guidance. In this way, he helped to spread the Good News.

Patron Saint of: African Americans

Feast Day: April 4



A Prayer for the Week

Merciful Father, bless us and help us as we find our own way, just as Saint Benedict did, to share the Good News. Help us show, through our words and actions, that God is with us and cares for us. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Blessing The Israelites followed the practice of blessing in their daily lives. They blessed God through prayer and songs of praise. They also blessed each other during special moments such as in greeting or parting. A dying father blessed his son before entrusting him with his property. Before his death, Moses gave a final blessing to the Israelites, placing them under God's protective care.

The Old Testament also contains "The Priestly Blessing," a beautiful blessing that we hear at Mass on New Year's Day. Read Numbers 6:22–27.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Service

Catholic Charities U.S.A. The Church has always taught that Christians are obligated to reach out to those in need. America's first Catholic missionaries provided care of the poor along with the preaching of the Gospel. As the Church became further established, its services were primarily available to members of the local parish, then to Catholic immigrants, and finally to people in need regardless of their religious affiliation. Catholic Charities USA is among a number of healing ministries in this country. It is one of the largest private social service agencies in United States. Catholic families support these ministries because they know that faith demands our commitment to service.