

Getting Ready for Chapter 20

Take Home



We Go Forth in the Holy Spirit

Chapter 20 will highlight the virtue of peace and the beauty of blessings. Children will realize that blessings are signs of God's love, that we bless God when we praise and thank him, and that we can pray to God to bless others. They will recognize that the Holy Spirit guides us when we pray, and they will compose prayers of blessings.

ACTIVITY

Bless This Mess Some families have in their homes a sign that bears the motto "Bless This Mess." It invites God to be part of the family's life even though the house may not be perfectly neat and clean. With your child, make a sign that asks for God's blessing on the activities of your family.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

At the end of Mass when the priest says, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," think of one way to do that.

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 Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852)

Rose Philippine Duchesne joined the Society of the Sacred Heart in France. Mother Duchesne came to the United States to open schools for children of pioneers and Native American people.

Patron Saint of: Native Americans

Feast Day: November 18



A Prayer for the Week

O God, thank you for the many blessing you give us. May we follow the example of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne and be willing to bless others. Amen.



Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Blessings The first Old Testament blessing is described in Genesis 1:28. After creating humankind, God says, “Be fertile and multiply.” This is also called a “benediction,” which means “saying good things.” Fertility blessings and other common blessings involve health, longevity, the satisfying of needs, and a generally happy life. Jesus would carry on the ritual of blessings during his earthly life.

You can read about the first blessing in Genesis 1:24–31

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Architecture

Church of the Beatitudes In the place where Jesus spoke the Beatitudes to his followers, there is a church that is named after them. The Church of the Beatitudes is located along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee on the mount near Capernaum, home to five of Jesus’ Twelve Apostles. Built in 1937, the church is octagonal to represent the eight Beatitudes that Matthew describes in his Gospel (Matthew 5:3–10). Inscribed on each window are the beginning words of one of the Beatitudes. A dome of gold mosaic covers the altar and rests on top of the building. Surrounding the outside of the church are columned cloisters. These provide a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee.