

## **Faith Formation:**

### **This Week's Gospel: Luke 21:5-19**

Jews connected the very spirit of their faith to the Temple with its incense-filled, prayerful inner courts and its shaded outer courts where people met and talked. They celebrated their holy days at the Temple; it was the center of their faith community. But Jesus' assessment of the times in this Sunday's Gospel proved accurate. The Jews' rebellion against Roman occupation that began in A.D. 66 ended in the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 by the Roman forces. When Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple to his disciples in Sunday's Gospel, they are shocked. Jesus both scares and assures his listeners, past and present. He explains that wars, disasters, and persecutions will continue in the world. He assures us that we can endure these and other troubles that occur in our lives. He promises to put words in our mouths so no one can put us down. He promises to be with us always.

**Promise (Grades Pre-School, K &1):** This Sunday's Gospel gives us the opportunity to talk to our children about their fears and worries. You may want to ask your child what he or she worries about. Stress that Jesus tells us not to be afraid because he is with us. Consider reciting the Our Father into your family prayers this week.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Although this Sunday's Gospel speaks of the end of the world, the children will learn about the wonderful world God created with love. Discuss some of the ways that your child learned to care for creation, and brainstorm others that your family can do. Jesus asks us not to worry when there are bad things happening in the world. Talk with your child about concerns he or she has for the world. Discuss how you deal with problems and how your faith plays a role.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** In class, your child learned from the experiences of people who stood up for what they believed. Spend some time talking about how your family can stand up for what you believe. By referring to the Gospel Weeklie that your child brings home, ask them how the Sacrament of Confirmation gives us what we need to respond to God's call in our lives.