



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

6 December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent - Segundo Domingo de Adviento

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Welcome, this is the Second Sunday of Advent
- There are no birthdays & anniversaries to announce this week.
- Each year we plan what's called a Reverse Advent donation. In traditional Advent season you may have set aside a tiny gift for yourself or others. In the Reverse you set aside a gift of food for the needy – every day –... So on Wednesdays from 1-2 o'clock, Regina and Vinny will be at the church to collect your seven-day donation. Dec 2, 9, 16 and 23, the four Wednesdays of Advent.
 - I am finding a new home for your older, slightly used iPads and computers. They will go to families with children who will not be attending school. Please ask your neighbors and family to donate computers... lots of them.
 - Please don't forget your personal donation to the Bishops' Relief Fund, the proceeds going to victims of the fires in California this past summer. Send this directly to the national church treasurer. Call or text me for the address... or just to say hello.
 - Let us watch the news carefully and pray for the development of a vaccine so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
 - I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Homily

Christmas is coming. Christmas time is festive and happy but look beyond the commercial world of decorations and lights and buying people gifts... and remember that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ.

Advent season is the four weeks before Christmas that we should be anticipating the birth of Christ. A savior was born. He lived his life to prepare for a great sacrifice and died for the salvation of humans.

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus.

Please look at these lessons in a different way. For every Christmas commercial you see or hear, let a light come on in your head that says, "Christ was born and died for me and the ones I love." That is what John the Baptist, John the prophet, preached and taught.

Today we read that John directed a strong message for repentance to all.

Understand that the baptisms that John performs are an anticipation of Christian baptism of the future. John says, "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

In this reading, John makes clear that his relationship to the Messiah who is coming, is one of service and subservience: "the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I'm not worthy to untie his shoes.

Jesus will be baptized by John in later chapters of the bible. That event of baptism of Christ should be considered the start of Jesus' public ministry.

The word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

If there was a billboard and it needed a face for Advent it would have been John, son of Zechariah. He was completely devoted to the message that is Advent – not so much the birth of Jesus – but the preparation for the arrival of the Savior.

John said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, all shall see the salvation of God." I am sure someone said, "How do you know?" John talked about the writings of the prophet Isaiah and no one dared to not believe the words of prophets... not among the Jewish people.

Celebrate the birth and life of Christ as it was when he first arrived. By keeping the faith that Jesus will come again we should be arranging our life for the Second Coming of Christ.

In your life of high points, low points, roads that split and you have to make a choice... all the joy and all the trials... what you have now is because of Christ. Remember that someday the world – or your world – will end. Some day you will be called to heaven and you should be prepared.

If you've enjoyed a life of happiness it should not have been at the expense of others. You've hopefully shared that personal and material world happiness with everyone you've met. Your faith in God has always sustained you. Look for life everlasting with the people who loved you in life who you will see again in heaven.

Do something different this year. Remember what I said about Christmas commercials. Think – Christ died for me – Don't say, Happy Holidays or Season's Greetings – say, Merry Christmas, and mean it. Say it with gusto. Wish some joy and happiness for the person you say it to.



Evangelio Marcos 1:1-8

Principio del evangelio de Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios. Como está escrito en el profeta Isaías: He aquí, yo envío mi mensajero delante de tu faz, el cual preparará tu camino. Voz del que clama en el desierto: «Preparad el camino del Señor, haced derechas sus sendas». Juan el Bautista apareció en el desierto predicando el bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de pecados. Y acudía a él toda la región de Judea, y toda la gente de Jerusalén, y confesando sus pecados, eran bautizados por él en el río Jordán. Juan estaba vestido de pelo de camello, tenía un cinto de cuero a la cintura, y comía langostas y miel silvestre. Y predicaba, diciendo: Tras mí viene uno que es más poderoso que yo, a quien no soy digno de desatar, inclinándome, la correa de sus sandalias. Yo os bauticé con agua, pero Él os bautizará con el Espíritu Santo.



Homilía

Se acerca la Navidad. La época navideña es festiva y feliz, pero mira más allá del mundo comercial de decoraciones y luces y compra de regalos a la gente ... y recuerda que la Navidad celebra el nacimiento de Cristo.

La temporada de Adviento son las cuatro semanas antes de Navidad en las que deberíamos estar anticipando el nacimiento de Cristo. Nació un salvador. Vivió su vida para prepararse para un gran sacrificio y murió por la salvación de los humanos.

Sea optimista ... En la Lectura del Evangelio de esta semana y la próxima, nuestra preparación de Adviento para la Navidad nos invita a considerar a Juan el Bautista y su relación con Jesús.



Mire estas lecciones de otra manera. Por cada comercial de Navidad que vea o escuche, deje que se encienda una luz en su cabeza que diga: "Cristo nació y murió por mí y por mis seres queridos". Eso es lo que predicó y enseñó Juan el Bautista, el profeta Juan.

Hoy leemos que Juan dirigió un fuerte mensaje de arrepentimiento para todos.

Comprenda que los bautismos que realiza Juan son una anticipación del bautismo cristiano del futuro. Juan dice: "Os estoy bautizando en agua para arrepentimiento ... Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego".

En esta lectura, John deja en claro que su relación con el Mesías que viene es de servicio y sumisión: "el que viene después de mí es más poderoso que yo. No soy digno de desatarle los zapatos.

Jesús será bautizado por Juan en capítulos posteriores de la Biblia. Ese evento del bautismo de Cristo debe considerarse el comienzo del ministerio público de Jesús.

La palabra de Dios vino a Juan, hijo de Zacarías. Juan recorrió toda la región del Jordán, proclamando un bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de los pecados, como está escrito en el libro de las palabras del profeta Isaías.

Si hubiera una valla publicitaria y necesitaba un rostro para el Adviento, habría sido Juan, hijo de Zacarías. Estaba completamente dedicado al mensaje de Adviento, no tanto al nacimiento de Jesús, sino a la preparación para la llegada del Salvador.

sé optimista ... Juan dijo: "Preparad el camino del Señor, todos verán la salvación de Dios". Estoy seguro de que alguien dijo: "¿Cómo lo sabes?" Juan habló de los escritos del profeta Isaías y nadie se atrevió a creer las palabras de los profetas ... no entre el pueblo judío.

Celebre el nacimiento y la vida de Cristo como era cuando llegó por primera vez. Manteniendo la fe en que Jesús vendrá otra vez, deberíamos estar arreglando nuestra vida para la Segunda Venida de Cristo.

En tu vida de puntos altos, puntos bajos, caminos que se parten y tienes que hacer una elección ... todo el gozo y todas las pruebas ... lo que tienes ahora es por Cristo. Recuerda que algún día el mundo, o tu mundo, terminará. Algún día serás llamado al cielo y debes estar preparado.

Si ha disfrutado de una vida feliz, no debería haber sido a expensas de los demás. Es de esperar que hayas compartido esa felicidad personal y material del mundo con todos los que has conocido. Tu fe en Dios siempre te ha sostenido. Busque la vida eterna con las personas que lo amaron en la vida y que verá nuevamente en el cielo.

sé optimista ... Haz algo diferente este año. Recuerda lo que dije sobre los comerciales navideños. Piensa: Cristo murió por mí, no digas Felices Fiestas o Saludos de la temporada, di Feliz Navidad y en serio. Dígalo con gusto. Deseo algo de alegría y felicidad a la persona a la que se lo diga.

