

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

T N E P E R B O J A
 H J H U Q A J E E C
 G M S D P O R M R K
 I Q T T R I A T U N
 A K I D F H W R S O
 R S O H A E N E A W
 T N L R O R F S L L
 S X B E Y N A E E E
 Y A M V M S E D M D
 A E D U J A O Y S G
 F R U I T S C P T E
 M U D O O R B R S V
 A O Z S Q T P E U I
 I N D U T R F P C P
 J X I G O O J A O E
 D O S P N B N R L R
 P P H A R I S E E S
 W E I U L C K T H Z
 T S A D D U C E E S

ABRAHAM
 ACKNOWLEDG
 E
 BAPTIST
 BROOD
 CAMELS
 DESERT
 FIRE
 FRUIT

HONEY
 JERUSALEM
 JORDAN
 JUDEA
 KINGDOM
 LOCUSTS
 PHARISEES
 PREPARE
 PROPHET

REPENT
 REPENTANCE
 SADDUCEES
 STONE
 STRAIGHT
 THRESHING
 VIPERS

Catechizing Corner!

John's message demands that listeners, ancient and contemporary, take notice. Those who do not heed the Baptist's message will endure the fires of judgment. The conversion and reordering of relationships demanded by John's new repentance will be evident through our behavior. There is no middle ground. We will either comply or we will be divided at the end. We will either give ourselves over completely to God, uphold the rights of the downtrodden or we will be cast off like the chaff and the wheat. It is a sobering, frightening word! Have we watered it down to accommodate our twentieth century sensibilities? When there are brothers and sisters the world over fighting for justice and peace, where do we stand? Are we so caught up in the concerns of our lives that we, like the Pharisees of John's day, fail to stand in solidarity with the marginalized of the world? We cannot look at John without asking ourselves such questions. "Those who have given their lives [for the cause of justice and peace] are also precursors of Jesus in some way. They are calling us to convert and to prepare the way for the advent of the Lord."

The reign of God, the justice of God, metanoia, conversion—there is so much in today's gospel to consume, chew, and savor. Even though our attention turns to the immediate preparation for the Christ-event at Christmas, gospels such as the one for the Second Sunday of Advent will not allow us to indulge in sentimental piety. We are forced to look at John the herald and ask how we either follow in his steps or hide in his shadow. "We must not speak of God's love coming down at Christmas without remembering that the divine love is fierce in its judgment of those who resist love's demands. John the Baptist warns us that repentance must not be procrastinated."

*Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook,
 Cycle A Paulist Press*



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Disciple's Reflection

for the
 Question
 of the Week

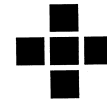
Second Sunday in Advent
 12/4/2022

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
 Matthew 3:1-12

Faith Sharing
 Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is *at hand!*"

It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they *acknowledged* their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees

coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You *brood of vipers!*

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.

And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you,

God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees.

Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in his hand.

He will clear his *threshing floor*

and gather his wheat into his barn,

but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Glossary

At hand means here and now.

To make straight his paths means to make it easy for the Lord to come to you.

To acknowledge means to admit or to confess.

A *brood of vipers* is a nest of many poisonous snakes.

Farmers would harvest wheat and put it on the *threshing floor*, where they would separate the good grain from the chaff (the skins and other unwanted things), which they would blow away using a winnowing fan. God wants us to

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: In your own sphere of influence, what situations call out for justice and peace?

Teens: In our world today where are the places in our society and world where justice is sorely lacking?

Children: What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted us to do?

Families: What does our family need to do to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent