

# Getting Ready for Sunday!



# *The Second Sunday of Advent*

**Matthew 3:1-12**

## *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*



The second purple candle will be lit this Sunday marking the beginning of the second week of preparing for Christmas.

The scene of today's Gospel is in the region of Judea and at the River Jordan.



River Jordan

Region of Judea

## Who was John the Baptist?

- John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin.
- His parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth.
- He was born a few months before Jesus.

Open your Bible to find out more about John the Baptist.

Read Luke 1:5-25 & Luke 1:39-80.



**John the Baptist's purpose in life was to help people to prepare for Jesus' coming. The people were expecting Jesus to come as a great king. John was preparing them to recognise Him as one of themselves; as God who lives in and among us in our ordinary lives.**

**John told them to repent (change their selfish ways to more loving ways).**

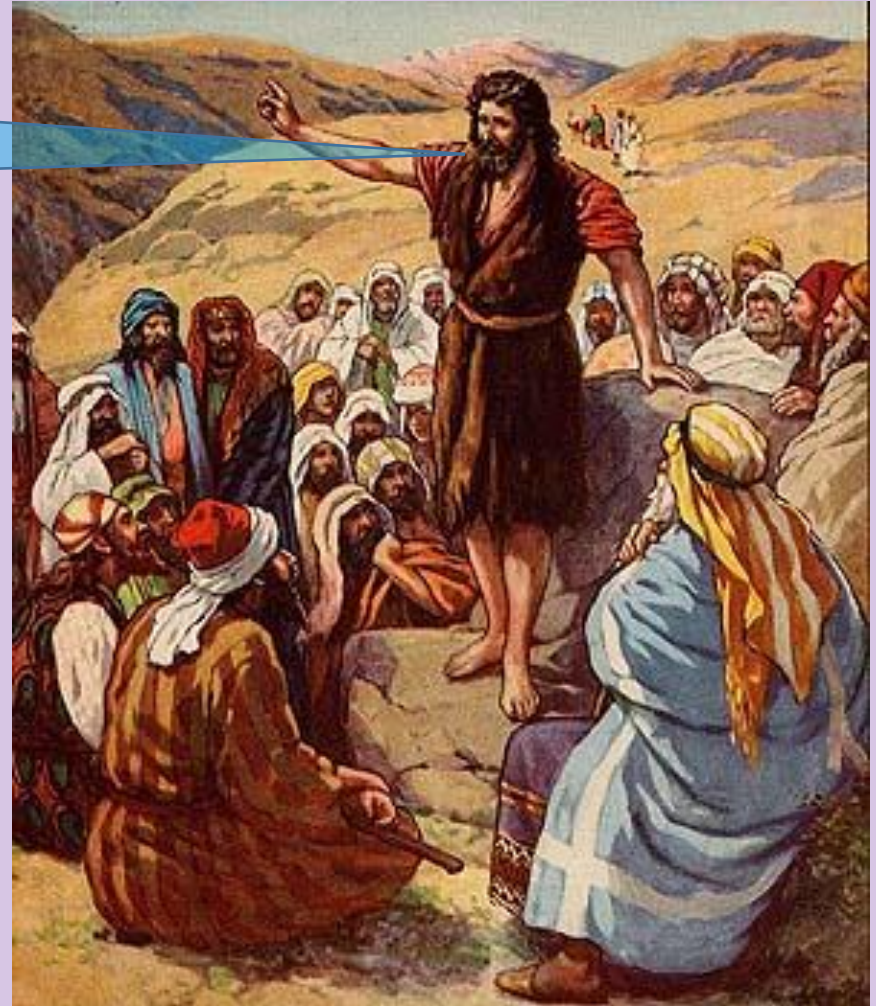
**John provides us with the same message today as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' living among us as Christmas is near.**

**In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming:**

***Repent, for the kingdom  
of heaven has come near.***

**Change from selfish ways!  
God is very near to you right  
now.**

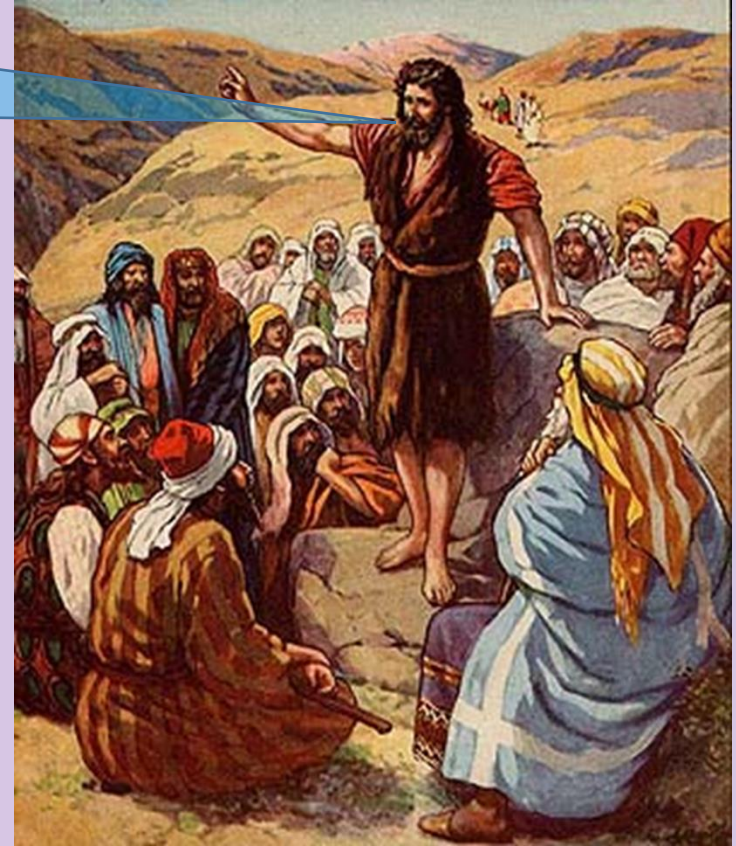
**We bring God to others when  
we are selfless and loving.**



**This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:**

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

The straight path of Christian living is one which is about:  
Loving, caring, helping, fairness, justice, sharing, listening, praying...  
Can we walk this straight path this week?



**Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.**

Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many *Pharisees* and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them:

***You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance.***

John tells the Pharisees that they have no right to baptism unless they are willing to become less selfish and not to judge others harshly.

We have no right to baptism either unless we really wish to follow Jesus!





***Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.***

**You need to get to know who Jesus is first & then to make a real choice to follow Him or not!**

**It is not enough that our parents chose baptism for us, if we do not choose for ourselves also!**

**Jesus is inviting you to follow Him today!**



***I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals.***

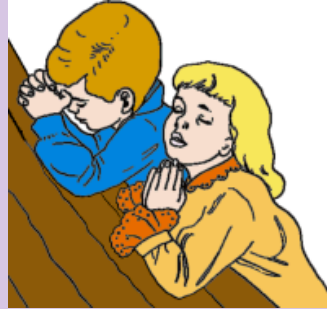
**God is the most powerful Person!  
God is our ever loving Creator and Saviour who wants nothing but the best for all people!**

**God wants the very best for you!**

**How could anyone choose not to follow Jesus?**



**He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'**

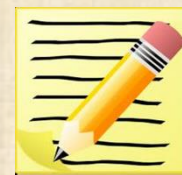


**Only those who build God's kingdom through loving lives can belong to God!  
Selfishness has no place in God's kingdom!  
This is the time to be willing to change from selfish ways!**



the Baptist tells us that we need to repent as we get ready for Jesus' coming!

The word repent means 'to change'.

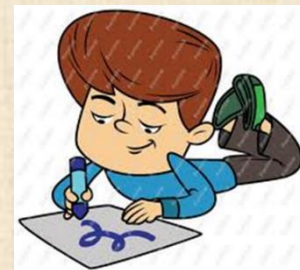


What do you need to change in your life to become more loving like Jesus?

Do you need to help your family more?

Do you need to pray more often?

Do you need to stop asking for more than you need?



When you have decided how you are going to change draw a candle on a piece of paper and as you draw the flame on the candle let that be your promise to try to change.

Bring the picture of your candle to Mass and put it in front of the ambo

## Bible Search

Read **Matthew 3:1-12** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



# Consider



**What change do you need to make in yourself to try to become a more loving person?**

# Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to know how you  
can straighten your path to God this  
week.**

