

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, December 6th

The Second Sunday of Advent

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



What is my role in proclaiming Christ's coming?

First Grade

We proclaim Christ's coming by being thankful and helping others to be thankful as well. What are ten specific things that you are thankful for from last week? Why is it important to thank people and God when they help you? How can you be a good example for others? How can you help others to be more thankful for all of the things that they have?

Second Grade

We proclaim Christ's coming when we follow what Jesus taught us and live as a good example for other people. How are you doing at following the Ten Commandments? Which ones are the easiest and the hardest for you to follow? Would you say that you are a good example? Why or why not? How can you be a better example for the people in your life?

Third and Fourth Grades

We proclaim Christ's coming by being more loving towards the people around us – family, friends, strangers and enemies. How would you explain love, if someone asked what it is. Who are it easiest people in your life to love? Who are the most difficult people to love? What can you do to specifically love those people more this coming week?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

In today's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling people that one that is mightier than him is coming. Who do you think he is talking about? How is that person mightier than him? What people are mightier than you? How do you let people know about other people that they should know? How is Jesus mightier than you? How do you tell people about Jesus?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel, we hear that the prophet Isaiah announced that we should prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His path. How does someone go about making straight the path before God? What things make the path to God crooked or difficult to travel? What can you do to help other people to straighten the path to God?

High School and Adults

Proclaiming Christ's coming doesn't mean changing our whole schedule. Rather, adding Christ into every part of our day. What are some of the things that you know that you have to do this week? How can you bring Christ into each activity? How can you help others to bring Christ into all of the activities that they have to do this week?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

In order to proclaim Christ's coming, we first need to know what Christ's coming is and what it means to us.

While we remember Jesus' first coming, we are preparing for Christ's Second Coming! Today, think, pray and talk about what is important for people to know about Christ's coming? Other than the fact that it is happening, what should people know?

Tuesday

We also need to remember that we do not proclaim Christ's second coming on our own. From whom does our help come? We always have the help of the Holy Spirit! Today, as you go about the day, say Happy Advent to everyone that you see. As you do, you made be nervous or feel strange, but ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be confident and strong!

Wednesday

To be better able to proclaim Christ's coming means that we need to be as close to Him as possible. There are many ways to draw close to God, but the closest we can be with Christ is when we receive Him in the Eucharist. Today, talk with God in prayer asking Him to help you to better understand and believe in the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Thursday

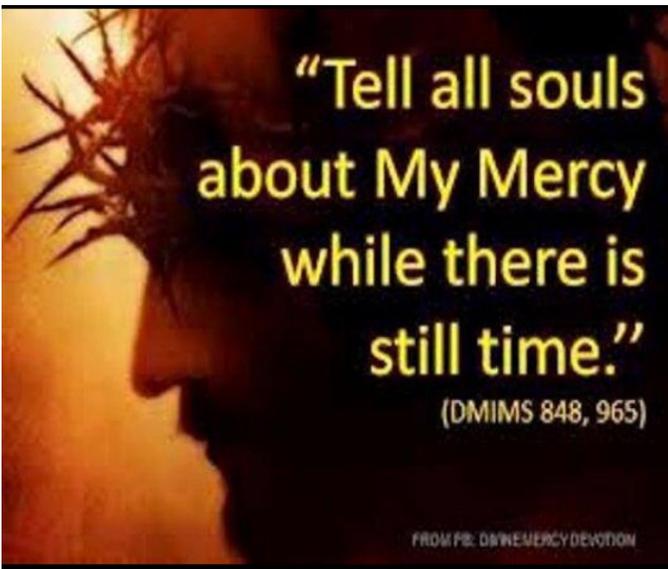
Our role in proclaiming Christ's coming is first to be ready ourselves, so that we are a good example for others. If others are to believe us, that we truly should be ready for Christ's coming, then we first need to believe it and live it ourselves. Today, take time to pray and ask God to show you what you need to do in your own life. Then, take action and draw close to Christ.

Friday

It makes it easier to proclaim Christ's coming when we know that we have the support of others who are doing the same thing. To grow in the confidence of being in a community, you need to take part in the community. What are some of the things happening in the parish this week? Take a look at our website or call the office to find something to participate in.

Saturday

We are called to always be preparing a way for Jesus and making straight His path, by bringing more love, joy, peace and patience into the world. Think about your average day...do you bring love into the world or cause problems for others? Today, make each action you do a loving one! How can you love more today? Bring love into the world, not pain and confusion.



FROM THE CATECHISM...

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites Herself to His desire: 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 524

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11 Luke 1:46-48,49-50,53-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynncatholic.org