



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

1 Thes 5:16-24

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## Who Are You?

**S**o far the readings for Sundays in Advent have shown God leading the people into a new way of life—a way of righteousness and loyalty, of honesty and responsibility. Today the readings show the people beginning to see that the accomplishment of this transformation would come through the leadership of one individual. Who might that person be?

The passage from Isaiah describes a prophet, one anointed by God and bringing good news to the poor. When the Baptist appears on the scene in John's Gospel, people wonder if it might be him. He insists he is not the one, nor is he a prophet. Then, "Who are you?" (John 1:19) Recalling the passage from Isaiah read on the First Sunday of Advent, John tells them he is the one repairing the road, getting it ready for the long-awaited one to arrive. He adds that his baptism is a baptism of repentance. He is readying them to be what Paul describes as "perfectly holy...blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

We now see that these readings are preparing us for salvation. We are now told that such divine graciousness will be inaugurated by an individual, one who has not yet been identified. Will it be a powerful king? A mighty warrior? A spectacular prophet? Those in the time before Christ didn't know. We now know that it will be someone powerful enough to initiate a revolutionary change in the lives of the entire people. Now waiting gets exciting.

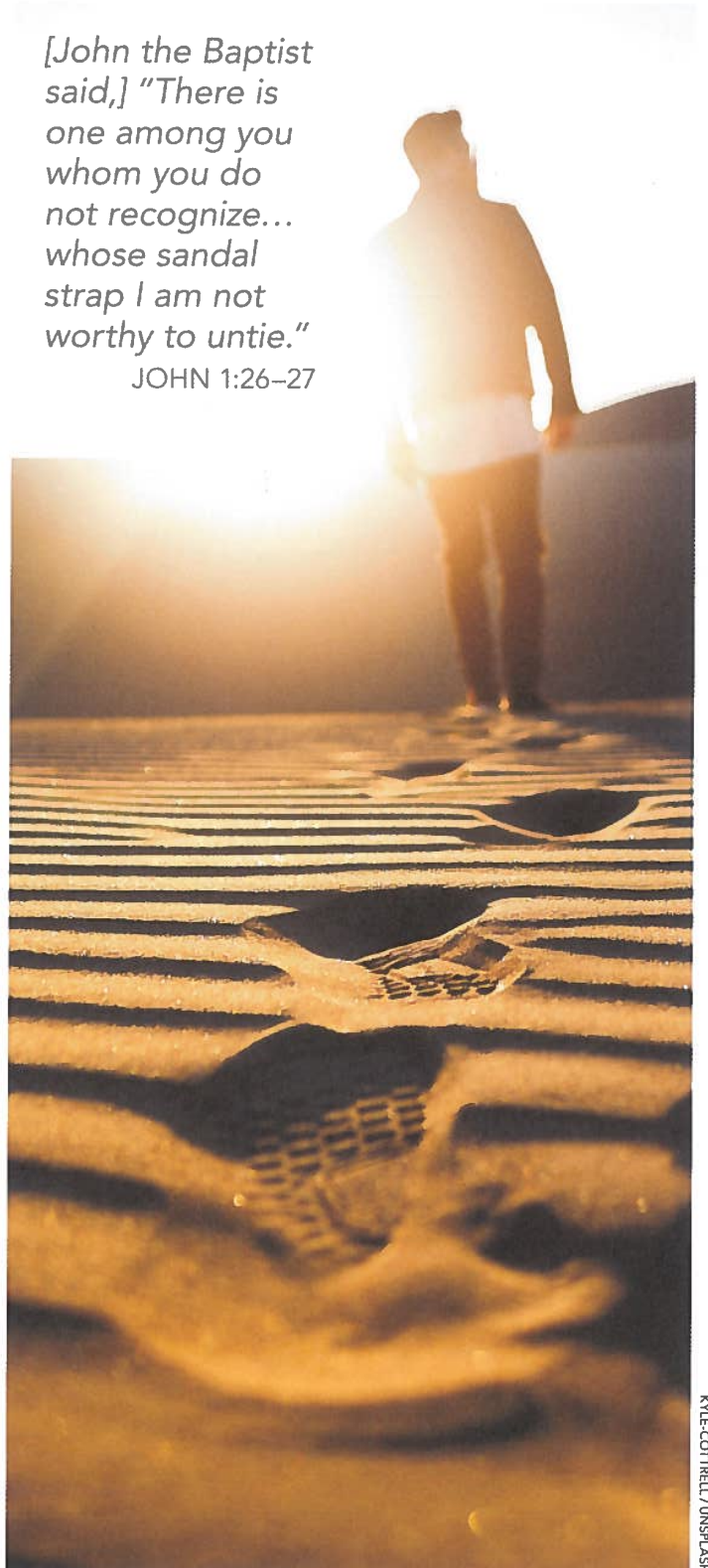
—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- \* How might you envision this long-awaited one?  
What do you think the nation needs in a leader?
- \* What kind of revolutionary transformation do you think we need today?

*[John the Baptist said,] "There is one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."*

JOHN 1:26-27



KYLE-COTTRELL / UNSPLASH



**St. Martin of Tours  
Catholic Community  
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

**Mass Schedule**

**Monday – Thursday, 1205** at Fairfax Chapel

**Saturday, 1700** at Belvoir Chapel

**Sunday, 0930** at Belvoir Chapel

**1100** at Fairfax Chapel

**Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.**

**The link to register is:**

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed  
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday – 1600-1645** at Belvoir Chapel  
or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly  
to schedule.

**For More Information**

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**ADVENT RESOURCES**

*The Archdiocese for the Military Services  
has launched a new faith formation tool for  
families with children grades PreK-12.*

*The **AMS Family Witness to Christ** gives  
Catholic military families access to games,  
videos, challenges and other innovative tools  
to help their domestic church flourish.*

*This amazing tool, created in partnership  
with CatholicBrain.com, is completely free to  
military families. Sign up today by visiting  
[https://amsfamilywitness.catholicbrain.com/  
login](https://amsfamilywitness.catholicbrain.com/login) and using the code: ARC20793.*

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new program by going to:

<https://vimeo.com/451294408>

**JOIN US  
ONLINE**

**Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

**Website:**

[www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com](http://www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com)

**Facebook Page:**

**Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community**

## Homily Notes

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord for he has looked upon his lowly servant. (Luke 3:46-55)*

Thank you to all of you have faithfully served our God in different ministries though out your lives. Hopefully your Christian service and ministry have been affirmed by others. Through our Christian Baptism we have been called into the service of God and his people. What a blessing.

The first parish I pastored was established in the 1810's and the last parish in 1903. It was amazing to see pictures of people throughout the history of the parish who had served in the many ministries. The sacramental records revealed the names of many priests, bishops and deacons who had ministered in the community. I tried to find and post copies of the old pictures of the people and pastors who had passed on a legacy of faithful service in the ministry of God. Much of the history of their lives had been forgotten, but God never forgets.

Mary's Magnificat proclaims her humble recognition of the honor and privilege of being called by God to serve as a part of His plan of salvation. She does not glorify herself, but gives all the glory to God. She has no need to try to build herself up by denigrating deny the work of others. Mary encourages us to follow the humble example of Juan Diego and be ambassador of Christ, "worthy of trust" in the service of God. May the example and prayers of Mary encourage each of us to recognize the honor and privilege of our call to join the legacy of Christian ministry. Rejoice and prepare for the coming of the Lord, as Mary, Juan Diego and John the Baptist did, through humility, prayer, selfless service and in constant gratitude to God.

*Fr. Mike*

## Christmas Eve and Day Masses

You must register for these Masses to attend. The link for these Masses will be available next week.

### **24 December 2020:**

1600 Children's Mass, Belvoir Chapel \* 1800 Family Mass, Fairfax Chapel \* 2300 Vigil Mass, Fairfax Chapel

**25 December 2020:** 0900 Christmas Day Mass, Fairfax Chapel

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Community Outreach



Angel ornaments can be found on the Christmas Tree in the Chapel entrances. Each Angel has information describing items requested by needy families. Take an angel, purchase one or more of the items, and return the gifts unwrapped to the designated collection boxes through Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. All items will be donated to Families living in New Hope Housing.



## Advent Penance

Due to capacity restrictions in our Chapels, we will not host an Advent Penance Service. Rather, Fr. Lindsay will hear confessions on the following days:

**Tues – Wed, 15-16 December  
Saturdays, 1600-1645**

All confessions will be held from 1600-1700 in the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located in Belvoir Chapel. No reservations are required.

# Dear Padre,

## Who was John the Baptist?

**W**hat we know about John the Baptist comes from a combination of Scripture and Church traditions that evolved during and after the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament.

John's parents were Zechariah, who was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Elizabeth, who was related to Mary. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife would bear a son, even though she was quite old. It is believed that John was born in the region of Ain Karim, southwest of Jerusalem. When he was in his early twenties, he was a member of the Qumran community, and later was a hermit in the desert. John began his public ministry in his late twenties in the Jordan River Valley. His preaching followed the long line of Jewish prophets who preached against the evils of the day and demanded inner repentance and outer baptism as a sign of that repentance.

John continued his preaching in the Jordan Valley even after encountering Jesus. Eventually John was arrested by Herod Antipas and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress by the Dead Sea. He was beheaded at the request of Salome, the daughter of Herodias, and buried at Sebaste, in Samaria. After John's death, many of his disciples followed Jesus, including Andrew and John.

John, whose name means "God is gracious," is usually represented in pictures holding a long slender cross with a small lamb partially hidden behind him.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



NICOLAUS OF HAGUENAU AND MATTHIAS GRÜNEWALD: JOHN THE BAPTIST. DETAIL OF THE BETHLEHEM ALTARPIECE

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Anxieties, difficulties, and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert....But the words of [John] the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on the certainty that this desert is inhabited: "Among you there is one whom you do not know."*

—ANGELUS, GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017



## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 14  
Advent Weekday  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 15  
Advent Weekday  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13  
Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 16  
Advent Weekday  
Is 45:6c-8, 18,  
21c-25  
Lk 7:18b-23

### Thursday

DECEMBER 17  
Advent Weekday  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Mt 1:1-17

### Friday

DECEMBER 18  
Advent Weekday  
Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

### Saturday

DECEMBER 19  
Advent Weekday  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25

### Sunday

DECEMBER 20  
Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,  
14a, 16  
Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38