

Second Sunday of Advent

6 December 2020

They acknowledged their sins. (Mark 1:5)

John the Baptist is often called the “precursor” or the “forerunner” of Christ because he prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. But why was this preparation necessary in the first place? Mark gives us a clue when he calls John’s baptism “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (1:4). John knew that sin kept people far from God, so he offered them the only remedy to help them receive Jesus when he came: repentance and forgiveness.

During Advent, we too are preparing for the coming of the Messiah, and part of that preparation also involves repentance. Like the people coming to the Jordan River, we know we have sinned and need forgiveness. And just as it did for them, repentance—even for minor sins—softens our hearts and opens us to Jesus and his grace.

How does this happen? Repentance requires us to take a spiritual inventory of what needs to change in our lives—of where we have fallen short of God’s commands. We don’t have to do this alone; if we ask him, the Holy Spirit will help us search our hearts and will gently reveal our sins to us. Then, when we see where we have strayed, the Spirit helps us see how deeply we need his grace. That causes us to go to Jesus more often and cling to him more tightly. When we experience God cleansing us of our sins, we can’t help but be filled with thanksgiving for his abundant love and for his unfailing, never-ending mercy.

So make it a point to try to get to Confession before Christmas. Let repentance become a daily practice as well so that you can keep your conscience clean of all those sins that can pile up and obscure your relationship with Christ. Repentance is powerful. God will use it not only to cleanse you but to soften your heart and draw you closer to himself.

“Jesus, give me the grace to recognize my sin and repent.”

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator



Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during December 2020/January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

Deck the halls safely

As we continue under Covid-19 restrictions, many families will be celebrating Christmas entirely in their own homes this year, in place of parties and traditional holiday outings. Keep basic safety guidelines in mind as you decorate. Use surge protectors and outlet strips for extra lights around the house and tree, and make sure to cover unused sockets to keep little hands and fingers out. Inspect your lights and any battery-operated decorations to make sure they are working properly; frayed light strands and old batteries could be fire hazards. For more tips on decorating safely, read the VIRTUS article "Creating a Safe Christmas Celebration" at <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

Thank you

The beautiful **flowers** on the altar were donated by *Marilyn Moore* in loving memory of **CLIFFORD HAMILTON AND JOHANNA HAMILTON**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Stewardship Thought

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 13, 2020 Retirement Fund for Religious Offering Give thanks for religious...

Please give generously to next week's offering for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Weekly Offering for November 29, 2020 \$3,200.00 Tithe and Offering

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vyldred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams and Herbert Young.