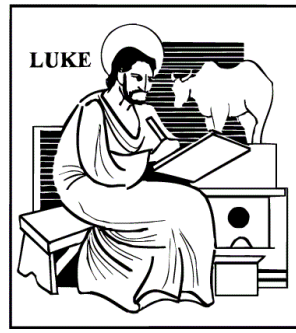
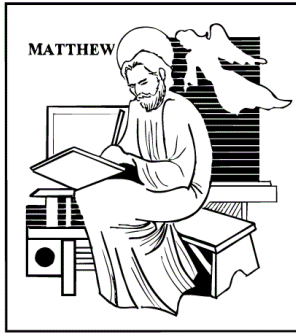


Breaking Open the Word



December 7, 2014 Second Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 5 Gospel [mk 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."

Spiritual Reflection: At first the description of John sounds a little weird to us but a little study of the Old Testament and we discover this is how Elijah the prophet dressed and what he ate. In a way John's clothing and actions show that he is a prophet. What do our actions say about who we are?

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does the way you (and only you don't focus on others) dress say about you?
2. What actions do you do that allow people to know that you are a Catholic?
3. What words or actions at Mass do you wish that you understood better?
4. John realized that Jesus was so much more than he was. How do you take into account God's greatness?
5. What does it mean to be baptized?