

## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

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### The Preaching of John the Baptist

LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.  
Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

#### FUN FACT

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The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates that Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of her life (conception) in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It is celebrated on December 8th and is a Holy Day of Obligation.



#### TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE GOSPEL

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1. Read the upcoming Sunday Gospel a few days before the weekend. Listen to what God is saying to you personally.
2. Select part of the Gospel ahead of time and share it with your children. Have them listen for this part during Mass.
3. Don't be afraid to let kids ask honest questions. Be honest if you don't know something. Tell your child you will look into it and get back to them.



#### EXPLORING THE GOSPEL

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Either before or after a Sunday meal together, designate one person to read the Gospel. Other family members should listen attentively. Then have each family member share an insight about the Gospel.

Discuss the following questions as a family:

- John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. Why was it important for people to prepare for his coming? What did John ask them to do?
- If Jesus was coming to your house, what would you prepare?

FAMILY FUN  
Celebrating St. Nicholas



The feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated on December 6th. This feast is celebrated around the world in various cultures. In some countries, children put their shoes by the door at night before in hopes of finding a treat in the morning. Consider starting a tradition of sharing the story of St. Nicholas and celebrating the feast day with your family. Consider borrowing or purchasing books about this Catholic saint. (Or visit [www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas](http://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas))



FAMILY PRAYER  
2nd Sunday of Advent Prayer

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

**Leader:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

*A reader proclaims Isaiah Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** This wreath reminds us of God's promise and his never-ending love. We light this candle to remind us that John the Baptist calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus. What should we pray for tonight?

*(Family members share intentions)*

**Leader:** We lift all of these intentions and those in our hearts up to you as we pray the prayer You taught us. Our Father...

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Father in heaven,  
Set our hearts ablaze  
to follow in the steps of John the Baptist.  
May we bring light and love to all we meet,  
that the darkness of sin and fear  
may be overcome.  
In Christ's name we ask this.

**All:** Amen.



RECIPE OF THE WEEK  
Homemade  
Alfredo Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup shredded asiago cheese

DIRECTIONS:

1. Brown the garlic in olive oil on a medium-sized pan.
2. Reduce heat and add whipping cream, butter, and cheese to the pan
3. Stir until thickened.
4. Serve over pasta of your choice.

*Submit your own favorite snack, dessert, or dinner recipe online at [www.stmarysbismarck.org/reclaiming-sundays](http://www.stmarysbismarck.org/reclaiming-sundays)*