

2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Spirit Parish Children's Liturgy

Preparation – Read through the liturgy.

Welcome – Welcome the children and introduce your selves, both leaders and helpers. With a small group you may invite the children to introduce themselves as well.

Introduction: With Christmas just around the corner, we often have family and friends come to our homes to visit over the holidays. When this happens, we find ourselves cleaning our houses and preparing for our company. What if you were expecting a king to visit? How would we prepare? Let's listen to today's Gospel and find out!

Lighting the Advent Wreath: (If you don't have a wreath, show the children a picture of one.)

“Light” one purple candle and say the following prayer having the children respond with Amen.

God, you love us so much you want to be among us and share your life with us. Make us ready to welcome you by following your ways and living at peace with one another. We ask you to do this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(stand)

(At this time invite volunteers to hold candles and the book just like the servers do for Father when he proclaims the gospel.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia

Change your lives, he's coming.

The one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Change your lives, he's coming. The Lord is coming soon!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-18 (please stand)

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Glory to you, Lord

Cross on forehead = keep the gospel in my mind

Cross on lips = keep the gospel in my speech

Cross on heart = keep the gospel in my heart

Or

Cross on forehead = help me to know the truth

Cross on lips = help me to speak the truth

Cross on heart = help me to love the truth

(Gospel to be proclaimed from the Children's Lectionary (green book))

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection. *Dialogue*

Sit (if you can, share the reflection in your own words with the children)

Long before Jesus was born, a prophet named Isaiah said that before Jesus would be born, there would be one who would come before him to prepare the way for him. His name was John the Baptist. The Bible tells us that John was like a voice, crying in the wilderness, telling people that Jesus was coming and that they needed to prepare for his coming.

When John told people that they needed to prepare for the coming of Jesus, he wasn't talking about a clean house. He was talking about a clean heart. He told the people that they needed to confess their sins, repent, and be baptized, so that they would be ready to meet the coming King.

Jesus, the King was born. This is the season when we celebrate his birth. The Bible also tells us that he coming again and that we must be ready for his return. How about you? Are you ready to meet the King?

Creed:

Do you believe in God, who is a generous and loving God?

Do you believe in Jesus who came so long ago and will come again someday?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who helps us follow Jesus?

Intercessions: *(have the children stand for the intercessions)*

Response: **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all us us as we prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth, we pray to the Lord,... *(response)*

That we may be ready for the day when Jesus comes again, we pray to the Lord,...*(response)*

That we can be like John and let others know about Jesus and how we should be ready for when he comes again, we pray to the Lord,...*(response)*

Ask the children what they would like to pray for, following each with the response.

Concluding Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we celebrate our Savior's birth and look forward to his return, help us to make sure that our hearts are clean and ready for his return. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Activity: Colouring sheets.

Please remind the children to return quietly to their family.

B- 2nd Sunday of Advent

Family Connection

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,

by the light of the Holy Spirit

you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit

help us to relish what is right

and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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JOHN THE BAPTIST



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Change your lives, he's coming.
The one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
Change your lives, he's coming. The Lord is coming soon!
Alleluia, alleluia! "The Lord is coming soon."

(After Gospel, repeat last line of Acclamation.)

GOSPEL: *Mark 1:1-8*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

This is the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Isaiah, the prophet, wrote:

"I am sending my messenger to prepare the way for you.
He will proclaim,
'Prepare the way for the coming of God!
Make a straight path for our God!'"

And so, John the Baptizer came,
telling everyone to change their lives and be baptized
so their sins would be forgiven.

Many people around Jerusalem went to the desert to see John.
They confessed their sins, and were baptized in the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made from the hair of camels,
and he wore a leather belt around his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey.

When he preached, he always said,

"Someone else is coming after me,
He is more powerful than I am.
I am not even worthy to undo his sandals.
I am baptizing you in water,
but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.