



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

A Highway for Our God

Father, from the beginning, you have revealed yourself. You have called us to walk in your ways. We wait for you to bring to fulfillment the work you are doing from the creation of the earth to today. We wait in hope. Help us to do our small part to make a path for you, a highway for our God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Foster Care/ W.H.O. Christmas Project

If you are participating in the Foster Care/Whole Health Outreach Christmas project and have not returned your gift item, you are reminded to **return your tag and unwrapped gift to the designated table in the gathering area this weekend. If you purchased a gift card, please bring it to the parish office on Monday.** All gifts must be returned to the parish office by Monday so they can be checked and recorded before additional shopping is done. In addition to the gift you may be giving, please pray for foster children, their families, and the foster families who care for them.

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, continues this weekend through next Sunday. At each Novena the Rosary will be prayed along with special prayers of intercession to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Novenas take place at the following times in church.

- Saturday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 5, at 4:00 p.m. (after the 3:00 p.m. Mass)
- Monday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 8, at 8:00 p.m. (after 7:00 p.m. Holy Day Mass)
- Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 12 -- Mañanitas (Morning Praise) at 5:00 a.m., Mass at 3:00 p.m. with Fiesta following in the Parish Center gym

Everyone is Welcome!



1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, December 6 St. Nicholas

6:30 am Jaku Showry ☩

Tuesday, December 7 St. Ambrose

6:30 am Leo and Dominic Meyer (living)

5:15 pm Richard Hagedorn ☩

Wednesday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 am Jeanette Dohogne ☩

12:10 pm Alex Powderly ☩

5:15 pm Living and Deceased Members of the
Glen and Bessie Grojean Family

7:00 pm Juana Aceves ☩
(Bilingual)

Thursday, December 9 St. Juan Diego

6:30 am Blaine and Lucille Swan ☩

8:00 am Elizabeth (Libby) M. Cates ☩

Friday, December 10

6:30 am Bertha Langston ☩

8:00 am Patrick Faricy (living)

Saturday, December 11 St. Damasus I

6:30 am Margorie and Gene Littleton ☩

5:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Ron Roth ☩

9:00 am Charles Grojean, Sr. ☩

10:45 am Living and Deceased Members of the
St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council

3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory ☩
(Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Ben McKuin**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for the homebound of the parish.



Livestreamed Masses

Each weekend, the Mass celebrated here at St. Vincent is livestreamed and available to view on the St. Vincent de Paul Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/svcape/>). The video is also available to view after Masses on the parish website (www.svcape.com). Most of the live feeds will be at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass to allow for the longest viewing time.

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

Nourish Your Soul This Advent

Take a few minutes each day this Advent to prepare your heart, mind, and soul for Christmas. Check out these two *fantastic* programs to guide your Advent journey.



more *joyful* life. Sign up to receive a daily email with a 5 to 6 minute program video at <https://reallifecatholic.com>.



LIVING JOY: 9 rules that will change your life video series based on Chris Stefanik's recent book of the same name. In this video series, the ever-entertaining, down-to-earth, straight to the point Stefanik shows you nine simple rules you can use every day to build new habits, change your thinking, and actually live a

BEST ADVENT EVER by *Dynamic Catholic* is based on Matthew Kelly's latest book, *Life is Messy*.

Matthew's inspirational daily videos will guide you to choose the things that draw you to the light and help you overcome worry, fear, procrastination, negative self-talk, toxic relationships. Sign up for your daily email at <https://bestadventever.com>.

Men's Association Christmas Mass and Dinner

All men of the parish, ages 18 and older, are invited to the annual St. Vincent de Paul Men's Association Christmas Mass and Dinner on Monday, December 6. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Old St. Vincent Church. Immediately following Mass, there will be a smoked chicken dinner hosted by Kolhfeld Distributing. Bring a friend to celebrate the Christmas season with Mass, Christmas carols, and fellowship with the men of the parish. For more information, contact Trent Summers at 573-230-0120 or trent@rlci.com.

*"Let us love God my brothers, let us love God.
But let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow."*
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Remember a Loved One at Christmas

During the upcoming Christmas season, you are welcome to honor a loved one while making a contribution toward Christmas decorations. An ornament in your loved one's honor will be placed on a Christmas tree and his/her name will be posted next to the tree. **Place your donation in the collection basket next weekend or return to the parish office by Monday, December 13, along with the following information.**

Name of loved one _____

Donation _____ Person making donation _____

May She Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of
Martha Klipfel Eftink, mother of Pat Brase.

*May she and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



Woman's Council Meeting

The December meeting of the Council of Catholic Women will be held on Monday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the lower meeting room. Refreshments will be served but there will not be a meal.

If you wish to participate in a lively gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift item. Birthright donations will be appreciated. Items needed are hooded bath towels, bottle brushes, lotion, body wash, 0-3 months and 3-6 month winter outfits/sleepers for both boys and girls.

All women of the parish are members of the Council and are invited to this fun evening!

NEW!!

Young Adult

Tuesday Night Thrive

Feeling alone, restless, or unfulfilled in the Faith or in life in general? Longing for more? Come! Join other young adult Catholic (ages 18-40) from a variety of parishes as together you can seek to thrive. Upcoming Sunday Scriptures will be read and their meaning for your own daily lives will be discovered. Find community and a better way forward. This will take place weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the old convent, 815 Caruthers Avenue, Cape Girardeau. Enter through the door facing the parking lot. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. For questions contact Carlee at idCapeinfo@gmail.com. Don't just live. Thrive!



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 7

5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8

6:30 a.m. • 12:10 p.m. • 5:15 p.m. • 7:00 p.m. (Bilingual)

The money collected during the Masses on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will benefit the LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home of Southeast Missouri, a housing program for pregnant women which also provides healthcare and social services.



*The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 8,
in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.*

Woman's Council Bake Sale

Next weekend, December 11-12, the Women's Council will host a bake sale after all Masses. The items available will be packaged for gift giving. This is an excellent opportunity to pick up gift items for friends, co-workers and service personnel. Please be generous and support the efforts of the Women's Council.



• The Week Ahead •

Monday, December 6

8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
6:00 pm Women's Council Meeting/Party
6:00 pm Men's Association Meeting/Party
7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Tuesday, December 7

8:00 am Confirmation Prep (SVS)
6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study
6:30 pm St. Francis de Sales
7:00 pm i.d.Cape
7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Wednesday, December 8

9:00 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour
5:15 pm PSR - Holy Day Mass
8:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Thursday, December 9

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)
9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study
5:30 pm Centering Prayer
7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Friday, December 10

7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Saturday, December 11

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 12:00 noon)
3:30 pm Reconciliation
6:00 pm Women's Council Bake Sale
7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Sunday, December 12

5:00 am Mañanitas (Morning Praise)
Women's Council Bake Sale
after Masses
9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word
4:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta

Readings - December 12, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-18a • Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Collection - November 28, 2021

Collection	\$24,440.02
E-Tithing	\$ 337.00
Total	\$24,777.02
Weekly Budget	\$31,450.00
Difference (7-1 to 11-28)	\$ 1,243.86

*Thank you for being good
stewards of God's gifts!*

• Contact Information •

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University
deacontom@ccmin.org / 573-335-7667

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coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Debbie Wells, Receptionist

dwells@svparish.com / 573-335-7667



Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24

Christmas Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m. • 6:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25

Christmas Mass of the Dawn

8:00 a.m. (Church)

Mass of the Day

10:00 a.m. • 12:00 noon- Bilingual

Please Note:

There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 25.

On Christmas, all parishes of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau will be conducting a collection to help fund the education of seminarians and help to meet the needs of retired priests. This is an opportunity to show gratitude for those who have and those who will serve the diocese. You are asked to use Faith Direct or the envelope in your envelope packet.

Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

(Holy Day)

New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31

5:15 p.m.

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1

6:30 a.m. • 9:00 a.m.



Do you feel called to welcome the stranger? Do you enjoy talking to old and new faces? If so, the hospitality committee might be the place for you! For more info or to join, reach out to RaeAnne Kloss at rakloss70@gmail.com.

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau.

☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.

☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.

☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.



Baptismal Prep

Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class before a child is baptized in the Catholic faith. The next class is scheduled for Sunday, December 19, at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in the upper meeting room. Contact the parish office to register and to fill out a baptismal registration form.

Marian Consecration

I am excited to announce an opportunity to consecrate ourselves and our parish to Our Most Blessed Mother. There is an urgent need for heaven to intercede in the life of our families, the Church, and our world, and for us to place ourselves under the care and direction of the Blessed Mother by consecrating our lives to her.

For those who are new to consecrations, you may be asking yourself what is a Marian Consecration? What does it mean? The Gospel of John 19:26-27 says, "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." A Marian Consecration is the gift Jesus gives to us from the Cross, of His own Mother as our Mother. He invites us to accept Mary into our own hearts as our Mother and bring Her into our own home. That we share with Her our own joys, hopes, sorrows, fears, and that we walk with Mary who is always leading us to Jesus. Through consecration to Mary you are saying, "Yes, Jesus I accept this gift that you give to me of Mary as my spiritual Mother." I receive Her, I love her, and I allow Her to form me in holiness just as She formed You.

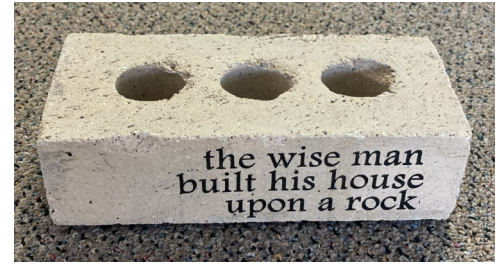
The program we will be using is Mary's Mantle Consecration: A Spiritual Retreat for Heaven's Help. This retreat is an amazing and unique program that has resulted in miracles in the lives and hearts of its participants and their loved ones.

Our consecration will begin on February 8 and will conclude on the Feast of the Annunciation, which is March 25. The consecration consists of a daily rosary, daily two-minute readings, journal writing, daily reflections and simple fasting. All of this can be done from your home, but there will also be an optional weekly meeting to view an inspirational video, which will be followed by discussion topics that allows you to grow deeper in your spiritual life. The optional weekly meetings will be held on Monday's in the upper meeting room of church beginning February 7 at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude March 21 (excluding the week of March 14, which is Parish Mission week). This program is open for individuals, families, couples, anyone that wants to learn more about their faith and grow closer to Jesus through Our Blessed Mother. Cost of the program is \$10 and includes the Mary's Mantle Consecration book and prayer journal.

Please stop by the table in the gathering area after the Masses this weekend, December 4-5, or December 11-12 for more information and to sign up. There will also be an informational meeting on Monday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the upper meeting room. If you are unable to attend the informational meeting and would like to sign up or get more information please contact me at krissi.priest@yahoo.com. Deadline to sign up is December 15.

It is time now, more than ever, to seek the protection and guidance from Our Blessed Mother.

~ Krissi Davis



Souvenir Rectory Bricks

If you missed the St. Vincent Christmas Bazaar, you may be interested in purchasing a souvenir brick from the old rectory (1961-2021). The bricks are imprinted with a Bible verse and are available at the parish office for \$10. There is a limited number, so stop by soon!



A Ministry of Outreach and Service

Are you being called to Outreach and Service in our parish and community? If so, I invite you to join me in visioning how our parish can better serve the needs of other parishioners and those in the broader Cape Girardeau community. The founding principle of "serve one another through love" (Galations 5:13) follows in the legacy of our parish's namesake, St. Vincent de Paul and in supports the vision of **Loving Jesus, Serving Jesus, Sharing Jesus**. Please contact me through the parish office if you feel called to a ministry of outreach and service. ~ Deacon Mark

St. Denis Advent Mission

You are invited to join the members of St. Denis Parish for a special Advent Mission on Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. (refreshments following) and Wednesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. The presenter for the parish mission will be Deacon Tom Schumer, Director of SEMO's Catholic Campus Ministry and a Deacon here at St. Vincent. Deacon Tom is also the Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo program. Come one or both nights to deepen your faith during this special time of year. St. Denis Catholic Church is located at 135 N. Winchester, Benton, Missouri.

Catholic calendars for the year 2022 are available at all church entrances. Thank you to Ford and Sons Funeral Home for making these calendars available to the St. Vincent Parish family.

Christmas Cards for Priests, Sisters, Deacons, and Seminarians

As you write your Christmas cards this year, remember the priests, sisters, deacons, and seminarians who served St. Vincent Parish in the past.

Father Milton Ryan, CM
Holy Trinity Parish
3826 Gilbert Ave.
Dallas, TX 75219

Father Charles Prost, CM
Saint Catherine Laboure Parish
9740 Sappington Road
St. Louis, MO 63128

Father Derek Swanson, CM
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
621 W. Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Father David Hulshof
North American College
Via del Gianicolo, 14
Rome, RM, Italy 00165

Father Rahab Isidor
St. Lawrence Parish
503 7th Street
Monett, MO 65708

Father Joseph Stoverink
Sacred Heart Parish
1050 W. Business Highway 60-63
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Father David Baunach
St. Eustachius Parish
200 W. Fourth Street
Portageville, MO 63873

Father Francisco "Paco" Gordillo
Sacred Heart Parish
P.O. Box 470
Webb City, MO 64870

Father Bobby Manso
Congregation of the
Mother of the Redeemer
1900 Grand Avenue
Carthage, MO 64836

Mr. David Kiblinger, SJ
196A Foster Street
Boston, MA 02135

Sister Theresa Davey, OSU
2520 St. James Road
Springfield, IL 62707

Sister Susan Kienzler, OSU
Unione Romana dell'Ordine di S Orsola
Casa Generalizia
Via Nomentana 236
00162 Roma Italy

Required Minimum Distributions

If you have reached the age of 70½ and have an IRA, there are tax advantages you may wish to consider. Gifts made to charitable organizations will not be treated as taxable income and may result in a substantial tax benefit. Please contact Cheryl Oberhaus at the parish office for more information.

Vincent's Vittles

A big "shout out" to **Immediate Convenient Care and Cape Primary Care of Saint Francis Medical Center and the Third Order Secular Franciscans** who hosted **Vincent's Vittles** in November. A traditional Thanksgiving meal was served to 85 community members and parishioners. Also, thanks to those who provided a variety of many tasty desserts! Thanks to all who helped in any way and to those who came to enjoy the food and fellowship.



If you as an individual or group would like to help with this rewarding community meal, please contact Deacon Mark.

There will not be a meal in December. The next Vincent Vittles meal will be on January 29. Plan to attend and invite a friend to come!



Join us for the 33rd Annual Holiday Home Tour

hosted by Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

This fun-filled, virtual tour will guide you through six festively decorated homes beginning December 11, 2021 and features decorating tips and tricks with Cindy Buchheit of Unique Ambiance.

Your \$25 ticket purchase automatically includes a chance to win:

A fully-decorated, 7 1/2 foot Christmas Tree
on display at Heartland Custom Flooring through December 10,
decorations courtesy of Signature Homestyles by Becky Riney

OR

An amazing Gift Basket full of Holiday Cheer
on display at Patrick Furniture through Dec. 10

Earn extra chances to win by visiting
a display location.



For questions, call
Christy at 573-380-5277

Tickets can be
purchased by
check or cash
at one of the following
ticket outlets:

Heartland Custom Flooring
Patrick Furniture

To purchase tickets by credit
card, visit lfcsmo.org/2021-tour
or text HOMETOUR to 50155

Journeying through Advent

St. Nicholas

Monday, December 6

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century who was known for his generosity, one sign of which was leaving coins in the shoes of people who left them out for him. He is also said to have secretly given money to a family to provide funds so the daughters could marry. Nicholas suffered under persecution and defended the Church teaching about the Trinity at a time when it was disputed. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children. To honor him today, you might choose to do an act of kindness secretly, just as he did. *Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 5:17-26.*

St. Ambrose

Tuesday, December 7

St. Ambrose was the bishop of Milan in the fourth century and a doctor of the Church. He wrote music that is used in the Liturgy of the Hours during Advent even today. Regarding care for the poor, St. Ambrose said it was not charity but a debt to those who were in need. Celebrate St. Ambrose's feast day by contributing to an agency that serves the poor in your community. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13; Matthew 18:12-14.*

Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 8

God prepared Mary for her unique role in salvation history from the moment she was conceived. The special grace she received even before she was born helped give her the courage to say, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's yes changed the world. Each one of us has the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world every single day. How can you respond with the same wholehearted yes as the Mother of God? *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38.*

St. Juan Diego

Thursday, December 9

Today the Church celebrates St. Juan Diego, the patron saint of indigenous peoples. The Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego near Mexico City in the sixteenth century, a time when people of his culture were treated as less than those who had come from Europe. Mary's apparition and its miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma embodied many elements of indigenous culture. This event was the beginning of something new for the peoples of the Americas. God is imaged in all people and all cultures. By listening to the stories of people who are different from us, we can participate in what God is doing in the world. *Today's readings: Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Matthew 11:11-15.*

Peace

Friday, December 10

In Isaiah we hear about the possibility of peace flowing like a river. Life is full of conflict and misunderstanding. Relationships that seemed unbreakable can be torn apart by simple difficulties. When we consider the kingdom of God, of participating in God's peace forever, it fills us with hope. While at Mass, focus on what it must mean for Christ's peace to be with you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Matthew 11:16-19.*

Our Only Hope

Saturday, December 11

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus predicts his passion. It is an interesting thing to consider the cross during the season of Advent, when we await the Lord's coming. Yet the shadow of the cross is always present in the life of Jesus. In this season of hope, we look at the cross, our only hope, and see in it the resurrection and the possibility it contains: God filling the earth as water covers the sea. *Today's readings: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13.*

Sunday, December 5

All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God

Today's readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philemon 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6. John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of our Lord, are our examples for how to live during Advent. Both waited, watched, and prepared. They did then what we hope to do now.

Today, we hear John proclaim that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God." As John preaches, teaches, and baptizes in the wilderness, he focuses on what God is doing: God is saving. John performs his task. He makes straight a path. He clears the way.

John is called by God within the prophetic tradition of the people of Israel. We hear it when he quotes Isaiah and in the echo of those words in the prophet Baruch. Rooted in the people of Israel and in Scripture, John has practice listening to God's voice. In the wilderness, he hears that God is doing something new. God is bringing all flesh into the plan of salvation, as foretold in the prophets of old.

God was inaugurating the promised kingdom of justice and peace, creating a new heaven and a new earth. John called the people to turn away from the ways that had fallen short of God's vision for them, and people flocked to him because they saw the world's brokenness and knew that God had promised something different. Something new.

We wait in hope for the fullness of this same kingdom. Like John, we are called to prepare its way. How has God invited you to make straight his paths?

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