

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY OF THE DAY

Mark's Gospel begins by introducing us to John the Baptist, who prepared the way to Jesus by calling people to acknowledge their sins and receive a baptism of repentance. Are we prepared to welcome Jesus into the world? To do so properly, we need to acknowledge our sins and receive forgiveness for the wrong we have done. As we celebrate today's liturgy, let us keep in mind our failings and resolve to keep Jesus in our minds and hearts as we interact with others.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isiah 40:1-5 Prepare the way of the Lord.
*Psalms 85 "Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation."*
*2 Peter 3:8-14 We await new heavens and a
new earth.*
*Mark 1:1-8 Make straight the paths of the
Lord.*

Our God is a compassionate God and each Scripture passage we hear today reminds us of this. The people of Isaiah's time are living in exile, but Isaiah assures them that the Lord has not abandoned them. The author of Second Peter assures Christians that God is patient, allowing time for all to come to repentance. In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist proclaims forgiveness from God through baptism. As we face difficulties in life, let us remember that we are not alone: our compassionate God is always ready to comfort and forgive.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 4:00 PM	<i>Dec. 9th, Vincent Micele RIP Parishioners Intentions</i>
Sunday 8:30 AM	<i>Dec. 10th, Second Sunday of Advent, Parishioners Intentions</i>
Monday 8:30 AM	<i>Dec. 11th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions</i>
Tuesday 8:30 AM	<i>Dec. 12th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions</i>
Wednesday 8:30 AM	<i>Dec. 13th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions</i>
Thursday 8:30 AM	<i>Dec. 14th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions</i>
Friday 10:00 AM Fountain	<i>Dec. 15th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions</i>

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what ways do I feel parched, spiritually or emotionally? How can Jesus' presence satisfy my thirst? How can I prepare myself for Christ's presence?

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Monica Pangaldi, Marianne Foreman, Peggy Ostertag, Richard Lawrence, Sig Mueller, Roberta Micele, Linda Warburton, Barbara Roben, Mona Fike, Jody Correro, John Nicholson, Curtis Jackson, Greg Warner, Kelly Lightsey, Margi Bockweg, Cathy Banks, John Loria, Nathan Collins, Barbara Northrop, and Susan Tanney. Please see Father Brown to update the list or to arrange for a visit to a homebound or hospitalized.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP
YOUR BOX OF ENVELOPES FOR
2018 AND SIGN THE SHEET ON THE
TABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH**

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

OFFERTORY	\$ 4,058.00
BUILDING FUND	\$ <u>1.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 4,059.00

BUILDING FUND
MONTH TO DATE

\$ 1.00

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFERTORY	\$ 1,551.00
YARD SALE	\$ <u>503.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,054.00

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE
RELIGIOUS

Dec. 16-17 Help our religious communities

PRAYING DURING ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In this first week of Advent, let us focus on preparing our hearts and souls for the great feast of Christmas. We are, in a certain way, invited to the celebration of his birthday as we attend Midnight Mass or the Mass on Christmas morning. In Christ, there is no time barrier or limitation - we are not celebrating an anniversary. We are celebrating the real moment of Christ's birth. So we want to come prepared to celebrate. From a spiritual

perspective, are my clothes dirty? Does anger or hatred, bitterness or jealousy soil the garment of my soul? Do addictions of any kind blind or deafen me to the voice of God? From what do I need to repent? What gift of myself will I give him this Christmas? Take some time - real time, not just a moment - and ask God what gift of yourself you could offer him this Christmas that would help you to be more his son/daughter, more his disciple. Take time each day this week to reflect. God will always forgive if we repent and turn to him. Let's begin to get ready for a true celebration of Christmas. Go to confession sometime this week, if at all possible, and honestly, humbly repent in whatever way you need to do so.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist went before Christ to announce his coming and to help prepare those who would listen to be ready to receive him. Each of us is called, too, to prepare the way for the Lord coming anew in our heart. How do we do that? This week, think about whether your life reflects the truth that you belong to Christ. By your thoughts, words and actions, do you help prepare others to receive the Gospel in some needed area of their lives? St. Josemaria Escriva said this in a homily:

"We are called to be witnesses and precursors...we have to show others the way...we should struggle to make our actions remind others of Jesus and his most lovable personality. We have to act in such a way that others will be able to say, when they meet us: This man/woman is a Christian...because he/she is willing to make sacrifices, because he is a man/woman of peace, because he/she knows how to love."

Use this week to focus on your relationships and on how you treat the stranger on the street, or in the store. Receive the mercy of God; give it to others.