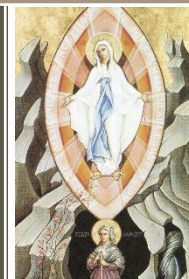


OUR LADY OF LOURDES TORONTO



Sunday, December 6, 2020 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Kids@Mass



In this Issue >>>

- Welcome
- Sharing God's Word together:
*John the Baptist:
Prepare the Way of
the Lord.*
- Kid's Korner
- Parent's Resources:
*Christmas Tree and
Nativity Scene
blessings*
- Coming Soon

This Week's Gospel >>>

Making a fresh start:

John the Baptist told the people to ask for God's forgiveness and to change their ways. God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start.

"Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord."

Pslam 147

Hello Parents!

So much is happening in these days, so characterized by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has caused us to rethink so much about our daily lives. One of the more positive consequences has been the rediscovery of the central place and importance of the family for our society and our church. In a recent essay by John Roberto, entitled "Nurturing the Christian Life: The Essential Role of Parents", which draws on major research studies, four significant findings were highlighted. We will look at one each week. The first:



in a child's religious formation is the spiritual personality of the parent." Roberto lists a number of parental factors that make a difference to the the faith development of children in youth.

These included:

- A parent's personal faith and practice
 - A close and warm parent-child relationship
- Parent modelling and teaching a religious faith
- Parent involvement in church life and Sunday worship
 - Grandparent religious influence and relationship

1. Parents are **the** most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people.

"The Single most powerful force

Your faith as parents, is so important to your children's relationship with the Lord. And for all you are, we give thanks to God. If there is any way that we, as a church can support you, please email us: info@lourdes.to

Sharing God's Word >>>

Let's start with a Prayer
– make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Some things to think about before we read the Gospel.

Hello Friends, and welcome back to our Kids' mass. Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent.

In the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus Christ at Christmas. Last week, we lit the first candle of our Advent wreath – representing hope. The Gospel told us to “Keep awake”, to be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Today, we light the second candle on our wreath (take a moment now to light your candle if you have a wreath at home). This candle represents love.

Love is so important because we know that God is love and that love is the main part of the commandments that Jesus left us with. First love God with all your heart, soul and mind; and second, love one another.

God showed us how much he loves us by sending Jesus, his one and only Son, to save us.

Through Jesus we come to learn of God the Father's love for each of us. In his love for us, God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start.



In today's gospel, we hear about the prophet Isaiah who, long before Jesus was born, told the people that Jesus our Saviour would be coming. Then we hear John the Baptist repeating Isaiah's words about our Saviour's coming.

By the way friends, **who knows what a “prophet” is?** It is someone who is sent by God to tell people what God's will is. **He is a messenger.** So the message he gives is called a **prophecy**. Sometimes, like Isaiah and John the Baptist, they foretold what was yet to happen, as they tried to prepare God's people for the promised Messiah.

God chose John the Baptist to go and tell the people to ask for God's forgiveness

And to change their ways. God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start.

Have you every found yourself in the position of knowing that you've done something wrong and you cannot seem to make it right? It doesn't feel very good, does it?

But doesn't it feel wonderful when there is someone who is ready to forgive us and to help us make things better?

Advent is a good time to look carefully at ourselves and to make a fresh start if we need to.

Alright friends, let's get ready to listen and learn with our eyes, ears and hearts wide open!

You will find this week's readings at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tgHVC3LzBU

Gospel Reflection & Activity:

Hi again friends, good job on being attentive to today's readings!
Let's see what we learned from our gospel today

The prophet Isaiah, many hundreds of years before Jesus was born, told the people that God would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah, our Saviour Jesus Christ. That messenger was John the Baptist. With great energy and enthusiasm, John proclaimed the word of God to the people and encouraged them to have faith, to turn their lives toward God and to be baptized in the Jordan River.

John the Baptist lived an exemplary life, showing the people how to love and please God. Although John was Jesus' cousin, he didn't know that Jesus was the saviour until God revealed it to him through the sign of the Holy Spirit – the dove – descending on Jesus.

Just as John was encouraging the people to turn their lives towards God, we are encouraged in this Advent season to make special efforts to grow closer to God. One way might be by doing something special for someone or spending more time with God in prayer.

So friends we should do our best not to let anything come inbetween us and the love of God. Remember that we can always say sorry to our Father in heaven any time we do something that is not good and we can ask him to help us make a fresh start. God will forgive us and he will pour out his love in our hearts to give us the strength to do better next time.

Alright everyone, can you find the listed words from today's gospel?

S	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R
T	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	E	E
S	T	E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B
U	R	W	N	S	P	E	S	R	O
C	A	F	A	R	N	I	E	E	O
O	P	I	S	T	E	T	R	V	K
L	A	T	A	N	E	D	E	I	A
H	O	N	E	Y	I	R	L	R	T
K	C	A	M	E	L	S	K	I	N
E	R	T	N	E	T	T	I	R	W



RIVER
ISAIAH
MESSENGER
WILDERNESS
BAPTISM
REPENTANCE
CAMELSKIN
LOCUSTS
HONEY
STRAP
SANDALS
SPIRIT



Praying together to Our Father

Let's now pray together
a very special prayer
that Jesus taught us,
Our Father.

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in
Heaven.

Give us this day
our daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen!

Second Sunday of Advent: "Make a Fresh Start" Colour in the picture of St. John the Baptist



JOHN THE BAPTIST

Kids@Mass...

Great job everyone! We're so glad that you joined us today and we hope to see you soon. Be good, be healthy and be safe! God bless and take care!

For Moms & Dads >>>

- Is your child nearing Sacramental age – usually age 7 or 8? We are registering children for 1st Communion and 1st Confession Preparation. If you would like more information, or need a registration form, email us: info@lourdes.to
- Are you receiving our Parish Weekly update? Let us put you on our flocknote list and we will keep you up to date on all the parish news: sign up through our website: lourdes.to

askfather@lourdes.to

Did you ever have a question that you wanted to ask a priest?

Father John would love to hear from you. Email him with your questions and thoughts any time. Questions that might be helpful to other families will be posted in upcoming issues along with Father's answers. Stay tuned!

Here are some great faith resources on the Season of Advent:

- 12 Printable Christmas Prayers for Catholics: https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/printable-catholic-christmas-prayers?utm_campaign=WBAS&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=24493931&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9cVNHon6hu-4XTdRHb4bHJO1156KvKKCSHsn3d4hLlet5Vb1G_U5csdXFW1YaQLN6M5fnbJGs7BySRKgLD9R6refubPA&hsmi=24493931
- Great family traditions: Check out the next couple of pages for prayers over your Christmas tree and nativity set.
- Join us for our **virtual Simbang Gabi (Christmas Novena)** December 15 to 23 at 7pm a.lourdestv: <https://lourdes.to/tv/>



Coming Soon >>>

Here's what's happening at Lourdes during the next month:

- **Sunday, December 13:** **Third Sunday of Advent**
Livestream of kids@Mass
<https://lourdes.to/kids/>
- **Sunday, December 20:** **Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Issue 7 of the Family Pack
- **Sunday, December 27:** **Feast of the Holy Family**
Livestream of Kids@Mass
<https://lourdes.to/kids/>
- **Sunday, January 3:** **Feast of the Epiphany**
Issue 8 of the Family Pack

See you next week for our next Kids@Mass episode at <https://lourdes.to/kids/>

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE



The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world.

Blessing your tree as a family is a great tradition and combined with all of the beauty of a decorated Christmas tree, will make great memories for children and parents. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal. According to custom, the lights of the tree are lit after the prayer of blessing.

When all have gathered around the Christmas tree, a suitable song may be sung.

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.
R/. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

R/. Thanks be to God.

The prayer intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R/.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Our Father.

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God,
we praise you for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.
We praise you for the light of Israel:
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,
who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

—*From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

—*From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

