

Second Sunday of Advent

7 December 2014

He will prepare your way. (Mark 1:2)

Clearly, John the Baptist was a mighty man of God. He was an ambassador called to prepare the way of the Lord by pointing the people to Jesus.

How did John fulfill his calling? By his witness and by his words.

His witness was that of a detached, ascetic man who dressed in rough clothes and lived in the wilderness. And backing up his witness were his words—words that cut people to the heart and moved them to examine their lives. Because of John's witness and his words, people from all over

Judea came to see him. And once they saw and heard, many repented of their sins and turned back to God (Mark 1:5). We often think of John the Baptist as a fire and brimstone kind of person. And he was to some degree. But fire and brimstone without love and mercy don't do justice to the message of Christ. John was also humble and compassionate. He was concerned for the people around him, so much so that he attracted disciples who committed themselves to following him and learning from him. Like John, we all have a part to play in God's plan. We are called to be Jesus' messengers and to bear heavenly fruit by the witness of our lives and by the words we speak. So as Christmas draws near, let's set our hearts on preparing the way for Jesus. As John called the people of his day, let's also tell our families that we need to go to Confession and get right with the Lord—not in a threatening or self-righteous way but as loving ambassadors of God who care about our families. Peter's letter tells us that Jesus will come again. It says that he will usher in "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). It will be glorious. Until he comes, let's try our best to be Christ's ambassadors, through "holiness and devotion" (3:11).



“Lord, help me to be like John, a living, loving ambassador for your kingdom.”

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race

Christmas Boutique Thank You...

Thank you to all parishioners who supported the Annual Christmas Boutique. You made this a very special fun filled day. The committee would like to thank Derek Madere, Cynthia Richardson, Sonya Robertson, Terrye Thomas, Felecia and Sarah Johns, who decorated the hall so beautiful and festive. Special thanks to Evelyn Payne, Jimmy Martin, and especially to "Santa" Donald Simon.

~Blessings to all this Christmas from Vickie Race

NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 14, 2014

Retirement fund for Religious Collection

Give thanks for religious. A parishioner writes, "We thank God today and every day for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God." Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 6
5:15 PM Soul of Milton Keys
Sunday December 7
8:00 AM Intention of all Parishioners
10:00 AM Soul of Anita Kennedy
12:15 PM Soul of Anthony Middleton
Saturday December 13
5:15 PM Soul of Manfred Rawles
Sunday December 14
8:00 AM Intention of all Parishioners
10:00 AM Soul of Slade Campbell
12:15 PM Soul of Yula Wilkes

Readings for the week

Sunday Is 40:1-11, Ps 85:9-14, Mk 1:1-8
Monday Gn 3:9-20, Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30
Thursday Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15
Friday Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10, Lk 1:26-38
Saturday Sir 48:1-11, Mt 17:9-13
Sunday Is 61:1-11, Lk 1:46-54, Jn 1:6-28

November 30, 2014 Weekly Collection

\$4,148.50 Tithe and Offering
155.00 Building Fund
30.00 "We Care"

Please remember your
"Together in Mission" 2014
Pledge commitment... Thanks to all!

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8, 2014 ~ Masses at 8AM and 7PM.

Mass of Anointing

Our church community will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of Sick on **Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 11:00 AM** here at Transfiguration. A light luncheon will follow.

School News

December 7 ~ 1st Sunday Mass spotlighting Transfiguration Preschool Open House and visit from Santa 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Bring a friend to spend time in our preschool and meet Santa Claus! Arts and Crafts will be available. Each child in complete school uniform will receive a special gift from Santa Claus and a free dress pass.

In Memory of Milton Keys

The flowers on the altar were donated by Cynthia Richardson in memory of her beloved father Milton Keys. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Christmas Dinner Dance

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their 4th annual Christmas Dinner Dance on Saturday December 20th at the Canoga Park Council hall located at 21433 Strathern St in Canoga Park. Cocktail social and Hors d' oeuvres start at 6:00 PM with dinner starting at 6:30 PM. Live music, Entertainment and Door prizes provided. Cost \$28.00, kids 12 and under \$10.00. For reservations call **Richard Olivier** at (818)371-0473.

Altar Servers Schedule December 13 & 14, 2014

5:15PM

Ruben Martinez
Marc Anthony

8AM

Lisa Crocket
Delisa Madere

10AM

Dillon Rickenbacker
Alonzo Ramos
Martin Hill
Lanigi Chinilio

12:15PM

Gilberto Gonzales
Maurice Burnett
Brenden Wilkerson

Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of **January 23, 24, and 25, 2015**. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:00 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This year's Retreat theme: **"Holy waiting... In a World that can't wait."** For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538-2214 or Maurice Simon at 323.296.1501.

Petition of the Sick

Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Veronica Bearce, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Harry Charles, Katherine Clark, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Beryl Davidson, Nigel Dunn, Ethel Earley, Robert Evans, Connie Farlice, Dwight Fauria, Gwen Files, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Sister Mary Michaeline Gahwolf, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Nancy Goosby, Jane Grover, Jacqueline Holman, Msgr. Robert Howard, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Aaron Jittu, Robert Jordan, Walita Keyes, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vydred Manor, Sister Marianna, Mary Ann Mayer, Muriel Meyers, James Murphy, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Cynthia Richardson, Dottie Rodriguez, Lolita Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Reanna Semien, George Simon, Sr., Lionel Smith, Sr., Darnell Stang, Barbara Starks, Michele Starks, Wilbur Starks, Alice Tenette, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, and Patricia Williams.