

December 10, 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

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# Sacred Heart Parish

**A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ**



### Parish Information

Pastor: **Fr. Lee Lainey**

Office Administrator: **Roseann Janes**

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

465 Curling Street  
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8  
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[curlingparish@hotmail.com](mailto:curlingparish@hotmail.com)

**e-transfers:**  
[sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com](mailto:sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com)  
**Password "Church"**  
**Note: include your envelope #**  
[www.sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartrcparish.ca)

Diocesan website: [rcchurch.com](http://rcchurch.com)

**Weekend Masses:**

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

**Mass During Week:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 pm.

Friday at 10 am.

**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

**Lohnes Complex\***

First Friday of each month - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex.

**\*Note: No mass at the church on this day.**

**Bible Study:**

**Thursday December 14, 2023, after evening mass.**

**Holy Hour of Adoration:**

Postponed until further notice.

**Reconciliation:**

By request.

**Marriages:**

Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.

**Baptisms:**

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

**Family Connections:**

At [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) you will find a link to family connections.

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Regular Sunday	1398.00
Loose Offering	104.40
Parish Dues	70.00
Building Fund	165.00
Christmas Flowers	25.00
Advent Folders	145.50
Votive Candles	40.00
Sunday Missals	184.00
Mass Stipends	10.00
Shepherds Fund	80.00
St. Vincent de Paul	120.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Tue. 7 pm	Parish Community
Wed. 7 pm	Late Gus & Irene Rumbolt
Thur. 7 pm	Late William & Winnifred Lynch
Fri. 10 am*	Late Mrs. Susan Canning
Sat. 4:30 pm	Late Isabel Power
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

December 16	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Don Gallant	Joan Penney
December 17	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Veronica Stone	Calvin Gillis
Communion to the sick – Tony Griffin	

**CHRISTMAS MASS:**

Saturday, December 23 at 4:30pm.

Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm and 9:30 pm.

Monday, December 25 at 11a.m.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Please remember to call or email the Parish office or fill out your Mass Intention request form for December month. Note that more than one mass intention can be said on the same day. We will also do intentions on Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day.

**CHRISTMAS HOURS:** The church will be closed from Dec. 26 to 29, there will be no Mass or bible study during these days. Mass will resume Saturday December 30 at 4:30pm. New Years Eve Mass will be held Sunday December 31 at 4:30pm. New Years Day Mass is Monday January 1 at 11a.m.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Sacred Heart Parish Choir practice for Christmas Masses is on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the parish church. Everyone is welcome who would like to sing for Christmas Masses.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Thursday, December 14 after evening Mass. **NOTE:** from now on it will be on Thursdays after evening Mass.

**CHILDREN’S ADVENT PARTY:** “Back to Bethlehem,” is today Sunday, December 10 from 2-4pm for a fun-filled afternoon of activities for the whole family at the Cathedral! All parishes in the city are invited.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Thank you to The Knights of Columbus Bishop O’Reilly Assembly for their donation in memory of Ed Dobbin.

**CHRISTMAS TREE:** The Sacred Heart Ladies Group has set up a Christmas giving tree in the church. Please take a tag and return with the item on the tag. To help provide breakfast items for Sacred Heart Elementary School to stock up their Library Pantry. The food items are for all the children of the school. Thank you for your generosity.

**SACRED HEART LADIES GROUP MEETING:** The Ladies Group monthly meeting will be Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30pm at the parish church followed by a luncheon.

**Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist**

The “source and summit” of the Christian life. Next session is December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral from 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Please contact [angie.dolomount@gmail.com](mailto:angie.dolomount@gmail.com) or 709-631-4543 for more information.

**STOCKING STUFFERS:** SSVP. This is **the last weekend** for collecting Christmas Hamper stocking stuffers. A very special thank you to all who contributed. Your generosity will put smiles on many faces this Christmas. The St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers will be delivered on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SACRED HEART BINGO:** There will be no bingo during December. The next will be Sunday January 28, 2024, at 2pm. Doors open at 1pm. Thank you to Glenda Neilson for donating to the November bingo.

**SUNDAY MISSALS:** For 2023-2024 have arrived and are \$7.00 each. They can be found in the back of the church, or at the parish office. Please remember to send in your payment if not paying at the time of pickup.

**PARISH OUTREACH:** This committee is offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. To anyone needing a pastoral visit or communion to the sick please call the parish office at 709-785-5025 and you will be directed to a committee member.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Starting Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we will be holding mass during the weekdays at 10a.m. each morning. The weekend masses will remain the same.

*Reflection*

*Lonely Voices*

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored.

There are many lonely voices in our world.

Somewhere at this moment a child is crying – crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying – crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart.

Somewhere an old person is crying – crying for a visit or a word from his/her children.

There are a thousand unheard cries in our world, coming from the victims of injustice and neglect.

Lord, help us to listen to these voices.

Above all, help us to listen to your voice, whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts, telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love one another.