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"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand!"



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

L	O	C	U	S	T	S	S	M	E	JOHN
R	E	I	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	PREACHED
E	E	O	R	N	I	T	E	S	D	WILDERNESS
R	R	V	D	I	N	I	N	S	E	MESSAGE
T	R	A	I	E	V	I	R	E	H	REPENT
Y	L	A	P	R	A	E	E	G	C	VOICE
S	E	E	N	E	C	A	D	A	A	PREPARE
E	R	N	B	I	R	I	L	N	E	BELT
C	N	H	O	J	A	P	I	A	R	LOCUSTS
I	O	V	I	H	I	S	W	S	P	HONEY
										SANDALS
										RIVER

December 2019 Calendar

- 8 Religion Class ~ 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Sponsor forms from CI class are due
- 15 Religion Class ~ 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Sister Gregory will be with us
- 22 No Religion Merry Christmas Break
Penance Service from 2:00 pm - 4:00 p.m.
Confirmation I & II are required to attend as part
of their obligation towards the Sacrament of
Confirmation
- 29 No Religion New Years Break



"Vocations"



John the Baptizer made ready the way of the Lord. Who will make ready the way today? If God is calling you, talk to Fr. Alan at 518-643-6759 or Fr. Christopher Carera at (315) 386-2543/ ccarera@rcdony.org or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315)393-2920, ext. 1450/ crussell@rcdony.org. See us also on Facebook or at www.myvocation.net.

Creating a Culture of Vocation

CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be "when they grow up": doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, and carpenters. Change the words to "What is God calling you to be?"

Thank you to Charlene Lombard for the juice boxes donated to our kids at the Religion Program. Also, thank you to James and Julie Mussaw who donated McDonalds, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Rulfs and Stewarts gift cards to Fr. Alan's weekly give-away. The kids love having snacks before class and fun with Fr. Alan after class. We are very grateful for your continued support!

We had a wonderful, blessed and fun Advent Festival this year. Many came to make their own Advent Wreaths and have it blessed by Father Alan before they took them home. Our Advent Festival could never be the success that it is without key people who come every year to volunteer their time, talents and treasures!

Thank you to Dan and Pam Ballantine who are instrumental in helping to set up and organize the festival. Pam is also our "Frosting Queen" and if we need Gingerbread houses or Christmas trees held together, she's the one to call! Also, we would not have advent wreaths without the boughs that are always generously donated by the Covell Family. Thank you very much Don & Linda Covell, you bring the joy of Advent to all of us for the beautiful branches donated! And thanks also goes to the Knights of Columbus who prepared breakfast sandwiches for everyone!

